

# Artist Links History and Empowerment - p. 8

**FREE**

**Food City Ground Breaking! - p. 7**

Friday  
May 17, 2024  
Vol. 10, No. 37  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

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

**PRESTON BROWN: "It Takes One to Make One" - p. 3**

**John 'Jahni' Moore**

**TIM ALLSTON: "Brand New Article" - p. 5**

**GLORIA B: "I Was Gonna Lay Back Down" - p. 5**

**Mrs. Marie Ann Cothron**

*"The patience and forbearance of the poor are among the strongest bulwarks of the rich." - C. L. R. James*

## Valley Mourns Death of Longtime Local Religious Leader, Activist

The Tennessee Valley mourns the recent death of a noted minister and visionary religious leader who once headed the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention.



ated from Councill Training High

The Funeral Ceremony for Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs will be at 12 noon Friday, May 17, at Oakwood University Church, 5500 Adventist Boulevard NW, Huntsville, Ala. He will lie in repose two hours prior. Public viewing will be 1-4 p.m. Thursday, May 16, and 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m. Friday, May 17 at Royal Funeral Home. An evening of fellowship and tribute will be held from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at First Missionary Baptist Church.

Born in Elkton, Tenn., and raised in Toney, Ala., Rev. Scruggs gradu-

School in Huntsville, Ala. After receiving the B.A. degree at American Baptist College in Nashville, Tenn., he also fulfilled requirements for the Master of Divinity (M. Div.) and Doctor of Ministry (D.

See SCRUGGS, p. 2



### City Hall Ribbon Cutting May 21

It's an exciting time as the transition continues into the new City Hall.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening will be Tuesday, May 21, at 10 a.m.

It's an opportunity for residents

to get a first look at City Hall and learn more about City government and services.

Visitors will also be able to enjoy several public art displays throughout the building.

## AHA to Honor Two 2024 Fellows

The Alabama Humanities Alliance (AHA) has announced that Brittany Howard and Jason Isbell are AHA's newest Alabama Humanities Fellows. The duo will be honored at an event in the 2024 Alabama Colloquium series scheduled for August 26 in Huntsville at the Von Braun Center's Concert Hall.



This is the first of two Alabama Colloquia that AHA will present in 2024, as it celebrates its golden anniversary — 50 years of sharing Alabama's stories. It also marks the first time AHA has brought its signature event to Huntsville.

The evening will feature an in-depth conversation between Howard

and Isbell, and each honoree will perform a song they've selected for the occasion. This will be a theatre-style event with assigned seating, and the program begins at 6:30 p.m.

While our musical honorees will play a couple songs for the occasion, this is not a concert. Base prices for tickets are \$75-\$100, and are being sold through the host venue, the Von Braun Center. (NOTE: Ticketmaster, the Von Braun's ticketing partner, applies additional fees to all events.)

Proceeds benefit AHA's year-round programming.

## TrapxCanvas Set for Huntsville



Huntsville is on the list of cities scheduled to host TrapxCanvas.

TxC Event Productions will bring the two-hour activity to the Rocket City on Saturday, May 25. Look out for venue and further details!

This isn't a wine and cheese paint party! Get up and get moving with your favorite trap classics and new music. Just check out the playlist and keep the party going. Limited artistic ability? No problem. We've got you

covered! Come out and join in a cultural experience and don't worry about painting within the lines. Just have a good time with it! Organizers promise the experience will be enhanced with a few beverages of your choice. (21+)

The Valley Weekly

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## The Valley Weekly

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**The Valley Weekly**

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Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$150
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Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee
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The Valley Weekly  
**Washington  
One Minute**

by Ron Hamm

Here are the top issues and events in Washington for the week of May 13.

