

# The Original 'Freedom Writer,' p.8

**FREE**

## Preston: Time to Make a Change?, p. 3

Friday  
August 6, 2021  
Vol. 7, No. 48  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



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



Deacon Robert Jackson

"Sometimes it's worse to win a fight than to lose." - Billie Holiday

### Legislators Noted for Support of Drake



opments in addi-  
tive manufacturing  
for NASA's Moon  
to Mars Planetary  
Autonomous  
Construction  
Technology Project  
(MMPACT).

The research is  
also expected to  
lead to innovation  
and curriculum  
development that

will benefit construction and  
advanced manufacturing  
industries in North Alabama  
and beyond.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy  
Battle, NASA representatives  
and members of the Frontier  
Research Program Advisory  
Board attended the program.  
*PHOTO: Rep. Rex Reynolds, Sen.  
Tom Butler, Drake State President  
Dr. Patricia Sims, Mayor Tommy  
Battle and Sen. Steve Livingston*

J.F. Drake State Commu-  
nity and Technical College  
recognized the Madison  
County Legislative Delegation  
for its support of the Fron-  
tier Research Program on  
Wednesday, July 28.

Members of the Madison  
County Legislative Delegation  
secured \$315,000 in funding  
for the Frontiers Research  
Program at Drake State.

That funding will support  
research related to new devel-



### Huntsville Gets 'Gig City' Honors in Music City

Fiber Connect 2021, the  
Fiber Broadband Associa-  
tion (FBA) presented a Gig  
City Award to Huntsville  
Utilities, the City of Hunts-  
ville (*Above: Mayor Tommy  
Battle, 2nd, r*), the Huntsville  
Madison County Cham-  
ber, and The Broadband  
Group and Google Fiber at  
a conference in Nashville.  
The FBA recognized these  
groups for their outstanding  
collaborative initiative that  
leveraged fiber to increase  
connectivity across com-  
munities in Huntsville and  
improve economic develop-  
ment and quality of life.

Huntsville has a history  
that is deeply rooted in inno-  
vation. The town supported  
the launch of the Space Race  
with the establishment of  
NASA, the Marshall Space  
Flight Center and the U.S.

Space & Rocket Center. The  
area also features Cum-  
mings Research Park, the  
second largest research  
park in the nation, which  
is home to world-class Ge-  
nome research and a global  
epicenter for cyber security.  
Huntsville is devoted to  
science and technology,  
and ensuring its businesses  
and residents have access to  
high-performance internet  
connectivity is an important  
city objective.

Recognizing the need for  
additional fiber infrastruc-  
ture for its own internal  
communication and op-  
erational needs, Huntsville  
Utilities took matters into its  
own hands. Working with  
The Broadband Group, a  
leading telecommunications  
consulting and business  
advisory firm, Huntsville

Utilities pioneered a Util-  
ity Lease Model where the  
utility aligns interests with  
private industry to expand  
fiber citywide. As electric  
utilities adopt grid mod-  
ernization initiatives, this  
Lease Model enables them to  
build or expand fiber optic  
networks and include excess  
fiber capacity to be used by  
third party tenants, like ISPs  
or 4G/5G mobile operators.  
For Huntsville Utilities' fiber  
network, Google Fiber was  
the first tenant to deploy  
multigigabit broadband  
services to residential and  
small business customers in  
Huntsville and surround-  
ing areas. Huntsville ranked  
12th for the fastest internet  
speeds in the nation, ac-  
cording to an analysis by  
HighSpeedInternet.com.

-Huntsvilleal.gov

### NAACP Holding Session on Impact of Redistricting: What's at Stake?



The Alabama State  
Conference of the  
NAACP will hold a ses-  
sion on "Redistricting  
in Huntsville, Madison  
County and the State  
of Alabama" Thursday,  
August 5.

The meeting will be  
held in the Bob Harri-  
son Senior Wellness and  
Advocacy Center, 6156  
Pulaski Pike, Huntsville,  
Ala., at 6 p.m.

Brielle Morton of the  
NAACP Legal Defense  
Fund, will be the guest  
presenter. Persons  
who cannot attend will  
be able to access the  
meeting via Zoom after  
registering in advance.

Visit [HERE](#).

For additional  
information, contact  
Alabama State Confer-  
ence NAACP President,  
Bernard Simelton, at  
(256) 426-6406.

