

# TIM ALLSTON: 2024 Voter Suppression 2.0 - p. 5 **FREE**



## Legacies Being Made - p. 3

Friday  
September 6, 2024  
Vol. 11, No. 1  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

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



Mrs. Linda Spalla



*"Ours is the truest dignity, the dignity of the undefeated." - Ethel Waters*



**PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP:** *The "incredible" partnership between Drake State and the Toyota/Lexus Minority Owners Dealer Association (TLMODA) has resulted in the generous donation by the latter in the amount of \$150,000 to the Drake State Foundation. This significant contribution will have a lasting impact, empowering countless students to further their education and achieve their dreams, according to Drake State's President Patricia Sims (2nd, r), who extended deepest gratitude to the late Ms. Ellенаe L. Hart Henry-Fairhurst and TLMODA for believing in Drake's mission.*

### LearningQuest Presents "Music in the Movies"

Several public programs are offered free of charge by LearningQUEST throughout September as its gift to the community.

"Music in the Movies" will take place in the Downtown Library Auditorium on Tuesdays, September 10, 17 and 24, from 2-3:30 p.m.

With 72 songs from 72 different movies, including 20 Academy Award winners and a long, long list of Billboard No. 1's, the afternoons will be filled with memorable music from the Silver Screen's most unforgettable movies.

With hundreds of thousands of songs to choose from—songs from "American Graffiti" to "Zorba the Greek"—the dilemma was which to play and what to omit! What's a poor DJ supposed to do? Come and find out. Open to the public - No registration or fees.

### Nonprofit Leader Among RFCU's 'Community Champions'

Minister Leo Robinson was recently named one of Redstone Federal Credit Union's (RFCU) Community Champions.

Community Champions are unsung heroes among us who selflessly contribute to the well-being and improvement of the community.

By recognizing their acts of kindness, RFCU aims to inspire others and foster a culture of

caring and community spirit.

Minister Robinson is the president/founder of Second Chance Deliverance & Restoration Ministries, Inc., a local nonprofit organization dedicated to outreach ministry and improving the



lives of individuals suffering from addiction, poverty and homelessness.

### Huntsville Transit Center Opens

Arriving at 521 Pratt Avenue by Orbit bus, Huntsville City leaders cut the ribbon on a new downtown Transit Center.

The facility's 14 bus bays ensure capacity for the fleet and plenty of space for riders to board and disembark. The bays are 45 feet in length, allowing bus arrivals and departures in a more convenient setting.

The ADA-accessible center includes more room for wheelchair customers to maneuver and audio announcements of departures in addition to large platform display monitors.

Another feature is a greenway made possible through the unique architectural design developed by Fuqua & Partners



Architects that will funnel rainwater to irrigate the landscaped area. A spacious 3,880-square-foot lobby building includes a ticket counter and comfortable waiting area.

### DSCTC Launching 'Skills for Success'

Drake State Community and Technical College is launching a pilot Skills for Success - Flooring Installation Technician course. This program, the first of its kind in the region, is offered at no cost to participants. The curriculum is designed to prepare course graduates for successful careers in flooring installation, meeting rising demands for flooring technicians in the area. For more information, contact Ira Jones, workforce development director, at (256) 303-0012.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

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Valley Weekly

# Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the top issues and events in Washington for this week:

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in recess until Monday, Sept. 9. According to Punchbowl News, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) is planning next week to introduce a bill combining a continuing resolution to keep the government open through March 2025 with legislation – known as the “SAVE Act” – to require proof of citizenship to register to vote in a federal election.

**2. THE WHITE HOUSE.** President Biden and Vice President Harris teamed up for a Labor Day campaign event yesterday in Pittsburgh (after VP Harris had a stop in Detroit earlier in the day). The President will travel to Wisconsin on Thursday and Michigan on Friday. Vice President Harris will be in New Hampshire on Wednesday and then travel to Pittsburgh on Thursday. One week from today on Sept. 10, the Harris-Trump debate will take place at the National Constitution Center

in Philadelphia, hosted by ABC News at 9:00 p.m. EDT. Yesterday, the President and Vice President met with the U.S. hostage negotiating team regarding the remaining hostages held by Hamas in Gaza.

