

“Why Reparations for American Slavery Never Happened” - p. 8



PRESTON: “Perception’s Everything” - p. 4



Friday  
June 26, 2026  
Vol. 12, No. 43  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

Love of Music Awards Gala ... - Page 9

The Valley Weekly

SALUTE!  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mother Betty Craighead

“He who opens a school door, closes a prison.” — Victor Hugo

Women’s Philanthropy Society Offering Grant

Each year the Women’s Philanthropy Society awards up to two high-dollar grants to create systemic change around a key focus area facing women and their families in the community. The mission-focused Power of S.H.E.E. framework guides efforts to create a positive and measurable impact through grants selected from four core areas of safety and security; health and wellness, education and economic empowerment.

Deadline is July 15. Visit the Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville’s website, [www.grantinterface.com](http://www.grantinterface.com), for more information.

Education Foundation Honors Scholars

Huntsville’s Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation recently awarded nearly \$40,000 in scholarships to local students. The philanthropic arm of the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated recognized 32 scholars during their 2026 annual Scholarship Awards Presentation.

Scholarships awarded to students from various schools across Madison County was the result of the funds raised during the foundation’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Unity Breakfast. For 2026, the Education Foundation received financial support from the following Corporate sponsors - Huntsville Utilities, Meta Platforms, Mazda Toyota Manufacturing and the Dr. R. Parker Griffith Family Foundation. Corporate donors - Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Alabama and Bank Independent. Corporate contribu-



DTL Scholarship officers Timothy Richmond and Gary T. Whitley, Jr., make presentation to Emmanuel J. Armstrong (c). (PHOTOS, p. 12)

tors include AT&T, State Representatives Laura Hall & Anthony Daniels, Google Fiber, Huntsville Hospital Health System, Lexus of Huntsville, PNC Bank, Project XYZ, Raytheon an RTX Business, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Regions Bank, Sarai Space Group and Woody Anderson Ford. Additional corporate support was provided by Alabama State Representative Marilyn Lands, Bryant Bank, Goodwyn Mills Cawood, Huntsville Committee of 100, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and retired Madison

County Commission Chairman Mac McCutcheon. Emmanuel J. Armstrong (c, above), 2026 scholarship recipient of the Dr. John W. Hall Memorial Scholarship and graduate of Sparkman High School, stated, “as a student preparing to attend Alabama A&M University in the fall to major in Biology, receiving this scholarship will help greatly to support my educational journey on the Hill.” Presently, the Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation is led by Chairman Gary T. Whitley, Jr. (See p. 12)

Area Woman Among Seven to Be Inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame

A local woman will join seven new inductees into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame on Nov. 12.

Bobby A. Bradley founded and led Computer Systems Technology (CST), a company she helped launch in 1989, to provide computer, engineering and management services to the U.S. Department of Defense and NASA.

Under her leadership, CST expanded to 33 locations nationwide before its acquisition by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in 2003. Bradley retired from SAIC in 2004.

Bradley earned her degree in mathematics and chemistry from Vanderbilt University in 1971. She is currently a partner in two

LLCs, Lewis Properties and Genesis II. Her earlier career included roles as a mathematician with Northrop Corporation, a computer programmer with Computer Sciences Corporation and an operations research analyst with the U.S. Army Missile Command, where she worked from 1974 to 1989.

Bradley, deeply engaged in civic and professional service, is co-founder of



Village of Promise, a nonprofit organization she helped establish in 2011 to combat generational poverty by support-

ing education-to-career pathways in underserved communities.

She holds leadership and board roles with several organizations, including the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Starfish Holdings, Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, and others.

She has received numerous awards for her dedication to community outreach.

The Valley Weekly

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

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in session this week. Last week, the President abruptly canceled a Senate Intelligence Committee confirmation hearing scheduled for Wednesday for Jay Clayton, his permanent nominee for the cabinet-level Director of National Intelligence (DNI); thereby ensuring that controversial Federal Housing Finance Director Bill Pulte was able to take over as Acting DNI Director last Friday. The Senate was scheduled to move Monday on final passage on a comprehensive housing affordability bill today — known as the Housing for the 21st Century Act — that includes a provision forbidding large institutional investors from owning or controlling over 350 homes. GOP Senators hosted the President for lunch on Capitol Hill on Wednesday to discuss ways to move forward on several stalled items, including reauthorizing FISA Sec. 702 and the SAVE America Act. The full House this week will take up the FY 2027 National Security/State Department and Energy & Water appropriation bills. The Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled confirmation hearings for acting Attorney General

Todd Blanche for July 15-16, even as some Republicans remain undecided about whether to support him for the post. On Monday, the leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee unveiled a bipartisan deal on guardrails to protect kids from online harms, including a long-sought compromise on the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA).