The  
**Valley Weekly**

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**Publisher**

The Valley Weekly, LLC

**Editor-in-Chief**

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

**Editorial Consultant/  
Senior Editor**

Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

**Editorial Assistants**Linda Burruss  
Phyllis Chunn  
William Huston, Sr.  
Gary T. Whitley, Jr.**Advertising Associate**

Phyllis Chunn

**- Contributing Editors -**tim allston  
Minister Preston Brown  
Robert Drake  
Ron Hamm  
Pastor Michael D. Rice**Website Administrator**

Calvin Farier

**Mailing Address:**The Valley Weekly  
415A Church Street - Suite 100  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(256) 651-9028  
www.valleyweeklyllc.com  
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# Washington in One Minute



Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House has adjourned for the August recess and has no votes scheduled on the House floor until September 20 (although House committees will start meeting again on August 31). The Senate is in session this week and will continue work on the \$1 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure legislation (the final text of which was released on Sunday as the "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act"), which it hopes to finish before the Senate adjourns at the end of the week. See a summary of the infrastructure bill here: [summary](#). Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) would also like to take up the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill

containing the President's American Families Plan, which includes universal pre-K, paid family and medical leave, nutrition assistance, extensions of child tax-credit expansions, clean-energy tax incentives, federal procurement of clean energy technologies, a clean-energy accelerator, and the establishment of a Civilian Climate Corps.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** Last Friday, President Biden met virtually with Governors from 7 Western States: Gvs. Max Gordon (WY), Kate Brown (OR), Greg Gianforte (MT), Jay Inslee (WA), Brad Little (ID), Gavin Newsom (CA) and Tim Walz (MN) to discuss the wildfires. The White House also announced 2 new working groups within the National Climate Task Force — the Wildfire Resil-

ience Interagency Working Group and the Extreme Heat Interagency Working Group. Last Monday, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki announced that the U.S. ban on travelers from Europe would remain in place indefinitely, citing concerns about the Delta variant (in mid-June, the EU added the U.S. to its "green list," permitting arrivals of even unvaccinated travelers).

3. **VACCINE REQUIREMENTS.** Last Thursday, President Biden announced the following regarding the COVID vaccine: all federal government employees and onsite contractors will be required to get a vaccine or comply with a weekly or twice weekly screening testing requirement and be subject to restrictions on official travel; the Defense Department is instructed to start the process to add COVID-19 vaccination to the list of required vaccinations for members of the military; school districts nationwide should host at least one pop-up vaccination clinic over the coming weeks for all kids over 12 years of age; all small- and medium-sized businesses will now be reimbursed for offering their employees paid leave to get

their family members, including their kids, vaccinated (since April, the employees had the right to take leave to get their own vaccinations); and states, territories, and local governments should offer \$100 to those who get vaccinated using funds distributed to them from the American Rescue Plan.

4. **PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS.** Last Wednesday, the Small Business Administration (SBA) published a new regulation allowing small business owners who received PPP loans of \$150,000 or less to seek forgiveness of those loans by applying directly to the SBA (instead of going back to their banks) via an online portal that will go live on August 4. The PPP loan program disbursed \$806 billion to millions of businesses between April 2020 and June 2021. For access to the new portal, click here: [SBA forgiveness portal](#).

5. **FY2022 APPROPRIA-**

**TIONS.** This week, the Senate Appropriations Committee will begin markups of its versions of the FY2022 appropriations bills, starting with the Energy & Water, Military Construction/VA, and Agriculture Appropriations bills. Last week, the full House approved 9 of the 12 annual appropriations bills on the House floor before adjourning for the August recess.

6. **HIGHER EDUCATION.** On Monday, the Bipartisan Policy Center hosted a virtual discussion on "How to Sustainably Finance Higher Education and Promote College Affordability."

Hamm Consulting Group  
444 North Capitol Street,  
NW Suite 840  
Washington D.C. 20001  
T: 202-596-8384  
rhamm@hammconsulting.com  
[www.hammconsulting.com](http://www.hammconsulting.com)

*"I will not have my life narrowed down. I will not bow down to somebody else's whim or to someone else's ignorance." - bell hooks*



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*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.*

This is to give you a BIG SHOUT OUT for continuing an outstanding local Newspaper with photos large enough to tell who it is focused on. Thanks for all that you do for our community and the Tennessee Valley. Please give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Brother Saintjones, as well.

