

# How Drake and Leidos Are Building the Future - p. 3

**FREE**



## Appreciating MOM - p. 9

Friday  
May 9, 2025  
Vol. 11, No. 36  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

**SALUTE!**  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr.s. Alice Sams

“Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way.” - Booker T. Washington

### Drake Prez, Leidos Official Address Importance of Workforce Training



Following an impactful ribbon cutting ceremony for its new 50,000-square-foot aerospace and advanced manufacturing facility, J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College has significantly strengthened its role in Alabama's workforce training. Drake President Patricia Sims shares important information about why the school must remain a leader. *See Page 3*

### R&B Vibes Live Returns at The Camp

R&B Vibes Live is BACK for the season--scheduled for Thursday, May 15, and June 12, at The Camp, located at 5909 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala., at 7 p.m. Musicians, DJs, poets and more ... Make your plans to vibe with us the best in R&B genre every other week!! Drink specials, food specials, and vendors. This is a fun event you don't want to miss!!!

### Ladies Love Lemon Drops Set

Ladies Love Lemon Drops is back and better than ever! Join organizers at The Orion Amphitheater on Sunday, May 25, 3-9 p.m. to soak up the sun, sip on refreshing lemon drop cocktails, and enjoy the sounds of summer in a vibrant, festival-style atmosphere. This event is all about good vibes, great drinks, and even better company. Visit [theorionhuntsville.com](http://theorionhuntsville.com).



### Second Sunday Jazz Brunch Highlight of Downtown Hotel

Huntsvillians and their guests can prepare to immerse themselves in a curated brunch menu on Sunday, May 11, at the AC Hotel, 435 Williams Avenue SW, Huntsville, Ala.--all while taking in the scenic views of Downtown Huntsville. Music by the Josh Coutts Quintet. Josh and band recently released their album "The General Dance" at a album release party at Tangled String Studio, and the group has been appearing all over the state.

For those who love, jazz, this is simply another check in a city with endless opportunities! Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. And guess what? No reservations are required. Self-parking is complimentary and valet service is available. Savor Sundays in style!

### Huntsville Black Business Expo May 17

The Spring Black Business Expo will be held Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 PM at St. Luke Christian Church, 1800 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, Ala. This event is all about celebrating Black excellence, building strong business connections, and creating real opportunities for growth. For more information, visit [EXPO](http://EXPO) here.

### Legacy Kickball Tournament Scheduled

Get ready to vibe like it's the '90s at the 6th Annual Legacy Charity Kickball Tournament & Community Block Party! The Legacy



Center is turning Cavalry Hills into a live episode of good times, big laughs, and bold legacies on Saturday, June 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**The Valley Weekly**  
**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

- Washington Update, Page 2
- Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 4
- Gloria B. & Tim: Perspectives, Page 5
- "Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 6
- Sunday Lectionary, Page 7
- Honoring Our Elders, Page 7



# The Valley Weekly Washington One Minute



by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington:

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in session this week. 3 key House committees that were to have marked up their pieces of the Budget Reconciliation bill this week - Ways & Means, Energy & Commerce, and Agriculture - postponed the markups due to continuing disagreement within the House GOP Conference on which programs to cut and the scope of the new tax bill. Last Wednesday in a

49-49 tie, the Senate failed to pass a resolution to terminate the national emergency declared by the President on April 2, 2025, that imposed a 10% tariff on most imports to the United States (Sens. Paul, R-KY, and Murkowski, R-AK, crossed the aisle to join all Democrats in voting for the resolution). The House will vote this week on a bill by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America."

**2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.**

Last Friday, the White House released an outline of the President's FY2026 budget, which would cut non-defense discretionary funding by \$163 billion or 23% from the FY2025 enacted level (while adding funds for the Pentagon and border security) ... Next week, the President will travel to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE starting May 13. Last Friday, U.S. District Judge Beryl A. Howell struck down as unconstitutional a Trump executive order that would have imposed sanctions against law firm Perkins Coie, banning the federal government from hiring it or using contractors who work with it, and barring Perkins Coie employees from entering federal buildings while suspending their security clearances.

**3. U.S. DOGE SERVICE.**

After 2 losses in the lower courts, the Trump Administration last Friday petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to allow the U.S. DOGE Service access to confidential Social Security Administration data on millions of American workers while the underlying litigation proceeds through the courts.

