

## "Seizing the Opportunities" p. 4

Friday  
May 29, 2026  
Vol. 12, No. 39  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

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



Mrs. Laura B. Clift

In Everything Give Thanks ... - Page 5



# The Valley Weekly

"People can cry much easier than they can change." — James Baldwin

## City Gears up for 2026 Concerts in the Park

Summer evenings in downtown Huntsville will once again come alive with music as Arts Huntsville and the City of Huntsville Department of Parks and Recreation present the 2026 Concerts in the Park series beginning Monday, June 1.

Celebrating its longstanding tradition as one of Huntsville's favorite summer events, the free weekly concert series will feature 10 weeks of live performances in Big Spring Park every Monday evening through August 3.

Showcasing an exciting lineup of local musical talent

across genres including rock, country, jazz, R&B, and contemporary hits, concerts will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets for seating, and leashed pets are welcome.

This year's concerts are presented with the support of Huntsville International Airport, Huntsville Utilities, Xfinity, CB&S Bank, Keel Point, Pei Ling Charitable Trust and Cumulus Media. The concert lineup features the following local performers:

- June 1 - Groovy Neighbors - JUICE;
- June 8 - Maneuver Center

- of Excellence Band (MCoE) of Fort Benning;
- June 15 - Rocket City Jazz Orchestra Groove;
- June 22 - J Class Band - Pat Jamar
- June 29 - Ty Blackwell - Brett Carlisle & the Mason Jar Prophets;
- July 6 - Bloom After Fall - The Backbeat Band;
- July 13 - Jayne and the Huntsmen -

- SIMEON;
- July 20 - The Grastro-nauts
- The Brooklines;
- July 27 - Lana White & the Heights Triple Play;
- August 3 - Surprise Lineup (bands TBD)

"Concerts in the Park is one of the ways we celebrate the incredible talent and

sense of community that makes Huntsville special," said Alison Dillon-Jauken, Executive Director of Arts Huntsville. "Each week, audiences can enjoy a different musical experience in the beautiful setting of Big Spring Park."

## VBC: Drake Prepares for Annual Jazz Fundraiser

**Mark your calendars!** Jazz in the City is back, and this time the fun is being taken indoors, at the Von Braun Center Mars Music Hall, as Drake State celebrates its 65th Anniversary of education, workforce development, and community impact.

The Drake State Foundation's 5th Annual Jazz in the City is presented by Mazda Toyota Manufacturing and will be held on



Friday, June 19, at 7 p.m., headlined by the legendary AJ Ghent and His Singing Guitar. Ryon Schultz and Nina Marie Live will kick off the evening with special musical performances.

Organizers look forward to sharing

an unforgettable evening of live jazz, great company, and real impact for Drake State students. Proceeds from the event will support scholarships, technology upgrades, and facility improvements, expanding access and opportunity for students pursuing high-demand careers in North Alabama.

Tickets are now available for purchase [HERE!](#)

## Progressive Union to Honor Musician

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church will honor longest-serving musician Mary Lanier Curry for her more than 70 years of service.

The occasion, "A Legacy of Music, Faith & Service,"



will be held in her honor on Saturday, May 30, at 4 p.m. at Progressive Union

Missionary Baptist Church, 1919 Brandon Town Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.

For additional information, contact Jo Miley, Demarius Anderson, or Laurent Vergnac at (256) 885-5911.

## Friends of the Library Sale Announced

The Friends of the Library "5th Saturday 1/2 Price - Members Only Sale" will be held at the Downtown Huntsville Library, located at 915 Mon-

roe Street SW, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 30.

Friends of the Library members are invited to shop the 1/2 price book sale

in the bookstore! Not a member yet? Membership forms will be available at the door and online at [hmcpl.org/fol](http://hmcpl.org/fol).

## Vision Banquet June 5

The Huntsville Bible College will hold the Dr. John Clay Vision Banquet on Friday, June 5, at the Von Braun Center East Hall at 7 p.m., featuring Dr. Howard-John Wesley, senior pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., as speaker.

For ticket info, call (256) 469-7536 or visit [www.huntsvillebiblecollege](http://www.huntsvillebiblecollege).



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 4
- Gloria B. & Tim: Perspectives, Page 5
- "Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 6
- Spotlight on Our Elders, Page 7
- Sunday Lectionary, Page 7
- Happenings in Washington, Page 9

# AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN ...

## The Quiet Thing Nobody Mentions at the Reunion



You ever notice how high school reunions are full of memories, but short on truth?

Folks walk in with name tags, softened waistlines, polished stories, and just enough nostalgia to cover the parts nobody quite knows how to discuss.

“Oh, remember Coach So-and-So?”

“Remember the pep rallies?”

“Remember the cafeteria rolls?”

But every now and then, somebody sits quietly at a round table nursing weak hotel coffee and thinking about something deeper:

“How exactly did all our lives get separated so early?”

