

*“... His enemies will listen to his music when they will  
hear nothing else.”*

- J. A. Rogers

FREE

# The Valley Weekly

Volume 2, No. 50

[www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)

Friday, August 26, 2016

## RFCU Donates \$2.5 Million for Library Construction

Redstone Federal Credit Union (RFCU) has announced a \$2.5 million donation to the Huntsville Library Foundation, the largest single donation the library system has ever received.

The funds will be used for the library's capital campaign to build and furnish three new libraries in North Huntsville, South Huntsville and Madison.

Joe Newberry, RFCU President and CEO, said the donation further strengthens the ties Redstone has had with the communities it has served over the past 65 years – and sets the tone for service over the next 65 years.

“We search out those opportunities where Redstone can be a catalyst for positive change in the community,” Newberry said. “This is definitely such a project. Libraries encourage the adoption of technology and lifelong learning. Those goals are very much in line with our credit union’s goals.”

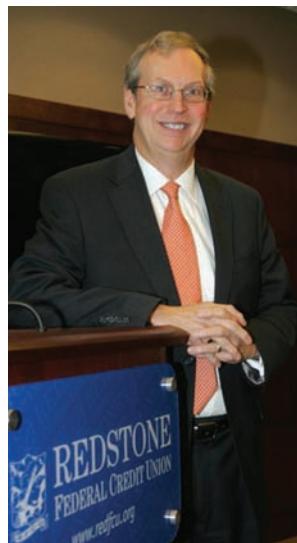
The Library is conduct-

ing a single capital campaign for all three constructions because their project timelines overlap.

“We are one library with 12 branches, and we are equally passionate about all of the communities we serve, as are our donors like Redstone Federal Credit Union,” said Laurel Best, Executive Director, Huntsville Madison County Public Library. “We are thrilled to receive such a generous donation and we look forward to bringing state-of-the-art 21st century libraries to Huntsville and Madison.”

Huntsville Library Foundation Chair Christina Tabereaux said, “With this gift, RFCU is demonstrating its dedication to making the future brighter and more successful through literacy.”

“We thank Redstone Federal Credit Union for their belief in our vision. I know that with continued community support we will achieve our campaign goal,” said Michelda Johnson, director of Marketing, Huntsville Madison



County Public Library.

For more information about how to donate to the Library's capital campaign and for more information, visit [HuntsvilleLibraryFoundation.org/capitalcampaigns](http://HuntsvilleLibraryFoundation.org/capitalcampaigns).

With more than \$4.4 billion in assets, RFCU is the largest member-owned financial institution in Alabama and Tennessee and one of the 25 largest federal credit unions in the nation by assets. Based in Huntsville, Ala., RFCU serves nearly 388,000 members.

## Huntsville Utilities Plots Path Forward

Following the announcement by Huntsville Utilities President and CEO Jay Stowe of his decision to accept a new position with the Tennessee Valley Authority, the governing boards of Huntsville Utilities met Wednesday to officially accept Stowe's resignation, effective September 30, 2016, and to plan the path forward for Huntsville Utilities.

Current Vice President of Operations Tony Owens has been appointed the Interim President and CEO effective October 1, 2016.

Electric Board Chairman Ronnie Boles, speaking for the Electric, Gas and Water boards following the meeting, said,

“We felt it was extremely important to move quickly



and decisively to ensure to the community that there is a plan and this transition will not affect ongoing projects. Tony Owens is a seasoned expert, having been with the company for over 40 years. Tony will keep Huntsville Utilities on the right path and poised for a successful future of continuing to provide foundational services to Huntsville and Madison County.”

Owens joined the Huntsville Utilities team

in 1975 and progressed through the company in various management positions, which include Chemist-Water Laboratory Manager, Chief Plant Operator, Construction Manager, Water Supply Superintendent, Water Department Manager and Water Supply Manager.

