

Speaker: Investigations Coming after Trump Assassination Attempt - p. 2

FREE

Obesity and Child Brain Health - p. 7

Friday
July 19, 2024
Vol. 10, No. 46
ValleyWeekllyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Bhavani Kakani



“... Our nation’s turning away from love ... moving into a wilderness of spirit so intense we may never find our way home again.” - bell hooks



AAMU Sponsoring ‘Jazz on the Terrace’

Alabama A&M University (AAMU) will sponsor “Jazz on the Terrace: The All White Affair” on Saturday, July 20, at the AAMU Event Center terrace from 7-11 p.m.

The athletic fundraiser event will feature special guest and alto saxophonist Kelley O’Neal and will be hosted by Greg ‘Che-Chi’

Simpson. O’Neal’s journey as an artist began at age nine in Huntsville. He now leads an Atlanta-based group known as the Kayoband, performing high-energy, contemporary jazz and old-school R&B, with a touch of today’s dance music.

He toured around the world for a cou-

ple years with BeBe and CeCe Winans playing saxophone and keyboards.

During this stint, Kelley made television appearances on The Arsenio Hall Show, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and the Essence Awards Show.

For ticket information, visit <https://aamusports.com> or click [HERE](#).

AHA Announces Newest Fellows

The Alabama Humanities Alliance has announced that on December 2, the organization will honor writer Rick Bragg and humorist Roy Wood Jr. as its newest Alabama Humanities Fellows.

Alabamians are invited to join this special gathering in Birmingham, which will conclude the 2024 Alabama Col-



loquium series and the 50th anniversary celebration.

This marks the second and final event in the 2024 Alabama Colloquium series. Moreover, tickets are still available for the August 26 event

in Huntsville honoring north Alabama musicians Brittany Howard and Jason Isbell.

All proceeds benefit AHA programming statewide. Tickets (\$50-\$100) are available through the University of Alabama’s [Alys Stephens Center](#). Call (205) 975-2787 for details.



John Legend to Perform at The Orion Amphitheater Oct. 12

Singer, songwriter and pianist John Legend is scheduled to perform at The Orion Amphitheater on Saturday, October 12, at 8 p.m.

Throughout his musical career, Legend has received a total of 12 Grammy Awards. Legend won the Academy Award for Best Original Song and Golden Globe Award for his 2015 single “Glory” (with Common), which was released for the film Selma. He won the NAACP’s President’s Award in 2016. In Broadway acting, Legend won a Tony Award for co-producing the stage play Jitney (2017), and portrayed the titular character in NBC’s adaptation of the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar (2018).

He received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for his acting role, and won the award for his role as a producer of the show, making him the first Black male and second youngest recipient of all four of the major American entertainment awards: Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony.

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly
**Washington
One Minute**



by Ron Hamm

Here are the top issues and events in Washington this week.

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess this week due to Monday's start of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. On Sunday, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) told NBC News that Congress will conduct a full investigation of Saturday's assassination attempt against former President Trump to determine where there were lapses in security at the Pennsylvania rally, at which Trump was injured, one attendee was killed, and two spectators critically injured, apparently by a 20-year-old Pennsylvania man wielding an AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle from a nearby rooftop. After being evaluated at a medical facility in Pennsylvania, Trump flew to New Jersey, where he was seen exiting a plane at Newark Liberty International Airport around Saturday midnight. The Washington Post reported that House Republicans received a security briefing from the House Sergeant-at-Arms on Sunday and Punchbowl News reported that the Department of Homeland Security briefed aides for the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate Homeland Security, Appropriations, and Intelligence Committees on Sunday and that House Homeland Security Committee Members received a briefing Monday from the Secret Service.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. On Saturday evening, President Biden returned to the White House from his home in Rehoboth Beach, DE, after learning of the assassination attempt against former President Trump at a campaign rally in Butler, PA, north of Pittsburgh, shortly after 6 p.m. Biden addressed the nation Saturday night from

the emergency briefing room in Rehoboth Beach to assure the nation that Trump was "doing well" and then spoke directly to Trump

later Saturday night. The Biden Campaign has paused all campaign messaging and pulled all campaign ads in reaction to the shooting. President Biden announced on Sunday that he has directed an independent review of the security at the Trump rally in Pennsylvania, gave a Sunday primetime address from the Oval Office calling for unity, and also postponed a trip to Austin, TX, that had been planned to deliver a keynote address at the LBJ Presidential Library to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. The President traveled to Las Vegas, NV, where on Tuesday he delivered remarks at the NAACP National Convention in Las Vegas and then participated in an economic summit with Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV). On Wednesday, he addressed the UnidosUS Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

