

PRESTON BROWN: Conquering Regrets - p. 4

FREE



Ensuring Your Legacy - p. 3

Friday
September 13, 2024
Vol. 11, No. 2
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mother Mary Strong

"My fear was not of death itself, but a death without meaning." - Huey P. Newton

MidCity Readies for 5th Annual 'Monster Mash' Event



The MidCity District will hold the 5th Annual MidCity Monster Mash beginning Friday, October 11, and running through Halloween at 5909 University Drive NW in Huntsville, Ala.

Organizers are boasting scary good food; Halloween-inspired cocktails; spooky characters roaming every weekend; and fun events every week! There will also be BIG BANDS and LIVE music every weekend, in addition to costume parties with prizes and more! Look out for more details especially designed for Valley guys and ghouls!

There is no cover charge to enter this pet friendly! Although a family friendly activity, check certain events for any restrictions.

Interested in sponsoring? Email erica@explorethecamp.com!!!! Ready to make a reservation for your favorite spot ahead of time?? Visit <https://www.opentable.com/r/the-camp-huntsville>

Local Pioneer Clyde Foster to Be Honored by Alabama Men's Hall of Fame

The late trailblazing computer scientist and Alabama A&M University alumnus Clyde Foster will be among the three to be inducted posthumously into the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame on Tuesday, September 17, at 11:30 a.m. at The Club in Birmingham.

Foster's tribute will be included with the late accomplished historian Milo Barrett Howard, Jr., the

fourth director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and the late Marvin L. Mann, an outstanding businessman who rose to vice president of IBM and played a leadership role at numerous corporate entities.

Foster, who died in 2017, was a Birmingham native and 1954 AAMU graduate. After a military stint and brief teaching job

in the Selma area, Foster returned to Huntsville to ac-



cept a position with the Army Ballistic Missile Agency as a mathematician technician. In 1960, he transferred to

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, where he played a major role in diversifying NASA and making a Huntsville a conducive place to live and work.

During the brief two years he was placed on loan to AAMU, he directed the Computer Science Department, establishing a Data Processing Laboratory and undergraduate degree program in computer science,

the first in the state.

He re-established the charter of Triana, Ala., and served as its mayor for 20 years. He served on the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for 14 years and received many awards and honors throughout his lifetime. An auditorium at AAMU is named in his honor.

For further information and reservations, call (205) 706-1289.

Annual Fall Festival Sept. 28

Try your luck on a mechanical bull or give pumpkin bowling your best shot at Huntsville Parks & Recreation's Fall for All.

The annual celebration of the fall season is Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to noon in Big Spring Park East. The event is free; food vendors will have concessions available for purchase.

Attendees can also enjoy live music from The Bubbnaughts, play



on an array of inflatable games, engage in fall-themed crafts and take advantage of plenty of photo ops.

"Fall is always a refreshing time of year in Huntsville, with the vibrant changing leaves in our City parks and

an exciting lineup of fall-themed events planned over the next two months," said Parks & Recreation Director James Gossett. "We encourage residents and visitors to join us for this festive celebration."

- HuntsvilleAl.gov



INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- From the Editor, Page 3
- Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 4
- Gloria B. & Tim: Perspectives, Page 5
- Sunday Lectionary, Page 5
- "Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 6
- Honoring Our Elders, Page 7

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 reconvened Monday. The House is planning to vote on a number of anti-China bills and legislation combining a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open through March 28, 2025, with the "SAVE Act" to require proof of citizenship to register to vote in a federal election. Last week, House Education and Workforce Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) issued a subpoena to Gov. Tim Walz's staff regarding the role of the Minnesota Department of Education's oversight of Minnesota-based Feeding Our Future that allegedly defrauded federal nutrition programs of over \$250 million in taxpayer funds. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) issued a joint statement Friday calling

the House CR + SAVE Act a "mistake" that increases the odds of a federal gov't shutdown on Oct. 1. The Senate started off the week with a vote Monday on a federal judge nominee.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. On Tuesday, President Biden welcomed the University of South Carolina Women's Basketball Team and the University of Connecticut Men's Basketball Team to celebrate their 2023-2024 NCAA championship wins. On Wednesday morning, the President and Vice President were in New York City for a 9/11 commemoration ceremony at Ground Zero, followed by a stop in Shanksville, PA, to participate in a 9/11 wreath-laying ceremony, and lastly to Arlington, VA, to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Pentagon. On Thursday, the President delivered remarks ahead of the 30th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act. On Friday, the