*Warm Regards,  
Sister (Katie) Byrd*

**ACCOLADES**  
from Our Readers

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS



## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Memorial service for MRS. CELIA COMER COLLINS (b. 1943), a native of Huntsville and a 1961 graduate of William Hooper Councill High School, will be Saturday, August 7, at 11 a.m. at Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 2185 Winchester Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for MS. VETREA BREWTON (b. 1976) was held Saturday, July 31, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Reverend Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Graveside service for MR. GARY B. FEARN (b. 1971) was held Saturday, July 31, at Valhalla Memory Gardens.

Funeral service for MR. STEVE J. SANDERS (b. 1963) was held Friday, July 30, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Graveside service for MRS. FANNIE CAROLYN MILLINER (b. 1938) will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 7, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road).

Funeral service for MR. WILLIAM DAVID BRUNDIDGE (b. 1954) was held Thursday, August 5, at Royal Chapel-Bridgeforth Home (716 Brownsferry Street, Athens, Ala.) with Minister Keith Shoulders officiating.

Funeral service for ELDER RONNIE WELLINGTON (b. 1953) was held Monday, August 2, at Saint Elizabeth Cumberland Presbyterian Church (104 Perry Street Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Columbus Waddle officiating.

Funeral service for MS. MARSHA PRECIOUS TURNER (b. 1992) was held Sunday, August 1, at the New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (3912 Pulaski Pike NW Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor David Lee officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. DANNYE C. BODIE (b. 1956) was held Saturday, July 31, at Fletcher's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church (30592 Hardiman Road, Madison, Ala.) with Reverend Kenneth Lankford officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. LOCKIETEE BURWELL CARTER (b. 1930) was held Friday, July 30, at the Faith Memorial Park (8100 Madison Boulevard Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.

## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for MS. CARLOTTA DOSS (b. 1958) was held Saturday, July 31, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for MS. FELECIA MACHELL WILLIE (b. 1988) was held Thursday, July 29, at Serenity Funeral Home.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

## IS IT TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE?

In Luke 15:17-20, it reads: "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my fathers hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

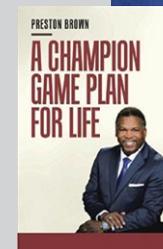
Have you ever come to a place in your life where you say to yourself, "This is not working anymore and it's time for me to make a change"--just like we find here with the Prodigal Son.

But the good news for all of us is that you can come back home again and restore the life you once knew, because we serve a God that will never leave us or forsake us. We serve a God that will wait for us to come to our senses.

Today, so many people get tempted by the ways of this world, and they are led astray and forget where they come from. They forget the peace and security of home, not just our physical home but our spiritual home, as well.

You see, God is our home in the spiritual sense, especially when we make Him lord and savior of our lives. And, whenever we get off track, hopefully we will sober up, come to our senses and go back home.

I believe that sometimes God will allow us to get to a place where we say, "This isn't working anymore." So, if you are dealing with any kind of turmoil or sin in your life, Jesus is waiting for you to come back home. He is ready to deliver you from whatever it is that's holding you back. He is saying, *come back to the abundant life* that He



desires for us to have, which is a life of love, joy and peace.

Whenever we decide to go back home, God will be filled with

compassion and forgiveness, just like the father of the Prodigal Son. God is always waiting to restore our relationship with Him. When you find yourself not satisfied with what this world has to offer, it's time to make that change and go back home to a God that loves and cares for you ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