Owens was named Vice President of Operations in April 2013 by Stowe.

by Joe Gehrdes  
Director, Communications &  
Public Relations  
Huntsville Utilities



New AAMU Retirees: Alabama A&M University held a dinner ceremony to recognize those individuals who retired between October 1, 2015 and September 1, 2016. Pictured (l-r) are: Joanne McLinn, Ruby Betts, Eulasteen Abernathy, Dr. Gete Bekele, Dr. Chukudi Izeogu, Dr. Barbara A.P. Jones, Greggori Parker, AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr., Dr. Virginia Caples, Dr. Annie M. Wells, Michele Brown, Dr. Pabitra Saha, Donald Outland, Dr. Jacob Savage and James E. Thomas.

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Moe's - Village of Providence  
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Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

Regency Retirement Village  
Rocket City Barber Shop  
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Sav-A-Lot  
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St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at  
Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)  
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

The Hamm Consulting Group



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

1. The House and Senate are in recess until September 6.

2. President Obama returned to Washington from his vacation on Martha's Vineyard Sunday and travelled to Baton Rouge, La., Tuesday to tour flood-damaged areas. Last Thursday, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the immediate availability of \$2 million in Emergency Relief funds from the Federal Highway Administration to help repair roads and bridges damaged by heavy rain and flooding in Louisiana, while FEMA has deployed nearly 1,100 staff members to the Baton Rouge area.

3. Last Friday, U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan granted the conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch permission to submit interrogatories to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regarding the set-up of her email server and to depose the former Director of the State Department's Office of Information Resource Management John Bentel. Judicial Watch had wanted to depose Clinton in person (as part of its Freedom of Information Act lawsuit before Judge Sullivan that seeks records about the employment status of Huma Abedin, former Deputy Chief of Staff to Clinton), but the judge allowed only written questions. The questions must be served on Clinton by October 14 and she will

have 30 days to respond.

4. Last week, Aetna announced that it would be dropping around 80% of its health insurance policies in 11 states offered through the Obamacare public health exchanges after sustaining large losses. This makes Aetna the third of the "big five" insurance firms (which include Humana, United Health Care, Cigna, and Anthem) to announce a serious cut to their Obamacare business. Some newspapers have reported that Aetna did this because the Department of Justice blocked its merger with Humana.

5. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) is urging the Education Department to coordinate its sexual violence data collection efforts with other federal agencies, after a GAO report found lack of cooperation creates an unclear picture of sexual violence and related criminality in the U.S. The Education Department balked at the recommendations last week, arguing each agency should pursue and record data according to its needs.

6. On August 25, the National Park Service celebrated its 100th birthday. In honor of the centennial, all National Parks offered free admission on August 25-28.

7. 2016 Presidential Watch. Donald Trump held rallies in Akron, Ohio, Austin, Tex., Jackson, Miss., and Las Vegas, Nev. Hillary Clinton attended an event in Reno, Nev., Thursday. The upcoming presidential debate schedule is as follows with all set for 9-10:30 p.m. EDT:

- Sept. 26 at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY
- Oct. 9 at Washington University in St. Louis, MO
- Oct. 19 at University of Nevada-Las Vegas, NV

The vice presidential debate is set for Oct. 4 at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia.

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**City Council Meetings**



Huntsville City Council Meetings City Council regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

City Council work sessions also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

*"Life is to be lived,  
not controlled,  
and humanity is  
won by continuing  
to play in face of  
certain defeat."*

~ Ralph Ellison

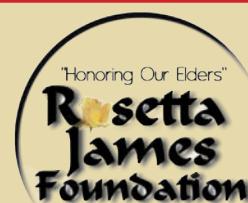
## Huntsville Spiritual Chorale Performs at Library

The Huntsville Spiritual Chorale performed at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, Tuesday, August 16 at 6:00 pm. The Chorale has been under the direction of Brenda and William Davis since it was founded in 2001 for the performance and preservation of the Negro Spiritual.

