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Friday

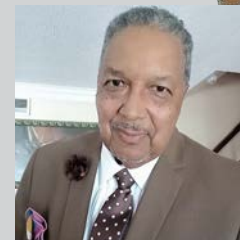
May 10, 2024

Vol. 10, No. 36

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!

Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Allen Cothron

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Stallworths Make '50th Year' \$1.2 Million Gift to AAMU

"Playing football was never the end goal," said 1974 Alabama A&M University graduate and former Pittsburgh Steeler John Stallworth to spring commencement undergraduates Friday, May 3. "My goal was to own my own business. Football was the vehicle I chose to get there. I left A&M with a bachelor's degree in business and returned in the off season to receive my

MBA--all in preparation for realizing my dream of having my own business."

Following his commencement address, Stallworth (2nd, r) presented to AAMU President Daniel K. Wims, VP Jamal Ali and trustees a donation of more than \$1.2 million to support student scholarships at AAMU.

Stallworth celebrated his 50th anniversary with the Class of 2024.



The excited group included 126 first-generation college graduates. The class--53% female and 47% male--also boasted 269 honors

graduates. Over 45 percent of the new alumni have already secured employment, 28 percent plan to continue their education,

and 5 percent will enter the military. During the recent undergraduate ceremony, 11 ROTC cadets were also commissioned.

Session Focuses on Wonder of the North Alabama Area

The Land Trust of North Alabama and Learning-QUEST are sponsoring a free public program on Thursday, May 23.

"Our Place in the World: The Wonder That Is North Alabama" will be held in the Downtown Library Auditorium from 1-2:30 p.m.



The class, instructed by Tim Gels and Hallie Porter, will explore the geographic patterns and processes that make Alabama

a world-wide biodiversity hotspot, according to event promos. Attendees will take a "big picture" look at how Alabama's geology, climate, water and biology

impact one another.

For additional information, visit www.LQUEST.org or call (256) 529-8695.

The Valley Weekly

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A&M Adds New Graduate Degrees, Online Ph.D. in Social Work

Alabama A&M University has announced the launching of its new Ph.D. in social work program, open for enrollment in the Fall of 2024.

The program stands out as the first fully online research doctorate in social work based at

a Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

The addition, along with the new Ph.D. program in curriculum and instruction, brings AAMU's doctoral offerings to five.

Sister HBCUs Alabama State University and Tuske-

gee University each offer three.

"This program, offered completely online, is a gamechanger in helping individuals take their careers to new levels," said Dr. Peter Eley, interim dean of the College of Education, Humanities, and

Behavioral Sciences. "Eligibility for the program is restricted to professionals holding Master of Social Work (MSW) Degrees from Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited programs, with a preference for candidates pos-

sessing two years post-MSW practice experience."

The University is currently accepting applications for the new M.S. degree in food science business through the College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences.

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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Eighth Page		
	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page		
	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

The Valley Weekly
Washington
One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the top issues and events in Washington for the week of May 6.

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in session this week. The Senate will continue debate on the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill, ahead of Friday's enactment deadline. Last Wednesday (per Punchbowl News), House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) met with new House Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) and Committee Ranking Democrat Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) to discuss the upcoming FY2025 appropriations cycle, including Cole's controversial ban on non-profit appropriations projects in the HUD/EDI account. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) is expected this week to offer a privileged

Motion to Vacate the Chair in an attempt to remove House Speaker Johnson, which after

being offered must be voted on within 2 legislative days. Also, the House is expected to vote on the FAA reauthorization bill, after it comes back with Senate amendments, and a bill to require the Census Bureau to include a citizenship question on future censuses and to prohibit non-citizens from being counted for purposes of congressional district and Electoral College apportionment.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. On Monday, President Biden lunched with Jordan's King Abdullah II at the White House and hosted a Cinco de Mayo reception with the First Lady. On Tuesday, he delivered remarks on antisemitism at the U.S. Holocaust Museum Days of Remembrance

ceremony at the U.S. Capitol. On Wednesday, he traveled to Racine, WI, to deliver remarks on his investing in America agenda and then heads to Chicago for a campaign reception. On Friday, he hosts the WNBA champions Las Vegas Aces at the White House.

3. SUPREME COURT. Last week, a divided panel of federal judges rejected the new Louisiana congressional map, which adds a 2nd majority Black district (and sacrificed the district of GOP incumbent Rep. Garret Graves). Jared Evans, an attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, said map proponents will ask the Supreme Court to keep the new maps in place for 2024, pending further legal action.

