




County Commission Convo! - p. 9


Friday
June 27, 2025
Vol. 11, No. 43
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



Jahni's NOTES OF A NATIVE SON - Page 8



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Elder John E. Branch

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

Harrison Center Launching Two Summer Hikes

The Robert “Bob” Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center will hold two free summer hikes with 7:45 a.m. departures from the Center.

The first guided, 90-minute hike was held on June 25, featuring the Harvest Square Nature Preserve. On July 9, hikers will enjoy the

Chapman Mountain Nature Preserve. Participants are urged to bring comfortable walking shoes, water bottle, sunscreen and bug spray, and a sack lunch or snack. All fitness levels are welcome. Hike participants must register at the Harrison Center’s front desk.

Perry O. Ward Memorial Golf Tournament June 28

The 13th Annual Perry O. Ward Memorial Golf Tournament will be held June 28 at Colonial Golf Course, 400 Colonial Drive, in Meridianville, Ala., with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Onsite registration runs from 7-7:45 a.m.

Evening Star Lodge No. 6 Foundation, Inc., the two-person scramble event costs \$85/person and \$160 team. For additional information, contact James Monroe at (256) 404-2804 or email jmonroe81@gmail.com.

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DEBT-FREE! District Six Commissioner Violet Edwards (left) gave notice back in January that the Robert “Bob” Harrison Senior Advocacy and Wellness Center would become debt free in 2025. Those words became a reality during the recent Juneteenth Celebration at the Harrison Center on Thursday, June 19. Edwards was assisted in the mortgage-burning ceremony by Dr. Izora P. Harrison, widow of late Commissioner Bob Harrison. For more photographs of the ceremony, See Page 9. (Photo by J. Saintjones)

‘Summer Slowdown’ Urges Drivers to Hit the Brakes


As summer gets underway, the Huntsville Police Department (HPD) is urging all drivers to be more aware and slow down – especially on city streets and in neighborhoods where more people are out

walking, biking and driving. The Summer Slowdown campaign, which runs through August 12, is aimed at curbing dangerous driving habits and reducing crashes through a combination of education and enforce-

ment. Whether its kids playing outside, teens getting behind the wheel for the first time or residents simply enjoying the season, the message is simple: slow down and stay safe. “This isn’t just

about traffic enforcement – it’s about protecting lives,” Police Chief Kirk Giles said. So far in 2025, Huntsville has seen 12 fatal crashes, with speed playing a role. HPD invites residents to join the

effort by following the campaign via #SummerSlowdownHSV on social media, reporting unsafe driving in their neighborhoods, and committing to safer speeds behind the wheel. - huntsvilleal.gov



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Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in session this week and received classified briefings on Tuesday afternoon on the President's decision to bomb 3 nuclear sites in Iran on Saturday. Among other bills, the House brought to the floor the first of the 12 annual FY 2026 appropriations – the MilCon/VA appropriations bill. It also debated a resolution by California GOP Congresswoman Young Kim “condemning the violent June 2025 riots in Los Angeles” and another resolution “condemning the attacks on Minnesota lawmakers in Brooklyn Park and Champlin and calling for unity and the rejection of political violence.” On Tuesday, House Democrats voted by secret ballot to choose the top-ranking spot on the House Oversight Committee made vacant by the passing of Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) on May 21. Four members

are running: Reps. Robert Garcia (D-CA); Stephen Lynch (D-MA); Jasmine Crockett (D-TX) and Kweisi Mfume (D-MD). The Senate will continue work on the mammoth GOP Tax Cut bill (see more details in the next item).

2. GOP RECONCILIATION/TAX CUT BILL. Starting last Thursday, the Senate parliamentarian began ruling on the contents of the GOP Reconciliation/Tax Cut bill as to which items will be deemed non-budgetary and, therefore, subject to the Byrd Rule – meaning they will need to be stripped from the bill or subject to a 60-vote point of order. Items that will need to be stricken from the bill (or amended to not run afoul of the Byrd Rule) include: (1) SNAP benefit cuts; (2) elimination of funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; (3) cut in pay for Federal Reserve staff; (4) elimination of EPA's 2027 vehicle emission standards; (5) repeal of the Inflation Reduction Act; (6) funding cuts for

sanctuary cities; and (7) limits on the ability of federal courts to issue preliminary injunctions or temporary restraining orders against the federal government. In a win for the tech industry, on Saturday, the parliamentarian ruled that a provision banning states from regulating artificial intelligence was not subject to the Byrd Rule.

3. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

Last Saturday night, the President addressed the nation to announce that he had launched strikes on 3 Iranian nuclear facilities. Last Thursday, he issued an executive order to extend again a temporary pause in the ban on the TikTok app through September 17, 2025. The President is scheduled to attend the NATO Summit at the Hague (Netherlands) from Thursday to Saturday. Last Thursday, a 3-judge panel of the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unanimously that the President acted within his authority when he took control of 4,000 California National Guard troops and ordered them to Los Angeles, setting aside a decision by U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer, who issued a temporary restraining order on June 12 against the President's deployment of the Guard. Judge Breyer asked lawyers for both sides

to submit written arguments by Monday at noon PDT on whether he has the authority to modify the appeals court ruling based on the Posse Comitatus Act that bars using the military for domestic law enforcement purposes.

4. SUPREME COURT.


Last week, the Supreme Court issued its long-awaited decision in *U.S. v. Skrametti* that upheld Tennessee's ban on gender affirming care for transgender youth on the grounds that the law's restrictions on treating minors for gender dysphoria turn on age and medical use, not sex. Chief Justice Roberts, writing for a 6-3 majority, did not touch on whether transgender status deserves stronger legal protection as a “suspect class” under the Equal Protection Clause – although Justice Barrett went further and wrote in a concurring opinion that she would not treat transgender status as

a suspect class because they do not exhibit any “obvious, immutable, or distinguishing characteristics as race or sex.” 27 states currently have laws restricting gender-affirming care for trans youth, representing about 40% of transgender youth ages 13 to 17. The court is expected to issue more rulings this week.

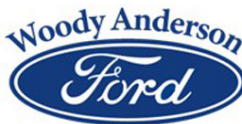
5. EDUCATION. The American Council on Education and the Association of Community Colleges have joined 26 other higher education organizations in supporting Harvard University's legal challenge against the Trump administration's unprecedented freeze of \$2.4 billion in federal research grants. The administration froze the funding, citing “governance failures” and a lack of “viewpoint diversity,” demanding changes to academic programming, admissions, and faculty structure as conditions for

restoration. The coalition's amicus brief argues this violates First Amendment protections and separation of powers, warning that allowing political interference in university operations sets a dangerous precedent for future administrations. While the administration has framed some actions as Title VI enforcement against anti-semitic harassment, the brief contends that proper legal processes weren't followed. A hearing on Harvard's case is scheduled for July 21, with the outcome potentially reshaping the relationship between the federal government and higher education institutions nationwide.

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Love That Leads - Rep. Anthony Daniels and the Gift of Love

In a world often marked by partisanship and political noise, the story of Alabama House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels and his wife, Dr. Teneshia Daniels, DDS, reminds us all of what matters most: love, sacrifice, and community.

On Friday, June 20, at the University of Alabama Birmingham Medical Center, Rep. Anthony Daniels (HD-53)—a trailblazer and passionate advocate for Alabama’s future—underwent a successful kidney transplant. The donor? None other than his devoted wife, Dr. Teneshia Daniels, a respected local dentist and community leader. In an act of extraordinary love and faith, she proved to be a perfect match and gave her husband the gift of life.

This moment is much more than a medical success; it is a powerful testament to the strength of family, the resilience of the human spirit, and the unity that defines real leadership. Since his election in 2014, Rep. Daniels has stood as a tireless champion for public education, workforce development, rural advancement, and equitable healthcare access—especially for those too often overlooked in our state.



As the first African American and the youngest person to ever serve as Minority Leader in the Alabama House of Representatives, Daniels has spent his tenure building coalitions, crafting policy, and ensuring the voices of all Alabamians are heard—from the urban centers to the most remote corners of our state.

Now, in this deeply personal moment, the people of Alabama have the opportunity to reflect on the humanity behind public service. Anthony Daniels is more than a statesman; he is a husband, a father, and a fighter—not only for legislation but for his own life.

We celebrate with the Daniels family and thank the medical team at UAB for their skilled care. And we give special honor to Dr. Teneshia Daniels for showing us what grace and selflessness look like in their most profound form.

Let this moment inspire us all—to check in on our own health, to cherish our loved ones, and to support those who work tirelessly for the public good.

Rep. and Mrs. Daniels, we wish you a full and speedy recovery. Alabama needs your voice, your vision, and your unwavering belief in a better tomorrow. Until next week ...