**3. SUPREME COURT.** The Supreme Court is adjourned and will reconvene on Monday, Oct. 7. Last Wednesday, the Court declined to allow the Department of Education to put into effect a July 2023 rule, known as the SAVE Plan, intended to provide debt relief for lower-income student loan borrowers while challenges to the rule continue in the lower courts (note: the July 2023 rule was promulgated after the Supreme Court quashed an effort by the Biden Administration to cancel up to \$400 billion in student loans in the

decision Biden v. Nebraska).

**4. ECONOMIC NEWS.** Last Thursday, Commerce Department unexpectedly revised upward its 2nd quarter gross domestic product figure from 2.8% to 3.0%, fueled by strong consumer spending and business investment – marking a sharp acceleration from the 1Q’s 1.4% growth rate. On Friday, the Commerce Department announced that prices rose just 0.2% from June to July, up slightly from the previous month’s 0.1% increase – but not enough to drive up the annual rate, which is unchanged at 2.5%. The Federal Reserve is widely expected to lower interest rates starting at its next Federal Open Market Committee meeting on Sept. 17-18 and, by year’s end, futures markets expect the Fed to cut its key short-term rate three times by a total of as

much as a percentage point.

**5. POLLS.** As of Sept. 2, the FiveThirtyEight site’s average of national president election polls shows Vice President Harris leading former President Trump by 3.2 points, with Harris at 47.1% and Trump at 43.8%. On the congressional generic ballot average, using polls in which respondents are asked what party they would support in election, Democrats lead Republicans by 2.3 points, 46.9% to 44.6%. To see the full analysis, click here: [fivethirtyeight](https://fivethirtyeight.com/polls/congressional-generic-ballot/).

**6. EDUCATION.** On August 27, the U.S. Education Department (ED) announced more details of its plan to test the 2025-26 FAFSA process with a select group of organizations and students beginning October 1 and then gradually open it to all by

December 1. ED says it will work with community-based organizations (CBOs), high schools, institutions of higher education, states and limited groups of students and contributors to fill out and submit the form. With each beta test, ED will increase the number of participating students and contributors, starting first with hundreds, then growing to tens of thousands by the final beta test. To start, the department is accepting applications from interested CBOs until September 5. Additional information is available at <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2024-08-27/availability-2025-26-fafsa-beta-1-interest-form>.

Hamm Consulting Group  
300 New Jersey Ave, NW Ste. 900  
Washington D.C. 20001  
T: 202-596-8384

**DEVYN KEITH**

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SEP 24

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- ★ Over \$50 Million in Quality of Life investments
- ★ Lowest crime rates in District 1 history
- ★ New Food City Grocery Store
- ★ Property values up over 15%

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Devyn Keith | P.O. Box 3577 Huntsville, AL 35810

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## Legacies Being Made ... Right Before Our Eyes!

*It was a momentous occasion to witness Kamala Harris become the first woman of color to accept a major party nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. But what's even more significant is the legacy-making happening right before our eyes ...*



As the ancient words of Isaiah 11:6 remind us, “. . . and a little child shall lead them.” This sentiment was vividly brought to life in a photograph by New York Times photojournalist Todd Heisler. The image, which quickly went viral, captured the eight-year-old, pig-tailed grandniece of Kamala Harris, Amara Ajagu, looking on as her great-aunt broke through yet another glass ceiling. This moment encapsulates the profound impact Harris' nomination could have on young girls everywhere.

Leadership expert and author Dr. John C. Maxwell makes a crucial distinction between inheritance—“what you leave for your family after you're gone”—and legacy—“what you put in your family while you're still alive!”

Kamala Harris's legacy of leadership was evident even before she delivered her acceptance speech. In a memorable moment at the DNC, Amara and her six-year-old sister Leela taught the audience how to pronounce their great-aunt's first name: “Comma,” like the punctuation mark, then “La,” like the sing-song “la, la, la.” These young girls, with their playful yet powerful instruction, exemplify the ripple effect of Harris' legacy and why names are important in any civilized society. Moreover, it is never good to intentionally mispronounce anyone's name. Our parents gave us our names and that contributes to each of our legacies.

