

**ALLSTON: How New Leaders Heal Old Wounds - p. 5****FREE****A Worthy Community Investment - p. 3**

Friday  
October 10, 2025  
Vol. 12, No. 6  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

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



Parker Griffith, M.D.

*"Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor." - James Baldwin*

**Lodge Unveils Mural of AAMU Founder**

Evening Star Lodge No. 6, Free & Accepted Masons, on October 6 hosted the unveiling and dedication of a commissioned mural honoring Dr. William Hooper Council, Past Master of Evening Star Lodge No. 6, Past Grand Junior Warden of Alabama, and founder of Alabama A&M University.

The mural, located on the side of the Lodge building at 2615 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Alabama, stands as a vibrant tribute to Dr. Council's legacy of education, leadership, and community service.

The mural was commissioned and funded by Senior Deacon Stephen Winston, owner of Lynx Gallery LLC (Suite B, Evening Star Lodge building), and brought to life by artist Adrian



Jennings.

Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Esq., of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama delivered remarks.

This unveiling comes at a historic moment, aligning with the 150th

anniversary of Alabama A&M University and the annual wreath-laying ceremony for Dr. Council on AAMU's campus.

A brief reception with light refreshments followed the dedication.

**Annual IMS Dinner Set**

The Interfaith Mission Service will hold its 2025 IMS Annual Celebration and Awards Dinner on Thursday, October 23, at 5:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall of Trinity United Methodist Church.

Hear from Dr. Randy Barbour, Jr., director of multicultural affairs for the City of Huntsville.

For tickets, visit [interfaithmissionservice.org/2025acad/](http://interfaithmissionservice.org/2025acad/)

**Local Artist Contributes to Childhood School**

Artist John "Jahni" Moore, founder of the United Federation of Artistic Minds (UFAM), returned to his childhood school, Rolling Hills Elementary, to present a \$1,000 donation for art supplies. The artist, who attended

Rolling Hills from 1st through 5th grade, stood alongside the principal, art teacher, and a school board member in front of a mural he painted as the gift was announced.

"My intent is for this to multiply into an ongoing relationship of ben-



efit to our foundational importance equation," Moore said. "I'm calling on all former Rolling Hills Roadrunners and Cougars to join us and give back to one of the best-kept secrets in the city. Our goal is to be what we needed to see and to invest in our children: our most

precious natural resource.

*Pictured (l-r) are: Board member, Adrian Brightwell-Jennings, Art Teacher, Michelle McClintock, Principal Lakeisha Agun, and the Artist John "Jahni" Moore.*

**Author Receives IIBA**

Local author and The Valley Weekly Senior Editor Jerome Saintjones is a winner of the International Impact Book Award for his provocative novel "The Chinaberry Tree."

A modern, Black American take on Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, the novel shares aspects of the Black experience, shared through the eyes of a Black-obsessed white narrator.

The book, available via Amazon.com and local bookstores, is also an American Fiction Award finalist. Plans are underway for the release of an audiobook in months to come.

The Valley Weekly

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS  
OF SERVING NORTH ALABAMA

## From First Homes to Finest Estates: VV&W Celebrates 40 Years of Service

This month, Van Valkenburgh & Wilkinson Properties, Inc. (VV&W) is celebrating 40 years of excellence in real estate service across North Alabama. With the theme “from your first home to your finest estate,” the firm’s milestone anniversary honors a legacy of trust, growth, and commitment to the community.

Founded in October 1985, VV&W has become

a cornerstone in Huntsville and Madison County real estate. Known for its expertise in fine homes and historic properties, the firm also serves families and businesses seeking smaller homes and commercial spaces in the downtown and central city areas. What makes VV&W unique is its ability to navigate both Huntsville’s historic roots and its fast-paced growth in the space age and beyond.

The company’s leadership is a true family affair. With more than 60 years of combined experience, the founding partners have welcomed second and third generation into the business — their three daughters, all REALTORS®, and granddaughters, who carry forward the tradition of professional, personalized service. This generational commitment reflects the values of continuity, heritage, and community

investment that resonate deeply with Huntsville’s diverse population.

VV&W’s roots reach back to the early business life of the community in the 1810s and remain tied to the transformative growth of the 1960s space era. Today, as Huntsville stands at the forefront of innovation and cultural expansion, VV&W continues to match individuals and families with homes that

fit their dreams — whether that’s a first home for a young professional, a historic property for preservation enthusiasts, an estate for families who’ve grown alongside the city, and commercial property.