4. COMMITTEES. On Wednesday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee summoned National Public Radio CEO Katherine Mayer to a hearing to investigate allegations of liberal bias by a former employee and the House Oversight Committee

held a hearing on the DC government's "response to unlawful activity and antisemitism" at the George Washington University's pro-Palestinian encampment.

5. APRIL JOBS REPORT. Last Friday, the Department of Labor reported that the U.S. economy added fewer jobs than expected in April while the unemployment rate rose, lifting hopes that the Federal Reserve will be able to cut interest rates in the coming months. Nonfarm payrolls increased by 175,000 in April, significantly below the 240,000 estimate. The unemployment rate ticked higher to 3.9% against expectations it would hold steady at 3.8%. Average hourly earnings climbed 3.9% in April from a year earlier, which was below the 4% forecast.

6. HIGHER EDUCATION. Last week, Republican members on the House Education and the Workforce Committee released an institutional impact analysis of key portions of the College Cost Reduction

Act (H.R. 6951), which passed the committee on a party line vote in late January. The analysis focused on the bill's risk-sharing provisions along with "Promise Grants." H.R. 6951 also addresses accreditation, student data collection policies, Title IV program eligibility, transfer, regulatory relief and other major issues. With the release of the analysis, the committee stated that "There is bipartisan agreement that student loan debt is too high, completion rates are too low, and far too many students are left worse off after paying for postsecondary education than if they had never enrolled in the first place." The College Cost Reduction Act is not expected to be enacted in the 118th Congress.

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WE KNOW THE PEOPLE,
PLACES, AND POLITICS

Rep. Lands Introduces Maternal Healthcare Legislation

Rep. Marilyn Lands recently introduced bipartisan legislation to expand healthcare access for pregnant women.

The bill, HB494, the Maternal Healthcare Access Act, would extend presumptive Medicaid eligibility to pregnant women in Alabama.

In Alabama, many women struggle to enroll in Medicaid and are unable to access healthcare when they first discover they are pregnant. Rather than delay needed healthcare until their Medicaid application is approved, the bill extends presumptive coverage. Similar legislation was enacted in Mississippi in March.

The legislation is Rep. Lands' first bill and has

strong bipartisan support. She is the Alabama State House's newest member, after winning a special election March 26.

Lands based her campaign on reproductive rights, opposing Alabama's ban on abortion, in addition to supporting in vitro fertilization (IVF) in the aftermath of LePage v. Center for Reproductive Medicine. Lands was endorsed by Planned Parenthood in the election. A major state media source noted: "The race drew national interest against the backdrop of the controversial Alabama State Supreme Court ruling that frozen embryos are

considered children under state law."

In a statement, Rep. Lands described the importance of the bill, "The Maternal Healthcare Access Act will save lives by helping women access care in the first trimester of pregnancy. This legislation is urgently needed to address Alabama's maternal mortality crisis."

Lands spoke publicly about the bill last week at the State House Democratic Caucus Press Conference in Montgomery.

Reps. Rafferty, Ensler, Gray, Drummond, DuBoise, Collins, Hulsey, Shaver,

Daniels, Hollis, McClammy, Hall, Clarke, and McCampbell have also co-sponsored the legislation.

ON THIS DAY



Jackie Robinson appears on the cover of Life magazine on May 10, 1963, the first time an African American is featured on the cover in its history. - blackfacts.com

Huntsville Council
Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



The Valley Weekly

Stand for Righteousness

Matthew 5:11-12 says, “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. It goes on to say “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.”

We live in a time when current events motivate us to be committed to causes. Black Lives Matter was motivated by the disproportionate number of black people killed by law enforcement. Many people became committed to that cause. The Me Too movement addressed sexual harassment and assault of so many women. This also caused people to commit to a cause.

In Jesus’s time, one motivation for commitment to a cause was life or death. Many Christians at the time were committed to Jesus and were willing to die for Him. Are we willing to stand for the things in life that really matter and can make a difference? Are we willing to stand for the things that Jesus represents,



like love, peace, joy, and humility?

to a cause that is long overdue, and stand firm on what we believe, our reward will be great. The reward comes when lives are changed and people have a voice to say, “Not anymore.” Remember, if we don’t stand for something, we will fall for anything.

