

HATCH Changing Lives , One Opportunity at a Time - p. 3

FREE



It's Time to Tell the Truth - p. 4



Friday
July 10, 2026
Vol. 12, No. 45
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

The Valley Weekly

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Freeman Holifield, Sr.

"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving them." — Zig Ziglar



TU Choir Performs at Lincoln Center

On July 1, Tuskegee University's Golden Voices Choir performed on the stage of the world-renowned Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City as part of The Declaration Project, a nationwide initiative created by pianist Lara Downes to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the

United States – an invitation that highlights the ensemble's growing national visibility and its long-standing tradition of artistic excellence.

Twenty-one members of the Golden Voices Choir joined artists and community voices from across the nation in a program that explored

modern interpretations of America's founding ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The choir's repertoire included American Tune" by J.S. Bach and Paul Simon, "I Wish I Knew" arranged by Shelbie Rassler and "Somewhere" also arranged by Ms. Rassler.

SWAC Football Media Day Set for July 15

The Southwestern Athletic Conference will hold its annual Football Media Day on Wednesday, July 15, at 10 a.m. CST at the Sheraton-Birmingham.

All 12 SWAC head football coaches along with two student-athletes from each institution will be present

to discuss the 2026 season. The conference will also unveil its 2026 SWAC Football Predicted Order of Finish during the event.

One-on-one interviews with coaches and student-athletes will be available starting at 10 a.m. CST. A full list of attending coaches and

student-athletes will be announced at a later date.

SWAC is considered one of the premier HBCU conferences in the country and currently ranks among the elite in the nation in terms of HBCU alumni playing with professional sports teams.

Follow the SWAC: For complete cover-

age of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, please follow the SWAC on social media at @TheSWAC (Twitter), @TheSWAC (Facebook), and @TheSWAC (Instagram) or visit the official home of the Southwestern Athletic Conference at www.swac.org.

UA Boosts Student Advising

The University of Alabama is launching a new, three-year initiative to transform and expand academic advising across campus, representing UA's commitment to ensuring every student graduates with clear direction and prepared to begin their career.

This strategic investment focuses on strengthening the student advising infrastructure by investing directly in advisers, who serve as mentors, problem-solvers, advocates and guides through academic pathways. The University is freeing advisers for more meaningful one-on-one mentorship and proactive outreach by lowering adviser caseloads through a phased, college-by-college approach.

Over the next three years, UA will hire 49 new professional advisers across its colleges.

Gladys Knight Scheduled for VBC

The iconic soul singer Gladys Knight is scheduled to perform at Huntsville's Von Braun Center Mark C. Smith Concert Hall on Saturday, August 15, at 7:30 p.m.

This seven-time Grammy winner has enjoyed #1 hits in Pop, Gospel, R&B and Adult Contemporary, and has triumphed in film, television and live performance. A humanitarian

and philanthropist, Knight has devoted herself to various worthy causes, including the American Diabetes Association – for which she is a national spokesperson, the American Cancer Society, the Minority AIDS Project, amfAR and Crisis Intervention, and the Boys & Girls Club.

She has been honored by numerous organizations as well, includ-



ing the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), B'Nai Brith, and is a recent recipient of BET's Lifetime

Achievement Award.

For tickets and other details, visit www.vonbrauncenter.com.

The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Happenings in Washington, Page 2
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



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

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess until July 13. For the second week in a row, the House deadlocked last week over GOP infighting on the SAVE America Act — which would require proof of citizenship to register to vote and a photo ID to vote — prompting House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) to cancel further business and send Members home early. Politico reports that anti-abortion activists are dismayed and frustrated with GOP leadership for letting a 1-year ban lapse on Medicaid funds going to Planned Parenthood (PP). Starting July 5, PP clinics around the country can once again bill the federal program for reimbursement for providing non-abortion services, such as birth control and screenings for sexually transmitted infections, to low-income patients (the 1-year defunding was part of 2025's One Big Beautiful Bill Act). Starting next week, only 8 weeks of session remain,

