

WILLIAM H. HAMPTON: Making an Impact - p. 3**FREE****Feed Faith & Focus - p. 5**

Friday

August 14, 2026

Vol. 12, No. 50

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK**Rev. Dr. Terrell Harris***"Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated." — Confucius***Extension Staffer Receives Award for Distinguished Service**

A longtime Extension staffer has received a prestigious honor during a key conference in Denver recently.

Marcus Garner (r) was honored with the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) during the organization's 2026 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference held July 11 in Denver, Colorado.

The Distinguished Service Award is one of the association's



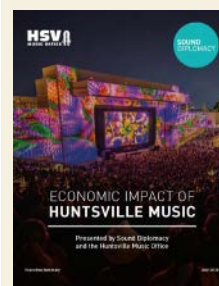
highest honors and recognizes members who have served in Extension for at least 10 years, earned the respect of their peers, and demonstrated excellence through the development and

implementation of outstanding Extension programs.

Garner was among an elite group of recipients representing the top two percent of NACAA membership nation-

wide.

A native of Aliceville, Alabama, he currently delivers home horticulture programming that benefits youth, older adults, and community organizations throughout the state. Through educational workshops, hands-on demonstrations, and community partnerships, he helps Alabamians enhance environmental stewardship, improve quality of life, and create more vibrant and sustainable communities.

**City Releases Music Audit**

The City of Huntsville announced the results of the 2026 Huntsville Music Audit conducted by global music consultancy Sound Diplomacy, revealing significant economic and cultural growth across the region's music ecosystem.

Since the initial music audit in 2018, Huntsville's music sector is now a major economic engine, supporting 3,047 jobs, representing 2.8% of all city employment, and generating \$278.2 million in total economic output. For more, click [HERE](#).

A&M Football Tickets On Sale

With just weeks until the season opener, single-game tickets for the 2026 Alabama A&M University football season are now on sale.

AAMU will play three home games in September, with



matchups against Miles (Louis Crews Classic), Tennessee State (The Legacy Series) and Bowie State (Hall of Fame Game).

The Bulldogs have back-to-back home games in October

against Bethune-Cookman and Grambling State (Homecoming), followed by the lone home contest in November versus Texas Southern.

For info: visit: <https://aamusports.com/news/2026/8/1/aamu-football-single-game-tickets-on-sale-now.aspx>

AAMU Athletic Hall of Fame Sept. 18

The induction ceremony for the 26th Anniversary of the Alabama A&M University Athletic Hall of Fame will be held Friday, September 18, 6:30 p.m. in the Knight Center.

Honorees: Ne-

dra Taylor Brown - Volleyball Coach;
Alexandria Brazelton Boyd - Volleyball;
Tania Carlton Evans - Swimming;
Lorie Reid Fuller - Swimming;
Princess Dixson-Mitchell - Volleyball;
LaDarius Tabb

- Basketball; **Ryan Shea** - Track and Field;
Terrance Vanlier - Basketball; and **Barry Wagner** - Football.

Tickets are \$75/each; Tables (\$700). Contact the AAMU ticket office at (256) 372-7255.

Alpha's Rho Eta Lambda to Host Community Day, Expo

The Rho Eta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., will host a Community Awareness Day event on Saturday, August 29, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at St. Luke Christian Church, 1800 Sparkman Drive

NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Among the activities will be a mentoring program expo connecting parents and students with various youth mentoring resources and organizations across North

Alabama, including the Madison-Decatur Alpha's (MDA) Academy. The Academy aims to empower, inspire and prepare future leaders.

Food trucks will be on-site, and the free lunch vouchers will be given to the first 100 students

who register via Eventbrite.

A special presentation will be given by Chris Blanding, director of admissions at the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering.

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

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“Doubt is an uncomfortable condition, but certainty is a ridiculous one.” — Voltaire

A NIGHT WITH JOHNNY GILL

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William H. Hampton: Preserving the Past to Inspire the Future

One of the greatest gifts we can leave future generations is not wealth or fame, but the truth of who we were. Communities flourish when someone is willing to preserve their stories, honor their ancestors, and ensure that history is remembered with accuracy, dignity, and purpose. Huntsville is blessed to have such a guardian of its history in William H. Hampton.