May God grant you spiritual success in realizing the things that

Whenever we stand for things that matter, we will always have opposition.

However, whenever we commit

really matter and then standing for the truth because it is the right thing to do.

Question: What cause have you needed to commit to but failed to do so?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. Make sure you purchase a copy of: *Spiritual Game Plans for A Successful Life and A Champion Game Plan for Life* at amazon.com or Westbow Books.

NEXT WEEK:

“It Takes One to Make One”



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



SERENITY FUNERAL HOME
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Funeral service for **MR. J.E. DAVIS** (b. 1945) will be Saturday, May 11, at Douglas Tabernacle P. B. Church, 1429 Calvary Street NW, Huntsville, Ala., at 2 p.m.

Funeral service for **MR. TONY JOHNSON** (b. 1979) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. MARQUEZ WILLIAMS** (b. 1994) was Saturday, May 4, at Moses Chapel P.B. Church, 372 Mose Chapel Road, Madison, Ala.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME
2501 Carmichael Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189
www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MRS. PATSY J. LIGHTFOOT-WHITE** (b. 1957), **MR. BOBBY L. WILLIAMS** (b. 1946), **MR. PAUL E. MOORE** (b. 1959), **MRS. JUANITA LACY SCRUGGS** (b. 1937) and **MR. WILLIAM THOMAS STEWART, JR.** (b. 1955).

The funeral service for **MRS. DORIS I. FLETCHER ELLISON** (b. 1941) was Friday, May 3, at the Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 759-A Pine Grove Road, Harvest, Ala., with Pastor C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. CURTIS MURPH, JR.** (b. 1952) of Huntsville, Ala., was Saturday, April 27, at Christ Temple Holiness Church, 610 Clanton Street, Opelika, Ala., with Bishop Kenneth R. Carter officiating.

The family interment for **MR. ERROL T. PETTUS** (b. 1968) was Friday, April 26.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME
4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481
www.royalfh.com

The funeral service for **MRS. JANICE LOUISE HARRIS** (b. 1956) was Tuesday, May 7, at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 315 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

The funeral service for **MRS. MAXINE BELL CARTER** was Saturday, May 4, at the Royal Chapel of Memories, 4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala., with Edler Charles Gross officiating.

The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru May 31

2nd Annual Huntsville
Vegan Chef Challenge
Go! Eat! Vote!

Contact: Yuri Mittkewich
at (305) 923-8225
veganchefchallenge.org/huntsville

May 9

Drake State Commence-
ment
Speaker: PeggyLee Wright
Former U.S. Army Black-
hawk Pilot; Owner,
THE COMPANY
T.M. Elmore Building
Alabama A&M University
1 p.m.

May 10

National Public Gardens
Day at Huntsville Botanical
Garden
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue
SW, Huntsville, Ala.
9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Exhale Huntsville - A
Mother's Love Girls Night
Out

Huemanity Studio
Huntsville, Ala. - 7 p.m.

May 10-19

"The Mountaintop" by Ka-
tori Hall (A Play) - \$20
The Johnson Little Theatre
Alabama A&M University
Purchase at THTix.com
7 p.m. (2 p.m., May 12, 19)

May 11

Hosta and Companion
Plant Sale
Ayers Farm Farmers Mar-
ket
1022 Cook Avenue
Huntsville, Ala.
8 a.m.-12 noon

Fido Fest 2024

Bridge Street Town Centre
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Kittypalooza

Lowe Mill A&E- 1st Floor
Connector
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Camp to Amp Festival
5901 University Drive

Huntsville, Ala.
12 p.m.

Spring Fizz (Age 21+)
Tickets: \$125-\$1,500
808 Masyville Road NE
Huntsville, Ala.; 1-5 p.m.

Unique Live Band
Stovehouse
3414 Governors Drive SW
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

May 12

The Market at MidCity
MidCity District
Huntsville, Ala.
12-4 p.m.

May 15

Huntsville Utilities Busi-
ness Matchmaker Event
Von Braun Center
10 a.m.