**2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.** Vice President Vance led an initial round of talks with Iranian officials in Switzerland over the weekend, including setting up working groups on specific topics such as sanctions. Since Thursday, the Great American State Fair, part of the America250 celebration, was held on the National Mall between 14th Street and 4th Street. According to USA Today, the following states have opted not to participate: North Carolina, Massachusetts, Oregon, Washington, Connecticut, and Illinois (although it will send staff from the Peoria Riverfront Museum to run its pavilion). The NewsNation website reported on Friday that last week Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller met with White House officials to complain that the federal response to the infection of cattle and other animals with the New World screwworm fly

in Texas and New Mexico has been inadequate, pushing for the use of an older bait-and-kill method from the 1970s (the feds are using the deployment of sterile flies to fight the screwworm). In a related story, The Washington Post reported on Saturday that the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, whose responsibilities include screwworm detection and treatment, lost nearly 2,000 employees (20% of its workforce) as the administration downsized during the mass DOGE cuts last year. Last Friday, the President was at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland to unveil his new Air Force One 747-800, a gift from Qatar, that, according to The Wall Street Journal, received \$400 million in upgraded communications gear, although reportedly the plush interiors designed for use by the Qatari royal family were left largely untouched. Last week, the Air Force reversed course and required all recruits at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX, to receive the flu vaccine, after more than 200 recruits came down with the flu and one trainee died (in April 2026, War Secretary Pete Hegseth ended the military's long-standing requirement for service members to get annual flu shots and made flu vaccines optional for troops).

**3. SUPREME COURT.** The Supreme Court issued more rulings this week from the remaining 17 cases on the 2025-26 docket. Major cases set to be announced include: (1) Trump v. Barbara, on whether the President's executive order to end

birthright citizenship for babies born in the U.S. to non-citizen parents violates the 14th Amendment; (2) Little v. Hecox and West Virginia v. B.P.J., on state laws restricting transgender girls and women from participating in publicly funded female sports; (3) Wolford v. Lopez, on whether Hawaii's requirement that concealed-carry permit holders obtain property owners' permission before carrying handguns on private, publicly accessible property violates the Second Amendment; (4) Watson v. Republican National Committee, on

whether states can count mail-in ballots that arrive after Election Day; and (5) Trump v. Slaughter, on whether the President has the right to fire the heads of independent agencies at will.

**4. EDUCATION/WORKFORCE.** The House Education & Workforce Committee's Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing on Tuesday, June 24th, at 10:15 AM, titled "Workforce Rewired: Modern Apprenticeships for a Modern Economy." The hearing

examined how modern apprenticeship models can better connect workers to high-demand jobs and address growing skills gaps across industries. The hearing can be viewed at <https://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=413417>.

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## ON THIS DAY

OAIMÉ CÉSAIRE, born **June 26, 1913**, in Martinique, was a celebrated poet, politician, and co-founder of the Negritude movement. Educated in Paris, he met Léopold Sédar Senghor and Léon Damas, launching the journal L'Étudiant Noir and coining "Negritude" to affirm Black identity. He married Suzanne Roussy in 1937 and began his seminal poem, Notebook of a Return to the Native Land, in 1935.

SOURCE: SDVoice.info

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## The Valley Weekly

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# THE REV. CHANTAYE ELMORE KNOTTS: A Historic Installation and Powerful Reminder of What's Possible

On Sunday, June 14, 2026, a significant chapter was written in the history of faith leadership in North Alabama when Rev. Chantaye Elmore Knotts was installed as Pastor of Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Her installation represents not only a personal achievement, but also a powerful statement about the gifts, talents, and leadership women continue to bring to the church and to society.

The timing of this moment could not be more significant. Just days ago, national headlines focused on actions within the Southern Baptist Convention that further restricted the role of women in pastoral leadership. While denominations have the right to govern themselves according to their beliefs, Rev. Knotts' installation serves as a reminder that many Christians across America recognize and affirm the call of women to preach, teach, lead, and shepherd congregations.

Rev. Knotts arrives at this milestone with extraordinary credentials, extensive ministry experience, and a lifelong commitment to service.

Born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama, she has always exemplified excellence. A graduate of Randolph School, she distinguished herself as both a National Merit Semi-Finalist and National Achievement Scholar before earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in American Government from Harvard University. Her pursuit of knowledge continued through graduate studies and training at Northeastern University, Harvard Divinity School, and Columbia Theological Seminary. She completed coursework for the Doctor of Ministry degree with dual specializations in Educational Ministry Leadership and Family Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Yet, impressive academic accomplishments tell only part of her story. Rev. Knotts has successfully navigated and excelled in multiple professional arenas. She began her career as a budget analyst for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and later demonstrated exceptional talent in fundraising and development for Alabama A&M University and the Atlanta Symphony. As a registered stockbroker with Morgan Stanley, she earned recognition as one of the firm's top brokers in the region in 2000.

Her gifts extend into education and publishing as well. A trained writer and educator, she served as a writing instructor at both Alabama A&M University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Today, she continues to influence Christian education nationwide through her work with the National Baptist Sunday School Publishing Board as Adult Curriculum Editor, conference speaker, and staff writer. Her books, *Go with God* and *Surviving the Whirlwind*, further demonstrate her ability to inspire and guide readers through faith and life's challenges.