with one or both chambers in session, before the November midterm elections (early voting for the midterms starts in 10 weeks on Sept. 19). When lawmakers return to Washington next week, they face a long list of deadlines requiring bipartisan cooperation, but infighting and limited time could derail their legislative agenda. The list of must-pass bills is growing as the August recess approaches. Lawmakers need to address issues including transportation, farm programs, the Export-Import Bank, water resources, defense, and FY 2027 appropriations. There's also a long list of want-to-pass bills, such as cryptocurrency regulation, college sports, permitting changes, supplemental funding for the Pentagon, and possibly another reconciliation bill.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The President flew to Ankara, Turkey, for a NATO summit on Tuesday and Wednesday. On the eve of the Independence Day holiday, he issued pardons for 11 individuals, primarily benefiting 9 con-

victed of violating the Clean Air Act by tampering with or bypassing vehicle emissions control systems, plus a pardon for former lobbyist/GOP donor Adam Kidan. Last week, the White House released financial information showing the President earned more than \$2 billion in 2025, including \$1.2 billion in cryptocurrency income ...

3. SUPREME COURT. The U.S. Supreme Court closed out its term last week with a flurry of high-profile rulings, delivering a monumental 6-3 decision in Trump v. Barbara that struck down an executive order seeking to end birth-right citizenship. In a separate blow to the administration, the justices ruled 5-4 in Watson v. Republican National Committee to uphold state laws allowing mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day but received up to five days thereafter to be counted. However, the conservative majority handed the executive branch a significant structural win in Trump v. Slaughter, in a 6-3 vote, by expanding presidential power to fire heads of independent regulatory agencies at will. In another major case that likely will favor the GOP, the justices struck down a federal law that limited the amount of money that political parties can spend in coordination with a candidate for office (National Republican Senatorial Committee v. Federal Election Commission), by a vote of 6-3. In another win for

the administration, the Court, in a 6-3 decision, upheld state laws in West Virginia and Idaho that bar transgender girls and women from playing on female school sports teams (West Virginia v. B.P.J. and Little v. Hecox).

4. JUNE JOBS REPORT. Last week, the Labor Department reported that the U.S. economy added 57,000 nonfarm payroll jobs in June, below the 115,000 economists

had predicted, marking a significant hiring slowdown from the spring. While the national unemployment rate ticked down slightly to 4.2%, economists noted that the drop was driven primarily by workers leaving the labor force rather than finding new employment. Additionally, the Labor Department made sharp downward revisions to April and May, totaling 74,000 jobs, signaling a cooler overall labor market than previously

estimated. Notably, leisure and hospitality lost 61,000 jobs due to unusually weak seasonal hiring, surprising economists who had expected a massive hiring boost from cities hosting the FIFA World Cup.

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



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 | 256-535-1140 | NMLS 971526

BRYANT BANK

ATHENS | DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE | SOUTHEAST HUNTSVILLE
BRYANTBANK.COM



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

The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.

Making Impact and Building Legacy: HATCH Is Changing Lives ...

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

"It's Time to Tell the Truth"

Ephesians 4:25 says, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."

We all live in the same nation under God, however, we all see this country in different ways. Some people see our country through the eyes of truth based on facts. Others view our country through eyes that are blurred with hatred, assumptions, and conspiracy theories. Supporting lies and conspiracy theories will only lead to chaos, confusion, and destruction.

I believe that this is very important for the people in this country. Our nation is based on democracy, which involves freedom of speech. However, the only way to debate a democracy is to base our beliefs and opinions on facts, not lies.

We need to figure out ways of fact checking people's opinions so that we can hold

people accountable as well as being accountable ourselves. However, so many people refuse to accept and speak the truth. Why is this? Second Thessalonians 2:10-12 explains it this way: "People perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."

My brothers and sisters, as we go through life, let us make sure we support the teachings of Jesus Christ that are always grounded in the truth. Now more than ever, it is time to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help us God.



May God grant you spiritual success in distinguishing between the truth and a lie.

Question: What truth have you believed that you later found to be a lie?

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:
"Things That Really Matter"

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



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

Funeral service for **MS. JEANETTE SANDERS** (b. 1952) is incomplete and will be announced later.

Celebration of Life for **MRS. PAULETTE MCCUTCHEN** (b. 1946) was Sunday, July 5, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Lorenzo Moore officiating.

Graveside service for **MR. HUBERT LANSDEN** (b. 1945) was Monday, June 29, at the Chattanooga National Cemetery.

Celebration of Life service for **MR. MICHAEL HOLMES** (b. 1957) was Saturday, June 27, at Chelsea Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Rev. Terence Halley officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. GLADYS ANTOINETTE GILBERT CRAREY** (b. 1952) was Friday, June 26, at Oakwood University Seventh-Day Adventist Church with Pastor Debleaire Snell officiating and Dr. Toussaint Williams eulogist.