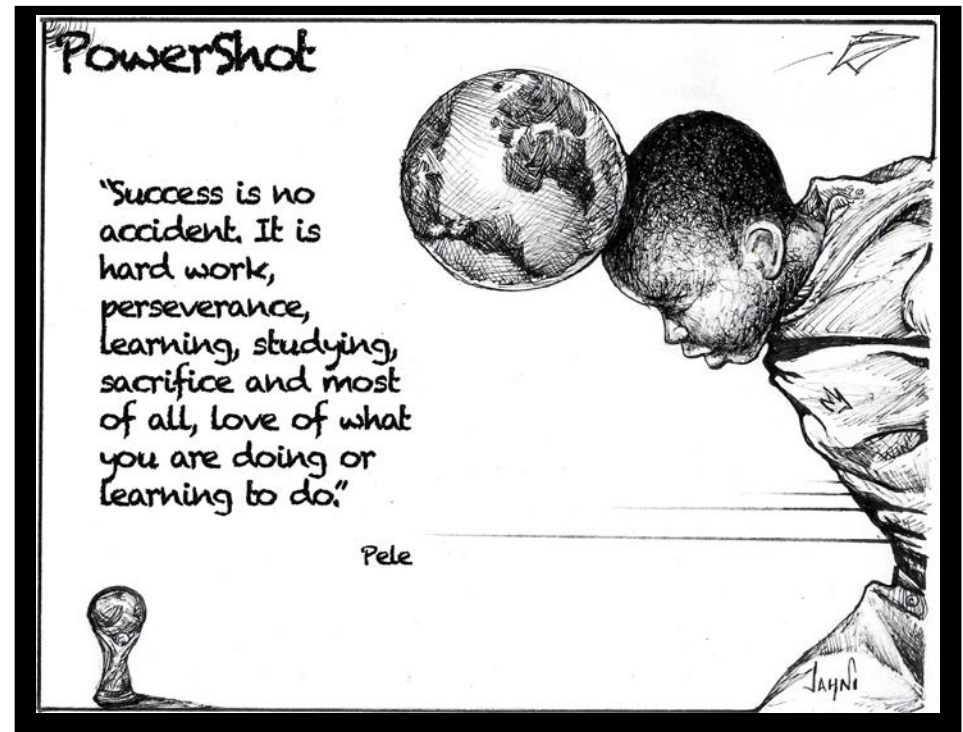
May 16-18

Bulldog Baseball vs. Jack-
son State
Bulldog Baseball Field
Alabama A&M University
2 p.m.
(1 p.m.- 5/18)

May 16

Campus 805 After 5
Butler Green

R&B Vibes at The Camp
5909 University Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
7-10 p.m.



"There is something about poverty that smells like death. Dead dreams dropping off the heart like leaves in a dry season and rotting around the feet."
- Zora Neale Hurston

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF COMPLETION

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that Lee Builders, Inc., Contractor, has completed the Contract for Rehabilitation of First Stop's Facility, CDBG-CV Project No. CV-EC-20-010 at 206 Stokes Street NW, Huntsville, AL 35805 for the State of Alabama and the Madison County City of Huntsville (Owner), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Chapman Sisson Architects, Inc., 305 Church Street SW, Suite 805, Huntsville, AL 35801. Lee Builders, Inc., 2049 Fisher Street SW, Huntsville AL 35803.

AVISO LEGAL AVISO DE FINALIZACIÓN

De acuerdo con el Capítulo 1, Título 39, Código de Alabama, 1975, según enmendado, por la presente se notifica que Lee Builders, Inc., Contratista, ha completado el Contrato para la Rehabilitación de las Instalaciones de First Stop, Proyecto CDBGCV No. CV-EC-20-010 en 206 Stokes Street NW, Huntsville, AL 35805 para el Estado de Alabama y la Ciudad de Huntsville del Condado de Madison (Propietario), y han solicitado la liquidación final de dicho Contrato. Todas las personas que tengan algún reclamo por mano de obra, materiales o de otro modo en relación con este proyecto deben notificar inmediatamente a Chapman Sisson Architects, Inc., 305 Church Street SW, Suite 805, Huntsville, AL 35801. Lee Builders, Inc., 2049 Fisher Street SW, Huntsville AL 35803.

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Perspectives on
God Views
+
Current News

by tim allston

Goodbye, (to my) “Mr. Chips”!

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” - Proverbs 22:6



My “Mr. Chips,” Dr. John J. Alewynse, died on Saturday, April 20

Goodbye, Mr. Chips was a 1939 Oscar-winning psychological fiction movie depicting a beloved teacher-disciplinarian, Mr. Chipping. Alewynse was my hands-down favorite college English professor who mentored me, twice.