3. SUPREME COURT. The court is adjourned and will reconvene on Monday, October 7. Last week, Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Richard Durbin (D-IL) announced that the committee will hold

a hearing in September on whether legislation is needed to limit the impact of the July 1 Supreme Court decision in Trump v. U.S. that held that former presidents cannot face criminal liability for their official acts.

4. RNC CONVENTION. The Republican National Convention was called to order Monday at 12:45 p.m. at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, WI. On Sunday, the Trump Campaign confirmed that former President Trump will address the convention as scheduled on Thursday night. The full calendar of convention events is available at <https://gopconvention2024.com/master-calendar/>. CBS News had reported that an announcement about Mr. Trump's VP choice could come as soon as today, with North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, Senator Marco Rubio (D-FL) and Sen. J.D. Vance (R-OH) being the apparent finalists. The Democratic National Convention begins on Monday, August 19, at the United Center in Chicago.

5. INFLATION REPORT. Last Thursday, the Department of

Labor announced that inflation dropped an unexpected 0.1% from May, the first month-on-month decline since May 2020, slowing the annual inflation rate from 3.3% down to 3%. The decline was led by falling gasoline prices and a drop in new and used car prices. Economists had predicted a 0.1% gain in prices as well as an annual inflation rate of 3.1%, leading many to now predict that the Federal Reserve will announce an interest rate cut at its Sept 17-18 meeting.

6. HIGHER EDUCATION - FAFSA. On July 10, the House Workforce Committee passed H.R. 8932, the FAFSA Deadline Act. The legislation will expedite the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

(FAFSA) process by requiring the Department of Education to make the FAFSA available to students each year on October 1. This will end the "flexibility" in statute that has allowed the Department to release the FAFSA as late as January 1, which has caused confusion for schools and families and made it difficult for states and nonprofits to process aid packages or award scholarships. The legislation is awaiting House floor action.

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Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly
PRESTON BROWNS



"Passion Leads to Purpose"

In Psalms 51:10 David writes "Create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit in me". Do you still have passion for what God has called you to do? No matter what your position is, we all need passion. If you have a real passion for something, you will continue to do it no matter what your circumstances may be. Passion will lead you to your purpose. Even the best can lose their passion if they don't practice the purpose that God has for their lives. For example, when David ran to the battle lines to defeat the mighty Goliath, he had passion and purpose. A decade later, when he was in the palace, he had lost his passion. Remember, the Bible tells us in 2 Samuel 11 that while kings went off to war, David stayed home and got into trouble with Bathsheba, therefore losing the purpose he was created for ...

... Which was to be an amazing King.

You see, the moment we become distracted the devil will enter into our lives and do what

he does, which is to kill, steal and destroy our lives (John 10:10). So, after going through all of that drama with Bathsheba, David needed his passion back.

When David wrote the fifty-first psalm, he tells us he had a pure passion when he first started. However, he allowed some things to come into his life that took away his passion and affected the purpose God had for his life. Do you

know anyone like this?

Sometimes we need to realize that we may have to walk away from some things or some people to get our passion back and rediscover the purpose that God has for our lives.

May God grant you spiritual success in getting your passion back.

Question: Is there anyone or anything going on in your life that is causing you to be less passionate or distracted from the plan that God has for you?

What can you do about it?