**4. TARIFFS.** Last Tuesday, the President signed a pair of executive orders that rolled back some tariffs for carmakers, eliminating levies that Ford, General Motors, and others have complained would backfire on U.S. manufacturing by raising production costs and squeezing their profits. The changes will modify Mr. Trump's tariffs so carmakers that pay a 25% tariff on auto imports are exempt from other levies, such as those on steel and aluminum, or on certain imports from Canada and Mexico. However, the rules do not seem to protect automakers from tariffs on steel and aluminum that their suppliers pay and pass on. Carmakers will also qualify for tariff relief for a portion of the cost of their imported components, though those benefits will be phased out over the next two

years. On Saturday, the U.S. began imposing 25% tariffs on imported auto parts.

**5. SUPREME COURT.**

Last Thursday, the Trump Administration petitioned the Supreme Court to stay an order from a federal court in San Francisco barring the Homeland Security Department from enforcing its Feb. 1, 2025, termination of the Temporary Protected Status Program for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan citizens living in the United States ...

**6. FEDERAL RESERVE.**

The Federal Open Market Committee met on Tuesday and Wednesday and announced interest rates, although most economists expect short-term interest rates to remain in their current band of 4.25% to 4.5%. Fed watchers will be monitoring this meeting for any hints that the Fed will cut interest rates in June ...

**7. HIGHER EDUCATION.**

On May 1, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) released a new Dear Colleague letter (DCL) aimed at streamlining the process

for colleges and universities seeking to change accreditors, particularly concerning federal Title IV financial aid eligibility. This move follows President Trump's April 23 executive order targeting what the administration called a "dysfunctional" accreditation system. Education Secretary Linda McMahon emphasized the goal of fostering a more competitive environment among accreditors to lower costs and improve student outcomes. The DCL makes it clear that ED will no longer act as a gatekeeper restricting institutions from switching accreditors, nor will it obstruct the recognition of new accrediting agencies. The DCL sharply departs from the Biden-era policies that made it more difficult for institutions, particularly in states like Florida and North Carolina, to switch accreditors in response to legislative mandates ...

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# How Drake and Leidos Are Powering Alabama's Advanced Manufacturing Workforce

by Dr. Patricia Sims, President of Drake State Community and Technical College, and  
Cindy Gruensfelder, President of Defense Systems at Leidos

*At a time when technological innovation is transforming every aspect of the workplace, preparing a skilled workforce is more critical than ever. Alabama is home to a fast-growing hub of defense, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing industries, but those industries can only thrive if a strong talent pipeline supports them. That's why Drake State Community and Technical College and Leidos have joined forces to invest in the future of workforce development through a powerful public-private partnership.*

Together, we recently opened the Leidos Advanced Training Complex, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to training the next generation of advanced manufacturing professionals. Located on Drake State's campus in Huntsville, Alabama, programs in this training center will benefit from a \$1.75 million Leidos investment, along with a Leidos-informed plan to meet industry needs. What we've built is more than a building. This collaboration redefines what's possible, building a workforce not only prepared for today's challenges, but also equipped to lead tomorrow's breakthroughs.

## Meeting a Growing Need

From aerospace systems to precision machining, the demand for advanced manufacturing talent is only accelerating. Across the country, particularly in North Alabama, companies

are actively seeking skilled talent to fill a growing number of technical roles in advanced manufacturing. The skills gap isn't just a workforce issue; it's an economic one. Without a steady flow of qualified workers, innovation stalls, and growth slows.

Drake State and Leidos both recognized this challenge as an opportunity. As an institution serving Madison and Morgan counties, Drake State plays a vital role in creating pathways to high-wage careers for individuals in North Alabama. At the same time, Leidos depends on a strong, local talent pipeline to meet the demands of national defense and technology customers.

By working together, we can ensure that the education students receive is relevant, rigorous, and immediately applicable in today's workforce.

## Industry-Driven Training

The Leidos Advanced Training Complex now houses Drake State's advanced manufacturing programs, including Precision Machining, Welding, and Engineering Design. With high-tech labs, hands-on learning environments, and industry-grade equipment, students train in spaces that mirror the real-world settings they'll enter after graduation.

For Leidos, this investment is about long-term impact. Supporting a facility like this ensures that the future workforce is equipped with not only the technical know-how but

also with the problem-solving mindset and adaptability that today's industries require.

## The Strength of Partnership

Our work together is about more than just a building. Leidos provides valuable insight into the skills needed by the workforce today, and in the years to come. This guidance helps shape the curriculum and equipment choices for the programs housed in the training center.