In our English 501 History of the English Language course during my super-senior year, he caused us English majors at then-Hampton Institute to elevate our “Black English” slang and see it quite differently.

ENG 501 illustrated how language morphs over centuries by dropping its inflections or endings. The verb “doeth” evolved to “doth” and now to “does,” Alewynse offered.

He then asked, “First-person singular?” We answered, “I do.”

Second-person singular? “You do.”

Now, third-person singular? “He, she, or it does.” D’uh.

Then, he pivoted: “But now what does the less formally educated English-speaking person say for the third person singular?” With a smirk, we blurted out, “He, she, or it do!”

“Do you see what happens in terms of language? Although we consider such persons who say, ‘he, she, or it do’ to be less educated, in reality, what they have done quite naturally is drop off the inflection “e-s” from the ending and simply say, he, she, or it ‘do.’

“Perhaps it would be safe to say that what is called ‘Black English’ is really the language of the future, based on historical patterns.”

The “Bro-mance” 2.0

That afternoon in November 1976, John Alewynse became “m’brotha.” Some 20 years later, I was pleased to recount that educating moment to him. I had returned to work at Hampton as its assistant freshman studies director, and he was then in a position to further educate me.

As now the department chair, Alewynse approved my becoming an adjunct instructor and offered me the opportunity to teach freshmen in my college major.

Today, I’m not only a four-time Amazon best-selling author but am also creating my first online course and launching my first webinar, “How to Tell, then Sell Your Story Without Losing Your Control—or, Your Money!” - thanks largely to Dr. John Alewynse’s mentoring.

Find your Mr. or Ms. Chips, and thank them before it’s too late.



Tim Allston
Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time
Amazon Best-Selling Author
“Leading from the Middle”
www.timallston.com - (256) 212-0949

Pit Stops to Purpose ...

The Valley Weekly

Millennial
Moment

by
Gloria B. Caldwell

Purposeful lives are built by digging deep, aligning yourself with God, looking at your thoughts, gifts, things that you are drawn to, and things that are drawn to you. When you figure that out, it shifts and expands, and you must pivot.

While living out your purpose, there will be pitstops. These pit stops will be you falling back into bad habits, trauma, falling out of your routine, or entertaining old relationships that are no longer meant for you. It could be returning to vices like drinking, smoking, gambling, etc.

I talk about faith, but, let me be clear, faith does not mean you will not have moments where you revert to the past in some way or be tested! It does mean you will have to

on God to give you the next move.

Don’t make a complete stop at these pit stops. Refuel and recharge and get back in the race!

Remember the Bible even says in Ecclesiastes



9:11 KJV,
11 I re-
turned, and
saw under
the sun,
that the
race is not
to the swift,
nor the
battle to
the strong,
neither
yet bread
to the
wise, nor yet riches to men
of understanding, nor yet
favour to men of skill; but
time and chance happeneth
to them all.

This is all a part of the plan! Lace Up! Let’s Go!!

This Sunday’s Lctionary

Sunday, May 12, 2024
Seventh Sunday of
EASTER



(Track 2, Year B)
First Lesson:
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
Second Lesson:
1 John 5:9-13
GOSPEL:
John 17:6-19



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

Mr. Allen Cothron

Born in Scottsboro, Alabama, Mr. Allen (Ben) Cothron was the middle child of Joe and Ruth Cothron. He attended Carver High School 11 years before transferring to Councill Training School in Huntsville, Alabama, from which he graduated in 1964.

Following high school, Cothron attended Alabama A&M College (University) for three years before being drafted into the Army. After completing six weeks of Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he received his first stripe of Private First Class. He was sent to the Adjutant General School at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana.

He was enrolled in the Stenography Class, which was an accelerated program. After completing the course, his first assignment was the Assistant to the Commandant of the Army Management School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. After a year at the Army Management School, Cothron received his orders for Vietnam. Upon arriving, he was assigned to the 18th Engineer Brigade in Cam Ranh Bay. While waiting for his new assignment, he filled sand bags for two weeks. Finally, he was assigned to an artillery unit in Nha Trang, South Vietnam. He asked about

his MOS (71C30 - Stenography) and was told, "We don't need no stenographers; we need fighting men!" He was placed in an artillery unit (First Field Force Artillery Unit). He received his second stripe of corporal. Some of the decorations, medals, commendations, citations and campaign ribbons he received were: 1) National Defense Service Medal; 2) Vietnam Service Medal; 3) Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device; 4) Expert Badge (M-14 Rifle); 5) Expert Badge (M-16 Rifle); and 6) Special Training (71C30 Stenography).