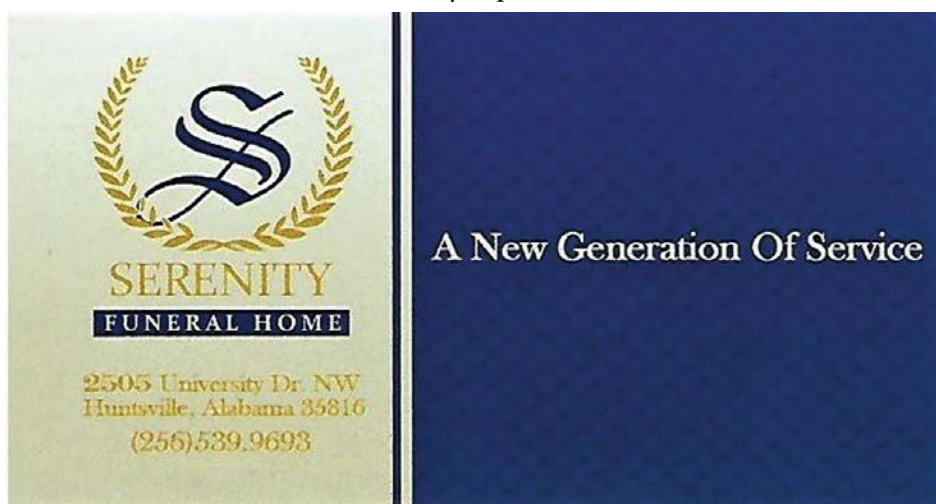
Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase



a copy of my books *Spiritual Game Plans for A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life* at amazon.com or Westbow books.

NEXT WEEK:

"Practice What You Preach"



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Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MS. MICHELLE JACKSON** (b. 1966); **MR. JUSTIN BELL** (b. 1987), **MS. SHARON LEFRIDGE** (b. 1944), **MR. FRANCISCO PEREZ** (b. 1939), **MR. CHARLES BRYANT** (b. 1961) and **MR. BRUCE FLUKER** (b. 1952).

Funeral service for **MR. WALTER NICKERSON** (b. 1934) was held Tuesday, June 25, at Serenity Funeral Home.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Memorial service for **MR. WILLIE COLEMAN** (b. 1959) was Thursday, July 11, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. WILLIE D. MCCORMICK** (b. 1955) was Sunday, July 7, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Donald Barney officiating.

Memorial service for **MR. DANIEL BRANDON, JR.** (b. 1948) was Saturday, July 6, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Phil Ford officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. SARAH ALICE PETTY STEWART** (b. 1935) was Saturday, July 6, at Saint Mark Baptist Church with Elder James Battle, officiant, and the Reverend Anthony Stewart, eulogist.

Funeral service for **MRS. HELEN DAVIS HUSBAND** (b. 1938) was Saturday, July 6, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Kenneth Owens officiating.

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Funeral service for **ELDER FRANKLIN D. FLETCHER** (b. 1949) was Saturday, July 13, at the Saint Elizabeth Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, 104 Perry Street, Madison, AL 35758 with Pastor Columbus Waddle officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. NE'KESHIA JENEL DAWSON JABBAR** (b. 1981) was Monday, July 8, at the Fellowship of Faith Church, 3703 North Memorial Parkway NW, Huntsville, Ala., with Bishop Michael Shinn officiating.

The Valley Weekly
VALLEY
EVENTS
 HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

July 18
 Campus 805 After 5
 Butler Green

July 19
 Food Truck Rally
 Big Spring Park
 Downtown Huntsville Inc.
 “Eric Essix”
 2024 City Lights & Stars
 Burritt on the Mountain
 3101 Burritt Drive SE
 Huntsville, Ala. - 7:30 p.m.

July 19-20
 HaHa Davis
 Comedian
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Parkway
 SW (\$30-\$45)
 Huntsville, Ala.
 (256) 261-3374
 huntsville.standuplive.com

July 21
 The Market at MidCity

MidCity District
 Huntsville, Ala. - 12-4 p.m.

July 26
 Downtown Art Walks
 (Downtown Huntsville,
 Inc.)
 Courthouse Square
 Huntsville, Ala. - 5-8 p.m.

July 28
 The Market at MidCity
 MidCity District
 Huntsville, Ala. - 12-4 p.m.

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

August 9
 “Gwen & The Retro Cats”
 2024 City Lights & Stars
 Burritt on the Mountain
 3101 Burritt Drive SE

Huntsville, Ala.
 7:30 p.m.