The partnership also opens doors for future collaboration, from guest lectures and mentorship opportunities to potential internships and job placements. It's a full-circle approach—where students, educators, and employers are in continuous dialogue to ensure programs stay agile and impactful.

This partnership is not only strategic but replicable. We believe other companies and colleges can learn from this model—one built on mutual respect, shared investment, and a long-term vision for workforce excellence.

## Opportunity, Innovation

The Leidos Advanced Training Complex will help transform lives by connecting students to in-demand careers in industries that are shaping our future. It will also help companies like Leidos and others across North Alabama find the talent they need to continue innovating at the highest levels.

This work is about

creating opportunities that uplift individuals, strengthen communities, and drive economic mobility. It's also about ensuring that today's investments in education create tomorrow's breakthroughs in technology and manufacturing.

## A Call to Action

We hope the success of this collaboration inspires other leaders across industry and education to come together in similar ways. Investing in workforce development isn't just good policy, it's good business. We invite other companies to explore how they can engage with colleges like Drake State to help build facilities, shape curricula, and support the next generation of talent. We also encourage students and families to consider the incredible opportunities available through career-focused programs like those in the Leidos Advanced Training Complex.

## More Than a Building

At the heart of this story is a simple truth: we are stronger when we work together. The Leidos Advanced Training Complex is a symbol of partnership and a launchpad for what's possible when innovation, equity, and education come together. We are proud of what we've built and are even more excited about what's next.

## About Drake State Community & Technical College

Established in 1961, Drake State Community



and Technical College is a historically black community college located in Huntsville, home to the fast-growing, highly technical aerospace and defense industry, including the NASA Marshall Flight Center, US Army Redstone Arsenal, and Cummings Research Parks. Drake State offers flexible, affordable university-transfer 2-year and technical degrees, certificates, adult and continuing education, and customized technical skills training for Huntsville/Madison County employers. Visit [www.drakestate.edu](http://www.drakestate.edu) for more information.

## About Leidos

Leidos is an industry and technology leader serving government and commercial customers with smarter, more efficient digital and mission innovations. Headquartered in Reston, Virginia, with 48,000 global employees, Leidos reported annual revenues of approximately \$16.7 billion for the fiscal year ended January 3, 2025. For more information, visit [www.leidos.com](http://www.leidos.com).

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# Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly  
PRESTON BROWN'S



## Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "Gifts and Talents"

Matthew 25:15 says, "To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability."

Do you appreciate the gifts that God has given you, or do you always see the wrong things in your life? Do you find yourself comparing what you have with someone else? 2 Corinthians 10:12 reminds us, When people measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves they are not wise. God wants us to be thankful for the gifts and talents that he has given us. That's why we can't afford to sit around and compare what we have to what others have. This behavior will only make us miserable.

So it's important that we like ourselves as well as the gifts that God has blessed us with. When we do this, we can begin to like and appreciate other people, as well. Matthew 25:29 goes on to say, "For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever

does not have, even what he has will be taken from him." When we look at this scripture, we see that God simply wants us to be thankful for what we have. Because when we do, more will be given.

Also, let us learn to enjoy the people who are in our lives—our friends, our families, our co-workers, our church members and people with whom we interact




daily. Because all of these people are gifts from God, as well. But the only way that we can do this is to stop focusing on everything that is wrong with them. It's time to make a change and be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

*Prayer:* Loving Father, help us to appreciate the gifts and talents that you have blessed us with and help us to stop comparing what we have to what others have.

*Question:* Are you satisfied with the gifts and talents that God has blessed you with?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

**NEXT WEEK:**  
"Doing the Right Thing"



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*Funeral service for MR. DARREN COLE (b. 1993) was Sunday, May 4, at Meridianville Primitive Baptist Church, 1173 Mt. Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.*

*Funeral service for MR. ANTHONY TURNER (b. 1965) was Saturday, May 3, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.*

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*Funeral service for MR. RICKIE CARTER (b. 1958) and MS. LINDA FAYE SMITH (b. 1953) will be announced at a later date.*

*Funeral service for MRS. VIOLA MOORE PARKER (b. 1941), formerly of Huntsville, was Sunday, May 4, at Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church, 291 Hamilton E. Holmes Drive, Atlanta, Ga.*