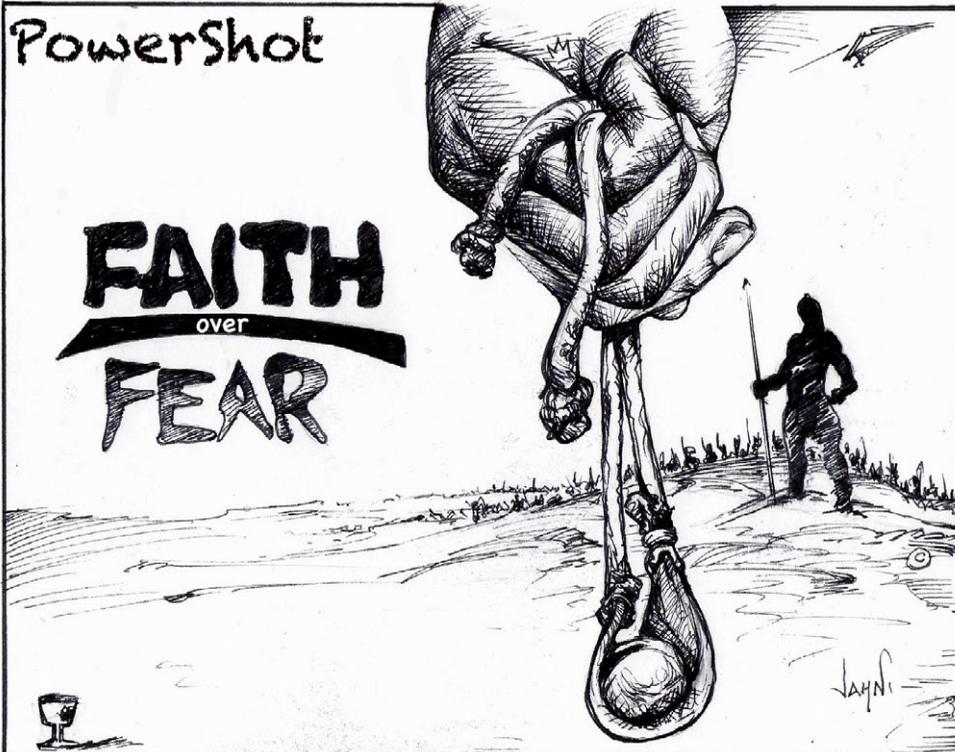
Make sure you purchase your copy of my book "A Champion Game Plan For Life" at amazon.com or at prestonbrownministries.com <<http://prestonbrownministries.com/>>



SERENITY  
FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Dr. NW  
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A New Generation Of Service



## AAMU T&F Alum Heads Florida USATF

An Alabama A&M University Athletic Hall of Fame alumnus who was once coached by track and field legend Joseph Henderson is the head of a major sports organization.

Angela D. Holmes Harris is president of the Florida Association of the USA Track & Field (USATF).

The organization serves as the governing body for the sports of cross country, mountain-ultra-trail, race walking, road running and track & field in the state of Florida.

The Florida Association's members include organizers, athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers.



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*"Keep thou not silent when evil is poken for Truth  
like the sunlight shines above all."*

- Thoth

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Perspectives on  
God Views  
+  
Current News

by tim allston

## Revisiting Toni Morrison and Her 10-word Tutoring Session!

Read Habakkuk 2:2,3

Arguably, I'm able and enjoy sharing with you what God places weekly on my heart - i.e., articles that overlap Bible best-practices with current events and newsmakers - because of an unexpected, un-scripted personal tutoring session from Ms. Toni Morrison (1931 - August 5, 2019), from the early 1980's.

### My "Lady of the Eighties"

Soon after publishing her 1981 novel *Tar Baby*, Ms. Morrison came to lecture at then-Hampton Institute (now University), my alma mater where I then served as assistant PR director.

Then and there, this former English major had the dual pinch-myself luxury of arranging and hosting her series of

pre-lecture media interviews. In a break between two such interviews and before this twenty-something ego-holic had been "self-diagnosed" in his self-addiction, I opined to her my dis-belief in the necessary bother of re-writing article drafts, professing instead a one-and-done posture.



### Her 10 Words Changed My World

With a look akin to a loving mother seeking to aright a wayward self-righteous son, the future Nobel Literaturist and Pulitzer Prize writer offered, "tim: you've gotta do the re-writes, . . . you just have to."

Those 10 words spoken with loving care and expertise began to change me, both attitudinally and functionally.

"Then the Lord answered me and said: 'Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie'" Habakkuk 2:2,3.

### Then, 10 Years Later, . . .

Ten years later, when I became an adjunct instructor for freshman (English) composition courses at HU, I "Morrisonized" my students on the importance of the re-drafting - why? - because Toni Morrison tutored me gently with just one simple un-scripted 10-word sentence of advice.

My sincere hope and prayer is that you are a beneficiary of the "Toni touch" on my writings and, more importantly, my life.

tim allston is the two-time Amazon best-selling author of *U.S. Politics The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders* (now on Amazon), and the author-narrator of *The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the "Silver-Mettle" Leaders* audiobook, with a free sample chapter, when you click on <https://bit.ly/3xiZhP9>.

## Congratulations, 2021 Alpha Scholars!



## Alphas Award Scholarships to Local High Schoolers

The Delta Theta Lambda Chapter and the Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation awarded \$24,000 in scholarships to local high school graduates Thursday July 29 at their Annual Scholarship Reception. Once again, the event was held in a virtual format as a means of continuing the practice of safe distancing. The highlight of this year's event was a challenge given by Jackson Quarles, one of the scholarship recipients.