Most importantly, Rev. Knotts is a preacher of the Gospel. For decades, she has ministered throughout Alabama and across the nation, combining intellectual rigor with spiritual insight. Her sermons challenge minds, touch hearts, and encourage believers to live out their faith with purpose and conviction. For more than a decade, she faithfully served as Staff Minister at First Missionary Baptist Church and currently serves on the ministerial staff of The Fellowship of Faith Church.

Her installation at Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America reflects years of preparation, faithful service, and divine calling.

Throughout history, women have played indispensable roles in the life of the church. They have taught, prayed, evangelized, organized ministries, cared for communities, and nurtured generations of believers. In many congregations, women have long been the backbone of ministry. Rev. Knotts' installation recognizes what countless people have witnessed throughout her life—that leadership is ultimately measured by one's calling, character, preparation, and effectiveness.

For young girls sitting in church pews across our community, seeing a woman installed as pastor sends an important message: God can use your gifts. Your voice matters. Your leadership matters.

For the broader community, Rev. Knotts' installation demonstrates what can happen when talent, faith, education, experience, and service converge in one life dedicated to helping others.

As Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America begins this new season under Rev. Knotts' leadership, we celebrate not only a historic occasion but also a hopeful vision for the future. Huntsville has produced many remarkable leaders. Rev. Chantaye Elmore Knotts stands among them.

We congratulate Pastor Knotts, her family, and the Briar Fork congregation on this momentous occasion. May her ministry continue to inspire, uplift, and transform lives for years to come. Until next week ...



*Dorothy*

**JUNE 26 - ANDRE GRAY** Andre Anthony Gray is a professional footballer who plays as a striker for Premier League club Watford and the Jamaica national team. A product of the Shrewsbury Town youth system, Gray came to prominence after scoring 57 goals in 111 appearances in a two-season spell with Luton Town. He earned six caps for the England national C team from 2012 to 2014, before being called up to the Jamaica national team and making his debut in March 2021. Born in England, Gray is of Jamaican descent and is eligible to represent either Country internationally. Gray's goalscoring record for Luton in the final months of the 2011–12 season raised the attention of the England C team and he was named in the squad for an International Challenge Trophy match against Russia U23 in June 2012.

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



# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



The Valley Weekly

Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

## "Perception Is Everything"

First Samuel 17:45 says that David said to Goliath, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled."

It's been said that "perception is everything." The way we see things will affect the way that we react to them. For example, what do you do when you are faced with a situation that appears to be too much for you to handle? If we believe in the power of God, we should know that there is no problem too big for God.

When we look at this scripture, we can read for ourselves that Goliath was a giant problem that someone had to deal with. According to the text, Goliath had been defiling the entire Israelite army for forty days. The worst thing of all was that they put up with it. No one was willing to challenge Goliath until David came along. David didn't look at Goliath the same way that these soldiers looked at

him. David had a different perspective of the situation and he realized that the battle was in God's hands, not in the hands of a shepherd with a rock and a slingshot. I believe that this message is for all of us. When we are facing difficult times, we need to know where our help comes from.

So many times, we allow the devil to expose our weaknesses in such a way that we are unaware of the strength that we have.

Our strength comes from the wisdom that we get from God and when



we realize this strength, it changes our outlook on life.

I heard someone say that "everyone else looked at Goliath and said he's too big to kill," but David looked at Goliath and said "he's too big to miss." That's why perception is everything,

because it will change the way you live.

May God grant you spiritual success in finding where your strength comes from.

**Question:**  
Have you ever faced a problem that was more than you could handle? What did you do?

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.

**NEXT WEEK:**  
*"Learning to Survive!"*



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Funeral service for **MR. JOHN DUNIGAN** (b. 1960) is incomplete and will be announced at a later date.



Funeral service for **MRS. LILLIAN (aka "Lil") GARNER HAMPTON** (b. 1943) will be Friday, June 26, at 11 a.m. at St. Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church.

Funeral service for **MRS. ANNIE M. AKA "FATS" DANIEL** (b. 1940) was Saturday, June 20, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MR. DENNIS BLACK** (b. 1978) was Saturday, June 20, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MRS. JOETTA HORTON** (b. 1946) was Friday, June 19, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. JACKIE DEAMOND PETTY** (b. 1975) was Tuesday, June 16, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Dr. Larry Davidson, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. NINA N. TIMMONS** (b. 1938) was Tuesday, June 16, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Pastor Dr. Jerry Crutcher officiating.

Memorial service for **MR. COYLE LEE BONE** (b. 1956) was Monday, June 8, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Bishop Carl Pruitt officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. ROTINA JANELE TIBBS** (b. 1970) was Sunday, June 7, at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Ricky L. Sykes officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. MARY "JUANITA" BRAZELTON** (b. 1942) was Sunday, June 7, at Liberty Primitive Baptist Church.