After spending a year in Vietnam, he was stationed at Fort Eustis, Virginia, in the 1097th Transportation Company as Company Clerk. While at Fort Eustis, Cothron received his third and final stripe, the rank of Sergeant. After completing his obligations to the U. S. Army, he was granted an Honorable Discharge. Following a short time in retirement, he went to work for Science and Technology Inc. (SCI), a civilian contractor company on Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. He worked as a facilitator/instructor, managing the Army Education Satellite Program. Among the courses he facilitated were: Defense



Small Purchases; Defense Acquisition Contracts (Basic and Advanced); Contracting Officer Representative (COR); Provision; Basic Logistics Support Analysis and Commodity Command Standard System.

Cothron participated in many workshops and conferences designed to promote the intellectual warfare of the student. He retired after 10 years with Science and Technology Inc. After another short time in retirement, he was called back to Science and Technology Inc. by the Vice President, who wanted Cothron to join the "Score Team" and travel to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, to help revise the Standard Operation Procedure for purchasing material for the Army Installation, for which SCI had a service contract. After completion of the task at Fort Huachuca, he retired for the final time.



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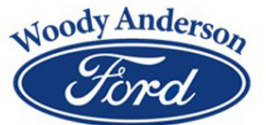


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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.



"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. 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.



**Village of
PROMISE**
A FAMILY ADVANCEMENT CENTER

Village of Promise Speaker Series 2024

Featuring Dr. Mae C. Jemison, M.D., Former NASA Astronaut

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 - Von Braun Center - Huntsville, Alabama

Overview and Photos Submitted by Pat Patterson

The Village of Promise (VoP) was founded in 2011 by (Mrs.) Bobby Bradley and Gloria Batts to address the pressing needs of children and families in distressed, high poverty neighborhoods through a multi-generational approach to education and services.

Famed former NASA astronaut Mae Jemison, M.D., addressed VoP's recent 2024 Speaker Series event on Tuesday, April 23, in the more than 600-per-

son Saturn Ballroom of the Von Braun Center. An accomplished entrepreneur, engineer, physician, educator and humanitarian, Jemison leads efforts to link the physical and social sciences with art and culture to solve problems and foster innovation.

"Everyone has a right to be involved with what happens in the world today," Dr. Jemison told local media covering the event. "I also want us to hope for the best--to wish for the best--

for our fellow humans and for our fellow creatures on this planet. That will take us a long way toward moving forward."

During her captivating presentation, Dr. Jemison invited the audience to consider their individual reactions to a world of both scarcity and abundance, and how they can make generational impacts within the 86,400 seconds of each passing day.

Jemison also noted children's fascination with

dinosaurs and space, the endpoints of where we have been and where we are going.

Dr. Jemison was born in Decatur, Ala., but she received her elementary and secondary education in Chicago before entering Stanford University at age 16. She graduated with an M.D. from Cornell University in 1981. Jemison was selected in 1987 from 2,000 applicants for one of just 15 slots in NASA Astro-

naut Group 12, the first team selected following the Challenger disaster a year earlier.

Among the program participants were Erica Fox Washington of WJAB-FM 90.9, who served as emcee; VoP board chair Jane Daniel; Brenda Martin and Karen Stanley, co-chairs of the 34-person speaker series committee; Rev. Jaymes Mooney, VoP vice chair; Todd May, senior VP of science and space

at KBR, who introduced the keynote speaker; and Dana M. Gillis, VoP CEO. Axient was the 2024 event's presenting sponsor.

Last year, VoP was named as the 2023 Nonprofit of the Year at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce 38th Annual Small Business Awards Gala.

For more information about future VoP activities, visit www.villageofpromise.org.

-Submitted by Pat Patterson

Drake State Welcomes USASMDC Commanding General

Drake State Community and Technical College welcomed LTG Sean Gainey, Commanding General of the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC), to campus on Wednesday, May 1.

LTG Gainey's visit provided students, staff, and guests with invaluable insights into the critical field of space and missile defense.