Dorothy

JUNE 27 - H.E.R. - Gabi Wilson aka H.E.R. (pronounced “her”, acronym for Having Everything Revealed), is an American singer and songwriter. Before being known as H.E.R., Wilson rose to fame by participating in Radio Disney’s Next Big Thing in 2009. She later signed to RCA Records at the age of 14 and released a single, “Something To Prove”, under her real name in 2014. Wilson was raised by a Filipina mother and an African-American father. She also has a little sister, as well. She was initially introduced to the public as a child prodigy, covering Alicia Keys on piano on the Today Show, before competing on Radio Disney’s The Next BIG Thing when she was 12 years old. NPR listed H.E.R. Vol. 1 as the first selection in its “5 Essential R&B Albums You Slept On” roundup. Calling the music “Slow-burning R&B that zooms in on emotional highs and lows,” Rolling Stone included H.E.R. in its March 2017 “10 Artists You Need To Know” roundup.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



A NOTE FROM THE ...



The Valley Weekly

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Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



and knows the pain of being unwanted, God has a plan for you, because God selects what man rejects.

Remember—God being here for us means more than the approvals and achievements of this world. You see, God has a word for the people that, for whatever reason, have not been chosen in this world. God says to all of us: “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). Therefore, when this world finds no interest in you, remember that God finds interest in you, and He is interested in everything that you do. That’s the kind of God that we serve.

Prayer: Most gracious and loving Father, thank You for loving us just the way we are and refusing to leave us that way.

Question: Do you ever find yourself seeking the approval of man instead of God, who is our creator?

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:

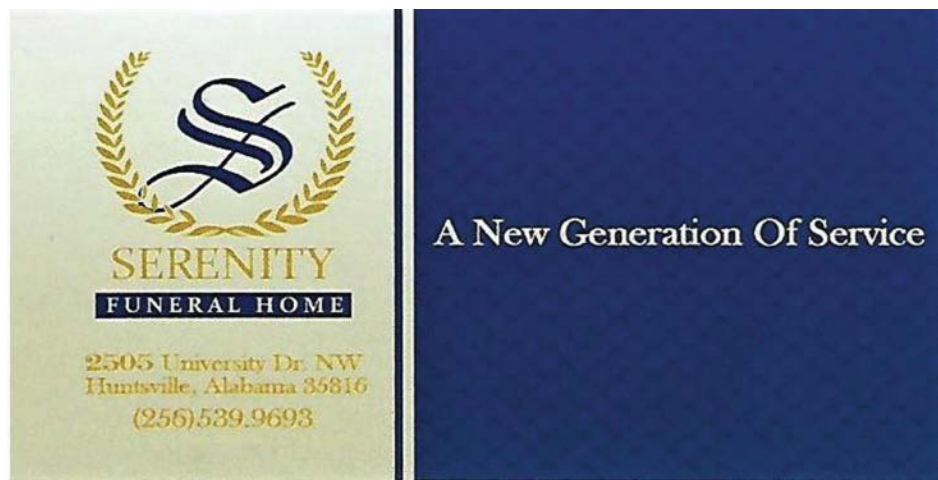
“Staying Committed”

Today’s
Spiritual Game Plan:
**“Don’t Be Fooled by Comparisons”
(If God Be for Us)**

2 Corinthians 10:12 says, *We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves.*

When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. The two foundations that drive most of our lives are approval and achievement. But we all need to remember that in God’s eyes we are more than the “likes” that we get on Facebook. We are more than the “views” that we get on YouTube. We are also more than the friends that we try to accumulate from various sources.

You see, God is not concerned with our social status. God is concerned with what’s going on the inside of us. God is concerned with matters of the heart. Whenever we start comparing our lives to those of other people, we end up frustrated, incomplete, and miserable. So, for every person that has been in a relationship



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY DEATHS



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Funeral services for **MS. CAROLYN HESTER** and **BABY GIRL A’NAJA MASON** (b. 2025) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. MAURICE COLLIER** (b. 1959) was Saturday, June 21, at House of Hope and Restoration, 2525 Aspen Avenue, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Jarman Leatherwood officiating.

Visitation for **MS. BILLIE CRAWFORD** (b. 1950) was held Wednesday, June 18, at Daystar Church-Madison, 171 Trademark Drive SW, Huntsville, Ala.

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Funeral services for **MS. BILLIE EVANS FINLEY** (b. 1936); **MS. MYRTLE JO CUMMINGS** (b. 1964); **MS. ROBERTA MASON** (b. 1947); and **MR. JOHN W. STEVENS** (b. 1948) are incomplete and will be announced later.

Funeral service for **MR. KELLY LEVAR R. BROOKS** (b. 1986) was Saturday, June 21, at Hurricane Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Gary Battles officiating.