Funeral service for **MS. ROTINA JANELE TIBBS** (b. 1970) was Sunday, June 7, at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Ricky L. Sykes officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. LEO ABERNATHY, JR.**, (b. 1956) was Saturday, June 6, at Liberty Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Jukobie Jones officiating.

Graveside service for **MR. TOMMIE LEE STEVENS** (b. 1969) was Saturday, June 6, at Haygood Cemetery in Harvest, Ala.

## Stop Chasing Titles: Start Solving Problems

**STOP CHASING TITLES.  
START SOLVING PROBLEMS.**

*“Careers that endure are not built on job titles.*

*They are built by leaders who step into  
unclear situations,  
own the problem, and move it forward.”*

— **Tim Allston**  
Leadership Strategist  
Ego-holism Recovering

Silver-Mettle Leadership Series  
#SilverMettleLeaders

A Forbes article by Rhett Power made a powerful observation: Careers that endure are not built on titles. They are built on solving problems other people avoid.

That idea resonates deeply with my work on Silver-Mettle Leadership.

Emerging leaders often think their next step is a promotion.

But the real leadership test is different.

Silver-Mettle Leaders see opportunities where others only see problems.

In my A-SILVERPATH framework, Step 3 is developing an entrepreneurial mindset. That means learning to:

- Spot organizational gaps
- Step into unclear situations
- Turn confusion into clarity

This is also the heart of my T-O-P leadership model:

- T — Target the problem
- O — Own the problem
- P — Proceed to solve the problem

Too many professionals ask: “What title comes next?”

A better question is: “What difficult problem am I ready to solve?”

Titles fade. But a reputation for solving complex problems becomes career currency.

Influence is not printed on business cards. It is earned in moments when everyone else is unsure what to do—and you step forward.

That is the quiet power of the Silver-Mettle Leader. And in many ways, that mindset reminds me of a comment once made about Jesse Jackson.

An author described him as: “A solution in search of a problem.”

While meant as criticism, that description captures the mindset many emerging leaders need today. The future belongs to leaders who run toward hard problems—not away from them.



#Leadership #SilverMettleLeaders #EmergingLeaders  
#EgoHolismRecovering #LeadershipStrategy

### Tim Allston

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# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## “Where’s Your Faith?”

What’s going on with you? Why are you questioning everything? Not in the logical sense of deciding whether or not it is safe or smart. You’re questioning your ability. As if magically and majestically you’re supposed to, and going to, have it perfected, when you have never done it. That’s absurd. So this is positioning you to never attempt the thing that you say you desire to do.

Where is the faith in yourself? Your abilities? Your God?

You’re not positioning yourself for anything great. You’re counting yourself out



before you even begin. Sometimes this is the end-all-be-all, just because you never begin. Funny thing is, if someone didn’t have faith in you to do a thing, you would probably be offended. We expect others to believe we have more

knowledge, capacity, or capability than we believe in ourselves. That’s nonsense.

Cut it out! Really think about this word — faith. Think about whether or not you have faith, and if you do, what do you have faith in. If it’s God, then stop empty quoting, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” when you know, deep inside, you don’t really believe that. Because if you did, you would do it!!! I’m just saying...

Where is your faith?

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; *open* it.

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The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**June 23**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

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.

Bundle Dye Workshop  
(\$100)  
1818 Farms  
(<https://1818farms.com>)  
24889 Lauderdale Street  
Mooreville, Ala.

**June 26**

Bloom Stroll and Bouquet  
Workshop (\$100)  
1818 Farms  
(<https://1818farms.com>)  
24889 Lauderdale Street  
Mooreville, Ala.  
6-8 p.m.

“Blu Hawaiian” Event  
Host: Beta Epsilon Sigma  
Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma  
Fraternity, Inc.  
DJ Hot Rod 14 & DJ Kay P

Envy Nightclub  
200 Oakwood Avenue NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8 p.m.

**June 27**

Sigma & Zeta  
Blu & White Weekend  
James Crawford Park  
3915 Melody Road NE  
Huntsville, Ala.  
11 a.m.-Until

10th Annual JuneFest  
Car & Bike Show  
2160 Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, Ala. | 1-9 p.m.

**June 28**

Sundays on the Greenway  
Trailhead Greenway  
[MORE](#) | 4-5 p.m.

Juneteenth Festival  
Sponsors: City of Hunts-  
ville's Office of Multicultural  
Affairs and Amazon  
Big Spring Park (Downtown  
Huntsville) | 5-9 p.m. (Free)

**June 30**

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.

Bloom Stroll and Bouquet  
Workshop (\$100)  
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24889 Lauderdale Street  
Mooreville, Ala.  
6-8 p.m.

**July 1-2**

Rickey Smiley  
Huntsville Levity Live

Comedy Club  
2012 Memorial Parkway SW  
Huntsville, Ala. | 7 p.m.

**July 4**

Independence Day

**July 5**

Summer Jazz Jam  
Sponsor: The Jazz Caravan  
Featuring Ms. Brightlight,  
Bryan Easter and Sherry  
Reeves  
White Azalea Estate  
2659a Jeff Road NW  
Harvest, Ala. | 6-10 p.m.