Some of the Spirituals performed were: "I Heard de Preachin' of de Elders" and, "You Won't Find A Friend" arranged by Roland M. Carter; "Where



**On This Day - Friday, August 26 - Singer /Songwriter VALERIE SIMPSON ASHFORD and her late husband Nick Ashford were a successful songwriting team who penned "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "Reach Out and Touch" and more. - BlackinTime.info**



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*Ah ... To Be Educated!*

When I started first grade at Rosenwald Elementary School in Monroeville, Ala., at the age of 5, I developed fond and interesting memories of the school and Mrs. Morissette. I was a year too young for first grade and Mrs. Morissette asked me for my birth certificate when we turned our "papers" in each morning. I didn't have it because I was born by a mid-wife and my mother would not give it to me. She had to go to work cleaning houses and cooking over town--with the residual chore of helping to raise other folks' children.



So, she sent me to school and told me that I was six years old. No clue about the significance of the school or what led to its name, I was sent each morning because I was able to work my late sister's (Vanessa's) homework who was two years older than me. Shoot, my mom figured if I could do Vanessa's homework, I could go on to first grade. She was wise and right--as usual.

The chatter and buzz about Burritt on the Mountain's plan to build a replica of a Rosenwald School ended last Thursday with a ground-breaking ceremony. Thanks to the Mayor, each member of the City Council, many, many supporting donors--especially Elder Dorothy Davidson of Davidson's Technologies--the schoolhouse will be built, and local elementary children will be the beneficiaries of this wonderful gift. What I have learned over the past six years about Julius Rosenwald and 'Booker T' was not taught in Alabama history. If so, I missed it or forgot it. It was my volunteer service to Burritt on the Mountain that exposed me to the wonderful friendship between Mr. Rosenwald and Dr. Washington that led to the building of thousands of schools for black children, mostly in the south. I have attended a few universities and have a few degrees, but somewhere, somehow, I missed this part of my own history. (See story on page 5)

I am blessed to be a part of this schoolhouse project. Enjoy the scenes from the ribbon cutting ceremony. Until next week ...

*Dorothy*



# Making America Great Again

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is an excerpt from Mercieca's longer version.

When the time arrives for national elections in the United States, most of the candidates campaign on the slogan: Making America Great Again. However, not one political figure brings into the open the real source of the nation's great problem. Many of those running for an office tend to defend the way things have been going.

**U.S. Constitution Needs Revision.** Up to now, the United States Constitution was never revised, far less updated, since it was composed some 300 years ago when things were entirely different from those of our times. There is one thing for sure: if the U.S. Constitution had to be written today, such a document the way we have it, would never have been produced. We may pick up some examples for the purpose of crystal clarity.

When the U.S. Constitution was drafted, there were no cars, busses, telephones, and airplanes. Hence, when people travelled out of town, they had to assume the responsibility of being their own policemen, their very own protectors from any abuse they may encounter. Hence, it seemed very appropriate to jot down in this

U.S. document the phrase, "The right to bear arms." ... Needless to say, several of those who are determined to get what they want through violent means, do not encounter any difficulty in securing not only guns but also all kinds of devastating arms. When some good member of Congress shows that times have changed and that this "right" to bear arms needs to be dealt with, those with special interest in weapons as business try to raise a pandemonium.

**Violence Breeds Violence.** ... Since the United States is perhaps the only nation in the world that advocates the "right" for all people to bear arms, it explains why every year there are more people in the USA that are killed by the gun than any other nation, including China and Russia. We all know that violence breeds violence and more violence breeds more violence ...

Theoretically, all the American nation needs is to get rid of guns and all sorts of lethal ammunitions. This would be feasible if we were to have a strong government. The real problem lies here. Many of those in the government have been financed by big industries, including the weapons industry, which

views the manufacture and sales of guns and weapons as their real and primary source of good income ... From studies made over the past decades, the best solution to this abusive gun problem lies in getting straight to its source. The US Constitution is literally outdated and it needs to be fully revised and re-written.

**Importance of National Security.** As stated by many writers, the "right to bear arms" needs to be abolished. If we were in an auditorium of 3,000 people watching a performance, would all of us be safer if no one would be carrying a gun or if each one of us would be carrying a loaded gun? This is merely common sense. However, as some philosophers stated in the past, "common sense is very uncommon and it is rare to find."

During the process of human development, we need to develop a deep sense of adaptability. Things that are felt to be required at a certain stage of life, may not be needed at another segment of our life process. One of the leading mistakes we notice in those who are especially in a position of influence may be termed as "abuse of power" which is essentially criminal.