President and Vice President will attend the Black Excellence Brunch and later President Biden will host U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer for a meeting at the White House. On Saturday, the President and Vice President will deliver remarks at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 2024 Phoenix Awards Dinner. The Washington Post reported yesterday (Sunday) that the Biden Administration is working on a national security memorandum containing the Artificial Intelligence Project to develop public-private partnerships between the federal government and 5 private U.S. companies: Microsoft-backed OpenAI, Google's DeepMind, Elon Musk's xAI, Mark Zuckerberg's Meta AI, and start-up Anthropic (founded in 2021 by 7 former employees of OpenAI).

3. SUPREME COURT. The Supreme Court is adjourned and will reconvene on Monday, Oct. 7. Last Tuesday, the Supreme Court denied a request from Oklahoma to reinstate \$4.5 million in federal Title X funding for lower income family-planning projects while the state's challenge to the termination of the grant by the federal Department of

Health and Human Services (HHS) continues in the lower courts. Oklahoma law makes it illegal to advise someone to obtain an abortion and HHS offered a compromise to allow providers to give patients seeking pregnancy counseling or referrals the telephone number of a national call-in hotline instead, but Oklahoma rejected it and HHS terminated the state's Title X grant. The Court's action came in an unsigned order, but Justices Thomas, Alito, and Gorsuch indicated that they would have granted the state's request. Measures to protect abortion rights will

be on the ballot in 10 states this November: AZ, CO, FL, MD, MO, MT, NE, NY, NV, and SD.

4. ECONOMIC NEWS. Last Friday, the Labor Department reported that the U.S. economy added 142,000 jobs in August, which was 18,000 fewer jobs than expected although the unemployment rate fell to 4.2% from the previous 4.3%. The report also showed solid wage growth last month, with average hourly earnings rising 0.4% for a yearly gain of 3.8% that outpaces inflation and which should keep the

economy out of recession. 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.

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The Valley Weekly

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Sixteenth Page		
	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

Warning: Your Botched Handoff May Disqualify You and Your Legacy

Vice President Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden made their first joint campaign appearance since her DNC nomination at a Labor Day event in Pittsburgh. We are keenly aware of the critical importance of seamless transitions. This event was a significant political moment, a demonstration of how to execute a smooth handoff—something that resonates far beyond the campaign trail and into the broader realm of leadership.

A fumbled handoff can disqualify even the most promising team. Just as our all-Black male 4x100 relay team tragically botched their Olympic handoff and lost their chance for gold, so too can leaders falter when they fail to properly pass the baton to their successors.

Succession planning is an urgent matter. In the 21st century, we must begin teaching future leaders how to execute effective succession plans. Unfortunately, history offers numerous examples of how even the most brilliant leaders fail when it comes to planning for the future.

Take, for instance, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Marcus Garvey, Medgar Evers, and Elijah Muhammad. These men were monumental figures in the fight for Black equality and empowerment. They ran strong, inspiring races, each becoming a beacon of hope for millions. But when they left the scene—whether by assassination, imprisonment, or illness—their organizations either floundered or faded into obscurity.

This didn't happen because of a lack of vision or passion but rather a lack of preparation for the next generation. More attention was paid to their star power than to ensuring a smooth transition to a capable successor. In the end, each of these great leaders left behind not only a legacy of inspiration but also a gap - how prepared were their successors?



Country music legend Kenny Rogers once sang, "You gotta know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em." By the way, Bill and I sang that song later in the evening of our first date. He played his guitar, he sang and I made a bit of noise. As I prepare for my retirement on September 30, these words have been on my mind. After 50 years of work—beginning at age 16—I'm ready for what former President Barack Obama referred to as my "second act." It's time for me to focus on family, including my second grandson, and to embrace a new chapter in life.