**July 6**

“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.

Bloom Stroll and Bouquet  
Workshop (\$100)  
1818 Farms  
(<https://1818farms.com>)  
24889 Lauderdale Street  
Mooreville, Ala.  
6-8 p.m.

**July 8, 10, 14 & 16**

Bloom Stroll and Bouquet  
Workshop (\$100)  
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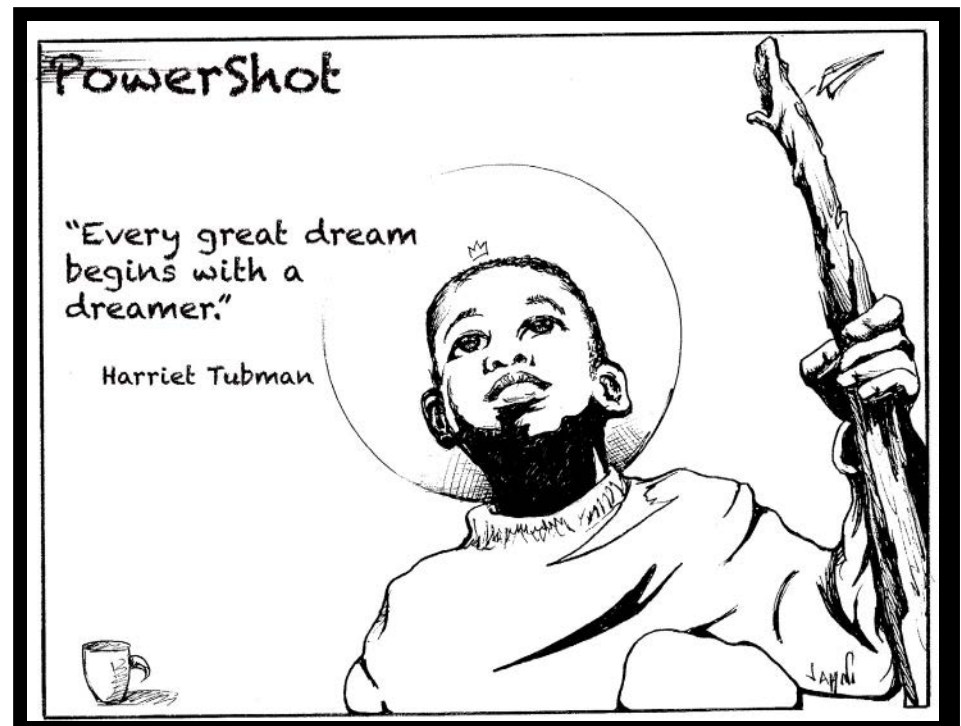
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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Mother Betty Craighead

Mother Betty Joyce Ford Craighead is a native Huntsvillian who is the first of four children born to the late Walter and Lucy Steele Ford. She attended Winston Street Elementary School, Councill High School and Alabama A&M University. She married Willie Mack Craighead, her high school sweetheart, and they are the parents of Karen Craighead McGlathery and Rodrick T. Craighead; two grandsons, and three great-granddaughters.

She joined Huntsville Hospital as a unit secretary in the Pediatrics, Medical/Surgical Unit, and Labor & Delivery in 1965. Exposed to every facet of medicine, she gained a great love for and knowledge of the medical profession. However, the Labor & Delivery area was truly her passion--recording and witnessing the births of many babies in Huntsville.

In 1970, Medical Center Hospital was opened by a group of doctors and Mrs. Craighead was hired, taking her to another level in

the medical field. Medical Center was later purchased by Humana Hospital but kept her in the same position as operating room secretary. She was promoted to customer service representative and then to customer service supervisor, retiring from Humana in 1996.

A faithful member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for over 45 years, she has served in positions ranging from the Stitching and Quilting Ministry to Superintendent of the Sunday School. In 2012, she was asked to do a commercial for First Community Health Plan due in part to her work in health insurance and her affiliation with the Stitching and Quilting Ministry. She is indeed a dedicated leader who loves people.

Among her many community service projects are her service as director of Rural Senior Services (Union Chapel Center);



advisor, Alabama Cooperative Extension System-Alabama A&M University Successful Aging Initiative, 14 years; representative, Alabama Alzheimer's Campaign, 2010; St. Jude Children Research (Campaign for a Cure); and others.

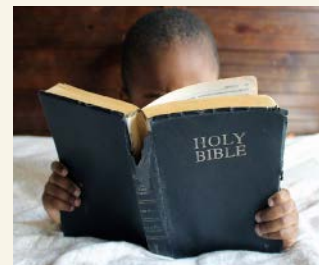
Mrs. Craighead enjoys sewing and creative arts. She has traveled throughout the United States and several foreign countries, including Israel, Bahamas; Cozemul, Mexico; Ontario, Canada; Tanzania; and Nairobi, Kenya, where she was adopted by the Kuria tribe and given the tribal name of "Robi." She has been abundantly blessed by God.