Now nobody says it out loud at the reunion because reunions specialize in selective memory. They celebrate who became doctors, principals, colonels, attorneys, and business owners. They clap for accomplishments. They mourn the classmates who passed too soon.

But they rarely discuss the machinery.

They rarely discuss who got pointed toward college and who got pointed toward the shop building.

Who got counselors that said:

“You ought to apply.”

And who got:

“You’re good with your hands.”

Who spent the school day in debate club, journalism, student government, and advanced English — and who spent half the day on a bus headed to vocational school before they were old enough to understand what **tracking** even meant.

Now let Aunt Irma make something plain: there is nothing dishonorable about vocational education. This country was built by skilled people who could draft, weld, wire buildings, repair engines, sew garments, and build roads.

But that is not the point.

The point is whether children truly chose their paths — or whether paths quietly chose them.

Back in the 1970s, especially down South, a lot

of schools had invisible sorting systems stronger than any official handbook. Some students were viewed as “college material” almost automatically. Others had to fight just to be seen as intellectually promising at all.

And once a child got labeled early, the system often reinforced itself like wet cement drying around their future.

The tragedy is not simply that opportunities differed.

The tragedy is that many students never even knew decisions were being made about them.

By the time some folks realized what had happened, they were already adults looking backward across forty years.

That is why reunions can feel strangely emotional even when everybody is smiling.

People are not only remembering who they were.

They are quietly wondering who they might have become under different guidance, different expectations, different visibility, or simply one adult willing to say:

“You belong in every

room this school has to offer.”

And sometimes the loudest thing at the reunion is not what gets said.

It is what everybody suddenly understands without mentioning at all.

- TVW Staff



MAZDA TOYOTA  
MANUFACTURING



WELLS  
FARGO

MAZDA TOYOTA MANUFACTURING  
& WELLS FARGO  
PRESENT

5TH ANNUAL

# JAZZ IN THE CITY

7 P.M. | FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

MARS MUSIC HALL

@ THE VON BRAUN CENTER

FEATURING

AJ GHENT & HIS SINGING GUITAR

NINA MARIE LIVE • RYON SCHULTZ

SINGLE ENTRY  
ADMISSION

## \$50.70

AT TICKETMASTER.COM

ENJOY LIVE MUSIC AND SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS!



65  
DRAKE STATE  
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
WWW.DRAKESTATE.EDU



A HENDLEY PRODUCTION

*“Change your thoughts and you change your world.”*

— Norman Vincent Peale

The Valley Weekly

**Publisher**

The Valley Weekly, LLC

**Editor-in-Chief**

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

**Editorial Consultant/  
Senior Editor**

Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

**Editorial Assistant**

Linda Burruss

**- Contributing Editors -**

tim allston

Minister Preston Brown

Gloria B. Caldwell

Ron Hamm

Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

-and-

“Aunt Irma” (ChatGPT support)

**Photographers**

Anthony “Gip” Gibson

Jerome Saintjones

**Website Administrator**

Calvin Farier

**Mailing Address:**

The Valley Weekly

P. O. Box 893 - Huntsville, AL 35804

(256) 651-9028

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Copyright 2026

Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com). Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of

The Valley Weekly, LLC.

Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the editorial staff, and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions. We use A.I. tools occasionally to support tasks such as transcription, research, or draft refinement. All final reporting and editorial decisions are made by our newsroom staff



**The Valley Weekly**

Ad Rates Single Issue

Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,500
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$1,200
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$900
Half Page	Horizontal	
	5x10 inches	\$600
	Vertical	
	10x5 inches	\$600
Fourth Page		
	5x5 inches	\$300
Eighth Page		
	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page		
	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

# LINDA FOWLKES: A Quiet Storm

In every community, there are people whose impact reaches far beyond the titles they hold or the positions they occupy. Their legacy is not simply defined by the work they were paid to do, but by the lives they touch, the doors they open for others, and the service they give without expectation of reward. In continuing this series on individuals who are making impact and building legacy in our community, it is fitting to recognize the remarkable life and service of Linda Fowlkes.

For nearly 38 years, Linda Fowlkes served our nation with distinction through her work with the U.S. Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal. Her professional accomplishments are extraordinary, reflecting a lifetime of discipline, leadership, and excellence. Yet what makes Ms. Fowlkes truly special is not merely the success she achieved in government service, but the commitment she has demonstrated to uplifting others throughout her journey.

A native daughter of Alabama, Ms. Fowlkes has continuously invested in education, growth, and leadership. With degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Central Michigan University, along with numerous advanced certifications and leadership programs, she embodies the belief that learning should never stop. Even now, she continues pursuing knowledge through her studies in Biblical Studies at Huntsville Bible College. Her example reminds us that legacy builders never become complacent; they continue growing so they can continue giving.

What stands out most about Linda Fowlkes is her dedication to community involvement and mentorship. She has never viewed success as something to keep to herself. Instead, she has consistently poured into others through organizations that strengthen families, youth, education, leadership, and cultural preservation.