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in session this week. In a burst of activity last Thursday, the Senate approved both its version of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill and a one-week extension of the bill to prevent FAA programs from lapsing on May 10 (the MD and VA Senators did not get a vote on restricting new landing/takeoff slots at Reagan Airport). Sen. Bob Menendez's (D-NJ) corruption trial opened Monday in Manhattan, in which he and his wife are accused of taking bribes from New Jersey businessmen who sought the lawmaker's help paving the way for lucrative deals they had lined up with

the governments of Egypt and Qatar. This week, the House, in addition to taking up the

Senate version of the FAA bill for final passage, will mark "National Police Week" in DC by voting on a number of crime-related bills. The House has also added a bill to its floor schedule to reverse President Biden's recent delay in sending a shipment of 1,800 2,000-lb bombs and 1,700 500-lb bombs to Israel to protest its planned invasion of the City of Rafah (on Friday, 26 House Democrats, led by Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-NY, sent a letter to the White House protesting the delay in the weapons shipment).

**2. THE WHITE HOUSE.**

Over the weekend, President Biden traveled to San Francisco and Seattle for 3 campaign fundraisers (which Politico reported raised a combined \$10

million in 24 hours), returning to Delaware on Saturday night. On Monday night, he hosted a reception for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and on Tuesday delivered remarks at the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies annual gala. On Wednesday, the President attended the National Police Week memorial service at the U.S. Capitol, and on Thursday hosts a meeting with the plaintiffs from the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education school desegregation case on its 70th anniversary. On Friday, he delivers remarks at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in DC and then travels to Atlanta for the weekend to attend a fundraiser and give the commencement address on Sunday at Morehouse College before traveling to Detroit for the annual NAACP Freedom Fund dinner.

**3. SUPREME COURT.** The Supreme Court, which has no further arguments scheduled this term, will issue opinions

this week from its current docket, which may include a decision in Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB) v. Community Financial Services Association, which deals with the constitutionality of the agency's funding. In a related matter, on Friday Judge Mark T. Pittman of the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas on Friday issued a preliminary injunction pausing CFPB's new \$8 cap on credit card late fees that was set to take effect on Tuesday (that would cost the credit card industry an estimated \$10 billion annually).

**4. COMMITTEES.** On Wednesday, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Chair Martin Gruenberg testified before the House Financial Services Committee for its semi-annual FDIC oversight hearing. On May 7, Finance Services Committee Chair Patrick McHenry (R-NC) called on Gruenberg to resign in response to an independent report alleging "entrenched and widespread misconduct"

at the agency.

**5. EDUCATION.** On May 7, the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) issued a new Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) clarifying colleges' obligations to ensure non-discrimination based on race, color, national origin, shared ancestry, and ethnic characteristics in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The guidance comes as OCR has received an increase in Title VI complaints from students at K-12 schools, colleges, and universities. The DCL provides examples to help colleges balance nondiscrimination obligations and First Amendment protections should an incident occur in a classroom or campus setting.

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**Valley Mourns Loss of Longtime Religious Leader Julius R. Scruggs**

From SCRUGGS, p. 1 Min.) degrees at Vanderbilt University School of Divinity. In December 2011, Dr. Scruggs was conferred the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Alabama A&M University.

At age 18, he began service as pastor of Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Harvest, Ala., and served from 1960-65. Rev. Scruggs then pastored the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church in Nashville and later led the Antioch Baptist Church in East Chicago, Ind., from 1972-77. Since January 1977, Rev. Dr. Scruggs has

been the shepherd of God's people at First Missionary Baptist Church in Hunts-



ville, Ala.

The author of four books, Scruggs has served on the Board of Trustees at American Baptist College;

as a member of the National Board of Directors, NAACP; as a board member of Selma University; and as President of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention. In 2009, in Memphis, Tenn., Pastor Scruggs was overwhelmingly elected as the 17th President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

He is married to the former Josephine Stewart Tipton, and they are the proud parents of a daughter, Jennifer Juliette Scruggs, and a son, Morris Errol Tipton, II.

They have three grandchildren: Morris E. Tipton, III, Morgan Taylor Tipton, and Elizabeth Francina Scruggs.

**ON THIS DAY**

The first meeting of the Kentucky Derby is won by Oliver Lewis, an African American jockey riding the horse Aristides on May 17, 1875.

- [blackhistorydaily.com](http://blackhistorydaily.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.