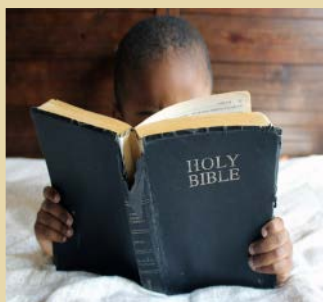
As the firm celebrates its 40th birthday, VV&W is not only marking a milestone but also reaffirming its commitment to serve the people of North Alabama with integrity and care. In a region as

diverse and dynamic as ours, the idea of “home” means many things to many people. VV&W’s history reminds us that building community starts with creating spaces where everyone can belong.

**Happy 40th Anniversary to VV&W** — and here’s to the next 40 years of helping our community find its way from first homes to finest estates!

## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, October 12, 2025  
Eighteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year C)  
First Lesson:  
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c  
Psalm 111  
Second Lesson:  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
GOSPEL:  
Luke 17:11-19

THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

### They're Not Like Tim!

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# A Community Investment Worth Celebrating

On Tuesday, September 30, 2025, our city witnessed more than just the opening of a new facility — we witnessed a bold investment in the future of Huntsville. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Ford Pro Elite Commercial Vehicle Center at Woody Anderson Ford marked the largest expansion in the history of the dealership's Jordan Lane campus, and it stands as a symbol of growth, innovation, and community partnership in North Alabama.

This new center was not simply built to house vehicles. It was designed to meet the evolving needs of businesses and fleets across the region, ensuring that our local economy continues to thrive. But what made the grand opening especially meaningful was the way it tied progress to people.

The celebration featured inspiring performances by Huntsville City Schools students, a powerful reminder that the future belongs to our young people — and that we must always make space for them at the table. Guests also enjoyed food prepared by HATCH, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering opportunity youth through workforce training. By spotlighting HATCH, Woody Anderson Ford showed us that true investment is not just in infrastructure, but in human potential.

Local leaders joined Cathy Stender, Dealer Principal of Woody Anderson Ford, for remarks underscoring how moments like these strengthen Huntsville's foundation. Even more, the event included the reveal of a partnership with community members — a testament to the belief that when businesses, schools, and nonprofits work together, everyone rises.

For those of us in attendance, the tour of the impressive new facility was a chance to see the future in action. But beyond bricks, steel, and vehicles, the opening of the Ford Pro Elite Commercial Vehicle Center reflects something deeper: a commitment to Huntsville's diverse community, its workforce, and its shared vision of prosperity.

At its heart, this ribbon cutting was a celebration of inclusion, collaboration, and possibility. It reminds us that economic growth means little without community growth, and that every new investment should lift people as much as it builds places.

In Huntsville, we are building not just for today, but for tomorrow — together.

Until next week ...

*Dorothy*

**OCTOBER 10 - BEN VEREEN** - Ben Vereen is an American actor, dancer, and singer who has appeared in numerous Broadway theatre shows. Vereen graduated from Manhattan's High School of Performing Arts. Vereen was born Benjamin Augustus Middleton on October 10, 1946, in Miami, Florida. While still an infant, Vereen and his family relocated to the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. He was adopted by James Vereen, a paint-factory worker, and his wife, Pauline, who worked as a maid and theatre wardrobe mistress. Vereen was nominated for a Tony Award for Jesus Christ Superstar in 1972 and won a Tony for his appearance in Pippin in 1973. Vereen appeared in the Broadway musical Wicked as the Wizard of Oz in 2005. Vereen has also performed in one-person shows and actively lectures on black history and inspirational topics.

- *Blackcelebritybirthdays.org*

- [Blackcelebritybirthdays.org](http://Blackcelebritybirthdays.org)



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## The Valley Weekly

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Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page		
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Classified	1 col.1x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS



## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for **MRS. JULIA HALEY CHANDLER** (b. 1950) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. DANNY WARREN** (b. 1954) was Friday, October 3, at Heal Our City Inside Out Ministries in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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



Graveside service for **MRS. PEGGY HIGGINS** (b. 1948) will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, October 11, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens with Reverend O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. WANDA CLARK** (b. 1947) was Wednesday, October 8, at the Cornerstone Word of Life, 3783 Sullivan Street, Madison, Ala., with Pastor Mark Garvey officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. JAMES NEELY MATTHEWS** (b. 1959) was Sunday, October 5, at the Apostolic True Temple Church, 3000 Stringfield Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Bishop Jerry Townsend officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. JEROME KEITH GARNER** (b. 1969) was Saturday, October 4, at the Apostolic True Temple Church, 3000 Stringfield Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Bishop Jerry Townsend officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. GENEVA PURNELL** (b. 1948) was Saturday, October 4, at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 315 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Reverend O. Wendell Davis officiating.

## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816  
[www.serenityfuneralhm.com](http://www.serenityfuneralhm.com)  
 (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for **MR. CEDRIC REMBERT** (b. 1994) was Sunday, October 5, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. STEPHEN HOLLINS** (b. 1986) was Saturday, October 4, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



## Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "Life Is a Journey"

Matthew 7:13 says, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it."

We are all on a journey as we walk on this road called life. However, the question is this: are we headed in the right direction? Jesus gives us instruction on how we can make sure that we are indeed headed in the right direction. Like so many things in life, it all begins with a choice.

Our Christian journeys in life begin when we accept Jesus as our lord and savior. Our journeys have a destination called heaven. Keep in mind our journeys are not going to be perfect. There will be hills to climb, hardships to endure, and trials to overcome. However, as long as we keep our eyes on the prize, which is a city called heaven, that gives us a divine purpose.

That is why I believe that Jesus knows all about our journeys and

He knows that we fall sometimes. That is why He gave us the ministry of the Holy Spirit to give us direction on our journeys.

God also sent Jesus to meet us where we are on our journeys but not leave us in our brokenness, so that we would have lives filled with love, peace, and joy.

In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will



have the light of life." You see, life is a journey, and the more we walk in His ways, the more we become like Him.

May God grant you spiritual success on your journey.

**Question:** Do you like the direction that your life is headed? If so why 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](http://amazon.com).

## NEXT WEEK:

*"Raising Our Standards"*



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## Reconciliation 2.0: How New Leaders Heal Old Wounds

*"So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten ..." - Joel 2:25*

From 1995 South Africa, . . .

One year after his election as the first Black president of the majority-Black South Africa, Nelson Mandela launched the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This bold initiative invited victims of apartheid-era atrocities to tell their stories, while perpetrators could testify and seek amnesty.

Mandela understood that before a nation could move forward, it had to confront its past.

. . . to 2025 Oakwood University

Similarly just 182 days after becoming the first female president of the majority-female Oakwood University, on Friday, September 26, Dr. Gina Spivey-Brown closed her inauguration address remarks with three surprises - correction: whip-lashing executive orders! Her theme? Repentance, forgiveness, and renewal.

With a steady voice and a contrite heart, Dr. Brown declared to students, alumni, and the community:

"To those who have been hurt by Oakwood College and Oakwood University . . . I come before you today seeking forgiveness and reconciliation."

Tears flowed and cheers erupted -

**But She Wasn't Finished.**

Reading a letter to the original Oaks Alumni Association, she publicly acknowledged the 2018 rift that created a splinter group. With humility she admitted, "Decisions made, actions taken, and opportunities missed may have caused hurt . . . For these failings, we sincerely and prayerfully ask your forgiveness."

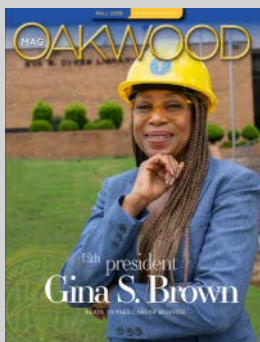
**And Then came the Thunderclap:**

Dr. Brown then announced that Oakwood would begin a campaign to name its upcoming sports complex in honor of the late James Allen Roddy, the architect of Oakwood's athletic program and championship men's basketball teams of 2008, 2012, and 2016. "To everyone who stood and clapped," she added with a smile, "we do take donations. Amen!"

The sanctuary roared again. But this time, the roar was more than applause — it was release. Release from old wounds, old divisions, and old disappointments.

One alumna summed it up perfectly: "We needed to feel something different from what we're feeling in the world. What she has done so far is what people are talking about, but won't do."

Like Mandela in 1995, Dr. Brown in 2025 proved that new leaders must begin by clearing the road of trash — the unaddressed pain of the past — so that reconciliation and renewal can move the mission forward.



**Tim Allston**

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Website: [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com)

# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## There Are NO Limitations ...

Your limitations are in your mind ... Success or failure. There is nothing in between. As often stated, "Failure starts where success ends."

You can be successful every day because success is simply accomplishing goals. It doesn't matter whether they are big or small. All wins count. There are no limitations. Your limitations are in your mind!

You control every goal you set and whether or not you get there. You cannot control the arrival time; however, you can control whether or not you slow that time



down. You're not limited. Who told you that?

So, how do you do that? It all starts in your mind. Each decision you make or not. Each move you make, or not. Limitations only exist if you impose them on yourself.

It seems simple, right? It is.

Emotional intelligence, motivation, discipline, mindfulness, and goals are all things you need to be aware of. Dive into self-awareness. Start today! With each step, all mind related, you are in control. Each decision and action brings you closer or further away from your mark! You can do this!