As a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a board member of Diverse Educational Life Training Activities, Inc. (DELTA, Inc.), she has helped support programs designed to empower young people and improve lives throughout the community. Through her leadership in the Diversity Leadership Colloquium Alumni Association, she worked to create opportunities for networking, mentoring, and collaboration among emerging leaders across Huntsville and beyond.

Her service has also extended into organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and Burritt on the Mountain, where she continues contributing to preservation, education, and community engagement efforts. These commitments reflect a woman who understands that strong communities are built when people willingly invest their time, wisdom, and energy into causes larger than themselves.

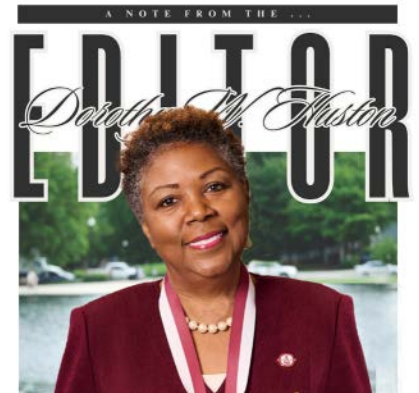
Perhaps one of the greatest parts of Ms. Fowlkes' legacy is her commitment to mentoring and outreach. Through programs like the Army Educational Outreach Program, she visited schools and universities to encourage students and prepare them for the workforce. In many ways, she became the example many young people needed to see — proof that excellence, integrity, faith, and service can coexist in one life.

Her faith also remains central to her impact. As a Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher at First Missionary Baptist Church, and through her previous leadership with Bible Study Fellowship International, she has devoted herself to teaching and sharing God's Word. Her service in ministry demonstrates that true leadership is rooted not only in professional achievement, but in compassion, humility, and spiritual guidance.

In a world where recognition often focuses on fame, wealth, or titles, Linda Fowlkes reminds us that the most meaningful legacy is built through calm and steady service. It is built in classrooms, churches, boardrooms, mentorship circles, and volunteer hours that no one else may see. It is built through consistency, faithfulness, and a willingness to help others rise.

Huntsville is stronger because of people like Linda Fowlkes. Her life stands as a powerful reminder that impact is measured not only by what we accomplish for ourselves, but by what we do for others along the way.

Until next week ...



*Dorothy*

**MAY 29 - REBBIE JACKSON** - Maureen Reillette “Rebbie” Jackson-Brow is an American singer. Born and raised in Gary, Indiana, she is the eldest child of the Jackson family of musicians. She first performed on stage with her siblings during shows in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in 1974, before subsequently appearing in the television series The Jacksons. Her sister La Toya was born on her sixth birthday. At age 34, Jackson released her debut album Centipede (1984). The album featured songs written by Smokey Robinson, Prince, and Jackson's younger brother Michael, whose contribution (the title track “Centipede”) became Rebbie's most successful single release.




- [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org)

# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S

The Valley Weekly



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

## "Seizing the Opportunities"

Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

You know, tomorrow's successes are dependent on today's sacrifices. And your faithfulness in one season has everything to do with how you will experience the next season. Sometimes it can be hard to move forward with your spiritual growth unless you learn what God is trying to teach you right now.

You see, there is nothing you can do about all the opportunities that you have missed in your life. But now is the time to seize the opportunities that we do have. Grace gives us the ability to pick up the pieces of where we are now and continue to move forward with full confidence that God is working in our lives.

So, if you feel like you're going through a "test" right now, that may be good, because the testing of your faith produces patience and perseverance (James 1:3). But in the meantime, we have to be faithful and seize the opportunities that are right in front of us.

*Prayer:* Most gracious God, help us not to live with regrets but seize the opportunities that are in front of us today.



*Question:* Do you ever feel like you are missing opportunities that God has placed in your life? What can you do to turn that around?

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:**

"Ordinary People"



## Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

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



2501 CARMICHAEL AVENUE  
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35816  
(256) 539-8189 • (256) 539-8183 (FAX)  
[WWW.NELMSMEMORIAL.NET](http://WWW.NELMSMEMORIAL.NET)



### NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816  
[www.nelmsmemorial.net](http://www.nelmsmemorial.net)  
(256) 539-8189

Funeral and/or memorial services for **MR. RAY WHITE** (b. 1946) and **MS. BRANDY NICOLE KING** (b. 1981) are incomplete and will be announced by Nelms Memorial Funeral Home staff at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. VERNON ALLISON** (b. 1959) will be held Saturday, May 30, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor David Terry and Pastor T.C. Johnson officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. GEORGE J. VANN** (b. 1958) was Saturday, May 23, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Walter Peavy officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. VIOLA C. KELLY** (b. 1942) was Saturday, May 23, at St Mark Baptist Church with Elder Jeremiah Chester officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. JOSEPH JEROME JOHNSON** (b. 1931) was Friday, May 22, at Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Celebration of Life service for **MRS. KIMBERLY MOORE DENNEY** (b. 1979) of Decatur, Ga., was Saturday, May 23, at Indian Creek P. B. Association Tabernacle, 6378 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala., with Elder Jukobie Jones officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. WILLIE WATTS, JR.** (b. 1930) was Monday, May 18, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Earla Lockhart officiant and eulogist.