Funeral service for **MRS. LILLIAN (bka "Lil") GARNER HAMPTON** (b. 1943) was Friday, June 26, at St. Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church.

Funeral service for **MR. JOHN DUNIGAN** (b. 1960) was Saturday, June 20, at Progressive Union Baptist Church with Rev. Jasper Bacon officiating.

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 TYRONE BLACK, JR.** (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.

“People would rather hear themselves talk than someone else. When in doubt, be quiet, listen, and let others talk. They’ll be happy—and you might learn something.”

—Barbara Bush



Why Good Leaders Ask Great Questions

“To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.” - Proverbs 18:13

In today’s fast-changing world, the most successful leaders are not the ones with all the answers—they are the ones who ask the best questions. The challenge? Too many leaders operate with distorted senses of self—what I call ego-holisms—either inflated or deflated. Harvard Business Review found that three out of four employees say their boss is their #1 source of job-related stress.

Leaders like Satya Nadella, Indra Nooyi, and Alan Mulally turned their companies around not through command-and-control, but through humility, listening, and strategic questioning—what my Ego-holism Recovering framework calls Step #3: Become a more active listener.

Barbara Bush offers a memorable example. Early in George H.W. Bush’s presidential campaign, she chose literacy as her focus—despite knowing little about the field. At a campaign stop before 45 literacy experts, she didn’t lecture. Instead, she asked:

“If you were married to the president and I had the opportunity to make a dent in illiteracy, what one thing would you do?”

The room came alive with solutions. She listened, learned, and led with wisdom not her own.

The Bible puts it plainly: “To answer before listening—that is folly and shame” (Proverbs 18:13).

Leaders: Your greatest power is not in knowing—it’s in asking.



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

Website: www.timallston.com

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

You’re Not the Tea; You’re the Teabag!

I am so annoyed by people saying “spill the tea” or “I have the tea.”

Do you know how long brewed tea actually lasts? Two to four hours — depending on how it was made and the temperature it’s sitting in. After that it turns. It’s no good to anybody. You wouldn’t even serve it to a guest.

So, if you’re out here spilling tea on something that has nothing to do with you — the burn-out on that is two to four hours. Nobody really cares about what’s going on in anyone else’s life. The only reason people consume someone else’s story is to find misery, or proof that someone else can’t do what they can’t do — so they can



level themselves off in mediocrity and call it comfortable.

But what’s the real tea? The reality is what’s going on in YOUR life. You are the teabag. You are what can last. You are what you can create. You are what you can decide — when and when not

to drop yourself in the hot water.

And when you do — it activates. But not until you’re willing to sit in pressure. Discomfort. The moments that are inconvenient and everything you didn’t plan for. That’s not punishment. That’s process.

Misery doesn’t just love company — it recruits it. It needs you distracted and consuming everyone else’s expired cup instead of steeping in your own becoming.

Your purpose doesn’t expire. But your excuses should.

Mind your business. Drink your water. Keep moving.

You were built to last. Act like it.

thrivent

A personalized financial approach
based on your Christian values



Craig E Satterfeal

Financial Consultant

craig.satterfeal@thrivent.com

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 or FINRA's BrokerCheck for more information about our financial advisors.

27193 R4-24

Valley Weekly VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

July 8, 10, 14 & 16

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

July 15-26

W.C. Handy Music Festival
Florence, Ala.

July 17

Guided Paddle Lighthouse
Sunset Paddle
blackkidsadventures@gmail.com | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

July 17-19

Lavell Crawford
Huntsville Levity Live

Comedy Club
2012 Memorial
Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.

July 18

Rocket City Cul-
ture Fest
Music - Art - Food
- Heritage - Com-
munity

Butler Green Park
Tickets: www.rocketcitycul-
turefest.com
2620 Clinton Avenue W
Huntsville, Ala. | 3-9 p.m.

July 20

"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.

July 22

Concert
Creed
The Orion Amphitheater

Huntsville, Ala. - | 7 p.m.

July 25

Guided Paddle Lighthouse
Sunset Paddle
blackkidsadventures@gmail.com | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

July 26

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

July 31

Concert
Lord Huron
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala. | 8 p.m.