"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).

## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, June 28, 2026  
Fifth Sunday  
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year A)

**First Lesson:**

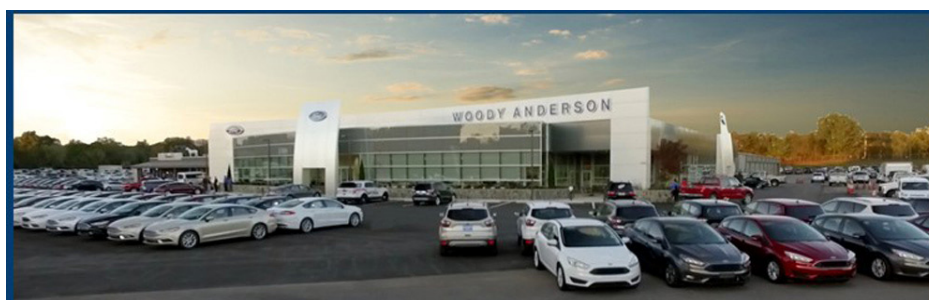
Jeremiah 28:5-9  
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

**Second Lesson:**

Romans 6:12-23

**GOSPEL:**

Matthew 10:40-42



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# AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN ...

## “Why Reparations for Descendants of American Slavery Never Materialized”



Child, every few years somebody asks, “Whatever happened to reparations?” Then the conversation gets hot, feelings get hurt, and folks go back to their corners.

The simple answer is this: reparations never materialized for descendants of American slavery because the issue sits at the crossroads of history, money, politics, and disagreement over responsibility. But before anybody says reparations are impossible, remember this: the United States government has, on several occasions, compensated groups that suffered historic wrongs.

After World War II, the government eventually paid compensation to Japanese Americans who had been forcibly interned during the war. Congress also compensated some Native American tribes for lands that had been taken through broken treaties and unlawful seizures. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, compensation funds were established for victims and their families.

So, the question has never been whether America can provide reparations. The question has been whether America has been willing



to do so for descendants of enslaved Africans. And, therein lies the complexity.

When slavery ended in 1865, there was a brief moment when formerly enslaved people believed they might receive land and resources to build independent lives. People remember the phrase “forty acres and a mule.” But that promise quickly evaporated. Much of the land that had been set aside for formerly enslaved people was returned to former Confederate owners.

Yet the injury did not stop with emancipation.

Imagine running a race for 250 years with chains on your ankles. Then, at the starting line, someone removes the chains and says, “Now you’re free to compete.” The chains may be gone, but the lost time, stolen wages, and denied opportunities remain.

After slavery came Black Codes, convict leasing, lynching, sharecropping, segregation, redlin-

ing, exclusion from many government benefits, discriminatory lending, and unequal schools. In many communities, African Americans were denied the very opportunities that helped build the American middle class. The harm did not occur during one generation and then disappear. It compounded itself across generations.

A family unable to buy property in 1925 may have had no home equity to pass to children in 1965, leaving grandchildren in 2025 with fewer inherited resources and opportunities. History has a long memory because wealth, education, and opportunity often travel through families.

Many Americans believe these accumulated disadvantages justify reparations. Others argue that present-day citizens should not bear financial responsibility for injustices committed by earlier generations. Questions also remain about eligibility, cost, and the form reparations should take.

So, child, reparations never materialized not because the historical injuries vanished or because America lacked the capacity to compensate injured groups.

They never materialized because the nation has never reached agreement on how to measure the debt, who should pay it, who should receive it, and what justice should look like after more than 160 years.

Sometimes the hardest bills to settle are the ones that should have been addressed at the very beginning.

Listen, honey: History is like planting a tree. If one family was forbidden to plant for generations

while another family planted and harvested year after year, you can’t pretend both families stand in the same orchard simply because the law finally says everybody can

now buy seeds. The question of reparations is really a question about what a nation owes when some people inherited orchards and others inherited empty ground.”

Second Chance Deliverance and Restoration Ministries, Inc.

## The Fourth Annual “Love of Music” Awards Gala

Ernest L. Knight Reception Center | Alabama A&M University

Saturday, June 13, 2026 (Photos and text by J. Saintjones)



Ms. Mary Lanier Curry



LOVE OF MUSIC Gala Award founders Minister Leo and (Mrs.) Donna Robinson (standing, left & right) present 2026 awardees. Seated: Mrs. Jackie Abrams, Ms. Megan N. Humphrey, Ms. Mary Amanda Lanier Curry; Miss Shelecia Douglass; and Ms. Deborah Nious. Standing: Mr. Rodney J. Milton; Mr. Tommy Friend; and Mr. Arthur B. Wesley.



Mrs. Donna & Min. Leo Robinson

The Fourth Annual “Love of Music” Awards Gala was held Saturday, June 13, 2026, in the Ernest L. Knight Reception Room on the campus of historic Alabama A&M University.