Funeral service for **MR. EUGENE "DICK" SCRUGGS, SR.**, (b. 1938) was Sunday, May 17, at St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Dr. Mario Ford eulogist.

Celebration of Life for **MS. TISHEMAR TISIANA TISKA JOSEPH** (b. 1976) was Saturday, May 16, at 7500B Byrd Spring Rd SW, Huntsville, Alabama.

Celebration of Life for **MS. LORETTA BANKS** (b. 1965) was Saturday, May 16, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

## In Everything Give Thanks--Even the Black Dots!

*"Sing ... to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything."*

— Ephesians 5:19–20

Some praise God only for the good. But those of us walking in the Spirit—particularly those of us in ego-holism recovering—learn that trials, too, are gifts. Filtered through His hands. Permitted for His glory.

I was reminded of this, reflecting on a Streams in the Desert daily devotional. In that devotional, a man draws black dots on paper—seemingly random and meaningless. But once musical lines and a treble clef were added, we realized those black dots were notes, composing the Doxology: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Each of us has black dots in life: failed opportunities, closed doors, painful detours. I've had plenty—especially in 2004, at one of my lowest points emotionally and financially. I had to decline a prestigious appointment with my beloved fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, because I couldn't afford the drive to Atlanta. Depressed, I watched from afar as my friend was inaugurated. I felt forgotten. Passed over.

But my younger brother Ivan called me that Friday evening, with words I'll never forget: "Gray (my middle name), Satan has to get permission from God before he can tempt us."

Those words echoed what Streams in the Desert affirms today: if a trial reaches us, it first passed through God's hands. No matter the source, He allowed it—not to break us but to compose something beautiful through us.

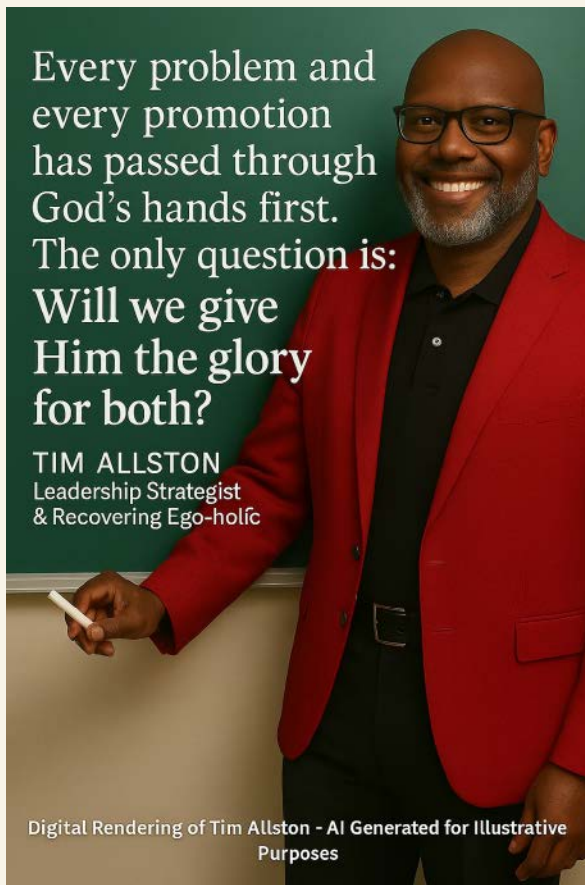
That season led me to adopt a lifelong principle—a verse my father loved, and which my mother later wrote in beautiful calligraphy and hung in his hospice room: "In everything give thanks."



Not for everything, but in everything.

### Tim Allston

Leadership Player-Coach and Four-time Amazon Best-Selling Author, "Leading from the Middle"  
 Contact: (256) 212-0949 - <https://bit.ly/4aB9Lwm>  
 Email Address: [leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com](mailto:leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com)



# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## "Reaping after Weeping ..."

Anything worth having will be appreciated more when you have to work for it. We learn this lesson early on.

From the moment of conception, we experience the growth and turmoil inside the womb, enduring the challenges and preparing ourselves to make the journey through the birth canal.

It takes nine months of hard work in the womb before we finally arrive in the world, and the first thing we do is cry—a sign that we've made it safely.

From learning to crawl to taking our first steps, there are tears shed along the way as we train our muscles and strengthen ourselves to stand upright and walk.

It doesn't happen over



night. Whatever the case may be, every new phase in life requires preparation and effort.

The harder you work, the stronger and more diligent you become. By training yourself to respond in a certain manner, you become resilient. Life's challenges won't throw you off course as easily, and you

gain better control over your emotions.