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Funeral services for **MRS. LILLIAN BALDWIN** (b. 1933) and **MR. LEONARD HAMPTON** (b. 1956) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MRS. MARGARET PEARSON DAWKINS** (b. 1934) was Wednesday, June 25, at the New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3912 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Nelson Stokes officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. MARY L. MALONE** (b. 1934) was Friday, June 20, at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 315 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Recapping My Juneteenth 2025: When the Clouds Rain Down Freedom

"If clouds are full of water, they pour rain upon the earth." - Ecclesiastes 11:3

On this Juneteenth 2025 morning, I rose to thunder and pouring rain—and smiled. As Charles Spurgeon reminded us, "Our Lord's love letters often come to us in dark envelopes." The darker the cloud, the heavier the blessing it carries.

Juneteenth is one of those dark clouds that has showered our nation with freedom. Though the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, Black slaves in Texas didn't hear the news until June 19, 1865. This delayed justice now fuels a national celebration—not just for African Americans, but for all Americans.

"Our Lord's love letters often come to us in dark envelopes."

Charles H. Spurgeon

Why? Because the freedoms gained through our suffering have blessed this nation. From the pain of slavery emerged a resilient people. From Jim Crow laws rose freedom fighters. From George Floyd's 2020 lynching came a reckoning that tore down Confederate statues and flags, reformed voting access,

and gave birth to a federal holiday led by the persistence of 97-year-old Ms. Opal Lee.

Juneteenth proves that progress often hides behind storm clouds. And as Spurgeon said, "Faith sees the clouds emptying themselves and making the hills rejoice." Just as rain nourishes the land, our struggles nourish our character and our communities.

So for future Juneteenths, don't just remember freedom—**fight to extend it.**

Don't just watch the clouds—walk through them.

Because after the storm, there's always a harvest.

#Juneteenth #Leadership #EgoHolismRecovering #SpiritualLeadership
#OpalLee #SilverMettleLeader #Freedom #KeepPushing #GodInTheRain
#TheTimCommandmentsOfLeadership



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Your Assumptions ...

Valley Weekly Millennial Moment by Gloria B. Caldwell

Your assumption can lead you down a winding path of confusion and disappointment. It's all too easy to impose our thoughts and feelings on others, moving through life blissfully unaware or unwilling to seek clarity. This often stems from our desire to maintain a comfortable narrative, even if it leaves us in the dark. The truth is, assumptions can trap us, keeping us from confronting reality.

Instead of guesswork, seek clarity. Yes, the answers may be uncomfortable, but knowing the truth



is far better than living in a fabricated world of "what-ifs." The fear of the unknown can be paralyzing, often making us dwell on worst-case scenarios that may never come to pass. But when we step back and evaluate the stakes, we realize that most situations do not carry dire consequences.

In the grand scheme of life, if something doesn't pose a threat to our wellbeing, is it worth the mental energy spent worrying about it? By embracing honesty and open communication, we give ourselves the opportunity to form deeper connections and understand those around us.

Let go of the assumptions and the fear that holds you back. Seek the truth with courage. Even when it's challenging, the clarity you gain will empower you to move forward with confidence. In the end, that knowledge is far more valuable than the comfort of a false assumption. Embrace reality and grow from it.

Lace Up! Let's Go!



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*"To hold a man down, you
 have to stay down with him."*

- Booker T. Washington



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

Rev. Ethel Y. Delaney

The Reverend Ethel Y. Delaney--"Sweetpea"--was born in Nashville, Tenn., to Mrs. Bessie and the late Mr. Walter Young. She is the oldest of six (four surviving) siblings. Her childhood was a happy and very productive one, even though her life was surrounded by social and economic issues related to segregation during that time. In fact, having been nurtured by a loving family and supportive adults, she thrived and excelled.

Reverend Delaney attended Fisk University and continued her studies at Newark State College and Riverton Medical Technology School in Newark, N.J. She was professionally trained as a medical technologist/hematology specialist.

She has *always* loved music! Reverend Delaney's 97-year-old mother still contends that "She was singing as young as six-months old." Some of her life's music experiences include the following: guest soloist at a master class recital given by the famous Dutch Baritone Max Von Egmond at the Swelnick Conservatory in Amsterdam, Holland, and guest soloist for the Haitian Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Conference in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. She is a former member of the Masterwork Chorus of Morristown, N.J.; a soloist with the Newark Choral Society; member of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra Chorus; and soloist with

the Nashville Pro-Musica Chorus.

Reverend Delaney has sung for churches, colleges, community and civic organizations in Atlanta, Ga.; New York, N.Y.; Washington, D.C.; Wichita Falls, Tex.; Nashville, Tenn.; Detroit, Mich.; Pembroke, Bermuda; Newark, N.J.; and Savannah, Ga. She played a major role in Langston Hughes' Off-Broadway production of "Jerico-Jim Crow" at the Greenwich Mews Theatre in New York City (Hughes was frequently in the audience). She also starred in the Texas Theatre Art Guild's production of "Carousel."