But before I step away, I've ensured that I won't be leaving behind a botched handoff. In my business, I counseled my employees a few years ago to make other plans because my retirement was eminent. TMT Group, Inc., founded in June 2004, served us and our families well. I encouraged them to proactively plan for new opportunities, meet with potential clients and prospect for new opportunities.

Ten years ago, I founded the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium. After the COVID-19 pandemic was over and the economy re-opened, I handed it off to Dr. Edwan O'Neal, who now serves as its executive director. In both cases, these planned handoffs have been successful.

We've seen this lesson play out in the political arena as well. The handoff from Obama to Biden was effective, though delayed. And now, we're witnessing the Biden-to-Harris transition, which is poised to be even more successful, evidenced by record-breaking fundraising and volunteer signups. This example highlights that a well-planned handoff can secure, not only personal legacies, but also the future of organizations and movements.


As I step back and watch from the sidelines, I urge you to assemble your own relay team. Prepare now to make your smooth handoff to those who will follow in your footsteps. Don't let your legacy be marked by a dash because a botched handoff can disqualify even the best of us, but a well-executed transition can ensure your work lives on long after you've left the track. Until next time ...



Dorothy

Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly
PRESTON BROWN'S



Game Plan for Today: "No Regrets"

Philippians 3:13 says, "The one thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."

You know, the great thing about the past is you don't have to feel guilty about it. What we should do is learn from it and move on with our lives. We can't allow a few bad choices that we've made affect the rest of our lives. This is a trap from the enemy. You see, when we finally choose the life that God wants us to have, we should have no regrets about whatever we have done in our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:17 teaches us, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Isaiah 43:19 says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

When you live with regret, it sucks the life right out of you and keeps you in a state of depression and discouragement. It also keeps you from making the

best of your time. Time is too valuable to waste, and the older you get, the faster it goes by. What lies ahead is the new life God wants you to have, with no regrets. He's ready to give you beauty for ashes. He's ready to give joy for your mourning (Isaiah 61:3). It's never too late for you to say, Lord, make me

over and make me who you want me to be, with no regrets.

Prayer: Loving Father, help me to learn from the mistakes that I have made and not live with regrets.

Question: What mistakes have you made that keep you a prisoner of the past? What can you do to move forward without regrets?

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:
"Being Accountable"

"Once a great wrong has been done, it never dies. People speak the words of peace, but their hearts do not forgive. Generations perform ceremonies of reconciliation, but there is no end." - Paule Marshall

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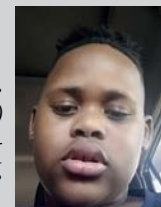


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www.serenityfuneralhm.com



Funeral service for **MS. SHARON TURNER-BOGAN** (b. 1959) will be held Sunday, September 15, 2:30 p.m., at New Life SDA Church, 3912 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.



Funeral service for **MR. PHILLIP "PJ" FLETCHER JR.** (b. 2009) will be Saturday, September 14, at Pentecostal Lighthouse, 6107 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala., at 2 p.m.

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Memorial service for **MR. DANIEL MAURICE BRANDON** (b. 1972) will be held on Saturday, September 14, at 1 p.m. in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Bobby Jones, officiating.



Memorial service for **MS. JOANNA LEE EWING** (b. 1977) was Sunday, September 8, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. EZELL CONERLY** (b. 1935) was Saturday, September 7, at the Craft-Dillon Funeral Home of McComb, Miss.