August 3

"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.

August 6

Concert

Tape B & Levity
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala. | 7 p.m.

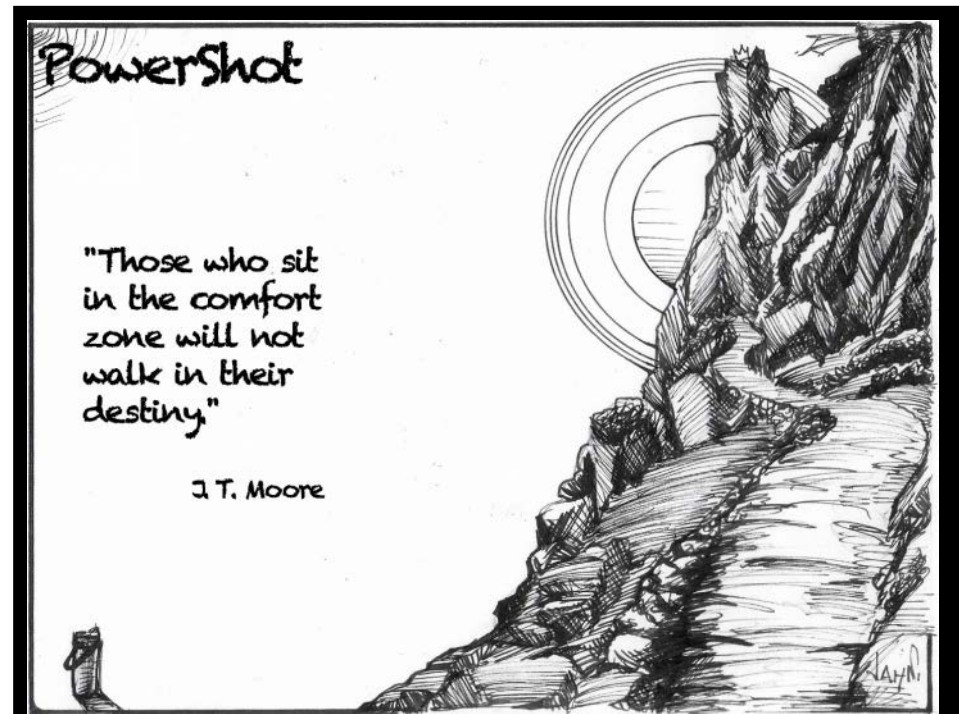
August 7-9

Desi Bank

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

August 9

Sundays on the Greenway
Tennessee Valley River Gre-
enway
4-5 p.m.



**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.



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

Mr. Freeman Holifield, Sr.

Freeman Holifield, Sr., retired in 1998 from the U.S. Missile Munitions Center and School, Redstone Arsenal, as supervisory instructional/educational systems specialist (Emeritus). He received the Commander's Award (1983) for his outstanding managerial and supervisory accomplishments.

One of six children born in Bessemer, Ala., to the late Fred B. Holifield, Sr., and Essie L. Holifield, he attended Dunbar High School and then joined the U.S. Army, where he proudly served as an administrative specialist, both stateside and in Korea. Upon receiving his Honorable Discharge in 1962, he pursued and earned a B.S. degree in secondary education at Alabama A&M University (AAMU) in 1966 and completed his master's degree in education administration and supervision in 1972 while working full-time.

During the early 1960s, the modern Civil Rights Movement was bringing about great social change in the U.S. and change was coming to Huntsville, Ala., as well. In late 1964, Holifield became the first African American police officer to be promoted to the position of traffic officer in the elite traffic division. Within a few months he trained and was promoted as the first black motorcycle officer.

After leaving the Huntsville Police Department in 1966, he began a new career with the U.S. Ordnance Missile & Munitions Center and School (USAOMMCS) at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., as an electronics instructor. The Civil Rights Movement had extended to Redstone Arsenal, and minorities were employed to work in many of the different agencies. Desegregation was difficult, but over the years many minorities who faced the hardship of working in a hostile environment became outstanding employees.

During his 33 years of employment with the federal government, Holifield held numerous positions at USAOMMCS, where he served as a training instructor/developer in missile electronics. He was the first developer to complete a course of instructions under the new guidelines of Systems Engineering. Throughout his career with USAOMMCS, he also served two tours overseas in West Germany. Upon his return from the second tour to USAOMMCS in 1983, he was assigned as a Senior Evaluator, and later promoted as the first black Supervisor as Chief of Internal Evaluation Division at USAOMMCS, served as Acting Director, Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization and Chief of Staff and Faculty Development Division at USAOMMCS.