In years past, the challenge to the scholars has been delivered by a previous recipient, but according to Mr. Wilbert Brown, Education Foundation chair who heard Mr. Quarles speaking at his church recently, "Jackson was just so eloquent that I thought it might be a good idea to have our scholars hear words from one of their contemporaries." Mr. Quarles certainly didn't disappoint as he spoke with his fellow graduates about stepping out on faith as they go forward to pursue their college careers.

"I certainly don't have it all together," he said, and

"I get nervous when thinking about the adjustments I will have to make as I prepare for college."

"But I have my family who supports me, and that gives me the strength to step out on faith, and I encourage each of you to be bold." "Be brave."

Each of the scholars along with their parents were allowed the opportunity to give words of thanks and share with the membership their future plans. Representative Laura Hall was on hand to present the John Hall Memorial Scholarship (named in honor of her late husband and Alpha brother, Dr. John Hall) to Ms. Autumn Calloway. Bro. Harold Dickerson, Jr., (son of the late Bro. Dr. Harold Dickerson, Sr.) was on hand to present the Dr. Harold Dickerson Sr. Memorial Scholarship, which is presented to members of the two local college chapters of Alpha; Delta Gamma at Alabama A&M University and Rho Chi at The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

The 2021 Alpha Scholars and their prospective colleges and universities are:

**Amberlea Allen** - Grisom High School/Auburn University

**Autumn Calloway** - Buckhorn High School/Alabama A&M University

**Michael Clark** - Madison Academy/Jacksonville State University

**Nicholas Fields** - Lee High School/Alabama A&M University

**Mersadze Ford** - Mae Jemison High School/Calhoun Community College

**Makenzie Friend** - Mae Jemison High School/Mercer University

**Michael Glenn** - Austin High School/Tuskegee University

**Ruth Hellman** - Sparkman High School/Auburn University

**Chase Holloway** - St. Paul Catholic High School/Tuskegee University

**Kelly Hudson** - Buckhorn High School/Alabama A&M University

**Jordan Jackson** - Bob Jones High School/Tennessee State University

**Jackson Lanier** - James Clemens High School/Vanderbilt University

**Joshua Lin** - Bob Jones High School/University of

Michigan

**Ronald B. Maxwell, III** - Alabama A&M University senior

**Brian Scott McBeth** - Sparkman High School/Alabama A&M University

**DaQuarrius Poole** - Columbia High School/Alabama A&M University

**Jackson Quarles** - James Clemens High School/University of Alabama

**Madeline Rathz** - Grissom High School/University of Alabama in Birmingham

**Wayne Richards, III** - James Clemens High School/Calhoun Community College

**Courtney Robertson** - Huntsville High School/Auburn University

**Madison Amiyah Rose** - James Clemens High School/Shorter University

**Nia Timmons** - New Century Technology High School/Tennessee State University

**Nylan Thomas** - Buckhorn High School/University of Alabama in Huntsville

**Dwight Anthony Ware, III** - Bob Jones High School/Auburn University

- Robert Drake

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CALLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## You Can Have What You Want

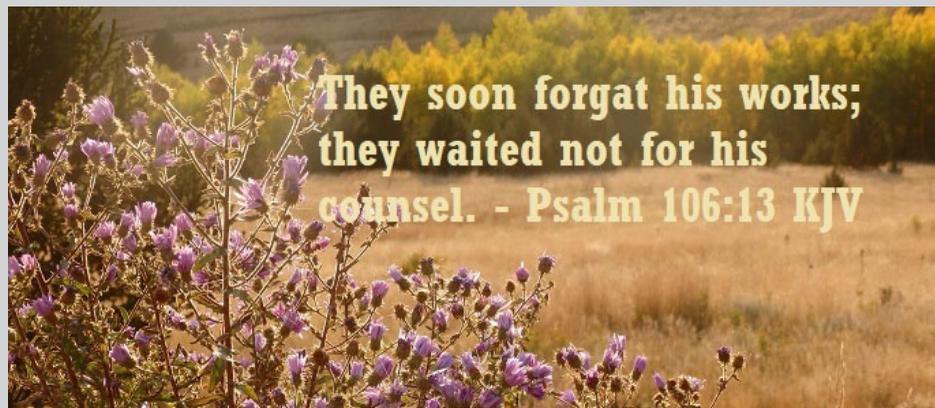
### Psalm 106:13-15

This is a favorite saying of those who claim that God is under pressure to give to those who belong to Him, everything that they want when the right kind of faith is exhibited; that usually being some predetermined amount of what is called a 'seed offering'

to the ministry of the one making the claim.