**SERENITY FUNERAL HOME**

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693  
www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral service for **MR. LARRY TONEY** (b. 1956) was held Saturday, May 11, at Briar Fork CP Church, 2105 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. J.E. DAVIS** (b. 1945) was Saturday, May 11, at Douglas Tabernacle P. B. Church, 1429 Calvary Street NW, Huntsville, Ala.

**NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**

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

Memorial service for **MR. PAUL E. MOORE** (b. 1959) was Friday, May 10, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Vivian Langford officiating.

Graveside service for **MR. WILLIAM THOMAS STEWART, JR.** (b. 1955) was Tuesday, May 7, at the Crutcher-Seay Cemetery (Toney, Ala.) with Bishop Alonzo D. Hatchett, Jr., officiant.

Funeral service for **MRS. PATSY J. LIGHTFOOT-WHITE** (b. 1957) was Sunday, May 5, at Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with The Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. JUANITA LACY SCRUGGS** (b. 1937) was Saturday, May 4, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with The Reverend Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME**

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

Funeral service for **REV. DR. JULIUS R. SCRUGGS** (b. 1942), Pastor Emeritus of First Missionary Baptist Church, will be Friday, May 17, at Oakwood University Church, at 12 noon.

The funeral service for **MR. THOMAS LEE CAIN** (b. 1947) was Saturday, May 11, at the Round Island Creek Mission Center (13829 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens, Ala.) with Reverend John Irving officiating.

The funeral service for **MRS. ROSA MARIE BRADFORD** (b. 1947) was Saturday, May 11, at the Northwest Church of Christ (5008 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, Ala.) with Brother John E. Branch officiating.

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.



**It Takes One to Make One**

Matthew 28:19-20 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

One of the things that we need to understand is that we can't make disciples of other people if we are not disciples ourselves. In other words, it takes one to make one. A disciple is a personal follower of Jesus Christ. According to scripture, a person must do several things to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Jesus explains in Luke 14:26-27 that a disciple must love Jesus more than anyone or anything. I realize that for most of us this seems impossible. However, remember that with God all things are possible. When we learn to love Jesus more than anything, He will give us the capacity to love others more. To be disciples, we need to deny ourselves and take up our crosses daily. Matthew 16:25 says, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." It's not about finding yourself. Being a disciple of Jesus

is about denying yourself, which means not being prideful but being willing to help others. Taking up our crosses can mean different things to people. For some it means resisting the temptation to do what everyone else is doing. It could mean swallowing your pride and telling someone about Jesus. It could mean doing what God wants you to do instead of doing what you want to do.

patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the very things that we are called to do. When we do these things, we will be able to make disciples of other people. May God grant you the spiritual courage to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Question: What are the things that are holding you back from making people disciples of Jesus Christ?

Being disciples means that we fully surrender our lives to Jesus in a way that brings forth spiritual fruit, which is love, joy, peace,



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, or Westbow Books.

**NEXT WEEK:**  
"Getting the Weeds Out"

*Nelms Memorial Funeral Home*

**"WE CANNOT ERASE THE STING OF DEATH, BUT WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER"**

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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](http://veganchefchallenge.org/huntsville)

7-10 p.m.

“The Mountaintop” by  
Katori Hall (Directed by  
Byron Turner)

Followed by Special In-  
terfaith Mission Service  
Theatre Talk

Tickets: [theatrehsv.org](http://theatrehsv.org)

Johnson Little Theatre  
Alabama A&M University  
7 p.m.

## May 15

3rd Annual Business  
Matchmaker Event  
Sponsor: Huntsville Utili-  
ties

10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

## May 17

Food Truck Rally  
Big Spring Park  
Downtown Hsv. Inc.

## 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 17-19

Miss Pretty Pum Feminine  
Wellness Exposition  
5750 Mooreville Road, Ste.  
#3, Tanner, Ala.  
11 a.m.

## May 16

Campus 805 After 5  
Butler Green

R&B Vibes at The Camp  
5909 University Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.

## May 18

Gardening with Kids: Polli-  
nator Gardening (\$35/\$60)  
Huntsville Botanical Gar-  
den  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue

SW, Huntsville, Ala.  
10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Huntsville Havoc Yard Sale  
700 Monroe Street SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
10:30 a.m.