This moment prompts us to ponder: Is Kamala Harris a queen, a queenmaker—or both? Hindu statesman and philosopher Chanakya once posed the question, “Who is more powerful: a king or a kingmaker?” He concluded, “Anyone can become a king; a king eventually will lose his position over time. Whereas a kingmaker can make many kings.” Kamala Harris, as captured in Heisler's photo, might well embody both roles—queen and queenmaker. The upper portion of the image shows Harris, poised and powerful, accepting her party's presidential nomination. The lower part reveals an eight-year-old girl, gazing up at her great-aunt, perhaps seeing both a current role model who looks like her and a future leader she herself could become.

What images are you following? More importantly, what role model are you setting? Until next time ...

Image: DALL-E/Saintjones



## Promise of New Beginnings: David Dixon and Rhoda Abernathy Barley

by Brenda Barley Chunn

How wonderful are new beginnings; having come to experience fall as this very special time of year. It is a time when school bells usher in the beginning of a new school year, filled with the highest expectations. Personally, I had the privilege of experiencing this newness for over sixty years as either student or staff.

Labor Day calls us to rest and get ready for new challenges to come. Crops yield their best for farmers so they can either sell or put away for future needs. Churches prepare to celebrate the Lord's bounty by giving thanks for it. As a child growing up in



Huntsville and attending Lakeside United Methodist Church, our annual fall celebration, was “Bringing in the Sheaves.” What joy it was as children of the community to acknowledge new beginnings in Christ and/or crops. Many marriages took place, although not requiring a particular time of year, and families were

established.

One of those marriages in 1901 in Madison County was that of David Dixon Barley and Rhoda Abernathy Barley. They were my grandparents. I am fascinated by what getting to know one another, sharing their dreams and promises and ultimately exchanging commitment vows to one

another might have been like. Their marriage, like so many of that time, had many challenges to overcome, but they took the opportunity, the promise of new beginnings, to form a committed marriage union and start their life together. This was their own new beginning; a new season of location, of farm ownership, of parenting and being a foundational blessing for generations of their family and community.

The David Dixon and Rhoda Abernathy Barley family owned a large, three hundred and forty-five acre commercial farm in Pond Beat, Ala. (the land that is


now known as Redstone Arsenal). They birthed and raised a family of sixteen (with one set of twins) children, ten girls and six boys, and they were early and active members in the Center Grove, Pond Beat United Methodist Church and The Rosenwald Horton School.

Any one of their accomplishments would be noteworthy but, taken together, theirs is a compelling Huntsville family story of the past, present and even into the future. Soon the family is to be 125 years old; it is fitting to look at what we produced then and now.

*Dorothy*

# Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly  
PRESTON BROWN'S



## Game Plan for Today: "A Heart That Pleases God"

Genesis 4:3-5 says, "In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel brought an offering, fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering. But on Cain and his offering, he did not look with favor."

When I played professional football, we were judged by our talents, our strength, our size, and our speed. But God doesn't look at us that way. God looks at our hearts, and He looks at our desire to please Him.

As we see here in this scripture, Abel had a greater desire to please God than Cain did. By offering a better offering.

You see, Abel had a spirit of excellence, when it came to presenting to God his offering. So often we can fall into the rut of not putting our whole heart into whatever we are doing. Whether it be our jobs, our relationships, or even when we are doing chores around the place where we live. Just remember, whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for man (Colossians 3:23).

So my question is this, do we only desire God to answer prayers for our lives, or do we desire to please Him? So often we want God to answer our prayers, but we don't honor our commitments that we make to God.

For example, we may say that we are going to study the word more or pray more or give more, but we never follow through

with these promises. So I pray that God gives each and every one of us a more dedicated heart as well as a spirit of excellence so that we can be more obedient and committed to what He wants us to do.

*Prayer:* Merciful God, give us a clean heart so that we can better serve you.

*Question:* Do you feel that you have a desire to please God? If so, what are you doing on a daily basis to accomplish this?

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:**  
"No Regrets"

*"This is our country. We don't have to slip around like peons or thieves in the middle of the night, asking someone open sesame. Knock the damn door down!" - Harold Washington*

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Funeral services are incomplete and will be announced later for **MR. TOMMY LASTER** (b. 1959) and **MRS. TOMMY BLACKBURN** (b. 1947).