It is criminal because it is, at the same time, very deceitful. In theory it tries to demonstrate a list of possible benefits. But in practice it always evolves in creating surmountable problems,

thus making each one of us less and less safe. The United States is perhaps the only nation in the world that allows to have all people carry guns and deadly ammu-

tions under the aspect of "freedom."

by Charles Mercieca, Ph.D.  
International Association of  
Educators for World Peace;  
Professor Emeritus,  
Alabama A&M University

## Champion Game Plan for Life

Today, we live in a society of extreme technology. People are constantly on their cell phones talking, texting, playing games, never looking up to acknowledge other people. Not only are we addicted to our cell phones, but it seems that we have to be entertained at all times. It seems that we live in a society that is afraid of being bored. But we have

to realize and understand that this is another trick from the enemy to keep us distracted from being in fellowship God and with other people. You see, the more we stay isolated and alone from people, the less accountable we have to be for our actions. On the other hand, the more we connect with God,



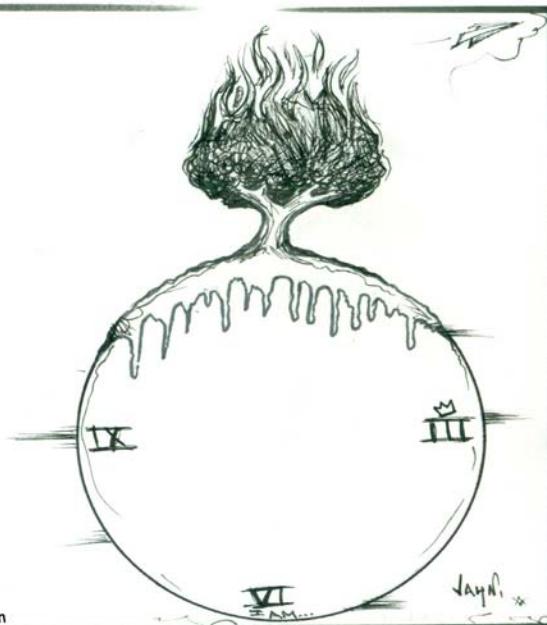
that He deserves. We always need to seek balance in our lives ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

by Preston Brown

### PowerShot

Have you had your mountaintop experience...?  
ref: Exodus 3:1-14

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# Historic Schoolhouse Named for Local Philanthropist

*"A door to a new world can be found through the door of a schoolhouse."*

- Dorothy S. Davidson

Burritt on the Mountain has recently held a groundbreaking celebration of a replica Rosenwald Schoolhouse. At the celebration the name of the building was announced as the Dorothy Davidson Rosenwald Schoolhouse. This community schoolhouse will be a replica of some of the many thousands of structures built in the early 1900s for the education of African American students in the Jim Crow South.

Over 5,000 schools, teacher's housing and other educational buildings were built through a collaborative effort between Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish philanthropist, Booker T. Washington and local black and white communities.

If it weren't for the Rosenwald Foundation, many students throughout the South would not have received an education, learned useful trades and skills or had an opportunity to leave the fields.

Burritt on the Moun-



tain's Dorothy Davidson Rosenwald Schoolhouse will be open to the public when not in use for an educational program designed for local fourth-grade students.

Though the importance of the Rosenwald schools has recently been recognized, for many it has been too late. Most of these schools have been demolished. This makes the Dorothy Davidson Rosenwald Schoolhouse even more essential. Burritt will use the school to promote this little known yet significant part of the African American story and will feature the school during this state's Bicentennial in 2019.

The school will include two classrooms, a teacher's room, an industrial room, and a permanent exhibit highlighting the story of

the Rosenwald schools.

The exhibit will touch on the friendship between Rosenwald and Washington and the creation of this program that affected generations of African American families.

The educational program designed for local fourth grade students will be a day of immersion in the life of a student of the early 1900s. The students will use the Historic Park, the Burritt Barnyard and enjoy an entire day of learning structured by the Burritt education department in association with the fourth grade teachers. This program has earned the support of all three local school systems.