## May 18-19

Rocket City BBQ & Soul  
Fest  
National Speleological  
Society  
Huntsville, Ala.  
10 a.m.-10 p.m.

## May 19

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

## May 22

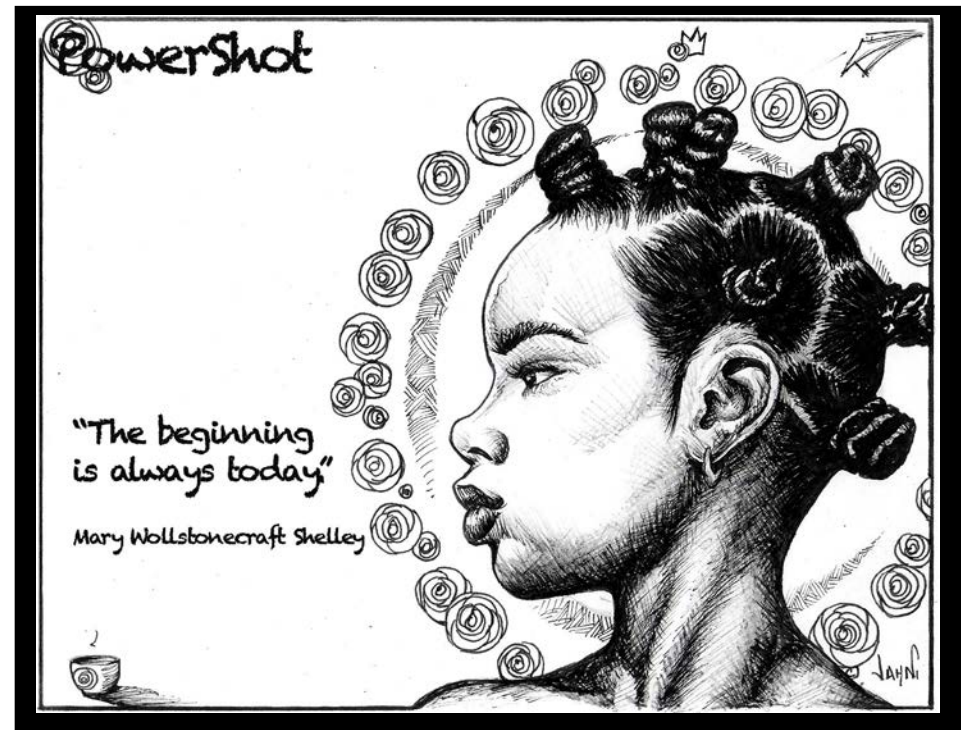
Jewelry Workshop  
Yellowhammer Brewery  
Tickets (\$110)  
6-9 p.m.

## May 24

Blaque Carpet Affair  
Blaque Cigar Lounge  
9 p.m.

## May 25

Memorial Day Ride &  
Event  
Redstone Harley-Davidson  
Sponsor: Morgan County  
Sheriff's Posse Special  
Needs Program  
15100 Old Highway 20  
Madison, Ala. (\$20/Rider)  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.



*“Anytime you lose your mooring on the land, you lose your capacity to protect your possessions.”*

- Asa Hilliard

## 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.

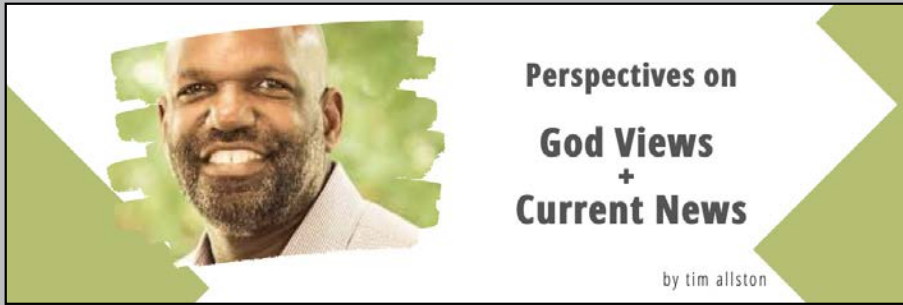
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## Mother's Day 2024: Saluting our "She-roes"

*"Honor thy fathers and thy mothers that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." - Exodus 20:12.*

Mother's Day 2024 represents my first time celebrating since Mom's passing on October 22, 2023. In their love through role modeling, Zeola Bell Germany Allston and my namesake Dad, Thomas Gray Allston, encouraged me to practice professional speaking, writing, and public presentations of both.