The festive affair was hosted by Second Chance Deliverance and Restoration Ministries, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 non-profit and charitable organization offering multifaceted support to individuals facing life’s negative influences and challenges. The organiza-

tion was founded by Minister Leo and (Mrs.) Donna Robinson.

The 2026 event paid tribute to eight distinguished men and women: Mrs. Jackie Abrams, singer and choral conductor; Miss Shelecia Douglass, musician, educator and worship leader; Mr. Tommy Friend, professional saxophonist; Ms. Megan N. Humphrey, vocalist and worship leader; Mr. Rodney J. Milton, singer and choir director; Ms. Deborah Nious,

choir director; Mr. Arthur B. Wesley, retired director of bands, Alabama A&M University; and Ms. Mary Amanda Lanier Curry, a beloved pianist and director of music who received the award for Lifetime Achievement.

Among the evening’s program participants were Rev. Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff, program procurement analyst, U.S. Army Contracting Command; Dr. Eric Kirkman and the Kirman Trio (program music); awards chairperson

Linda Fowlkes; Rev. Dr. Toni Savage, president, board of directors, Daughter of Zion Ministries, Inc.; Miss McKenna Davis, scholarship recipient; Minister Christopher Blanding, board of directors, Second Chance Deliverance and Restoration Ministries.

For additional information about the program and the initiatives of Second Chance Deliverance and Restoration Ministries, call (256) 714-1029.



Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford



Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff



J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College Foundation

# 2026 Jazz in the City

Mars Music Hall | Von Braun Center | Huntsville, Alabama

Friday, June 19, 2026 *(Photos by J. Saintjones)*



Drake President Pat Sims and Dr. Dorothy W. Huston



State Rep. Laura Hall

Grady Madison AME Church | AAMU Business & Finance Retirees & Friends | St. John AME Church

# Juneteenth Community-Wide Celebration

129 Gooch Lane | Madison, Alabama  
Friday, June 19, 2026 (Photos by J. Saintjones)

**CELEBRATE. ENGAGE. EMPOWER.**  
**JUNETEENTH**  
**COMMUNITY-WIDE CELEBRATION**  
**JUNE 19, 2026 • 9 AM - 3 PM**

Grady Madison AME Church • 129 Gooch Lane • Madison, AL

Voting Rights Advocacy | Engaging Speakers & Community Leaders | Black Authors Showcase | Family Activities | Food Trucks & Live Music

Presented by Grady Madison AME Church  
 In conjunction with Alabama A&M University Business and Finance Retirees and Friends  
 St. John AME Church



Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation  
**DTL Announces**  
**2026 Alpha Scholars**

The Jackson Center  
 6001 Moquin Drive NW

Huntsville, Alabama

Friday, June 12, 2026

(Submitted by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.,

TVW Contributing Editor, and Melvin Felton)



*Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation*  
 2026 Alpha Scholars



*Bryce Andrews*

AL School of Cyber Tech  
 Auburn University  
 Mechanical Engineering



*Daria A. Andrews*

Buckhorn High School  
 The University of Alabama  
 Nursing



*Emmanuel J. Armstrong*

Sparkman High School  
 Alabama A&M University  
 Biology



*Brayden Barnes*

Buckhorn High School  
 University of Alabama  
 Mechanical Engineering



*Montavious Keith*

Hazel Green High School  
 J.F. Drake Community & Technical  
 Engineering Design



*Dominis Leeth*

Columbia High School  
 Alabama A&M University  
 Electrical Engineering



*Marion Leonard II*

Buckhorn High School  
 Alabama A&M University  
 Sports Management



*Nadia McCaulley*

Grissom High School  
 University of Alabama  
 Public Health on a Pre-Med Track



*Makayle Bradley*

New Century Technology H. S.  
 Mississippi State University  
 Architecture



*Callyn Brummer*

New Century Technology H. S.  
 Tuskegee University  
 Biology



*Itimu Buchanan*

New Century Technology H. S.  
 LeHigh University  
 Mechanical Engineering



*Italia Coke*

Huntsville High School  
 The University of Alabama  
 Real Estate and Finance



*Ava S. Moore*

Huntsville High School  
 Kennesaw State University  
 Psychology Minor in Criminology



*Jordyn Morris*

Buckhorn High School  
 Tuskegee University  
 Biology on Pre-Med Track



*Dwight L. Mosby III*

Huntsville High School  
 Tuskegee University  
 Computer Science



*Myles Pope*

Hazel Green High School  
 University of North Alabama  
 Audio Engineering / Music



*Autumn S. Glover*

Bob Jones High School  
 University of Alabama  
 Nursing



*Emani A. Green*

James Clemens High School  
 Alabama State University  
 Communication / Journalism