August 9-11
 Desi Banks
 Comedian
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Parkway
 SW (\$30-\$45)
 Huntsville, Ala.
 (256) 261-3374
 huntsville.standuplive.com

August 10
 “Second Saturday” City
 Hall Art Tours Showcase
 (Greetings from Cynthia
 Wagner and David Nuttall.
 Stroll by the 11 panels of
 Wagner’s “Transformative
 Soil: Terra Firma” while
 discovering the iconic sym-
 bols woven into her work
 and learn about Nuttall’s
 upcoming installation of a
 hand-drawn nighttime map
 of Huntsville. **REGISTER**)
 New City Hall
 10:30 a.m.

August 11
 The Market at MidCity
 MidCity District
 Huntsville, Ala. - 12-4 p.m.

August 15
 Campus 805 After 5
 Butler Green
 Huntsville, Ala.

‘Jahni’ Moore Among Artists Featured in Chicago

The work of local artist John ‘Jahni’ Moore is being featured in the “Voices Embodied: Reverberations” exhibit at the Design Museum of Chicago, curated by Alex Starks.

The exhibition features 18 artists and designers and highlights the collective sentiment around disability and the importance of designing a mutually inclusive world for all to share and receive benefit. The display will remain

open through October 13.

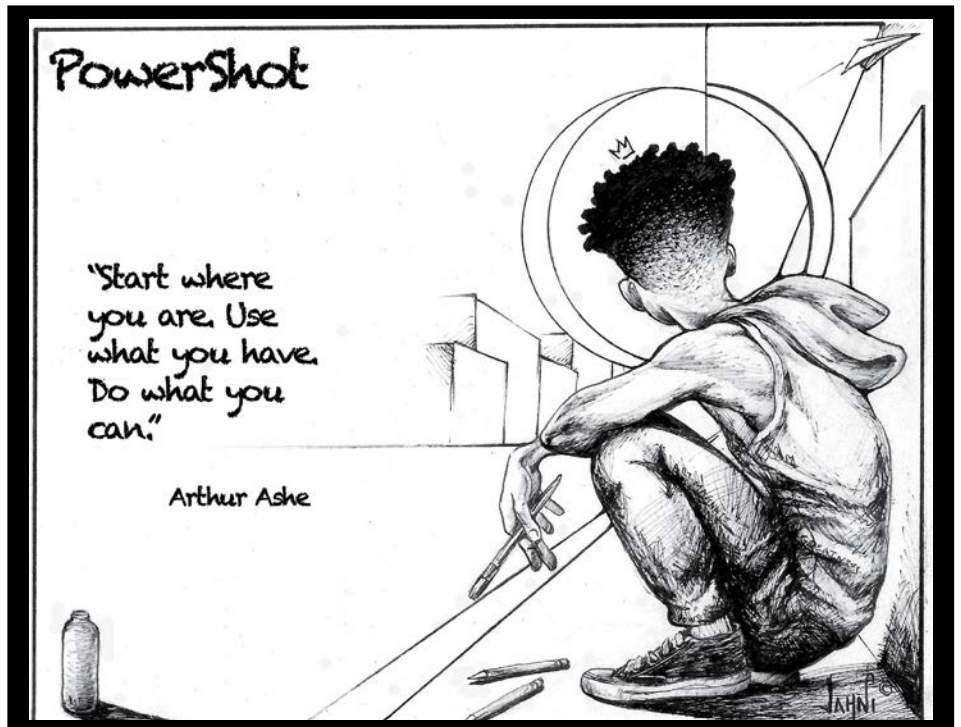
The works speak to the idea that with perspectives outside one’s own, individuals learn to appreciate each other more and benefit and grow as a result. With artwork displayed in close proximity, a mutually designed and accessible future is emphasized.

In addition to Moore, the exhibit features work



by Anke Loh, Yimei (Emair) Zhu, David Bobie, Jonas Müller-Ahlheim, S. Proski, Todd Edward Herman, Genevieve Ramos, Julia Aleida González, Justin

Dougan-LeBlanc, Jorge Bordello, Aaron Mc-Peake, Gordon Sasaki, Dilara Koselioren, Gabriel Chalfin-Piney, Libby Evan, Miles Matis-Uzzo, and Bri Beck.