In May 1967, Mom "volun-told" me to learn and recite without notes the following Mother's Day tribute poem, "Somebody's Mother," by Mary Dow Brine. I share it with you now in her honor - without notes:

The woman was old and feeble and grey,  
And bent with the chill of the winter's day,  
The street was wet with the recent snow,  
And the woman's feet were weary and slow,

She stood at the crossing and waited long,  
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng,  
Down the street with laughter and shout,  
Glad in the freedom of 'school let out'  
Came the boys, like a flock of sheep,  
Hailing the snow, piled white and deep,  
Past the woman, so old and grey,  
Hastened the children on their way,  
Nor offered a helping hand to her,  
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir.



At last came one of the merry troop  
The gayest boy of all the group;  
He paused beside her and whispered low,  
'I'll help you across if you wish to go'  
He guided the trembling feet along,  
Proud that his own were firm and strong,  
Then back again to his friends he went,  
His young heart happy and well content,  
'She is somebody's mother boys you know,  
Although she is old and poor and slow,  
And I hope some fellow will lend a hand,  
To help my mother - you understand  
If e'er she be poor and old and grey,  
When her own dear boy is far away.  
And 'somebody's mother' bowed low her head,  
In her home that night and the prayer she said,  
Was 'God be kind to the noble boy,  
Who is somebody's son and pride and joy?'

### Tim Allston

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



# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## I Was Gonna Lay Back Down ...

I was really going to lay back down.

I had it in my head, "Yeah I can get another hour of sleep!" I wasn't really tired. I had been up moving around. I wasn't sick. I had plenty that I could have been doing. But, I was going to lay back down. For no reason, except I had decided I could take the easy way out of life and just relax and be lazy.

Then, I decided not to.

I decided I was not going to be mediocre. So often we lay down on our dreams, our visions. We assume the whole day belongs to us, so this moment won't matter. However, it is not promised. You don't know how long you have. But, you know what you desire. Do you really desire what you say you want? Or



does it just sound good? Do you dream? If not, why don't you? Come on!

*Dream.* The world needs those dreams. Yep, you're needed. Then when you dream, write it down! Pray on it. The get up! Don't lay back down, you're not tired! You could be making the decision to lay down

on the moment that could change your life.

Get Up!!!! Lace Up, and go chase those dreams!!

You've got this!!! God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.

## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, May 19, 2024  
The Day of Pentecost  
WHITSUNDAY



(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:  
Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Second Lesson:

Romans 8:22-27

GOSPEL:

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15





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

## Mrs. Marie Ann Cothron

Marie Ann Waters-Cothron was born on January 1, 1951, New Year's Day, in Lloyd Noland Hospital located in Fairfield, Alabama, the oldest of three children born to Percy Lee and Willie Jewel Waters.

From 1965-1969, she attended Western-Olin High School, now known as Jackson-Olin High School, where she was placed in the accelerated class because of her good grades. She remains thankful for teachers who challenged her academically. She will never forget the physical education teacher who taught her about better nutrition. Gradually, while doing all the exercises in her class and being more selective in what she ate, Marie began to lose weight. By the time she was a senior, she had lost fifty pounds, and her self esteem increased tremendously. Consequently, when she graduated, she was ranked number five out of 195 students, according to grade point averages.