*Rhyann Holloway*

St. John Paul II Catholic High School  
 Alabama A&M University  
 Biology



*Arrington Holmes*

St. John Paul II Catholic H. S.  
 Howard University  
 Radiation Therapy



*Paige A. Quarles*

James Clemens High School  
 University of Alabama Birmingham  
 Mathematics



*Mariah R. Riley*

Bob Jones High School  
 J.F. Drake Community & Technical  
 General Studies



*Aaron Shingleton*

Sparkman High School  
 Alabama A&M University  
 Elementary Education



*Jayden Shingleton*

Sparkman High School  
 Alabama A&M University  
 Secondary Education



*Morgan Horton*

Lee High School  
 Tuskegee University  
 Psychology



*Maya Howard*

Hazel Green High School  
 Tuskegee University  
 Psychology



*Lauren K. Jackson*

Buckhorn High School  
 Tuskegee University  
 Chemistry



*Rhoman Jenkins*

Madison County High School  
 Cathoum Community College  
 Physical Therapy Assistant



*Arianna Wright*

Buckhorn High School  
 Coastal Alabama Comm College  
 Animal Science



*Carsten Finkley*

Alabama A&M University  
 Urban Planning



*Matthus Freeman*

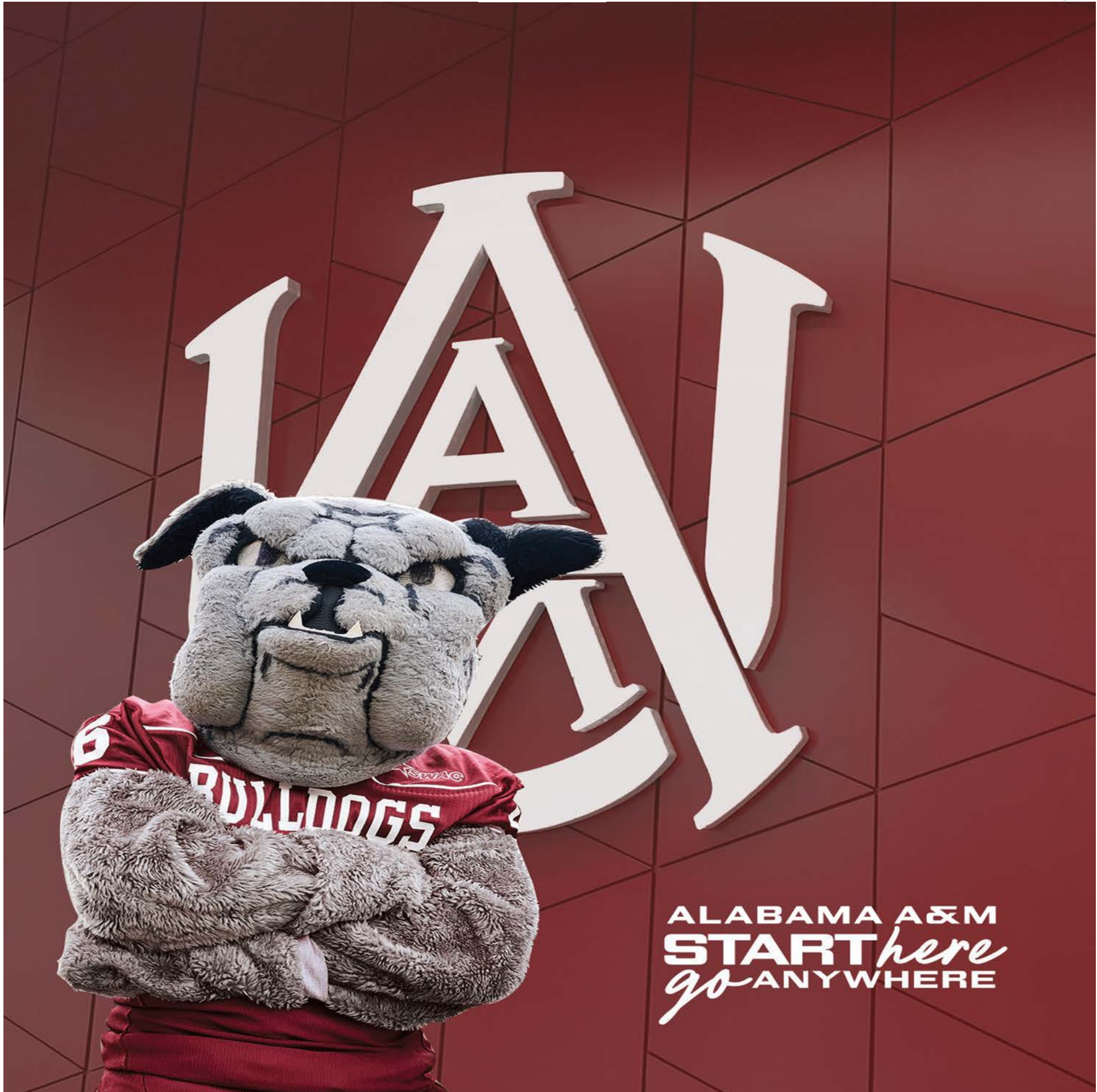
University of Alabama Huntsville  
 Computer Science



*Isaiah Taylor*

Alabama A&M University  
 Business Administration

*Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation*  
 2026 Alpha Scholars



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