Holifield has been affiliated with numerous organizations in the communities. Over the years, he has been recognized for his job related duties as well as for his volunteer work.



He and the late Charles Winslow were the host and co-host of "Talkfest," a community affairs talk show that aired on WAFF-TV 48 (NBC) for 14 years.

He has headed the AAMU Alumni Association, Inc.; the Alabama A&M University Community Resource Group; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (#292), Past Basileus (3 times) of Xi Omicron Chapter; Ancient Egyptian Arabic Nobles of Mystic Shrine (AEANOMS); Honorary Past Imperial Potentate; Past Imperial Deputy of Desert Alabama; Past Imperial Deputy of Oasis Huntsville; Past Potentate Al Azhar Temple 195; Past President of Deep South Shriners; and many others.

Married to the (late) former Janie Adams of Sheffield, Ala., his union has been blessed with two children, Dr. Quintaniay Holifield of Baltimore, Md., and Lt. Colonel Freeman Holifield, Jr., Kessler AFB, Miss. He is also the proud grandfather of Freeman Holifield, III.

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

THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

They're Not Like Tim!

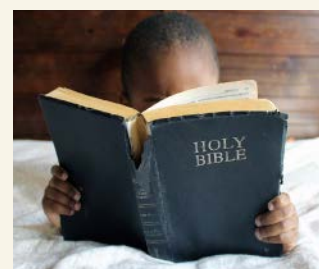
The Valley Weekly

"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

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:1-14

Second Lesson:

Romans 8:1-11

GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

WJAB
90.9 FM
www.wjab.org

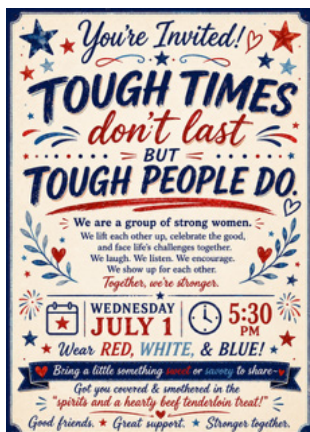
ON THIS DAY

July 10 has been a monumental date in Black history, marking the births of iconic pioneers in education and sports. Most notably, it is the birthdate of civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune (1875) and legendary tennis champion Arthur Ashe (1943). Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performed first open-heart surgery in Chicago in 1893.

SOURCE: New Pittsburgh Courier, et al.



"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.



AROUND TOWN

The Valley Weekly LLC

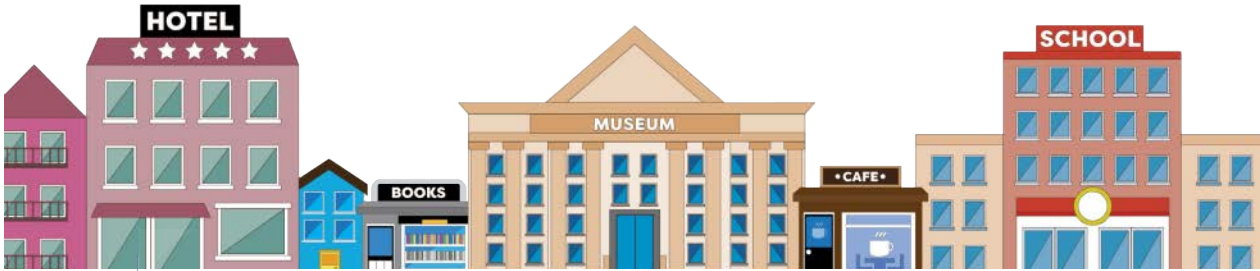


TVW's Dr. Dorothy W. Huston with Mrs. Sonja Enfinger
 McMullen Cove - Watson Grande Preserve
 Owens Cross Roads, Alabama | Wednesday, July 1, 2026
 Theme: "Tough Times Don't Last, But Tough People Do"



AROUND TOWN

The Valley Weekly LLC



More Scenes from Drake State's Annual JAZZ IN THE CITY 2026

Mars Hall | Von Braun Center | June 19, 2026





ALABAMA A&M
START *here*
go ANYWHERE