She pursued further education by attending the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, along with five other students from her graduating class. When she arrived, she was in awe of the huge campus. During freshman orientation, she scored in the 90 percent range in Spanish on her placement exam, so she decided to declare it as her major. As a result of hard work, she was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society and received the Instituto

Cultural Diploma De Honor from the Spanish government in Madrid, Spain, in 1972. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish with a minor in English in 1973. She later continued her studies and received the Master of Arts degree in 1981. Naturally, she is a huge Crimson Tide fan. ROLL TIDE!

Her first job was at Scottsboro High School as a Spanish teacher from 1971-1978. While in Scottsboro, she married Allen Ben Cothron on July 27, 1974, and later they were blessed with two wonderful sons, Anthony and Ashley Bryan. They then decided to move to Huntsville, Alabama, where she proceeded to her next job at J.O. Johnson High School from 1974-2011. At Johnson, she taught Spanish and one year of English, as well. She served as co-sponsor of the Spanish Club and the Spanish National Honor Society and was the Foreign Language Chairperson for two years. On several occasions, she also received awards. Working at Johnson was so special to her. There was a comradeship that is difficult to find in many places, and she was thankful to be a part of it. During the 33 years at Johnson High, she also worked in the Alabama A&M University Upward Bound federal program on Saturdays and in the summer for 20 years. One additional teaching job was at Redstone Arsenal in the Department of the Army's educational



program for one year.

She is a member of the Blue Spring Road Church of Christ, where she actively participates in serving the Lord. She has served as the Ladies' Ministry Chairperson for two years and have participated in numerous edifying seminars, bible classes, motivational retreats, Vacation Bible School and Ladies' Day Programs. She thoroughly enjoys the fellowship with her brothers and sisters in Christ.

She has been blessed to travel to Paris, London, various parts of Mexico, Jamaica, Belize, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Honduras, and many parts of the U.S.

She realizes that God has truly blessed her with many wonderful experiences. As she looks back, she can see how they molded her into the person she is today. There have been some difficult times, but the good times outweigh the bad ones. At this juncture in her life, she understands what faith, patience, and determination really mean.



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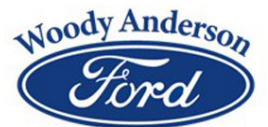


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"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and **activism** in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rossettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rossettajamesfoundation.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).



# Keith, Mayor Join Food City Reps for N. Huntsville Groundbreaking

North Huntsville residents have cause for celebration as ground was broken Wednesday, May 8, on the new Food City, providing a much-needed grocery option and signaling new economic development prospects for the area.

The milestone underscores the growing interest in North Huntsville as a hub for both commercial and residential expansion.

Located at 10210 North Memorial Parkway, the new Food City store will offer a full-service meat department, bakery, pharmacy and an onsite Starbucks.

The 16,000-employee supermarket chain has more than 150 stores located throughout Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. Owned by K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc., its administrative offices are based in Abingdon, Va.

The groundbreaking was attended by Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, District 1 Council Member Devyn Keith and Food City representatives.

Keith said the North Huntsville location marks an exciting chapter for the



area, promising enhanced access to essential services and bolstering economic vitality.

“This is truly a momentous day for residents in North Huntsville,” Council Member Keith said. “As the representative for District 1, I am truly grateful Food City is building a store here. It’s more proof that North Huntsville is attracting commercial and residential developers of all sizes, and we can’t wait to see what the future holds.”

The groundbreaking for the North Huntsville store happened just hours after a groundbreaking

for a Food City store on Governors Drive that will

serve residents in Lowe Mill, Mill Creek and Mer-

rimack communities. The grocery store chain plans

to build six new stores in the Huntsville area.