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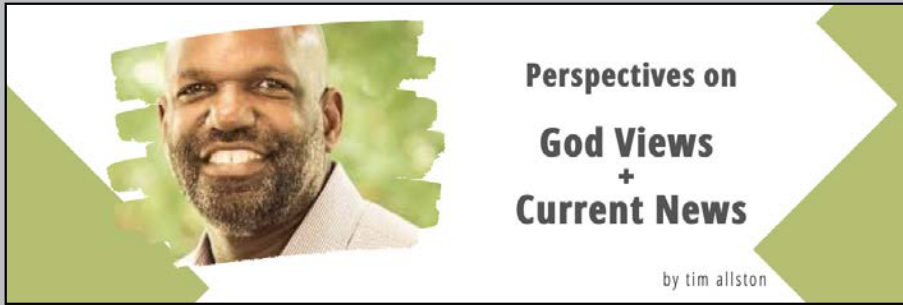
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11-22

“If you don’t like something, change it. If you can’t change it, change your attitude.”
 - Maya Angelou



Biden: Turning your “lemons into lemonade, then into lemon meringue pie!” will be a testament to your leadership

Summer 2024's earliest weeks have not been kind to President Biden, beginning with:

- Hunter Biden's felony conviction for gun possession (June 11), to his
- Dismal presidential debate performance and calls for his campaign exit (June 27); and finally
- The Trump-dominated Supreme Court granting future presidents prosecution immunity (July 1), which can foreshadow a weakened American democracy that Biden's administration is seeking to defend and strengthen.

On the surface, those three events seem to doom Biden's legacy. Yet, with proper messaging from playing a fact-driven offense, the president can reverse naysayers (lemons) and sweeten his campaign (lemonade). But, more importantly, he can maintain his current and future residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and its possible future resident, Vice President Kamala Harris (for lemon meringue pie!).

Hunter

Yes, Hunter and not Joe was found guilty. However, the GOPs are seeking to use Hunter's conviction to tarnish his father. Next sentence, please, . . .

Debate 1

While the presidential debate exposed Biden's apparent under-the-weather cold and possible over-preparation, it also highlighted Trump's disregard for truth-telling with 26 fact-checked falsehoods. For September 10th's second debate, Biden's performance should improve drastically, while Trump will probably continue his trademark falsehoods.

More importantly, it also brought to light the more positive aspects of Biden's presidency - e.g., the lowest 50-year overall unemployment, 750,000 new manufacturing jobs of the nearly 11 million new jobs, and nationwide infrastructure improvements. These facts truly matter and showcase real progress, which should instill optimism and reassurance with the voting audience.

The “Supremes”

The Supreme Court's recent decision to grant presidential immunities only poses a threat should a dictator-like person occupy the White House.

Biden and his surrogates must continue town-crying his vision of maintaining and strengthening democracy vs. Trump's announced day-one dictatorship.

Then, independent voters will see those stark distinctions and should blow past such temporary noises as Hunter's unrelated drug addiction recovery and gun conviction, as well as Biden's lackluster first debate “dress rehearsal.”



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Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time
Amazon Best-Selling Author
“Leading from the Middle”
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Millennial Moment



by
Gloria B. Caldwell

What It Is ...

We love to feel we are being held back by education, circumstance, and other beliefs. The ole' “I didn't get an opportunity because...”

Or, “My Dad or Mom wasn't here for me, so...”

Maybe yours is, “I divorced, or I had a child out of wedlock, which prevented me from getting an opportunity to do this or that.” So, therefore, you feel you are lacking a skill set, whether through education or life.

What you may not recognize is you're not lack-

imposter syndrome—the mindset to shake loose disappointments and release shame.

Do away with the desire for comparison and stop striving so hard for perfectionism. Do yourself a favor and stop being so distracted by superfluous things.

Focus and make a deliberate effort to move out on a goal. The problem is not a skill set. The problem is mindset.

The wonderful thing about this is you have the choice to shift that. Isn't that wonderful? You can decide to kill the excuses and press on with the skills you have, the ones that will lead you to others you may not recognize you have. Time is not waiting!

Let's pivot! Let's

do it!

Lace Up! *Let's Go!*

Image: Pixabay.com



This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, July 21, 2024

Ninth Sunday

After

Pentecost



(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Second Lesson:

Ephesians 2:11-22

GOSPEL:

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56



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

Mrs. Bhavani Kakani

For over 45 years, Mrs. Bhavani Kakani has brought a unique combination of healthy compassion, strong commitment, sharp business acumen and servant leadership skills to empower people and organizations in Huntsville, Ala. Her vision for "building bridges" led her to found and lead AshaKiran. AshaKiran is a non-profit organization dedicated to educate, empathize, and empower foreign-origin/culturally diverse individuals who are experiencing "crisis" situations.