*Funeral service for MRS. BRENDA MASSEY RUSSELL (b. 1953) was Saturday, May 3, at Blackburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA) with Pastor Tremaine D. Snodgrass as eulogist.*

*Celebration of Life for MRS. DORIS ANN HUMPHREY (b. 1947) was Saturday, May 3, at The Paradise Event Venue, 900 Bob Wallace, Huntsville, Ala.*

*Funeral service for MS. MICHELLE "MIA" LONDON (b. 1967) was Saturday, May 3, at Little Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church, 884 Indian Creek Road NW, Huntsville, Ala., with Elder Dr. Jerry Crutcher, officiating.*

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*Funeral service for MRS. SYLVIA ELIZABETH PARKER SCOTT (b. 1920) was held Tuesday, May 6, at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 228 Church Street, Huntsville, Ala., with Dr. Mitchell Walker officiating.*

## Celebrate Trump's Flip-Flops — But Stay in the Fight

*"You have become guilty because of the blood you have shed, . . . Therefore I will make you an object of scorn to the nations and a laughingstock to all the countries." -Ezekiel 22:4.*

As we recap the first 100 days of the Trump-Musk administration, let's acknowledge the visible cracks already forming — and celebrate the answered prayers fueling today's growing resistance.

But let me be clear: **It ain't over.**

This is not the time for us protesters to coast. It's the time to **watch, protest, and organize** with even greater intensity.

For example, more than two weeks ago, over **400 college presidents** signed onto a mutual defense pact to oppose Trump-Musk policies that threaten education funding and international student enrollment across the country — including deep red states.

### Bluff and Bluster

Despite his bold claims, Trump's "trade victories" are mostly bluff and bluster. Like a spoiled child handed the levers of power, he thrives on attention — good or bad — with no regard for law or long-term impact.

His presidency is a masterclass in **flip-flops over fundamentals**, governed by polls instead of principles.

Yet through it all, we see a new hope rising. As my wife reminded me through the Bible text above, when the foolishness of leadership reaches its peak, even the nations will scorn it.

When Trump attended Pope Francis' funeral in Vatican City on April 26th, one can only imagine world leaders smiling to his face but laughing behind his back at his incompetence.

We are beating back Trump's incompetence with unprecedented coalitions of protesters. Evangelist and author **Vance Havner** once said: "When frail Christians like snowflakes stick together, they can stop traffic."

From universities to faith leaders, local governments to grassroots activists — America's modern-day "snowflakes" are sticking together. But a warning ...

### Victory Celebrations Can Make Us Sloppy

NBA legend **Pat Riley** warned of the "Disease of Me" — the complacency that kills champions. And NFL coaching legend **Don Shula** created the **24-Hour Rule**: win or lose, celebrate for 24 hours, then get back to work.

So yes — celebrate the Trump flip-flops, caused by our nationwide protests. Celebrate our resistance wins. But after 24 hours, lace up your shoes for the next sprint — immigration, education, tariffs, voting rights.

Because this isn't a moment — it's a **marathon**.

Remember:

**Followers create leaders.**

**Trust God, not nouns.**

Our currency says it best:

**"In God We Trust."**

Now, let's press on — to preserve freedom, defend the Constitution, and yes ... **dump Trump.**



### Tim Allston

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# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## In the Groove ...

The day has started, whether you woke up happy or indifferent. The first encounter of the day poses a challenge, maybe something you have done repeatedly and should have the hang of by now. However, it feels a bit off today.

You say, "Oh crap, here we go," or whatever you say in frustration (no judgment).

You pause. Don't quit. Start again, and you'll return to groove in a few minutes! See, the devil will tempt you to see if you will bow out or bend. He will test your faith in yourself, especially in God. He will have you believe, at that moment, you should stop, or it won't



creates tension, stimulating the brain and creating a form of pleasure. The unknown. The unexpected. But in life, we don't handle that quite as well.

work out for you. That tiny, mustard seed faith allows you to tell him, "No, hoss, I've got this. We've (God and I) got this! I'm not wavering now." This makes him back off and moves on to the next weakened soul. Just that one shifting of mindset puts you back in the groove! The mind is powerful!

Let's not move through life allowing that "musty devil" to take over our thoughts, throw us offkilter, and kill our groove.

Syncopation in music

Interestingly enough, the more "off-kilter" a song is, the more you feel you are in the groove once you've understood its pattern (after it's been played repeatedly) in some control.