The writer of Psalm 106 would beg to differ, however. He also issued a cautionary caveat to this matter of having what you want.

In reference to Israel's time in the wilderness, the Psalmist made mention of the trait that still exists in



the hearts of God's people; that is, forgetting the previous works of God and not seeking Him on a consistent basis.

This leads to an insatiable desire and cravings for that which only temporarily satisfies and an

insistence on having what one wants. The Psalmist noted that God gave them their request, but sent leanness into their souls, or as one translation put it, but their souls starved away to nothing.

That is the part that the

health and wealth proclaimers do not tell us. The whole truth is you can have what you want, but the soul suffers.

This is not God being petty, this is God being proactive and preventive.

This is His love and wis-



dom doing what He does best, taking care of His own. Don't fall for partial proclamations.

Seek rather God's whole counsel, then the soul will prosper.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

### Thru August 19

LearningQuest  
Downtown Huntsville  
Library

### Thru September 14

Free Computer Refresher  
Course  
Huntsville Bible College  
906 Oakwood Avenue NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5-6:30 p.m.

### August 5

Alabama State Conference  
of the NAACP  
"What's at Stake" -  
Redistricting  
Bob Harrison Senior Well-  
ness and Advocacy Center  
6156 Pulaski Pike  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6 p.m.

### August 6

Oakwood Farmers Market  
5001-A Adventist Boule-  
vard  
Huntsville, Ala..

12 noon

### Uncaged Birds

Huntsville Botanical  
Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.

### August 8

Move-In Days Begin  
Alabama A&M University  
Campus Residence Halls

### August 14

Shoals Southern Soul  
Festival  
McFarland Park  
200 James M. Spain Drive  
Florence, Ala.

shoalsouthernsoulfesti-  
vals.com  
(256) 457-9663

### August 17

Faculty-Staff Conference  
Alabama A&M University  
10 a.m.

### August 19

The Village of Promise  
Presents  
"Manny Scott"  
Calvary Hill Theatre  
2800 Poplar Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.  
11 a.m.

### September 30

Kenny G  
Concert Hall  
Von Braun Center



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**AUGUST 6 - FREEWAY - Leslie Edward Pridgen aka Freeway, is an American rapper from North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is best known as a member of the rap group State Property and its 2000s run at Roc-A-Fella Records alongside Jay-Z. - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com**





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

## Deacon Robert Jackson

Robert Jackson, Jr., is the son of the late Robert and Mary Stewart Jackson. He was born and reared in Gloster, Miss., and spent all of his formative years in Amite County.

Jackson is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having spent two years in Korea and various other locations. He departed the military and relocated to New Orleans, La., where he met and married Lubirda Jackson and built a family of eight boys and one girl.

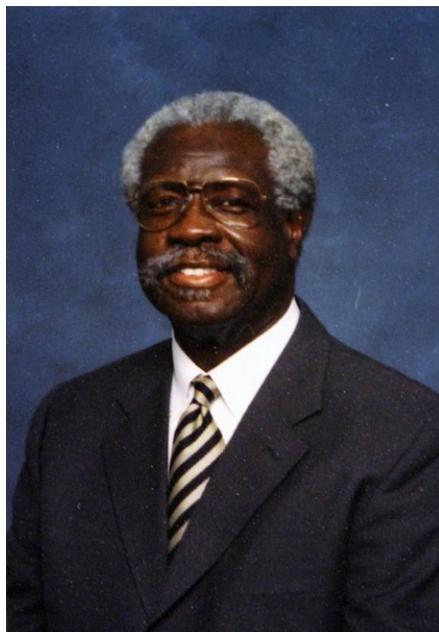
Jackson was employed as a longshoreman for over 30 years, and he served as a foreman and union representative for ILA, Local 3000.

A true entrepreneur at heart, Jackson has been the founder of several businesses, including Jackson Detective Agency, Bob's Used Cars, and Bob's Delicious Candies.

Deacon Jackson has spent his life serving as an encourager and supporter of the youth in an endeavor to make the future even brighter than the past.