- Huntsvilleal.gov

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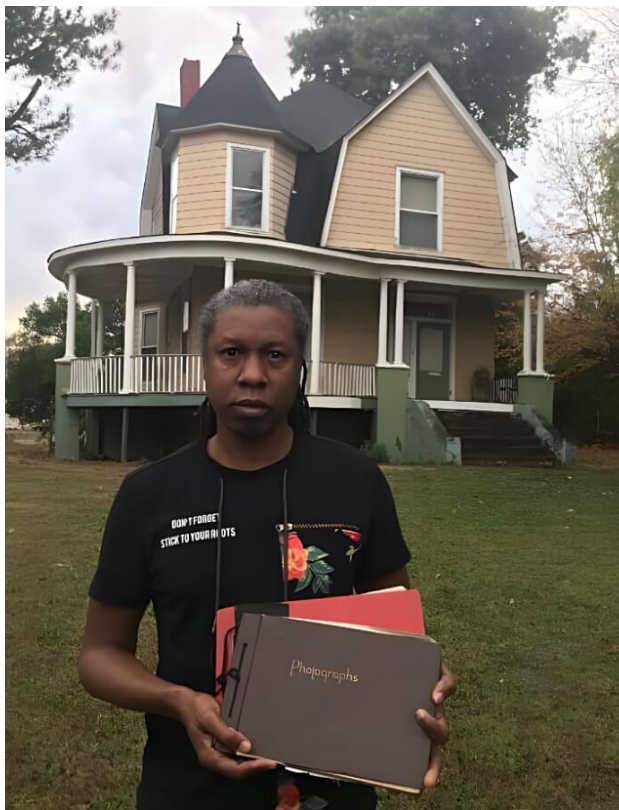
# Jahnni Moore's "WE" Initiative Links Art, History and Empowerment

Local gifted artist, educator and activist John "jahni" Moore has been deeply engaged in his most recent endeavor, "WE Initiative."

National Performance Network's Southern Artists for Social Change awardee Carey Fountain described the current work of his fellow honoree as "a vibrant fusion of art, history and community activism centered in Huntsville's Magnolia Terrace" neighborhood.

Moore aims to bring attention to and to re-establish the historical presence and culture of African American and Indigenous communities in Magnolia Terrace and its surrounding neighborhoods.

The WE Initiative is an articulation of a deeply held conviction that art can be a transformative force in society, noted Fountain.



Set against the backdrop of one of Huntsville's oldest African American communities, this project as

described by Fountain is a poignant exploration of heritage and legacy. "This project is a jour-

ney into the past to illuminate the stories that have shaped us," Moore told Fountain. "It's about using art to create a dialogue with history and carve a path for the future."

The Drake House is both a historical landmark with deep roots in the community and the heart of the WE Initiative. Owned by Joseph Fanning Drake, the fourth president of Alabama A&M University, and later occupied by his son, Dr. Harold F. Drake, the first African American physician at Huntsville Hospital, the Victorian property stands as a symbol of resilience and achievement. "The Drake House is more than a building; it's a testament



to the endurance and achievements of our community," Moore said. "In transforming this space, we're not just preserving history; we're reactivating it." Moore's plans include a community art and history hub, turning 0.73 acres of legacy into a thriving center for creative and cultural exploration. The project involves hosting workshops, art exhibits, and community planning sessions, making the

Drake House a dynamic focal point for cultural and artistic expression.

Importantly, WE Initiative is not just about looking back, added Fountain. It's also about re-establishing a sense of pride and communal engagement in Magnolia Terrace. Moore emphasizes the importance of "sweat equity"—the idea that investing personal effort and work into the community can lead to profound enrichment and revitalization. "In the spirit of the Drakes, we are working to rekindle a sense of community ownership and pride," he noted.

Excerpts from Carey Fountain's "Jahni Moore's WE Initiative," National Performance Network. 2024.

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MAY 17 - **Hill Harper** - Francis Eugene "Hill" Harper is an American actor and author. He is known for his roles on CSI: NY, Limitless, and The Good Doctor. Harper is the author of several books: *Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny*, published in 2006; *Letters to a Young Sister: DeFINE Your Destiny*, published in 2008; and *The Conversation: How (Black) Men and Women Can Build Loving, Trusting Relationships*, published in 2010. His books, *The Wealth Cure: Putting Money in Its Place* and *The Wiley Boys* were both published in 2011. His book, *Letters to an Incarcerated Brother: Encouragement, Hope, and Healing for Inmates and Their Loved Ones* was published in 2013.



- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



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## Five Ways to Plan the Perfect Vacation for 2024

(BPT) - Research reveals a fascinating truth: The anticipation of a vacation can boost your happiness, perhaps even as much as the vacation itself.