Legacy is often measured by buildings constructed or fortunes accumulated. Yet there is another kind of legacy—one built by preserving the lives, struggles, triumphs, and contributions of ordinary people whose extraordinary stories shaped a community. William Hampton has devoted his life to ensuring that those stories are never forgotten. A lifelong resident of Huntsville, William is a proud product of Huntsville City Schools and a 1978 graduate of Grissom High School. Together with his wife, the former Linda Tate, he has built a family that includes three children and five grandchildren. His commitment to family mirrors his commitment to community, for he understands that every family's story contributes to the larger story of Huntsville.

His community service is remarkable not because of the number of organizations he serves, but because each reflects his unwavering commitment to education, preservation, faith, and civic engagement. He serves on the Scottsboro Boys Museum Board, the Circle of Remembrance,



the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society's Historic Marker Committee, the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association as an advisor, the Huntsville Hospital Diversity Committee, the Madison Mission Seventh-day Adventist Church Elder's Board, and the America250 Huntsville Committee. He is also the founder of the Huntsville Revisited Museum, a Huntsville City Schools EarthScope volunteer, and a historical reenactor for both the Festival of Voices and the Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll.

These positions are not titles to William Hampton—they are opportunities to serve. His life's work centers on telling the stories of the everyday men and women whose contributions helped build Huntsville but whose names might otherwise disappear from the pages of history. Through engaging presentations at elementary schools, universities, churches, civic organizations, businesses, and government agencies, he transforms history into living conversations. By portraying historical figures through reenactments for organizations such as Leadership Huntsville,

LearningQuest, and Huntsville City Schools, he allows audiences to see history not as distant events confined to textbooks but as living experiences that continue to shape our community today.

Perhaps even more importantly, William creates space for others to tell their own stories. Every presentation becomes an invitation for families to share photographs, memories, documents, and traditions that enrich Huntsville's collective history. He reminds us that preserving history is not the work of one historian—it is the responsibility of an entire community. His current oral history partnership with Huntsville Revisited and StoryCorps in Washington, D.C., ensures that the voices of Huntsville's citizens will become part of our nation's historical record. That work will educate and inspire generations long after today's conversations have ended.

William's dedication has not gone unnoticed. His many honors—including the Marvin Yeomans Whiting Distinguished Archivist Award, the National Civil Rights Conference Civil Rights and Social Justice Award, the Raneé Pruitt Local History Award, the Huntsville Housing Authority Outstanding Citizen Award, Oakwood University's Community Hero Award, the Green Book Experience Cultural

Tourism Award, the Patricia Haley Charity Humanitarian of the Year Award, the Legacy of Leadership Community Service Award, and the Twickenham Town Chapter, NSDAR Media and Entertainment Award—reflect a community deeply grateful for his service. Perhaps one of the most meaningful recognitions came when Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church named its annual Conley-Hampton African American Heritage Award in honor of William Hampton and Mrs. Olley Conley, ensuring that his commitment to preserving African American history will itself become part of history.

Yet awards tell only part of the story. He serves first from a foundation of faith. As an Elder at Madison Mission Seventh-day Adventist Church and as one of the founding youth leaders of the Tennessee River Federation, he has invested decades in nurturing the spiritual development of young people across Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Northern Florida, and beyond. His ministry demonstrates that preserving history and building character are inseparable pursuits.

In an age when historical narratives are often debated, challenged, or forgotten altogether,



William Hampton reminds us that truth matters. Every marker erected, every family story recorded, every student inspired, and every forgotten citizen remembered strengthens the foundation upon which our future is built. History is more than dates and documents. It is identity. It is belonging. It is understanding where we have been so we can better decide where we are going. William H. Hampton has dedicated his life to making sure Huntsville never loses sight of either.

His legacy will not simply be measured by the awards he has received or the boards on which he serves. It will be found in every child who discovers pride in their heritage, every family whose story is preserved, every visitor who gains a deeper appreciation of Huntsville's rich and diverse history, and every generation that understands that preserving the past is one of the greatest investments we can make in the future.

That is what making an impact looks like. That is what building a legacy means.

Until next week ...

Dorothy

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



The Valley Weekly

Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

"Before You Build That Fire"

Philippians 4:8 says, "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things."

Someone once wrote that "Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns."