The treasurer of Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Kakani is also a founding director/secretary of the board for Progress Bank and Trust. She has served as a senior staff supervisor in international finance for Intergraph Corporation; a cytologist; and an office manager for a physician's office.

As a trailblazer in building healthier communities, she educated, raised funds and advocated for better health for all persons by providing leadership for Madison County Medical Alliance (president), Alliance to the Medical Society of the State of Alabama (president), Southern Medical Association Alliance, Alliance to the American Medical Association, Huntsville Hospital Foundation, Statewide Health Planning Council, and ambassador to the Hudson Alpha Institute and Hospice.

Mrs. Kakani continues

her volunteer activities by serving on the Healthcare Authority of the City of Huntsville. To solidify her commitment to empower abused children and their families, she served on the Board of Voices for Alabama Children and as treasurer of Human Trafficking and Coordinated Community Task Forces. She presented education materials for Stop Child Abuse and Neglect to schools to encourage them to find their voice in order to receive assistance.

She also served on the National Children's Advocacy Center in various capacities for many years, including two years as board chairperson. Her belief in providing a second chance through education and mentoring to increase self worth and to excel the careers of the less fortunate is demonstrated through mentoring for Women's Economic Development Council Foundation. She was an active participant on boards of Randolph School, UAH Foundation, Women's Business Center of North Alabama, Alabama Space Education Commission and Women's Economic Development Council Foundation.

Her dedication for community inclusiveness and betterment is displayed through her leadership as a graduate of Leadership Alabama, Mayor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Board Chair of Leadership of Huntsville/Madison County



and service on the boards of Southern Cord, Botanical Garden, International Society of Huntsville (founding board member) Huntsville India Association, Huntsville Telugu Association (founder and initial president), Women's Guild of the Huntsville Museum of Art (president), Arts Council, Huntsville International Society (founding member), United Way Professional Division Campaign chair, member of Committee of 100, and as co-chair of Legacy for Huntsville Bicentennial Celebration Committee.

She is a recipient of numerous awards and honors. Kakani earned a B.S. degree in finance, summa cum laude and a Master of Administrative Science in Business Administration and Finance from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

She has been married for 54 years to Dr. Rao Kakani, retired general and vascular surgeon, and the couple has three children and two grandchildren.

TARCOG Begins 'Live and Live Well' Campaign

TARCOG has many ideas on healthy living and shared them at a new community awareness campaign it launched during a news conference on Thursday, July 11, at the Madison Senior Center, 1282 Hughes Road.

TARCOG's Director of Aging Programs Sheila Dessau-Ivey said the information in the campaign applies to anyone but it

was focused on the aging population.

"To my understanding, we haven't done anything like this in a long time, if ever," Dessau-Ivey said. "We are excited to bring this information to everyone in the community in an easy-to-use format, and we believe it will be useful on many levels."

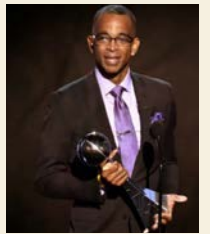
In the coming months, TARCOG case managers

will present the information to clients, now totaling more than 1,000. The program information will be presented to each Council on Aging in the region, and educational material will be provided at outreach events throughout the region attended by TARCOG staff.

For more information, please contact staff at (256) 830-0818.

JULY 19 - STUART SCOTT - Stuart Orlando Scott was an American sportscaster and anchor on ESPN, most notably on SportsCenter. Well known for his hip-hop style and use of catchphrases, Scott was also a regular for the network in its National Basketball Association (NBA) and National Football League (NFL) coverage. Scott grew up in North Carolina, and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He began his career with various local television stations before joining ESPN in 1993. By 2008, he was a staple in ESPN's programming, and also began on ABC as lead host for their coverage of the NBA.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



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

WJAB
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Obesity and Children's Brain Health

Kids who are overweight or obese often struggle with schoolwork, and now new research provides clues on how excess weight may harm the developing brain.