Whether you're seeking serenity on sun-kissed beaches or cultural immersion and adventures in exotic locales, planning a stay full of memories is an integral part of the overall experience. Here are 5 tips to guide you in planning a vacation in 2024 that turns your travel dreams into a reality.

### 1. Define your ideal vacation

Start by envisioning what you want from your vacation and stay experience. Is it lounging on a beach with a cocktail in hand, local cultural experiences such as exploring ancient ruins, or indulging in gourmet dining? Let your passions guide your destination choice. For a hassle-free, el-

evated experience, consider all-inclusive resorts that cater to a variety of ages and interests, ensuring that every day of your stay is as relaxing or as adventurous as you desire.

### 2. Choose the right resort

The secret to an extraordinary vacation lies in where you stay, as it can make or break any trip. Families might seek resorts with kids' clubs and activities that can keep little ones engaged and entertained, while couples might prefer quiet pools and intimate dining. Hilton All-Inclusive Resorts, for example, offer family-friendly properties and adult-only retreats with unique experiences that align with your vacation goals, such as cultural immersion programs like mezcal tastings and salsa lessons, to wellness options like yoga and meditation classes.



### 3. Consider timing and duration

The timing of your vacation is another key aspect to consider. Off-peak travel can provide more tranquility and booking options. Equally important is the length of your stay. Opting for a longer stay allows you to fully embrace a resort's offerings, from leisurely enjoying extensive amenities and activities to exploring the local culture and surroundings without feeling hurried. But

don't overlook the appeal of a quick getaway to an all-inclusive resort, even in off-peak season. These resorts are adept at helping you get the most out of your hard-earned vacation time, regardless of your length of stay.

### 4. Seek all-in vacation experiences

Nothing says vacation like a stay that offers everything you desire, and all-inclusive resorts provide just that through a seam-

less and simplified experience. Hilton's all-inclusive resorts around the globe combine gorgeous accommodations, gourmet meals, unlimited beverages, and a wide array of activities like water sports and premium entertainment. If taking in all of these experiences isn't enough, by ensuring you're signed up for Hilton's award-winning guest loyalty program, Hilton Honors, you can earn Points for future stays and experiences while going all-in on your current stay.

### 5. Leave room for spontaneity

While planning is important, flexibility can add a layer of excitement to your vacation. For example, all-inclusive resorts offer a range of activities and excursions available on demand. You could wake up and decide to join a fitness class by the beach, partake in a cooking workshop, or

embark on a last-minute snorkeling adventure. This flexibility can add an element of surprise to your vacation, making your stay even more memorable. Additionally, all-inclusive resorts often boast an array of dining venues, each offering distinct international and gourmet experiences. This variety allows you to be spontaneous with your dining choices, deciding on a whim whether to indulge in Italian delicacies one night or savor local seafood the next.

There is a whole calendar ahead of you, beckoning for new discoveries and moments that turn into cherished memories. Remember, where you stay is just as important as the destination, and with these tips as your guide, go ahead, mark your calendar, and start planning your all-inclusive all-extraordinary getaway at Hilton.com.

## Diversity Leadership Colloquium Graduates Cohort XVII

Cohort XVII of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) graduated from the 12-week program during a ceremony held at the UAH Charger Union Theater on Tuesday, May 7.

DLC advances leadership excellence by advocating and progressing the affirmation of diversity, equity and inclusion in strategic markets and communities of interest for competitive intelligence.

Huntsvillian Dr. Darrell Ezell, professor, author, corporate strategist and former DEI director at HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, served as the keynote speaker.

Receiving the Certificate of Completion from DLC were (pictured, l-r) were: Allen Malone, Leventria Sims-Parks, Marquasha Carter, Kevin Chandler, Shavonne Lee, Vanessa Weatherly, Doetiletia Sims and Emil Johnson.

Cohort XVIII will begin August 20 and run through November 7. The deadline for applications is August 9. To apply, please visit the website: [www.tnvalleydlc.com/application](http://www.tnvalleydlc.com/application).

(Photo by Jerome Saintjones)