Funeral service for **MS. CATHERINE GARNER SMITH** (b. 1943) was Friday, September 6, in the Nelms Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Terrence Stewart officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

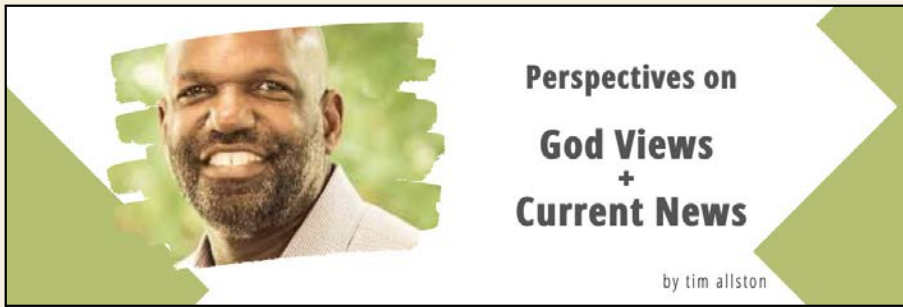
4315 Oakwood Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481
www.royalfh.com

Funeral service for **MR. ROBERT LEE LEWIS** (b. 1953) will be 2 p.m., Saturday, September 14, at the Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, 228 Church Street, Huntsville, Ala., with Dr. Mitchell Walker officiating.



Funeral service for **MR. RODRICK HOLTON HARDIN** (b. 1960) was Tuesday, September 10, at the Royal Chapel with Elder Terrence Stewart officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. DAVID KINGSTON** (b. 1941) was Sunday, September 8, at the Mount Zion PB Church, Madison, Ala., with Pastor Ernest Bailey officiating.



Need A Poster Child for this 2024 School/ Work Year? Remember Ted Delaney

"But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled ... They will not be overdue a single day!" - Habakkuk 2:3

"A big shot is a little shot that just kept on shooting," I once heard. That could be you in 2024, . . . and Ted Delaney proved it.

(Credit: Washington & Lee University News Office)

Theodore Carter Delaney, Jr. (1943-2020), a former janitor-turned-professor, never lost sight of achieving professional excellence, according to The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, <https://bit.ly/3n4MjOM>.



Dr. Delaney was a native of Lexington, Virginia, and attended a racially segregated high school. He turned down a scholarship to Morehouse College and instead worked as a gardener and waiter. In 1963, he was hired as a janitor at Washington and Lee University (W&L) in Virginia. He later worked as a laboratory technician. In 1979, Delaney enrolled in his first class there, and became a full-time student four years later. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in history in 1985 at the age of 42; he also had 15 undergraduate credits from Virginia Military Institute.

After graduating from W&L, Delaney taught American history for three years at the Asheville School in North Carolina, before beginning his graduate studies. He taught at W&L from 1991 to 1993, and then at the State University of New York at Geneseo from 1993 to 1995. He returned to W&L as a full-time faculty member in 1995, after earning his Ph.D. in history from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Dr. Delaney taught courses on colonial North America, comparative slavery in the Western Hemisphere, African American history, civil rights, and gay and lesbian history. His popular Spring Term class about the civil rights movement took students on the path of the Freedom Riders through the South.

In 2005, Dr. DeLaney co-founded the Africana Studies program, which he directed from 2005 to 2007 and again from 2013 to 2017. He chaired the history department from 2007 to 2013. He was the first Black department head at Washington and Lee University.

Do you feel stuck in your current low-level job or need a jump-start this school year, unable to reach your mountaintop?

Then Theodore Delaney's legacy should help you flip your script!



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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Fear or Lazy ...



I'm afraid of doing this or that. Is that true, or are you worried that you will start it and it will take work to keep it up? Have you tried it? Is it a rational fear?

Or, is it the easy out?

When you ask, "What if it doesn't work?" My answer is, what if it doesn't? So what? Back to the drawing board, you go. However, what if it does? Oh yeah, that requires you to do, give, and find something

beyond that point. So, is it fear? Think about it.

I have been pondering my life, and the lives, to the extent that I have been exposed, of my friends, from grade school up. The fears we used to share. Not of bugs or ghosts; of life.

I feared trying out for basketball, track, the glee club, or speech and drama class. I remember being in my head about things, even into adulthood. Much of it was that I knew I hadn't worked hard enough to be in it, make the team, etc. I didn't train, study, or do anything to hone my skills. I wanted it to come easy, so I used fear as an excuse. An excuse to not have to change my situation. My comfort zone needn't be toyed with, so I'm afraid it would easily roll off my tongue because no one would question it. The real thing was I wouldn't question it.