So, take life the same way. Once you realize it's going to throw you some things that are not expected, learn to appreciate them and get used to being comfortable and uncomfortable.

Take life easy.

Take God with you every step of the way!

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The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

**May 13**  
 “Chicago Stepping”  
 Ballroom  
 Robert “Bob” Harrison  
 Senior Wellness and Advoca-  
 cy Center  
 6156 Pulaski Pike NW  
 Huntsville, Ala. – (256)  
 519-2040 - 4 p.m.

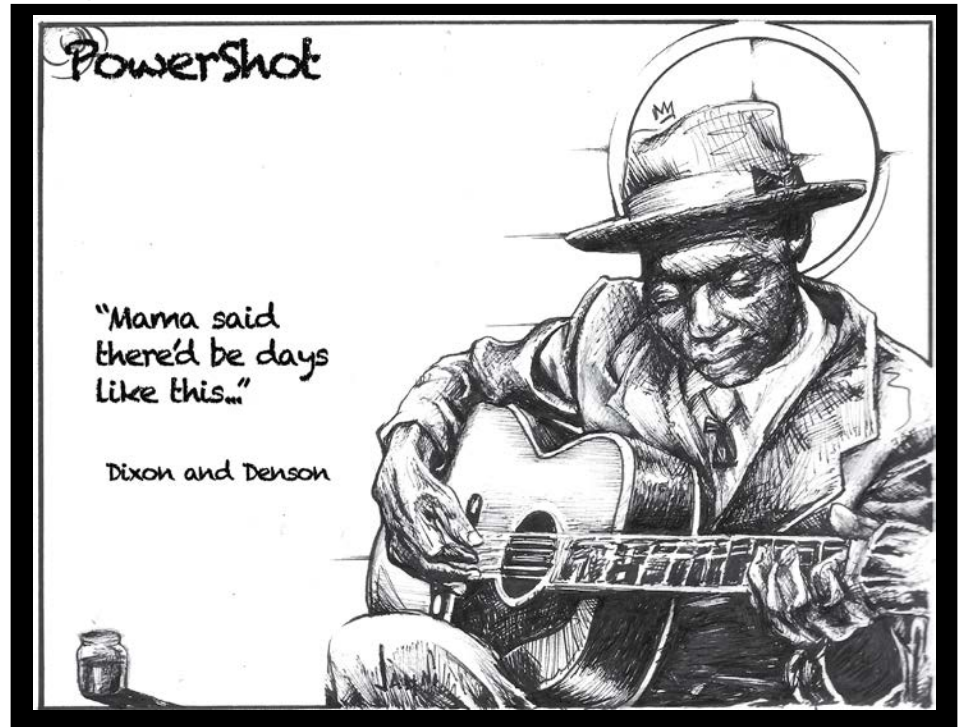
**May 20**  
 “Chicago Stepping”  
 Ballroom  
 Robert “Bob” Harrison  
 Senior Wellness and Advoca-  
 cy Center  
 6156 Pulaski Pike NW  
 Huntsville, Ala. – (256)  
 519-2040 - 4 p.m.

**May 25**  
 3rd Annual Ladies Love  
 Lemon Drops Festival  
 701 Amphitheater Drive  
 NW  
 Huntsville, Ala.  
 3-9 p.m.

**May 27**  
 “Chicago Stepping”  
 Ballroom  
 Robert “Bob” Harrison  
 Senior Wellness and Advoca-  
 cy Center  
 6156 Pulaski Pike NW  
 Huntsville, Ala. – (256)  
 519-2040  
 4 p.m.

**May 28**  
 Etowah Youth Orchestra  
 Performance  
 Lowe Mill ARTS & Enter-  
 tainment  
 2211 Seminole Drive SW  
 Huntsville, Ala.  
 2-3 p.m. (Free)

**May 29**  
 Comedian  
 “Darren Brand”  
 Huntsville Levity Live  
 2012 Memorial Parkway SW  
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 7 p.m.



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## MILLENNIAL MOMENT

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“Mob law is the most forcible expression of an abnormal public opinion; it shows that society is rotten to the core.”  
 - Timothy Thomas Fortune





Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Mrs. Alice Sams

Mrs. Alice Friend Sams was born in Madison County, Ala., where she attended public schools before earning undergraduate and MBA degrees from Alabama A&M University.