Funeral service and memorial viewing for **MR. WILLIE MCCONNICO** (b. 1947) was held Saturday, August 31, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MS. GWENDOLYN NEAL** (b. 1955) was Saturday, August 31, at Highland Memorial Gardens, 3360 N. Highland Avenue, Jackson, Tenn.

Funeral service for **MR. ERICK GREENE** (b. 1972) was Friday, August 30, at Serenity Funeral Home.

## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189  
[www.nelmsmemorial.net](http://www.nelmsmemorial.net)

Funeral service for **MS. LATOYA BROOKS** (b. 1982) and **MS. GLENDA FAYE BROWN** (b. 1952) will be announced later.

Celebration of Life Tribute service for **MRS. MARGARET B. JACKSON** (b. 1949) was held on Saturday, August 31, from Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 3406 Meridian Street North, Huntsville, Ala., with Reverend Danny Jefferson officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. SABRINA K. GREEN** (b. 1968) was Saturday, August 31, at Syler Tabernacle in Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MS. NADINE FARRIS** (b. 1946) was Saturday, August 31, at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with Reverend Dr. Oscar Montgomery officiating.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481  
[www.royalfh.com](http://www.royalfh.com)

Funeral service for **MR. BILLY GENE HAMMONDS** (b. 1952) will be 11 a.m., Saturday, September 7, at the Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, 2403 Oakwood Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Elder Debra McGlathery-Holden eulogist.

Graveside service for **MS. BEVERLY KATHLEEN HUMPHREY** (b. 1952) was Sunday, September 1, at the Brandontown Cemetery, 1700 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Dion Watkins officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. PRINCE CHERRY PATTON, SR.** (b. 1946) was Saturday, August 31, at the Saint Mark Baptist Church, 6475 Moores Mill Road, Huntsville, Ala.



## 2024 Voter Suppression 2.0 - and the "Cookie Jar"!

*"There are way too many of the Israelites for us to handle. We've got to do something: Let's devise a plan to contain them ..."* - Exodus 1:7,8

Ancient Egypt's pharaoh devised enslavement intended to suppress the growing Israelite population.

The plan failed and led ultimately to the Israelites' explosive growth and subsequent liberation.

Just as Egyptian overlords failed to suppress Israelite growth, current Republican-controlled state legislatures will fail to suppress but will actually grow voter turnout, . . .

... According to American sociologist Robert K. Merton . . . and your and my childhood's cookie jar.

### The Law of Unintended Consequences

Merton popularized the "law of unintended consequences": outcomes of purposeful actions that are not intended or foreseen do often happen. For example:

- The Egyptian Empire's attempt to suppress the Children of Israel's population with 400 years of enslavement actually increased the latter's numbers; the hardship forced the enslaved closer together;
- Angered by increased young people's and people of color's voting in the 2020 presidential elections, many state legislatures are still seeking unsuccessfully to "enslave" this growth by suppressing their voting rights; and
- The Supreme Court's June 2022 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* and women's control over their own reproductive rights resulted in women's unprecedented voter registrations aimed successfully at that November's midterm elections. This November's presidential and state-wide balloting should mirror such.

Perhaps those legislators forgot about their own childhood experiences with the family's cookie jar.

### Re-visiting the Alluring Cookie Jar

Many of us remember our parents' orders: "Help yourself to anything in the kitchen, but don't go in the cookie jar." Subsequently, our focus became the cookie jar.

Why? Because just being told that there was something that we could not have only increased our interest and desire for it.

### Remembering 2012 ...

In 2012, three north Huntsville (AL) voting precincts were compressed (translation: suppressed) into one. Many of us viewed this as a red-state attempt to discourage our presidential re-election votes. It didn't work.

Although polls closed officially at 7 p.m., the now-longer voting line resulted in the last registrant voting at 9 p.m.

We were not going to be suppressed - or denied our cookie jar of voting!

Why these GOP-filled legislatures don't remember their cookie jar experiences baffles me. Still.

Philippians 4:8 advises, "If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things."



Tim Allston  
Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time  
Amazon Best-Selling Author  
"Leading from the Middle"  
www.timallston.com - (256) 212-0949

# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## Silence over Reaction ...

*Whoa Mercy.*

There are times when wrath, come backs, dismissals, and the desire to correct is on our tongues. Just waiting to be released.