We are living in a time where, if we are not careful, it will become increasingly easy to see the bad things going on in our lives and harder to recognize all the good things. I realize that there is perhaps a reason for this. In the United States, there seems to be so many things that separate us. We are separated by our race, by our political stance, and by our social status. It's enough to make you lose your mind and ask, "When will it all end?" The answer is this: it doesn't end. However, there is hope. Our hope is in Jesus. Our hope is in our ability to ask Jesus to change the way we feel about the things that we cannot control. Our hope is in looking at life the

same way that Jesus looks at us, which is through the lens of love and forgiveness. That's when real change will come.

Real change only comes through the renewing of our minds. That's why the apostle Paul was right when he said, "If anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things."

For most of us, it's easier to be bitter, but much harder to be better, because being better requires more effort on our part. It's easier to be angry and stay angry than it is to love and forgive one another. Remember that being angry only leads to hate, and you can never rise above the thoughts that you have in your head unless you replace these thoughts with better ones.

My hope for all of



us is this. As we experience things that cause us to be bitter, let us view life through the lens of love and forgiveness and remember to "praise God for putting roses among thorns."

May God grant you spiritual success in seeing roses among thorns.

Question: Do you see

the glass of water as half-empty or half-full?

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 Connected"

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BUT WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER"**



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Funeral service for **MR. CHARLIE L. SMITH** (b. 1945) was Saturday, August 8, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MRS. WILLIE NELL CARODINE** (b. 1932) was Saturday, August 8, at First Missionary Baptist Church, 3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. HARVEY FOOTE IV** (b. 1973) was Saturday, August 8, at St. Rebecca P. B. Church, 330 Grimwood Road, Hazel Green, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. CLETUS O. NWALOEZIE** (b. 1956) was Thursday, August 6, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MR. GLENN BINFORD** (b. 1965) was Saturday, August 1, at Lakewood Church of Christ, 2813 Mastin Lake Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.

Celebration of Life for **MS. REBECCA JAMERSON** (b. 1940) was Wednesday, July 29, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MRS. HATTIE S. JORDAN** (b. 1925) was Saturday, July 25, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MRS. LUCILLE JORDAN** (b. 1953) was Saturday, July 25, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Pastor Phil Ford officiating.

Public viewings for **MS. MILDRED A. SCRUGGS** (b. 1942) were held Wednesday, July 22, and Thursday, July 23.

Funeral service for **MRS. MARY MCDONALD** (b. 1952) was Sunday, July 19, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, 292 Cemetery Road, New Market, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. ROBERT EARL TOWNSEND** (b. 1933) was Saturday, July 18, at St. James Primitive Baptist Church with Rev. Joe L. Hereford, eulogist, and Elder Patrick Arrington officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. REGINALD LAVELL RANDOLPH** (b. 1976) was Friday, July 17, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Lance Kelly officiating and Pastor Dr. C. Jermaine Turner as eulogist.

- Brenda Friend & Angel S. Wilson

Bravo, Tuskegee! It's Not About Dress Codes, but Institutional Culture

At first glance, the recent debate over dress codes at three private HBCUs appears to be about bonnets, do-rags, bandanas, bedroom shoes, and casual attire.

I don't believe it is. The dress code is simply the visible expression of a much deeper leadership principle.

It is about institutional culture.

Call me 'ol school, if you wish, . . .

As a proud graduate of Hampton University and a former administrator at both Hampton and Oakwood Universities, I applaud Tuskegee University for reaffirming standards of professional dress and conduct. Hampton, Dillard, and Tuskegee have long understood that education is about far more than earning a degree. It is about preparing young people for life.

Leadership does not take opinion polls to determine what is right. Leadership establishes standards that help people become who they are capable of becoming.

Hampton's Institutional Culture

During my professional working years at Hampton, hats were not worn inside campus buildings. Students knew that if I was standing at the entrance to our University 101 sessions, their caps came off before they entered.

That habit became so ingrained that I occasionally met students at the local mall who instinctively removed their hats when they saw me! We both laughed because they understood the expectation—and, more importantly, the culture behind it.

Later, while serving on Hampton's Committee on Academic Integrity, I learned another reason for that policy. Administrators had documented instances of students writing notes beneath the bills of baseball caps and using them during examinations. Rules are often established not merely to regulate behavior but to protect the integrity of the learning environment.

Private institutions possess both the freedom and the responsibility to define their own culture. Students voluntarily choose to attend these universities knowing they are joining a community with its own traditions, expectations, and values.