In 2011, he and Lubirda relocated to The Rocket City and became residents of the city of Madison, Ala. He is a member of St. Luke Christian Church and is active in the Senior's Ministry.

His autobiography, "Please Let Me Talk," is a compilation of his life story and seeks to give insight about the other part of the story and the other side of the tracks.



Jackson also felt compelled to show the world that one could do very well, have a good life, and be successful in the process. He spent most of his life trying to show others that there are several ways to have success, other than obtaining a traditional education.

"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.rossettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rossettajamesfoundation.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).



A&M's WJAB-TV Launches

'Inside Connection'



The Inside Connection focuses on the Valley's best-kept secrets: Our Local Businesses! On the Inside Connection, WJAB-TV will go behind the scenes with local business owners to find out more about the entrepreneur, the goods/resources they provide to the community and how the community may show support. By supporting locally owned businesses, we help to build a strong economy and to build a stronger community.

WJAB-TV's Inside Connection premiered in June 2021 on our T.V. Channel Xfinity/Comcast Channel 78, [www.wjab.org](http://www.wjab.org) and on our social media pages—Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter.

Touch HERE to view our first episode of the Inside Connection featuring William Hampton, founder of Huntsville Revisited.



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- Zora Neale Hurston

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# Original 'Freedom Writer' Manny Scott to Inspire Huntsville Community

*Scott to Share Details of His Life, as Portrayed in the MTV Movie, "Freedom Writers"*

Heads up, Huntsville. Manny Scott is coming to town.

Millions of Americans first learned about Scott's rise from a gang and drug-infested neighborhood of Long Beach through the hit MTV movie "Freedom Writers" starring Hilary Swank. Manny is represented, in part, through the character of "Marcus," along with other students. Since the film's release, Scott's authentic and inspiring message of hope has galvanized almost one million educators, business leaders, and community volunteers worldwide.

"Life at its best is about helping others make the most of their lives," Scott says. "My life was changed because others took time to let me know they care, and I believe it is my duty to love and serve others in the same way, helping people turn the page in their lives from despair to hope, and from mediocrity

to excellence."

On August 19 at 11 a.m., he's coming to Huntsville for the Village of Promise Speaker Series event at the Cavalry Hill Theater, 2800 Poplar Avenue.

"Each day is a page in our life's story," Scott says. "We hide those stories, maybe live in fear of others reading them. But seeing how much detail our stories share gives us license to close that chapter with control, not fear. Then we start a new chapter—and that transforms not just lives, but organizations, departments, classrooms, and schools."

For anyone who plays a role in reaching the youth or wanting to make a difference in our community, this event is an opportunity for you. Learn more and obtain tickets at <https://www.villageofpromise.org/speaker-series>

**About Village of Promise Inc.** - Village of Promise (VoP) is a Family Advancement Center founded to address the



needs of children and families in distressed, high-poverty neighborhoods. Their mission is to advance families out of the cycle of poverty using a multi-generational approach. They provide educational programs, sustainable tools and opportunities that empower children and their families to advance out of poverty. Each Village of Promise family develops an "Individualized Family Advancement Plan" that addresses four key areas of their lives: Education, Social and Emotional Growth, Physical Health & Wellness, and Professional Development. VoP walks with them on their journey to advance out of poverty.

**Manny Scott's story was over.** He says, "When I was fourteen, I dropped out of high school. I was sitting on a park bench. Helpless, hurting, and hopeless, I was thinking about doing something that would have gotten me incarcerated or killed. The ending of my story seemed certain. But a total stranger sat down next to me and inspired me to take a path in life down which very few people travel. From that moment, I began writing a new chapter in my life. And that has made all the difference." His previous school performance landed Manny at the back of Erin Gruwell's English class—a group now known worldwide as the original Freedom Writers and portrayed in the movie

starring Hilary Swank. The former dropout now holds degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Trinity International University. He is working on his doctorate in Chicago.

His appearances have energized members of the Department of Education, the National Education Association, and hundreds

of organizations and schools worldwide. He has appeared on Nightline and The View. Scott's story captivates students, educators, and business leaders alike, leaving in his wake a sea of individuals ready to turn the page and write a new chapter themselves. Learn more at [mannyscott.com](http://mannyscott.com).

## NAAACC Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

*"Reserve your right to think, for even to think wrongly is better than not to think at all."*

- Hypatia



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