Understand that tough times will come. Hardship, confusion, trials, jealousy, frustration, and discomfort are part of the journey.

However, when you emerge on the other side, you'll be better prepared for what comes next.

It's okay to be emotional; that's normal. But keep things in perspective and keep pushing forward.

The reaping that follows the weeping is well worth it. So, keep your head up, stay connected with your faith, and embrace the journey.

Those tears you shed now will create beautiful trails of water that you can sail through later in life.

thrivent

A personalized financial approach based on your Christian values



**Craig E Satterfeal**  
 Financial Consultant  
[craig.satterfeal@thrivent.com](mailto:craig.satterfeal@thrivent.com)  
[connect.thrivent.com/craig-satterfeal](https://connect.thrivent.com/craig-satterfeal)  
 256-883-5509

Advice | Investments | Insurance | Banking | Generosity

Insurance products, securities and investment advisory services are provided by appropriately appointed and licensed financial advisors and professionals. Only individuals who are financial advisors are credentialed to provide investment advisory services. Visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) or FINRA's BrokerCheck for more information about our financial advisors.

27193 R4-24

The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**May 29-30**

Kam Patterson  
Comedian  
Huntsville Levity Live  
2012 Memorial Parkway SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 261-3374

**May 30**

Elite Wrestling  
Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.

**May 31**

Pop Culture & Wrestling  
Expo  
"Dream On" (\$12)  
Stovehouse Event Center  
3414 Governors Drive SW  
Huntsville, Ala

**June 1**

"Throw Your Rope Across  
the Fence"  
Career Mentoring and Net-  
working Ministry Meeting  
First Missionary Baptist  
Church  
3509 Blue Spring Road  
NW

Huntsville, Ala. - 1-3 p.m.

**June 2**

The St. John The Worker  
Career Networking Club  
Meeting  
(Every Tuesday Except  
State/National Holidays)  
St. John Catholic Church  
Hughes Road  
Madison, Ala.  
12:30-2 p.m.

**June 4**

"Voices of Our Times"  
(Featuring Broadway Stars  
and Miss America)  
Tickets: \$225, \$275  
Catered by Chef James  
Boyce  
Loretta Spencer Hall  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
300 Church Street SW  
Huntsville, Ala.

**June 5**

"Master Artist Workshop  
with Elder Jones"  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
300 Church Street SW  
Huntsville, Ala.

<https://hsvmuseum.org>  
1-4 p.m.

**June 9**

The St. John The Worker  
Career Networking Club  
Meeting  
(Every Tuesday Except  
State/National Holidays)  
St. John Catholic Church  
Hughes Road  
Madison, Ala.-12:30-2 p.m.

**June 11**

"Master Artist Workshop  
with Qiang Huang"  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
300 Church Street SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
<https://hsvmuseum.org>  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**June 11-13**

"Rock the South"  
The Biggest Party in the  
South!  
Jason Aldean, Riley Green,  
Zach Top and Dozens  
More!  
The Raised Rowdy Stage  
The Fields at Decatur  
Decatur, Ala.

**June 12-14**

Marlon Wayans  
Huntsville Levity Live  
Comedy Club  
2012 Memorial Parkway  
SW  
Huntsville, Ala.

**June 14**

Flag Day

**June 15**

"Throw Your Rope Across  
the Fence"  
Career Mentoring and Net-  
working Ministry Meeting  
First Missionary Baptist  
Church  
3509 Blue Spring Road  
NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
1-3 p.m.

**June 16**

The St. John The Worker

Career Networking Club  
Meeting  
(Every Tuesday Except  
State/National Holidays)  
St. John Catholic Church  
Hughes Road  
Madison, Ala.  
12:30-2 p.m.

**June 18-21**

Alabama Taxidermist  
Association 50th Annual  
Convention & Competition  
Lake Guntersville State

Park  
Guntersville, Ala.