In 1992, while conducting a spiritual retreat for a Baptist church in Savannah, Ga., sponsored by "Mission in Action," she was stirred by the Holy Spirit and convinced of her calling into Ministry. This was the unfolding of her new life-long service in God's Word, especially as administered through music. She shared her new purpose with her husband--the late Dr. Henry Delaney--who responded to her by simply saying, "The Lord needs as many preachers as possible to carry out His mission."

After she was ordained, Reverend Delaney served with her husband at St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church of Savannah, Ga., growing it from 216 members to 5,000, which made St. Paul the largest church in the CME



denomination.

Because only two CME churches existed in Savannah, Dr. Delaney recommended to Bishop Othal Lakey that another be added. As a result, Bishop Lakey organized the Faith Community CME Church and appointed Reverend Ethel Y. Delaney as pastor. She served there for 12 years. After the passing of her husband in 2013 and having lived in Savannah for over 30 years, Reverend Delaney gradually relocated to the Nashville/Huntsville area. She joined the Phillips CME Church of Huntsville, Ala., where her son, The Reverend Keith E. Ellison, was pastor. (In July 2018, Reverend Ellison and family moved to Yuma, Ariz., where he currently serves in the United States Navy as a Chaplain. The current pastor is The Reverend Gregory Scott). Reverend Delaney is the devoted mother to five children, two step children, 11 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

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



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This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, June 29, 2025

Third Sunday
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Second Lesson:

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

GOSPEL:

Luke 9:51-62

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John "Jahni" Moore

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J.T. Moore

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Howard Schultz

"Honoring Our Elders"
Rosetta James Foundation

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What Have You Been Missing?

NOTES OF A NATIVE SON

This Is It

by afroblastik [John 'Jahni' Moore]



As I am writing this I hear the echo of DMX's gravely bass growling, "Lord gimme a sign." In the same song he says. "No weapon formed against me shall prosper/And every tongue that rises against me in judgment, thou shall condemn."

This is a truth I hold to be self evident and I invite you to do the same. At some point in our journey we've found our weight unusually heavy. Our path gets overshadowed and the way blurs in front of us. In those times we've asked for some word, some clue, some sign to let us know what to do or where to go from here.

Allow me to share a short fable about a great oak tree that grew strong on the edge of a cliff. Its

roots gripped the rocky ledge. The tree was battered day after day by windstorms, rain, and scorching sun. Every other tree in the softer soil of the valley grew faster, looked fuller, and seemed more secure. But when the storms came, those trees were the first to feel the brunt of the winds and rain.

They fell. The oak held firm. Why? Because it had been tested. Every storm, every gust of wind, or shudder of the earth had made it dig deeper, reach further, and grow stronger. It didn't just survive the storm—it was shaped by it. That oak is us.

Right now we're living in a time where many feel they can't go on like this. True the weight of uncertainty can feel real. But please be reminded



that deep down inside is a place within us that is always certain. The winds of change are howling and it's easy to wonder if we'll make it through, if we'll get by. But there's a part of us

that knows we will. I want to remind you of this as well: trouble don't last always. And more than that, it doesn't get the final word. In fact, it's often in the pressure—the pushing, the

waiting, the stretching, the longing —that the best in us rises. We discover grit and grind; we didn't know we had. We learn to dig deeper, think sharper, love harder, and spread hope

wider. We were made for this.

When the going gets tough, we don't just endure—we evolve. We double down. We link arms with those who are on journey with us. We get creative. We hustle. We pray. We build. We were never meant to fold—we forge. This opposition is not the end. It's the sharpening stone. It's what is going to make us shine all the more bright. Hold on. This moment is not the breaking point—it's the turning point. We will win—not because it's easy, but because it's in us to do. We have a power that cannot fail. Hold on. Hang in. Push forward. This storm isn't here to take us under. It's here to reveal us. If you've been waiting for a word or a sign. This is it ...

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Harrison Senior Advocacy and Wellness Center Holds Juneteenth ‘Conversation’

“The Village R.E.S.E.T.” - Thursday, June 19, 2025 (Photos by J. Saintjones)
Harrison Center - Huntsville, Ala.



MODERATOR: Dr. Karockas “Doc Rock” Watkins



Dr. Harry Hobbs, Huntsville Utilities & Dr. Lyle Lee, Hsv. Bible College



Ms. Tiffany Draper, Women's Expo Huntsville



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