Waiting for the story to be set straight, the right to be un-wronged through our version, immediately. I know there have been several times when that has been the case for me. What about you?

Have you ever thought about the power of silence? You ever run into a person that simply smiles or just looks blankly at someone with no anger or input, no malice or negativity and leaves peacefully with no offer extended in either direction.

See, there is power in silence. Some people think it's weakness, but do you

remember every getting in trouble when you were a kid and having a parent tell you they were going to "get" you when you got home, or even holler at



you, in anger? You knew exactly where they stood.

But have you ever had that parent not say one word? Did your mind wander? Were you not trying to figure out what your punishment was going to be? Hoping they would just tell you because what you

drummed up was wearing you out inside. You just wanted to know. "Give me my punishment or what it would be so I can just deal with it."

How about being so angry that you spew all that venom and regret it later? But what's been put out can't be pulled back. What about a situation where you acted a "nut" and the other party didn't join the "nut bowl" with you. There

you stood, out there in your feelings looking crazy while the other person appeared rational, calm, and emotionally sound. I remember my father telling me, "Argue with a fool, and no one will be able to decipher who the fool is!" He was right.

Take back your power, regain emotional control. Put into practice Silence over Reaction. It's an upgrade you'll never regret utilizing.

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.

# This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, September 8, 2024

Sixteenth Sunday

After

Pentecost



(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

Second Lesson:

James 2:1-10, 11-17

GOSPEL:

Mark 7:24-37

The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

## September 6

Women in Jazz Festival  
The Speakeasy at Straight to Ale  
Tickets: \$25  
2610 Clinton Avenue @  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6-10:30 p.m.

## September 7

Louis Crews Classic  
Bulldog Football vs Kentucky State  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Alabama A&M University  
Huntsville, Ala.

## September 8

Graze Huntsville: Farm to Fork Picnic Benefit  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Research Boulevard W  
Huntsville, Ala. - 5 p.m.

## September 13

Vegan Brews N BBQ  
Mad Malts Brewing  
109 Maple Avenue NW  
Huntsville, Ala. - 6-9 p.m.

## September 13-14

Anjelah Johnson-Reyes  
Comedian  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
2012 Memorial Parkway SW  
(\$40-\$50)  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 261-3374  
huntsville.standuplive.com

## September 13-15

27th Annual Oktoberfest  
Redstone Arsenal Activity Field

## September 14

Rocket City Junk Fest  
3405 Triana Boulevard SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Mabon Market 2024

Campus No. 805  
2610 Clinton Avenue W  
Huntsville, Ala.  
1-9 p.m.

Black Jacket Symphony  
Presents Elton John's 'Madman Across the Water'  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 p.m.

## September 15

Journaling Party  
The Heal  
Ardmore, Ala.  
(256) 631-6091  
12 noon

## September 19

Campus 805 After 5  
Butler Green

## September 20

NEACA 2024 Fall Craft Show  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 a.m.

Food Truck Rally  
Big Spring Park  
Downtown Hsv. Inc.

Jim Breuer  
"Survival with Laughter Tour"  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.

7:30 p.m.

## September 21

Earlyworks' Tinkerfest 2024  
Earlyworks  
404 Madison Street SE  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 a.m.

Soulful Food Truck Festival  
Soulfulfoodtruckfestival.com/huntsville

Joe Davis Municipal Stadium  
11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Downtown Art Walks  
(Downtown Huntsville, Inc.)  
Butler Green  
5-8 p.m.

Three 6 Mafia & Yelowolf w/ Project Pat & Cowboy Killer  
The Orion Amphitheater  
MidCity  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

Kountry Wayne & Friends  
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
Tickets: \$49-\$99  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8 p.m.