For decades we encouraged students with a simple reminder: *"Don't dress for the job you have. Dress for the job you want."*

Education's a marathon, not a sprint!

Our responsibility is not simply to prepare students for tomorrow's class, but for tomorrow's career, tomorrow's leadership opportunities, and tomorrow's life.

Standards, when rooted in purpose and respect, are not obstacles to success. They are among its first stepping stones.



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

Feed Faith and Focus; Fear Will Fade ...

I remember the moment I decided to leave my government job. Twenty-plus years of stability, walking away from it on purpose.

Here's what should have happened: fear. The kind that talks you out of things at 2 AM. The kind that lists everything you're about to lose.

Instead, I got a beautiful distraction. My focus locked onto God so hard, and what He was speaking over my life, that it distracted me from the fear.

I trusted that if He gave me the assignment, He'd deliver me through it — that He had the



power to take care of everything I couldn't.

That didn't mean I wasn't nervous. It meant the nervousness changed its name. It stopped being anxiety and started being excitement.

That's the part nobody tells you: fear doesn't get defeated

by fighting it. It gets starved out — distracted out. Feed faith and focus and fear will fade. It can't compete for the same space.

I didn't leave my job on courage. I left it locked into a voice louder than my nervousness.

So here's the question for you: what are you still calling fear, that's really just excitement wearing the wrong name?

Feed faith and focus and fear will fade.

God loves you; and so do I. He has given you a gift, open it.

HUNTSVILLE AREA

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

The **Citizens Advisory Committee** of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet on **Monday, August 24, 2026**, at 5:00 pm, on the 6th Floor of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building, at 305 Fountain Circle SW.

The **Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board** will meet on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**, at 4:00 pm on the 2nd Floor, (Council Chambers) of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building, at 305 Fountain Circle SW. To review items on the agenda for these meetings, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>. For more information on the MPO, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/>

The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

August 14-15

Rocket City Playwrights' Series 2026 Finalists Shenanigans Comedy Theatre
<https://www.theatrehsv.org/rcps>
 Aug 15 - 7 p.m. \$12

August 14

Fan Day
 Alabama A&M University
 Louis Crews Stadium
 4:30 p.m.

August 15

Huntsville Tea Fest
 Annabella at Cedar Glen
www.huntsvilleteafestival.vom
 Huntsville, Ala. | 2-9 p.m.

August 17

"Throw Your Rope Across the Fence"
 Career Mentoring and Networking Ministry Meeting
 First Missionary Baptist Church
 3509 Blue Spring Road NW

Huntsville, Ala. | 1-3 p.m.

August 18

Concert
 Goo Goo Dolls
 The Orion Amphitheater
 Huntsville, Ala. | 7:30 p.m.

August 19

August Coffeehouse Concert
 Jim Parker | Ricky Ray
 Lowe Mill Studio 1038
 | \$20
 6:30 p.m.

August 22

Back to School Parade
 Line-up: ASFL | 7 a.m.
 Parade: 8 a.m.

Celebrating Education: Day Parade & Festival
The festival will include a backpack giveaway, dance team performances, inflatables, vendors, games, and more!
 Mae C. Jemison High School
 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Concert

Parker McCollum
 The Orion Amphitheater
 Huntsville, Ala. | 7:30 p.m.

August 28

Concert on the Dock
 Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment \$10 Parking | 6-9 p.m.

September 4

"A Night with Johnny Gill"
 AAMU Event Center
 Alabama A&M University
 Doors Open at 6 p.m.
aamusports.com
 (256) 372-7255

Concert on the Dock
 Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment \$10 Parking | 6-9 p.m.

September 4-5

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

September 7

Labor Day

September 10

Bundle Dye Workshop
 1818 Farms
 (https://1818farms.com)
 24889 Lauderdale Street
 Mooresville, Ala.
 9:30-11:30 a.m.