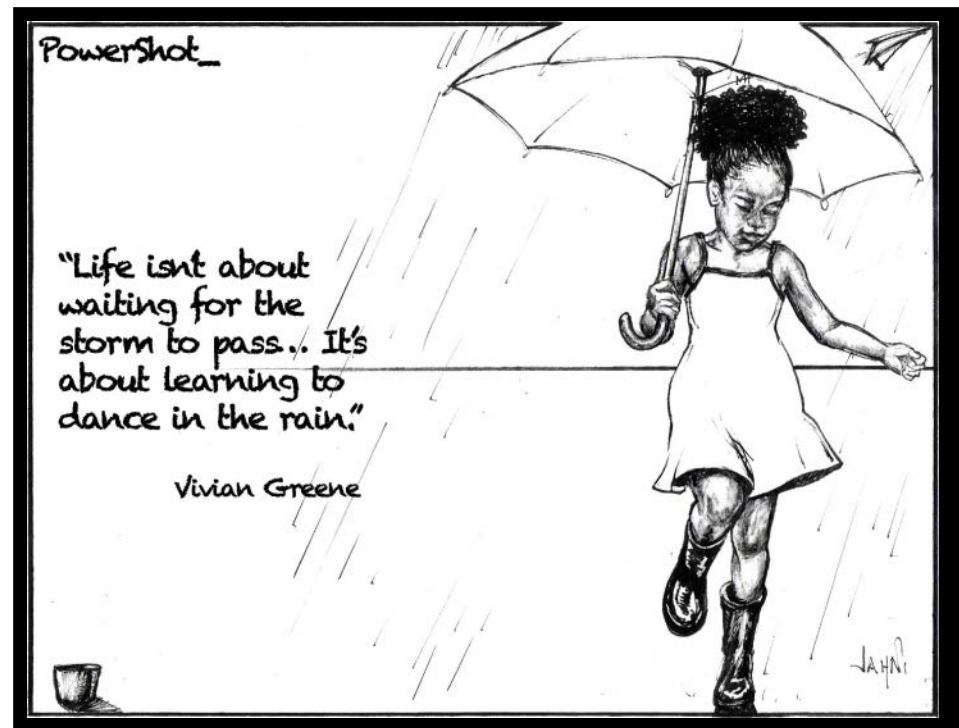
**June 19**

Juneteenth  
  
4th Annual Juneteenth  
Community Conversation  
"Oh Freedom 2026!"  
Robert "Bob" Harrison  
Senior Wellness and Advo-  
cacy Center  
martin1@madisoncount-  
al.gov

**ON THIS DAY**

1851: Abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth delivered her legendary "Ain't I a Woman?" speech at the Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. Her extemporaneous address demanded equal rights for both Black people and women.

- BET.com



## Imagine Your Invention

**Mechatronics**

**DRAKE STATE**  
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Apply Now

[drakestate.edu](http://drakestate.edu)



**State Farm**

**Mary F Spears, Agent**

(Behind McDonald's)  
155 Chestnut Drive  
Madison, AL 35758  
Bus 256-837-8899 Fax 256-837-8225  
[mary.spears.cffc@statefarm.com](mailto:mary.spears.cffc@statefarm.com)

*The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.*



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

## Mrs. Laura B. Clift

Mrs. Laura B. Ford Clift is the eldest of five children born to the union of Charlie Ed Ford and Ida B. Braggs. Born in Huntsville, Alabama, "Laura B," as she is so affectionately known by her family, was educated at West Huntsville Junior High School during her formative years in grades one through eight. Afterwards, she attended Council Training High School, Normal, Alabama, and graduated from William Hooper Council High School in Huntsville. It was at William Hooper Council High School that she met Gene Arnold Clift. Both graduated the same year and later enrolled at Alabama A&M College (now AAMU), and then married on July 16, 1958. Clift received the Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a minor in mathematics in spring 1964. She later pursued and completed requirements for the Master of Science degree in guidance and counseling and psychology, as well as K-12 certification in administration from her Alma Mater, AAMU.

Mrs. Clift began her profession as a fourth-grade teacher at Council Training School (1964-66). She later transferred to a different position in the Madison County School System at Farmer's Capital Junior High in Meridianville, Alabama, where she

taught science and math for 11 years. In 1975, Mrs. Clift transitioned to the Huntsville City School System and accepted her first assignment as guidance counselor at Davis Hills Middle School in Huntsville, Alabama. Here, she became the first African-American female counselor at this location following desegregation. After 15 years, she became the first African-American guidance counselor at Huntsville High School. Following four years there, she moved to the Annie C. Merts Center, the Huntsville City Schools Administrative Office, as the system's drug education coordinator. Embracing her love for educating youth, Clift accepted a position as first female assistant principal at Ed White Middle School. She remained in that position until her retirement in 2004.

Never being one to sit idly by, "retirement" did not "sit" well with her. After a year of leaving her career in academia, Clift began to devote her afternoons to tutoring students at the Bo Matthews Center for Excellence in Huntsville, Alabama. After four years of service there, she spent five years tutoring middle school students at the Northwest Community Learning Center. Although she has retired from the Northwest Community Learning Center, she remains extremely active in her daily activities.

More than 50 years ago, Clift began her pilgrimage



with the Lakeside United Methodist Church, following her marriage to her late husband Gene, who was also a native son of Lakeside. Her journey began as a sanctuary member, a soprano soloist who continues to lend her voice to the church's sanctuary choir. Since that time and throughout the seasons of her life, she has held numerous positions at her church, such as administrative board secretary, United Methodist Women secretary, UMW treasurer, chairperson of a women's circle, Harvest chairperson, Harvest Tea chairperson, evangelism/revival chair, lay leader, Vacation Bible School director, Vacation Bible School teacher, Methodist Youth Fellowship director, special days organizer, special events organizer (e.g., Women's Day, Heritage Sundays, Church Anniversaries), member of the district team of United Methodist Women, and Church lay leader.

"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).



THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

## They're Not Like Tim!

The Valley Weekly

"A thought-provoking and insightful take on the latest news and views. Join TIM ALLSTON every week for interesting perspectives you can't find anywhere else!"

ValleyWeeklyLLC.com

"POWERSHOTS"

## John 'Jahni' Moore

### TRUTH 2 POWER

Engaging art from an engaging artist! Each week in The Valley Weekly! Only online! What have YOU been missing?

ONLINE ONLY

What Have You Been Missing?

valleyweeklyLLC.com

JOIN US WEEKLY FOR GLORIA B'S

## MILLENNIAL MOMENT

ONLINE ONLY!

The Valley Weekly

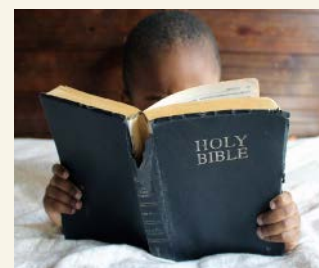
A COLUMN YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!  
Read a SIP: Sensitive, Intuitive and Provocative

[www.valleyweeklyLLC.com](http://www.valleyweeklyLLC.com)

## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Trinity  
Sunday



(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

Second Lesson:

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

GOSPEL:

Matthew 28:16-20

# Women's Basketball Launches '1947 Project' with Sundresses, Sneakers Kickoff

Alabama A&M University alumni, supporters and community members are invited to celebrate the launch of the 1947 Project during a Sundresses and Sneakers kickoff event from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at the AAMU Event Center.

Inspired by the founding of Alabama A&M Women's Basketball in 1947, the 1947 Project is a new initiative designed to support women student-athletes through mentorship, networking experiences and Name, Image and Likeness opportunities.

Organizers are seeking 100 women to become founding members of the initiative by contributing \$200 each to help establish a lasting legacy of support for women student-athletes on The Hill.

"The 1947 Project was created with one goal in mind: people coming together to intentionally support and pour into the next generation of young women," said Dawn Thornton, head women's basketball coach. "Every conversation, every ticket, every woman who shows up and every person who



chooses to support this vision helps us continue creating opportunities, experiences and access for our student-athletes beyond the game of basketball. While this initiative was designed to rally women from all walks of life, all are welcome to be part of something

meaningful. I truly believe there is power in community, and there is nothing more special than people choosing to invest in what's next."

Thornton shares her vision for the 1947 Project in her personal invitation.

Registration and ticket purchases are available at 1947 Project Kickoff: Sundresses and Sneakers. Registration closes at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 31.

The event will celebrate the rich history and promising future of AAMU Women's Basketball while introducing attendees to the vision behind the 1947 Project. Guests also will have the opportunity to connect with alumni, supporters and advocates committed to expanding opportunities for women student-athletes.

While the event is designed to center and celebrate women, men are encouraged to attend and show their support. Organizers ask male attendees to wear seer-sucker and sneakers.

Guests are encouraged to embrace the event's theme by wearing sundresses and sneakers for an afternoon focused on style, purpose and community engagement.

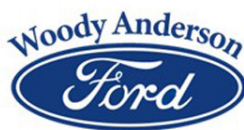
For more information, contact Morgan Saintjones at [morgan.saintjones@aamu.edu](mailto:morgan.saintjones@aamu.edu).

**PRESSING ON!**  
WITH  
**PRESTON BROWN**  
READ HIS UPLIFTING COLUMN EVERY WEEK!

The Valley Weekly  
WWW.VALLEYWEEKLYLLC.COM

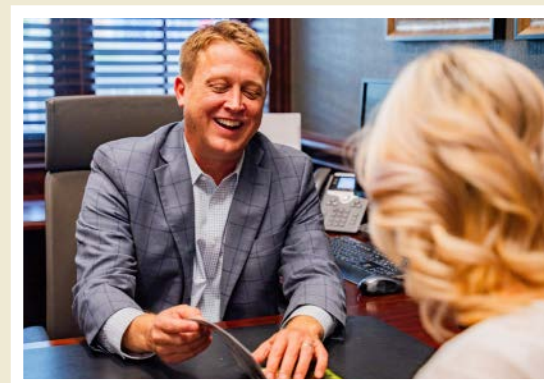


**Woody Anderson Ford**  
256-539-9441  
[www.WoodyAndersonFord.com](http://www.WoodyAndersonFord.com)  
2500 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL



BUSINESS BANKING | MORTGAGE | PERSONAL BANKING

*Focused on knowing your name,  
not changing ours.*



At Bryant Bank, we're committed to helping you reach your goals. Right here in **Huntsville**. Experience the difference of traditional, personalized banking at your local Bryant Bank office.

**Scott Ellis, VP, Mortgage Loan Officer**

[Scott.Ellis@bryantmortgage.com](mailto:Scott.Ellis@bryantmortgage.com) | 256-535-1140 | NMLS 971526

**BRYANT BANK** ATHENS | DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE | SOUTHEAST HUNTSVILLE  
[BRYANTBANK.COM](http://BRYANTBANK.COM)





Here are the top issues and events in Washington, D.C., for this week.