During his discourse, LTG Gainey shared illuminating perspectives



on current developments and the future trajectory of space and missile defense initiatives. His expertise shed light on the pivotal role played by USASMDC in safeguarding our nation

both domestically and internationally.

"It was an honor to host LTG Gainey and his family on our campus," said Drake State President Dr. Patricia Sims. "LTG Gainey is a true leader and visionary in national security and defense. His visit emphasizes the robust partnership between Drake State and the U.S. Army as we collaborate to cultivate the next generation of skilled professionals for our nation's defense and aerospace sectors. Such partnerships are essential to ensuring that Drake State remains at the forefront of workforce development, meeting the ever-

evolving needs of our local industries and businesses."

The visit also held personal significance, as LTG Gainey is the brother of Nichelle, a former college roommate of Dr. Sims. This personal connection added a warm touch to the event, allowing for a reunion alongside the informative discussions.

Esteemed guests included representatives from Senator Katie Britt's office, Senator Tommy Tuberville's office, Representative Dale Strong's office, and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle's office.

Current Drake State Veteran students Dustin Ellis, Kayla Koepp, Shawn Huddart, and Jonathan Tinner were recognized for their service and accomplishments post-service. About one in twelve Drake State students are Veterans or military-dependent.

As LTG Gainey concluded his visit, the Drake State community extended



their gratitude for his enlightening talk and unwavering dedication to serving our nation.

LTG Gainey's visit not only provided educational value but also served as a reminder of the commitment and sacrifice of those who work tirelessly to keep the country safe.

LTG Gainey's visit was

not only an opportunity for intellectual exchange but also a moment of appreciation for the contributions of military leaders like him. As the college continues to shape the next generation of professionals, such engagements are crucial in inspiring and preparing students for the challenges ahead.

Tickets on Sale for AHA's Alabama Colloquium



Don't miss out! Get your tickets soon for our first Alabama Colloquium event in 2024, as we honor musicians Brittany Howard and Jason Isbell in Huntsville on August 26. Tickets available now!

The evening will feature a conversation between our honorees on storytelling, Alabama roots, and more — facilitated by NPR music critic Ann Powers.

Howard and Isbell will also perform a couple of songs they've selected for the occasion. And if that's not enough, another legendary north Alabama musician, Patterson Hood, will serve as our guest presenter for the evening.

This marks the first time we've taken the Alabama Colloquium to Huntsville, and we can't wait to welcome everyone to the Von Braun Center's Mark C. Smith Concert Hall on August 26.

All proceeds support Alabama Humanities Alliance's year-round programming across the state.



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Huntsville to Build New CSI Building



The City's eight-person crime scene investigation team (CSI) team in the Huntsville Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division has worked in cramped quarters for years.

Relief is on the way in the form of a new 14,000-square-foot investigation building complete with labs, office space, evidence processing areas and vehicle processing bays.

"We have the advanced technology in place for crime scene analysis, but we need dedicated space to be more efficient and process evidence faster," said

Police Chief Kirk Giles.

A new CSI building will be constructed on Wheeler Avenue across from Huntsville Police Headquarters. The project also includes a separate, climate-controlled 13,500-square-foot facility for vehicle and evidence storage.

"The law requires us to hold evidence for years, and in some cases in perpetuity," said Investigator Jeremy Phipps. "The new warehouse will allow us to meet legal storage requirements for decades to come."

Along with providing additional secure storage,

Phipps says the new CSI facility will also meet the department's needs for growth.

"The additional space will allow us to add more equipment for processing evidence and the room to work multiple cases at one time while securely protecting evidence from cross-contamination," he said.

Pearce Construction has the green light to proceed with the \$9.7 million project. Work is expected to begin in late spring and should take one year to complete.

- huntsvilleal.gov

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MAY 10 - Kenan Thompson - Kenan Thompson is an American actor and comedian. Thompson began his acting career in the early 1990s and garnered fame as an original cast member of Nickelodeon's sketch comedy series *All That*. He often collaborated with fellow *All That* co-star Kel Mitchell in his early career. In 1996, they began starring in their own sitcom, *Kenan & Kel* (1996-2000). He has been a cast member of the NBC sketch comedy series *Saturday Night Live* since 2003, and is the longest-tenured cast member in the show's history, surpassing Darrell Hammond. Thompson is also known for his roles in *The Mighty Ducks* franchise, *Good Burger*, and as the title character in the 2004 film *Fat Albert*.



- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org

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