The Dorothy Davidson Rosenwald Schoolhouse is scheduled to be finished in the summer of 2017 with classes beginning in the fall.

For more information about the fourth grade programs, call Tammy Cooney at (256) 512-0145. To book a Rosenwald presentation for a local community group or to donate, call Caroline Buncick at (256) 512-5570.

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## N. Ala. NSBE Chapter to Host Health Fair

The North Alabama chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers will host its 2nd STEM Power 5K Run on the campus of Alabama A&M University on Saturday, September 10, beginning at 8 a.m.

The race will start at the AAMU Old Gym. Proceeds will support local students within the Huntsville/Madison area to receive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) scholarships through NSBE Scholarship Programs.

These scholarships include a week-long experience at Space Camp, scholarships for High School Seniors entering college with a STEM discipline and the Annual Summer Robotics Camp. The North Alabama NSBE Professionals organization also supports the NSBE Collegiate Chapters at AAMU, UAH and Oakwood.

High School/College Students can register for \$10; Adults, \$25. Register online at [www.nsbe-northalabamaae.com](http://www.nsbe-northalabamaae.com). Contact: Pam McDonald, (256) 651-8553.



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**30 YEARS!** Victoria Richardson (left) became a member of Alabama A&M University's Service Is Sovereignty Society in recognition of her 30 years of service to AAMU. She is congratulated by Dr. Curtis Martin, dean of the College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences.

# Valley Deaths

- Funeral service for **Mrs. Evie Louise Draper Warner** will be announced later.

- Funeral service will be held Sunday, August 28, at Nelms Memorial for **Mr. James Ragland, Jr.**

- Funeral service was held Monday, August 22, for **Ms. Gisela Derrick** (b. 1960) at St. Luke Christian Church.

- Funeral service was held Monday, August 22, for **Mrs. Warrine W. Collier** at Liberty Primitive Baptist Church in Gurley, Ala.

- Funeral service for **Mrs. Patrice Harper** (b. 1970) was held Sunday, August 21, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

- Memorial service for **Mr. John B. Manley** was held Sunday, August 21, by the Space City Tennis Club.

- Funeral service for **Mr. Willie J. Higgins** (b. 1935) was held Thursday, August 18 at Nelms Memorial.

## Woody Anderson Ford Hosts Alabama A&M University Community Day

Friday, August 19, 2016



**TEAM USA Blows Outs Nearest Competitor by 51 Medals in RIO**

Place	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	U.S.	46	37	38	121
2	China	26	18	26	70
3	Great Britain	27	23	17	67
4	Russia	19	18	19	56
5	Germany	17	10	15	42
6	France	10	18	14	42

Source: NBC Olympics

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC CITY OF HUNTSVILLE

The City of Huntsville's Community Development Department has completed its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for FY15. A Draft Copy of this report may be reviewed by the public on line at [www.huntsvilleal.gov/comdev/](http://www.huntsvilleal.gov/comdev/), and at the Community Development Department Office located in the Yarbrough Office Center, 120 E. Holmes Avenue, and the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, located at 915 Monroe Street. Written comments concerning this document should be received in the office no later than 3:00 p.m. on September 9, 2016. Mail your comments to: Turkessa C. Lacey - Community Development Department, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, Alabama 35804. For further information call 256-427-5400.

## AVISO A LA CIUDAD PÚBLICA DE HUNTSVILLE

La ciudad del departamento del desarrollo de la comunidad de Huntsville ha terminado su informe anual consolidado del funcionamiento y de la evaluación (ALCAPARRA) para FY15. Un copy de bosquejo de este informe se puede repasar por el público en línea en [www.huntsvilleal.gov/comdev/](http://www.huntsvilleal.gov/comdev/) y en la oficina del departamento del desarrollo de la comunidad situada en el centro de la oficina de Yarbrough, 120 E. Avenida de Holmes, y la biblioteca pública del condado de Huntsville-Madison, situada en la calle de 915 Monroe. Los comentarios escritos referentes a este documento se deben recibir en la oficina no más adelante que 3:00 P.M. Septiembre 9 2016. Envíe sus comentarios: Turkessa C. De encaje - departamento del desarrollo de la comunidad, P.O. Caja 308, Huntsville, Alabama 35804. Para la llamada adicional 256-427-5400 de la información.