Think about it. Are you afraid, or just lazy and not willing to put in the work? Figure out how much you want it, and move outside of comfort. Chase it hard! You'll probably catch it and learn discipline.

Lace Up! Let's Go!

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 13

Vegan Brews N BBQ

Mad Malts Brewing

109 Maple Avenue NW
Huntsville, Ala.

6-9 p.m.

(256) 631-6091

12 noon

September 19

Campus 805 After 5

Butler Green

September 13-14Anjelah Johnson-Reyes
ComedianStand Up Live Huntsville
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huntsville.standuplive.com

September 20NEACA 2024 Fall Craft
ShowVon Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

9 a.m.

Food Truck Rally

Big Spring Park

Downtown Hsv. Inc.

September 13-1527th 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 'Mad-
man Across the Water'Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

9 p.m.

September 15

Journaling Party

The Heal

Ardmore, Ala.

September 21Earlyworks' Tinkerfest
2024

Earlyworks

404 Madison Street SE
Huntsville, Ala.

9 a.m.

Soulful Food Truck Festival

Soulfulfoodtruckfestival.
com/huntsvilleJoe Davis Municipal Sta-
dium

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
KillerThe 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.

September 29

WWE Supershow

Von Braun Center

Huntsville, Ala.

5 p.m.

October 1

Bad Religion

Mars Music Hall

Von Braun Center

Huntsville, Ala.

7:30 p.m.

October 3

Creed Fisher

Mars Music Hall

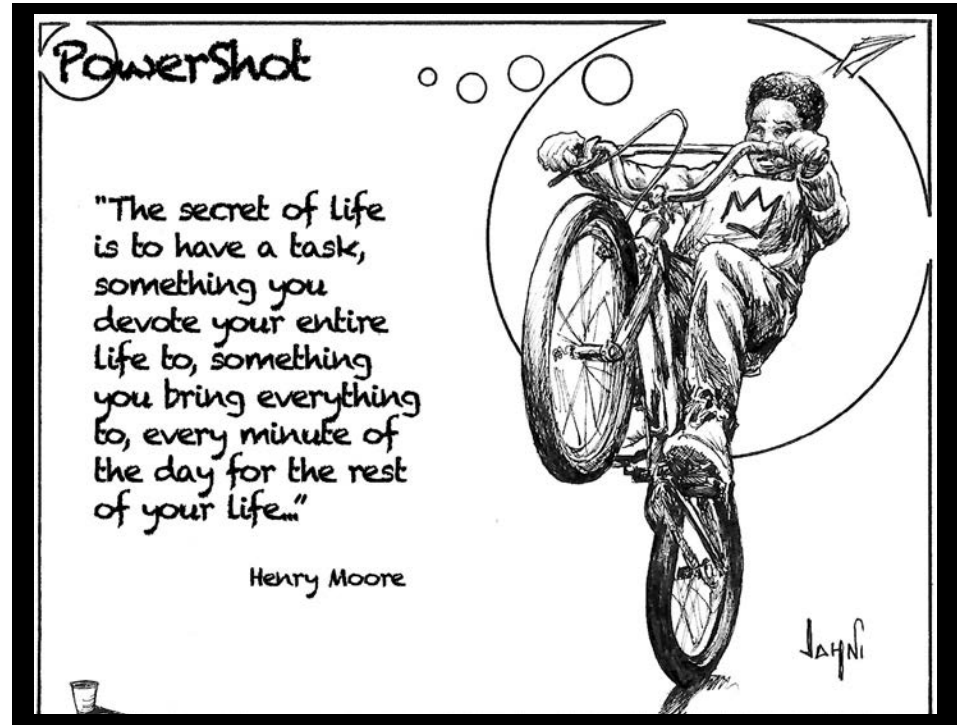
Huntsville, Ala.

8 p.m.

October 4

Movies in the Park

Sponsor: Downtown Hsv.

*"I got nothing, but you welcome to all of that."**- Gloria Naylor*

We Need a Leader With
 a Vision for Our Schools.
 Pat King is the right
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Runoff Election Day: Tuesday,
 September 24.