September 11

Legacy Series: Hybrid Party
 "Jeans and Jerseys"
 AAMU Alumni Association
 Huntsville Marriott
 U.S. Space and Rocket Center
 2-10 p.m. \$50

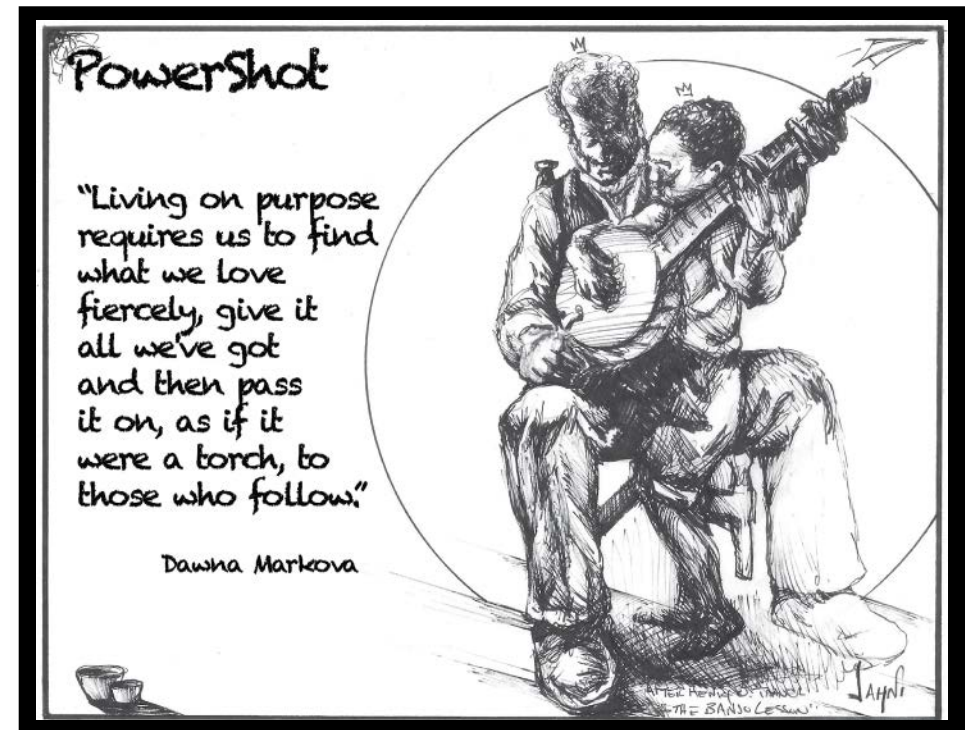
A Day of Dyeing and Eco-Printing at 1818 Farms (\$140)
 1818 Farms
 (https://1818farms.com)
 24889 Lauderdale Street
 Mooresville, Ala.
 6-8 p.m.

Concert on the Dock
 Lowe Mill Arts & Enter-

tainment \$10 Parking | 6-9 p.m.

September 12

Raven Knights: faewyld (A GOTH | DARK-WAVE | EDM Dance Party Event
 Railroad Room 7
 2211 Seminole Drive SW
 Huntsville, Ala. \$10/\$12



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AUGUST 14 - MAGIC JOHNSON - Earvin "Magic" Johnson Jr. is an American retired professional basketball player and former president of basketball operations of the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association (NBA). He played point guard for the Lakers for 13 seasons. After winning championships in high school and college, Johnson was selected first overall in the 1979 NBA draft by the Lakers. He won a championship and an NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award in his rookie season, and won four more championships with the Lakers during the 1980s. Johnson retired abruptly in 1991 after announcing that he had contracted HIV, but returned to play in the 1992 All-Star Game, winning the All-Star MVP Award. After protests from his fellow players, he retired again for four years, but returned in 1996, at age 36, to play 32 games for the Lakers before retiring for the third and final time.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org





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

Rev. Dr. Terrell Harris

Rev. Dr. Terrell Harris, Jr., is the senior pastor and founder of the True Light Church of God In Christ. He has been appointed as District Superintendent of the Huntsville, Alabama, Church of God In Christ. Pastor Harris is the oldest son born to the union of the late Mr. Terrell Harris, Sr., and the late Mrs. Unareed Burton Harris. He was blessed to be born into a family of nine children, five (5) sisters and four (4) brothers.

He is happily married to Dr. Hattie Jones Harris, and they will celebrate 60 years of marriage in December 2027. To this union three children were born: Apostle Derek Terrell Harris, Trudy Harris Moore, and Mark Christopher Harris. Rev. Dr. Harris is the very proud grandfather of four grand-children. Superintendent Harris is saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Spirit. He loves the Lord and the Lord's people.

Superintendent Harris received his Master of Divinity and doctorate degrees from the International Seminary, Orlando, Florida.