## September 21-22

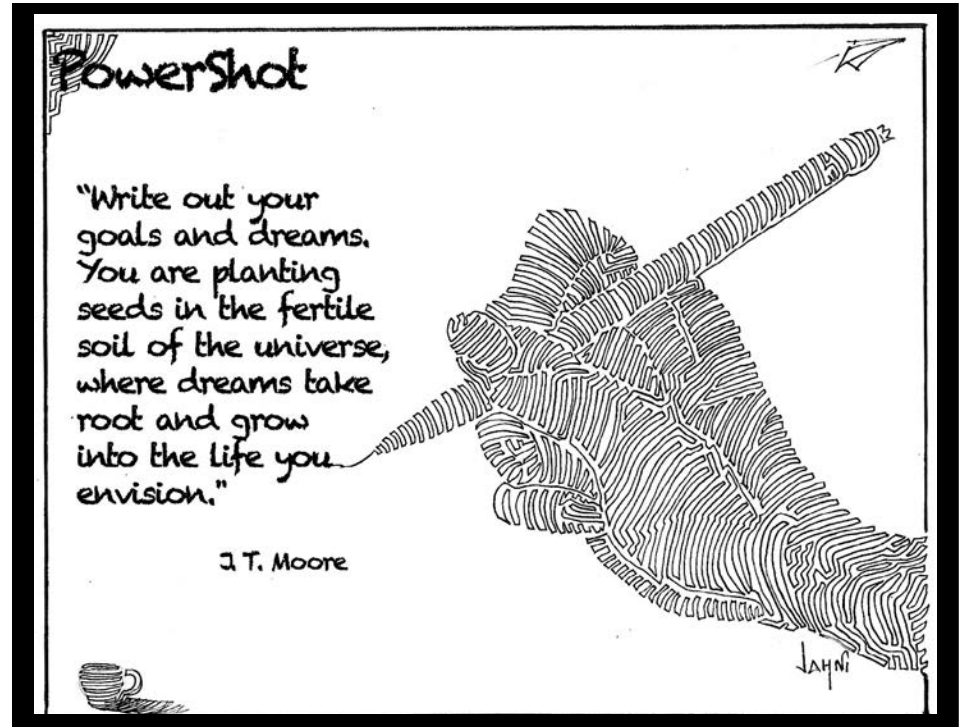
Monte Sano Art Festival  
Monte Sano State Park  
Huntsville, Ala.

## September 26

Bard in the Yard with Alabama A&M University's Bulldog Bards  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.  
10-10:45 a.m.

## September 28

Monster Energy Outbreak Tour Presents Gavin Adcock  
Mars Music Hall  
Von Braun Center  
8 p.m.



*"When you control a man's thinking, you do not have to worry about his actions."*  
- Carter G. Woodson

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

## Mrs. Linda Spalla

Born and raised in Alabama, Ms. Linda Spalla is a Magna Cum Laude secondary education graduate of Jacksonville State University who taught high school English in Atlanta for three years. She moved to Huntsville in 1971, divorced and began her employment with WHNT-TV 19, where she worked her way up the ladder from sales secretary to President and General Manager of the CBS affiliate, which was owned by the New York Times.

Spalla was the first female General Manager in The New York Times Broadcast Group, and she was one of the first in the Southeast for CBS. During this time, Linda was a mother, daughter, and community enthusiast who never lost her femininity or her Southern roots. She retired from WHNT in 2000 after having moved the station to first place in the market.

She refers to Bernie Verdier as her "late-in-life gift," with whom she began a new life of travel and adventure in 2004 following her retirement. Currently, she loves her grandchildren, golf, her book club of 20+ years, crossword puzzles, and summer travels to Paris.



She is the author of three books: *Leading Ladies* (2003), which offers practical leadership tips for women, encouraging them to embrace their femininity as a leadership asset; *Catch Your Breath* (2014), which presents a raw, honest series of meditations for caregivers based on her experiences in caring for her own mother; and *Bernie's Paris ... Travel Stories with Love* (2016), which provides decade-long experiences of escapades in Paris.

Community service has widened Linda's influence in the Huntsville area for many years. Among her board affiliations are the Burritt Museum, Crestwood Medical Center, Crestwood Women's Advisory Council, UAH School of Business Advisory Board, Alabama Space and Rocket Center Advisory Council, Better

Business Bureau, Sci-Quest, Rotary, WEDC Foundation, Arts Huntsville, Industrial Development Board, Christian Women's Job Corp and United Way. She with a group of dedicated ladies started the first WOMEN HONORING WOMEN celebration in 2001. She has worked with Trinity Place as an Alzheimer's volunteer and been active in WEDC, chairing their program committee for several years.