A graduate of the coveted Leadership Huntsville Madison County program in 2000, Sams serves as program director for Project FOCUS (Former Offenders Changing for Unconditional Success) under the auspices of the Madison County Commission District Six. In that capacity, since 2009 she has assisted with job and housing placement, GED preparation, restoration of voting rights and pardons from the State Pardon and Parole Board. With partners, Project FOCUS provides workshops on anger management, financial stability, life skills, and counseling.

Sams is also a retiree of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, where she served for 25 years as contract specialist from 1982-2007. At NASA, she was chiefly responsible for soliciting bids and proposals, selecting vendors, negotiating, evaluating budgets and personnel assignment, which resulted in the awarding

of purchase orders, grants and multi-million dollar contracts in support of space and missile systems.

Her diverse career also includes 12 years of teaching middle and high school students, preparing lesson plans, using innovative instructional methods to improve student's functional academic levels, reporting to local and state educational offices and evaluating students at the beginning and end of each year.

Sams also served as a liaison between the school and the Richland County Education Association. Sams is no doubt known equally as well for her significant community involvement and civic engagement with various organizations and boards. She worked closely with the Commissioner, Judge U. W. Clemon and the community on the Desegregation Consent Order with the Huntsville City Schools and Madison County Schools and helped prepare budgets with the state and NAACP offices and the Von Braun Lions Club.

She is a loyal member of First Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves as chairperson of the Benevolent Committee; secretary of the



Bereavement Committee; and participates in the Singles Sunday School Class and other ministries. Sams is a member and past president of the Von Braun Lions Club and was the former District Governors' Secretary. She is a member of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) Board of Directors; a local board member of the Selective Service System of the State of Alabama; a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and she is the recipient of numerous honors from proud organizations.

Sams is the mother of a daughter, Donna, a son, Reginald; stepdaughter M. Jeneene; and grandchildren, Carla, Jalen, Mitchell and Victoria.

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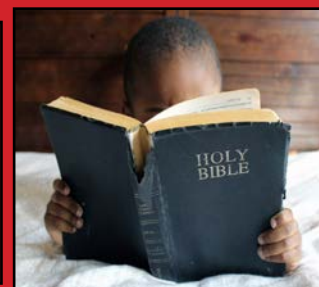
*What Have You Been Missing?*

The Valley Weekly  
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## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Fourth  
 Sunday  
 of Easter



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Second Lesson:

Revelation 7:9-17

GOSPEL:

John 10:22-30

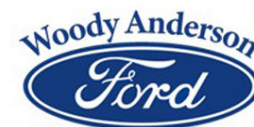


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"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



# AAMU Celebrates 150th Founder's Day Convocation

Alabama A&M University marked a historic milestone Friday as it celebrated its 150th Founder's Day Convocation, with keynote speaker Dr. Mark S. Berry delivering a heartfelt and visionary address that honored the institution's storied legacy while casting an ambitious gaze toward its future.

Standing before a packed Bradford Auditorium, Berry – a double alumnus and Senior Vice President of Research, Environment, and Sustainability for Southern Company – opened with deep gratitude for the faculty, administrators, alumni, students, and his family who shaped his life's path.

"I stand before you today not because of my own merit, but because of the people who poured into me while I was here," he said, naming several professors who reignited his academic journey. "I arrived at Alabama A&M in 1987 with no scholarship or accolades – just a directive from my father. Let me say this, AAMU was instrumental in getting my life back on track."

Berry's central theme flipped the traditional Founder's Day phrase – "Rich Heritage and Bold Future" – on its head. He proposed: "Boldness is required before heritage can be established." That boldness, he said, defined the legacy of founder Dr. William Hooper Councill, who, born into slavery, rose to become a lawyer, educator, and university president.

"He carried with him an unshakable conviction that education was the key to freedom, dignity, and advancement for us," Berry said. "His life's purpose was first and foremost to uplift a race through the transformative power of education."

To further illustrate the power of boldness and legacy, Berry engaged the audience with three stories, each introduced by the rhetorical prompt: "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Who's the Boldest of Them All?" The first, of course, was Councill himself. The second was Berry's own aunt, an Alabama A&M graduate who paid for his father's education at the



University. The third was a fictional tale of a young

woman named Symone from Atmore, Alabama, who launched a chip company and became Alabama A&M's first billionaire

alumnus. The audience thought it was true, until Berry said, "Now Symone's story is fiction, but I put it before you that with bold vision at this University, it can become a reality."