## Rebuilding After the Storm

Prayers go up to those affected by the floods in Louisiana. Anytime there is a natural disaster, I immediately start praying for the people affected by the storm. My experience in Tuscaloosa during the tragic 2011 tornados, has me very weary of bad weather because I know how dangerous it can be.

I recall having tornado drills in school as a kid, and not realizing until I was in college the importance of those drills. It is great that we do drills and discuss safety measures; however, we can never really know what to expect in those situations. Naturally, disasters and other acts of God are uncontrollable and the outcome is unpredictable. I am thank-



ful for those who dedicate their lives to forecasting the weather to keep us informed of what to expect so that we can prepare for the possibility. When these unfortunate events occur, it requires us to unite and lend helping hands to those affected by the disaster. It can even require that we have to rebuild areas due to the damage.

Whenever a disaster strikes, it's our duty as citizens to step in and help those who might have lost people, houses, businesses, and valuables. Many times,

people are left without, and it's our job to step in and offer goods, services, resources, and kindness in order to help them through the storm. In this life, we have many jobs outside of our businesses and organizations: if you are a parent, that's your job; if you are in the choir, a deacon, or hold a position at your place of worship, that is your job; and if you do things around your community, that is your job. Volunteer jobs require input, time and energy, which is one of our most precious gifts. Please continue to uplift the people in Louisiana in your prayers. Be sure to do something helpful for this community affected by the flood.

All the Best,  
Amoi Savage



**PROUD KAPPA!** James D. Foster (center) poses with daughters Diedre and Chris at the annual Taste of Kappa event, which drew hundreds to the Huntsville Museum of Art to support the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity (Huntsville Alumni Chapter) event. Foster is also a Rosetta James Foundation elder.

## Calendar of Events

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>August 28</b><br>Valley Conservatory Jam Session, 5-8 p.m.  | Orchestra<br>"Faure Requiem"<br>Mark C. Smith Concert Hall<br>Von Braun Center   |
| <b>September 6</b><br>Fall Diversity Leadership Colloquium Begins  | <b>September 25</b><br>Valley Conservatory Jam Session, 5-8 p.m.   |
| <b>September 10</b><br>North Alabama Health and Wellness Fair  | <b>September 30</b><br>Miss Alabama A&M University Coronation<br>Elmore Building<br>6 p.m.                               |
| <b>September 11-December 11</b><br>Exhibition<br>"Contemporary Art & Superhero Action"<br>Huntsville Museum of Art   | <b>October 3-5</b><br>Association of the United States Army<br>Annual Meeting & Exposition<br>Huntsville, AL<br>AUSA.org |
| <b>September 16</b><br>Food Truck Street Festival<br><i>Sponsor:</i> Jerry Damson Honda Acura<br>Downtown Huntsville<br>The Luminary Parking Lot<br>108 Cleveland Avenue<br>5-9 p.m. | <b>October 8</b><br>Alabama A&M University Homecoming Day  |
|  | <b>October 23</b><br>Valley Conservatory Jam Session, 5-8 p.m.<br>Huntsville Symphony                                    |

**Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2016 Season**

Sept 3 @ Middle Tennessee - Murfreesboro, TN  
 Sept 10 @ Mississippi Valley State - Itta Bena, MS  
**Sept 17 vs. PRAIRIE VIEW (Louis Crews Classic)**  
**Sept 24 vs. SOUTHERN**

Oct 1 @ Texas Southern - Houston, TX  
**Oct 8 vs. ALCORN STATE (Homecoming)**  
 Oct 15 @ Arkansas Pine Bluff - Pine Bluff, AR  
 Oct 29 vs. Alabama State (Magic City Classic)

**Nov 5 vs. GRAMBLING**  
 Nov 12 @ Jackson State - Jackson, MS  
 Nov 19 @ Auburn - Auburn, AL

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