She is a 1994 Leadership graduate of Class 8, the winner of the Girl's Inc. "She Know's Where She's Going" Award, the recipient of the Silver Medal Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Huntsville/Decatur Advertising Federation. She has been a mentor in Rotary's Strive program and for the WEDC Foundation. She also served on the board of the Alabama Writers' Forum in Montgomery for 6 years.

She has traveled around the country as a motivational public speaker and promoting her books. Linda delights in her four grandchildren who live in Opelika and Birmingham and her many friendships over 53 years in Huntsville.

"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](http://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](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



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## Alabama A&M University Football 2024

Aug. 31 @Auburn - 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 28 @ Florida A&M Tallahassee, Fla. - 5 p.m.

Oct. 26 vs. Alabama State Legion Field - 2:30 p.m.

**Louis Crews Classic:**  
Sept. 7 KENTUCKY STATE - 6 p.m.

Gulf Coast Challenge  
Oct. 5 vs. Jackson State Mobile, Ala. - 4 p.m.

Nov. 2 SOUTHERN 2 p.m.

Nov. 9 @ UAPB 2 p.m.

Sept. 14 GEORGETOWN (Ky.) - 6 p.m.

**HOMECOMING**  
Oct. 12 Bethune-Cookman 2 p.m.

Nov. 14 GRAMBLING (Thursday) 7 p.m.

Sept. 21 @ Austin Peay Clarksville, Tenn. - 6 p.m.

**MAGIC CITY CLASSIC**

Nov. 23 @ Miss. Valley 12 p.m.



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# Network for Net Worth

- by afroblastik (John 'Jahni' Moore)

No one really achieves success in isolation. Trust me, I tried for a long time. As an introvert, it seemed the natural way to go. Please go out there and make yourself uncomfortable if you have to. Therein lies the gateway to your success.

*"You never change your life until you step out of your comfort zone; change begins at the end of your comfort zone."* – Roy T. Bennett

Seeking support from friends, family, mentors, or professional networks can provide invaluable guidance, encouragement, and resources. These support systems can help us stay motivated, offer different perspectives, and assist in problem-solving when we

encounter difficulties.

In the beginning, I never even considered the idea of hiring a coach. However, once I began to gain momentum and the stakes were higher, I made a calculated decision, a faith move, and invested in a coach. Notice that I used the word investment over payment.

*Why?*

Because I fully expected a return on what I invested. There was a fair amount of back and forth in my mind as I tried to justify why I didn't need to put money toward coaching. In the end, I made a decision and resolved to stick by it. Up until the last minute, I could still hear doubt rapping at my door. My belief in what was to come from it drowned it out. I



had written in my journal a week or so before I hired the coach, that I wanted the funds for my coaching to come from an entirely

unexpected pot of money than my regular projects. I wrote it down, thought on it, and kept it moving.

The turnaround was

rather quick. Less than a week after I'd signed on, a client handed me a check for considerably more than I was expecting for a completed project. The amount covered the full investment for my coaching and then some. I'm not saying this will happen for you like clockwork every time. But I will say that when you invest in yourself and utilize the most precious resource available: other people, in terms of betterment, you open the gateway to miracle territory. Our success is the result of many hands and minds supporting us in some form or fashion. Your net worth is directly tied to your network. Ask anyone who is already where you think you want to be.



## Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held on the 2nd floor of City Hall on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Council work sessions are also held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

*"We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers."*

- Bayard Rustin

## Former SGA Prez Returns to AAMU to Head Freshman Academy

Aaron Dixon, a proud alumnus of Alabama A&M University and former Student Government Association (SGA) President, has returned to his alma mater to serve as the Executive Director of the Freshman Academy. In his new role,



Dixon is spearheading efforts to support first-year,

first-time, and first-year transfer students, guiding them through a pivotal phase of their academic journey at Alabama A&M.

Dixon brings a wealth of experience from his extensive career in higher education, having held roles such

as Advisor for Campus Events, Program Coordinator for Multicultural Affairs, and Director of the UT Success Academy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). A native of Birmingham Alabama, Dixon earned

his B.S. in biology from AAMU in 2016. He went on to obtain his Master of Science in College Student Personnel from UTK and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Leadership and Decision-Making at the University of

Tennessee, Chattanooga.

"It has always been my goal to return to A&M as an administrator," Dixon shared. "When I left in 2016, I envisioned returning to support student activities."

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