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 — Pat King

Meet Pat King
 • Engineer roles at Ford, NASA, and with the U.S. Army
 • Longtime volunteer tutor, mentor and education advocate
 • Wife of 35-year teacher and principal Johnny King

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

Mother Mary Strong

Born in Ozark, Alabama, Mother Mary Strong calls Talladega, Alabama, "home" because her family relocated to that town when she was only four years old. A business education graduate of Alabama A&M University, Mother Strong is also an alumnus of C.H. Mason Bible College and has received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from St. Thomas University.

Mother Strong was employed by the United States Air Defense Command for four years, followed by over 30 years of service for Alabama A&M University's flagship Department of Physics.

She has been married to the love of her life (Dr. James Strong) for forty-six years. They are the proud parents of two lovely children, one son (Elder Jamel Strong) and one daughter (Evangelist Faith LaJoy Bailey). They have a very loving son-in-law (Lance Bailey) and three wonderful grandchildren (Jordan Bailey, Christian Bailey and Christopher Bailey).

Mother Strong has served in various capacities in her local, district and jurisdictional church. In addition to serving as the First Lady of Foun-



tain of Life Ministries COGIC, she is a licensed Evangelist in the Church of God in Christ. Locally, she has served as Trustee, Executive Board Member, President of Bible Band, Junior High and Adult Sunday School Teacher, Usher, Young People Willing Worker (YPWW) Teacher, Choir member and President of Women's Department.

On the district level, she has served as Assistant District Missionary, Vice-President of Sunshine Band, and YWCC President. Presently, Mother Strong serves as District Supervisor of Women for the Hunts-

ville District COGIC. On the jurisdictional level, Mother Strong serves as Vice-President of the Executive Board of Women, President of the Credential Board and Treasurer for the Jurisdictional District Missionary Circle.

Mother Strong loves people and is committed to serving God by ministering to the needs of people, body, soul and spirit as she endeavors to help build the Kingdom of God here on earth. She loves sowing into the lives of the less fortunate, especially young children and the elderly. Her endeavor is to be more like Jesus every day.



"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.

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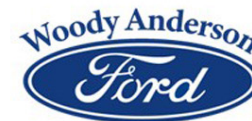
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11-22



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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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DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCIL RUNOFF
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

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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

Notes of a Native Son: The Art of Ascension

- by *afroblastik* (John 'Jahni' Moore)

The other day as I parked in front of my studio, a dark shadow spread across the hood of my truck. Then the body of a hawk dipped low enough to grab my attention through the top edge of my windshield window. I followed it with my eyes as it soared back and forth, higher and higher. Quickly, I grabbed my phone and bagged the shot. I feel like the hawk made its presence known to me as a reminder. I can soar as I choose.

As creatives, we have the ability to rise above the noise of life's turning in on

itself due to crippling negativity, much like a hawk soaring high above the busy landscape. The hawk doesn't concern itself with the chatter and discord of the ground but instead seeks a higher perspective, where its vision is clear and its purpose sharp.

Our abilities, like the wings of the hawk, give us the freedom to rise above negativity, base thoughts, and small minds that try to limit us. The art of doing the things that allow us to be in our creative space requires as much if not more creativity as the creative



activity, itself.

When we create—whether through painting,

designing, writing, or finding a new way to get more out of what you have—we

are tapping into something greater than ourselves. Each stroke of the brush, each word or idea, is a testament to our refusal to be confined by doubt or fear. We can soar the way we do because we are called to see what others cannot or will not, to bring light into dark places, and to inspire others to break free from the dragging weight of perceived limitations.

Allow your your creativity be your wings. Let it lift you above the distractions, the criticism, and the wind drag of hesitation. Every once in a while, you

may see a dead hawk by the side of the road. That's because he probably went for the low hanging fruit, the roadkill, and got caught up, literally, wallowing in death.

Like the hawk, master the art of rising by finding the currents that will carry you higher, where you can see your purpose clearly. Use what you have to gain the lift you need. Your art has the power not only to transform you but to inspire others to rise above and reach for their own heights.

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