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in recess and will reconvene next week. Last Tuesday, the Senate advanced a war powers resolution restricting the President's authority in Iran for the 50-47 "motion to discharge" vote, with GOP Sens. Cassidy (LA), Collins (ME), Murkowski (AK), and Paul (KY) voting with all Ds — except Sen. Fetterman (D-PA). On Thursday, House Speaker Johnson (R-LA) abruptly pulled the House's war powers resolution from the calendar minutes before the vote — when it became clear the GOP did not have the votes to defeat it — and then

adjourned the House until June. The House and Senate also punted on the \$71 billion reconciliation bill after dropping \$1 billion for the president's ballroom. The \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" fund proposed by the Justice Department as part of a settlement for the President's \$10 billion lawsuit against the IRS ran into trouble on Capitol Hill last week when many members on both sides of the aisle raised concerns about who could receive the money. On Thursday, Reps. Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Suozzi (D-NY) introduced a bill to prohibit the use of federal funds for payments made through the fund. The House pulled a scheduled vote on the SCORE Act to

impose a federal standard for "name, image, and likeness deals" for college athletes due to a bill from the Congressional Black Caucus. In another setback, on Thursday, the House failed to pass a first time, on opposition to the bill to authorize a new Smithsonian American Women's History Museum on the National Mall after Republicans revised the legislation to ban transgender people from being included in the exhibits — 6 Rs joined all Ds in voting down the bill 204-216.

**2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.** On Tuesday, the President traveled to Bethesda, MD, for his third scheduled medical checkup in three months. AAA reported that the national average for a gallon of gas eased to \$4.507 (down \$.008 from a week ago) amid news that a U.S./Iran deal may be imminent. Outlets reported that the initial deal would have Iran reopen the Strait of Hormuz and the U.S. cease its blockade of

Iranian ports, followed by a 60-day negotiation period during which the U.S. and Iran would try to hammer out a deal on Iran's nuclear material (despite this, U.S. strikes against Iranian military targets resumed over the weekend). On Friday, the administration unsealed an indictment charging 94-year-old former Cuban leader Raúl Castro and 5 others in connection with the Cuban military's fatal downing of two planes 30 years ago. On Saturday evening, while the President was in residence, a 21-year-old gunman approached the northeast corner of the White House complex, took a gun from a bag, and opened fire before being shot and fatally wounded by Secret Service officers. A bystander was also struck by gunfire. Last Friday, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, who had been criticized for her lackluster support for the Iran War, abruptly resigned, to be replaced by Acting DNI

Aaron Lukas, a former CIA officer.

**3. SUPREME COURT.** Last week, by a vote of 8-1, the Supreme Court ruled in *Havana Docks Corporation v. Royal Caribbean Cruises* that Havana Docks, a U.S. company that before 1960 owned the right to use and operate the docks in the port of Havana, may be entitled to receive hundreds of millions of dollars for cruise lines' use of the port between 2016 and 2019. The justices released more opinions on Thursday.

**4. HIGHER EDUCATION - PELL.** The U.S. Department of Education finalized regulations last week to implement the new Workforce Pell Grant program, allowing students to use federal Pell funds for short-term workforce training programs as brief as eight weeks in high-demand fields such as healthcare, skilled trades, and technology. Created by the One Big Beautiful Bill

Act, the program takes effect July 20 and will extend Pell eligibility to an estimated 187,000 new recipients annually, at a projected federal cost of \$3.2 billion over ten years. However, the expansion arrives as the Pell Grant program faces a significant and growing funding shortfall, projected at \$5.4 billion this fiscal year and potentially reaching \$11.5 billion in FY2027 — raising bipartisan concern on Capitol Hill about the program's long-term fiscal stability. Congress must now determine how to fund both the traditional Pell program and the new Workforce Pell expansion, with House appropriators acknowledging they "will have to figure out something" to address the shortfall before it deepens.

Hamm Consulting Group  
1717 K Street, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 596-8384  
rhamm@hammconsulting.com  
www.hammconsulting.com



**Dedicated To You.  
Delivering Results.**

Personal Injury | Auto Accidents | Probate & Estate Administration  
Corporate Law | Real Estate Law | Divorce | Criminal Law

**Contact Us**

Phone: 256-533-1667  
Fax: 256-533-1696

info@martinsonandbeason.com

www.martinsonandbeason.com  
facebook.com/martinsonandbeason



*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.*

THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM  
ALL-ELECTRIC MUSTANG MACH-E

TEST-DRIVE IT TODAY!

Woody Anderson Ford  
256-539-9441 | www.WoodyAndersonFord.com  
2500 Jordan Lane Huntsville, AL 35816



ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

**START** HERE

Go anywhere.

[WWW.AAMU.EDU](http://WWW.AAMU.EDU)