"The main takeaway is to raise awareness about brain health consequences of obesity besides physical health consequences, especially since obesity rates are very high and continue to rise," says study author Simone Kaltenhauser, a post-graduate research fellow in radiology and biomedical imaging at the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Conn.

What did they find? There were structural and functional brain impairments in kids who were

overweight or obese when compared to kids who weren't, and these changes could contribute to poor academic performance.

In addition, brain networks involved in reward-based decision-making and control of behaviors showed reduced connectivity in kids who are overweight or obese.

It's too early to say whether weight loss and increased physical activity can offset some of these brain changes, but it is possible, she noted.

Adopting healthy eating patterns as a family will help your child reach and maintain a healthy weight as they age. Eating a variety of vegetables and fruits, whole grains, lean protein

foods, and low-fat and fat-free dairy products and following nutrition guidelines will set your family up for optimal health.

Physically active youth have stronger muscles and bones, better cardiovascular fitness, and lower body fat than those who are inactive.

Good sleep helps prevent type 2 diabetes, obesity, injuries, and problems with attention and behavior. If your child isn't getting enough sleep, he or she is at risk for unhealthy weight gain.

Reducing screen time can free up time for family activities and can remove cues to eat unhealthy food.

For more info, visit blackdoctor.org.



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NOTICE OF COMPLETION

(IFB 23-058: Research Park Blvd. Water Transmission Project)

In accordance with Section 39-1-1, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that (JOHN PLOTT COMPANY, Inc.) has completed the Contract for (IFB 23-058: Research Park Blvd. Water Transmission Project) for the City of Huntsville, Alabama, a municipal corporation, d/b/a Huntsville Utilities and has made request for final settlement as provided by the Contract. All persons having any claims for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Huntsville Utilities Water Department, 112 Spragins St., Huntsville, Alabama 35801.



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- ✓ Workshops
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LAST DAY TO BOOK: FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2024

A&M, United Way Collaborate on Community Needs Assessment

Alabama A&M University and the United Way of Madison County have joined forces to conduct a thorough evaluation of the community's needs. This strategic partnership aims to gather essential data to better understand and address the critical issues facing residents.

UWMC recently encouraged everyone living or working in Madison County to participate in a brief survey designed to identify key community needs. Researchers with the AAMU-RISE Foundation spearheaded the 2024 Community-wide Needs Assessment, ensuring a detailed and unbiased analysis.

The AAMU team leading

this initiative includes:

Dr. Sheri Jenkins Keenan, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Primary Investigator (PI)

Dr. Nachiket Thakkar, Assistant Professor of Economics and Finance, Co-PI

Dr. Randy Barbour, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Mildred Delozia, Assistant Professor of Social Work

Dr. Florina Dutt, Assistant Professor of Community Planning

Additionally, recent Master of Social Work graduates Natosha Ceaser and Stephon Boone also contributed to this impor-



tant project.

“Being a part of the Huntsville, Madison County community, Alabama A&M University is excited to provide this support,” said Keenan. “The goal of the assessment is to obtain an independent analysis of the challenges facing residents, particularly in health and human services.”

Produced every 3-5

years, this report not only guides United Way in addressing community needs but also provides businesses and corporations with expert advice on investment opportunities. It assists volunteers in maximizing their impact and supports nonprofit health and human service sectors, local governments, schools, and community

organizations in securing grants and developing programs. Additionally, newcomers and residents seeking reliable information about local needs will find valuable insights in the report.

The findings will be released later this year, presenting a data-driven, unbiased analysis of the challenges facing Huntsville and Madison County residents. The project is supported by a multi-disciplinary committee of experienced professors and university students from AAMU and the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).

“Involving a reputable partner like Alabama A&M University ensures the

report's quality remains unbiased and reliable,” says Daniel Kasambira, President & CEO of The United Way of Madison County. “Our community relies on this objective data, combined with community input, to inform services and collaboration.”

AAMU President Daniel K. Wims stated, “AAMU-RISE Foundation is proud to partner with United Way of Madison County and AAMU's College of Business, headed by Dean Timothy Mantz. This collaboration ensures that community investments are optimized using focused, data-driven reports generated by the best faculty and students from AAMU and UAH.”

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