Berry emphasized that the bold actions of past generations are what created the rich heritage of Alabama A&M – and today's community has a responsibility to extend that legacy with courage, vision, and investment. To that end, Berry has established an Endowed Scholarship to support deserving students in STEM fields. He also made a donation toward the University's ongoing \$150 million capital campaign, part of the sesquicentennial celebration.

"In honor of the 22

graduates from my family and helping you deliver the bold vision," Berry said, "I have a \$25,000 check."

The Convocation concluded with recognition of excellence within the University, as members of the President's Cabinet presented Employee of the Year awards to outstanding faculty and staff from each college and major administrative unit.

Guests then proceeded to the historic gravesite of Dr. William Hooper Councill for the traditional wreath-laying ceremony. As part of the yearlong celebration, the Eternal Flame will be ceremonially lit during Homecoming 2025, symbolizing 150 years of enduring legacy and a bold future ahead.



## Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held on the 1st floor of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

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# SURVEY: Moms Not Fully Appreciated by Majority Until Adulthood

(BPT) - Mother's Day is often portrayed as a day of celebration with home-made art, cards and perhaps a heartfelt attempt at breakfast in bed from younger children, but the impact of the holiday may hold more significance the older you get. At least that's what a new study by floral delivery service Teleflora found. More than half of those interviewed admit that they didn't fully appreciate their mom until they were an adult.

Sound familiar? It could be that a particular moment in your life suddenly made you realize how much your mother means to you - or helped you to understand better what she's really done for you throughout your life. For those with children in their household, 45% admit that having children made them appreciate Mom and all that she does more.

And, while most Americans acknowledge that Mom has been there to comfort them in times of need, it's even the most mundane everyday moments, like making their own meals (47%), that made them appreciate their mom even more as adults, according to the Teleflora survey.



opportunity each year to show Mom just how much you appreciate all she has done.

Fresh flowers are a thoughtful way to deliver your love to your mom's heart and home this Mother's Day. Teleflora makes it easy to express your gratitude and make your mom feel loved and appreciated. You can choose a beautifully handcrafted arrangement to be delivered to

her doorstep by a local florist in a charming keepsake container that Mom can enjoy for years to come, including Teleflora's Sparkling Joy Bouquet, which features pink roses, alstroemeria, miniature carnations, and other pretty blooms in a lifestyle container that doubles as a carafe with elegant, beaded details that can be used for entertaining and to serve beverages long after the blooms have gone, adding beauty to your mom's table year-round.

Other options include Teleflora's Pretty Glow Bouquet, which features a stunning mix of roses, carnations, and chrysanthe-

mums, ranging in colors from peach, fuchsia, green, purple, and pink - artfully presented in a sculpted glass vase with a purple mercury-inspired finish, or Teleflora's Radiant Reverie Bouquet, which includes a textured, shimmering purple vase with light lavender roses, variegated purple miniature carnations, purple cushion spray chrysanthemums, white cushion spray chrysanthemums and more.

Each one of Teleflora's best-selling Mother's Day bouquets are unique, like Mom's love, so you can select the best one to celebrate your mother's personality and taste.

It's never too late to show your appreciation for Mom and let her know how much she means to you. To learn more about Teleflora's handmade bouquets or to place an order for a floral arrangement hand-delivered by a local florist, visit Teleflora.com.

## A Note on Methodology

Nationally representative research was conducted by Kantar, a leading global data and insights company. The study was fielded between April 3-14, 2025, among 963-983 U.S. adults between the ages of 18-64 who have a relationship with their mom.

Teleflora showcases just some of these moments and the unconditional love of moms in its new Mother's Day campaign, "Never Walk Alone." From first steps to graduation, heartbreaks to wedding celebrations, with a mother's love, Teleflora shows that you are never truly alone, and how Mom is the constant that makes each of these moments better. The truth is nobody loves you like Mom.

## How to show your appreciation for Mom

Mother's Day is the perfect

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**MAY 9 - PRINCE FIELDER** - is an American former professional baseball first baseman and designated hitter. He played in Major League Baseball (MLB) for the Milwaukee Brewers, Detroit Tigers, and Texas Rangers. He was selected in the first round of the 2002 Major League Baseball draft by the Brewers out of Eau Gallie High School in Melbourne, Florida, and spent the first seven years of his MLB career with the Brewers before signing with the Detroit Tigers in January 2012. In November 2013, he was traded to the Rangers, where he played the remainder of his career.  
- [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org)