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, with emphasis in computer science from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. Since that time, he has taken graduate courses in the field of computer science at Alabama A&M University, Normal Alabama. He has also received a diploma in pastoral theology from the C.H. Mason System of Bible College, Huntsville Campus.

Dr. Harris has been a faithful worker in the Church since accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal savior. He began his walk with God by faithfully attending the Sunday School where he was later appointed as Sunday School superintendent. He was a faithful deacon, minister and ordained elder. He is currently president of the Department of Education - Huntsville District, Former Dean and teacher of the O.L. Meadows School of Ministry (OLMSOM), formally the C.H. Mason System of Bible Colleges - Huntsville Campus; superintendent of the Huntsville District; and Jurisdictional General Board Member for Alabama Jurisdiction #1. He further serves as the Pastor of the True Light Church of God In Christ,



Huntsville, Alabama, which he founded. He retired from the Computer Science Corporation (CSC) as a computer scientist on January 2, 2003, and now enjoys full-time employment for the Lord.

Dr. Harris' character is one of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. His sound and wise godly counseling brings forth deliverance to people from their everyday issues of life. His current work includes a local cable television ministry entitled, "The Blessed Hope Ministry," through which the congregation, community and city are blessed. Superintendent Harris is a great man and is an example of the Gospel that he preaches.

"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.



Woody Anderson Ford
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THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

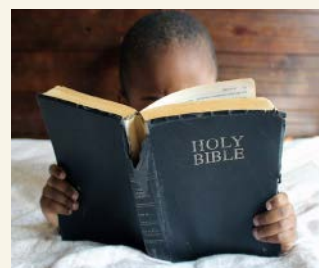
They're Not Like Tim!

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, August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Second Lesson:

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

GOSPEL:

Matthew 15:10-28

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MILLENNIAL MOMENT

ONLINE ONLY!

The Valley Weekly
A COLUMN YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!
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www.valleyweeklyllc.com

TVA STEM Award Applications Open Through September 15

STEM education empowers youth to use technology like coding, 3D printing and drones.

It also builds skills in teamwork, communication and creative problem

solving – skills learners will need no matter what field they pursue as a career.

TVA and TVA retiree organization Bicentennial Volunteers, Inc., are helping teachers across the region

provide hands-on STEM experiences through the STEM classroom award program.

Since 2018, TVA and BVI have provided nearly \$8 million in STEM awards sup-

porting more than 730,000 students. The program is operated in partnership with the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network, managed by the Battelle organization.

Awards up to \$5,000 are

available through a competitive process, with preference to applications that explore TVA's primary areas of focus: environment, energy, economic development and community problem

solving.

Any school that receives electricity from a local power company served by TVA is eligible to apply.

The program awarded \$1.5 million to 342 applicants in 2025.

TU's 'Community Closet' Ensures Students Are Dressed for Success

Tuskegee requires every student to become work-force ready before crossing the commencement stage. While academic rigor across all eight colleges and schools at the university is the centerpiece of preparing them for success, university leaders recognize the reality that business attire required for many work environments can be an additional financial hurdle for many students. The Golden Tigers

Community Closet is filling that gap.

"One of the key pillars of Tuskegee's Renaissance Era is our focus on career readiness for our students," said Dr. Mark A. Brown, president and CEO. "Academically, we are equipping our students to stand shoulder to shoulder with any candidates competing for roles in the global economy. The Golden

Tigers Community Closet is an important way to ensure that every student can also feel confidently dressed when they step into those spaces."

That includes a mandate that, as early as freshman year, every student complete at least one internship and take advantage of opportunities in the university's Career Center to connect with potential employers and events across

campus throughout the year where business attire is most suitable. Practice makes perfect and with access to these wardrobe options, students can get more familiar with the competitive edge that appropriate attire can be.

The closet is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and is located in Room 44-101 in John A. Kenney Hall. Student volunteers

staff the closet which has been in operation since 2023.

"A critical part of being ready for and confident in business environments is being appropriately dressed," said Walter P. Cooper, Sr., Director of the Career Education and Leadership Development Center. "We know that every workplace doesn't require business attire – our center

includes business casual and casual attire, too – but as our students prepare to enter those workplace scenarios that do, it is important that access to the right wardrobe is not a barrier." The Career Education Leadership Development Center initially operated the donation center as the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMC) COACH x TU Closet.



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