Get started this moment. Remove one limitation a day. Remember, small goals count.

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.

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# The Valley Weekly VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

**October 11**

Free Walking Tour of Old Town  
127 Walker Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.  
10 a.m. (Free)

Little Monsters Mash  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bluegrass & BBQ Festival  
2025

16159 Chaney Thompson Road  
Huntsville, Ala.  
1-7 p.m. (Free)

Free Bully Prevention Seminar

51 Nance Road  
Madison, Ala. - 1 p.m.

Homecoming Football  
vs. Mississippi Valley State  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Alabama A&M University  
Huntsville, Ala.  
2 p.m.

Alabama A&M University  
Homecoming Concert  
JT with Jeezy, Young Nudy  
and BossMan Dlow -  
Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.-7:30 p.m.

**October 12**

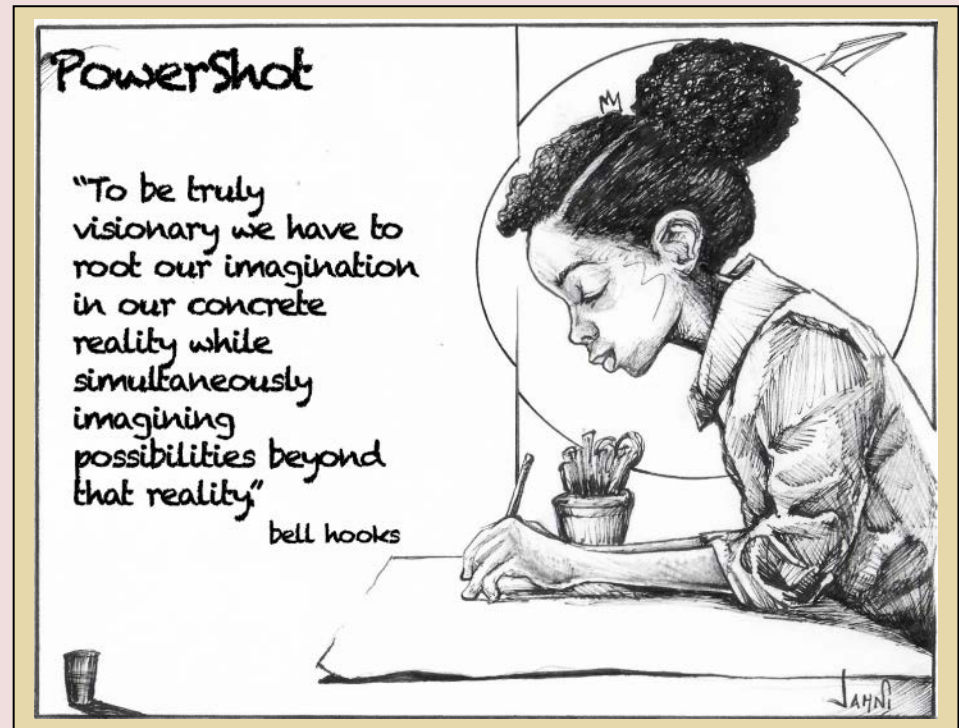
Stage Play Casting Call for  
"Cotton"  
Seeking Actors, Singers  
and Dancers  
1303 Evangel Drive NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
3:30-5:30 p.m.  
ltayaa.casting@gmail.com

**October 18**

Makers Market Fallfest  
6123 University Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.  
4 p.m.

**November 8**

BULLDOG Football  
vs. Grambling State  
Louis Crews Stadium



*"In times of war,  
the law falls silent."*

- Cicero



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

## Parker Griffith, M.D.

Born August 6, 1942, Dr. Rolf Parker Griffith, Jr., is an American retired physician, entrepreneur and politician in Huntsville, Ala., who served in the Alabama State Senate from 2006 to 2008 and then as the U.S. Representative for Alabama's 5th congressional district from 2009 to 2011.

Griffith was born in Shreveport, La. He taught 7th-grade arithmetic for less than a year at T.H. Harris Junior High School (later Middle School) in Metairie in Jefferson Parish in suburban New Orleans prior to being admitted to medical school. He received his medical degree from the Louisiana State University Medical School in 1970 and served in residency at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

After serving at the LSU Service Charity Hospital in New Orleans and a year of neurosurgery at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, Griffith began preparing to become

a radiation oncologist, one who specializes in using radiation to cure cancer, training in radiation oncology through a combined program between UTMB and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He served as a Medical Corps captain in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1970 to 1973, while continuing his medical training at the LSU Service Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

Griffith was recruited on a "cold call" to Alabama and established the Huntsville Cancer Treatment Center. As a physician, he provided discounted care to patients who lacked insurance. Griffith also conducted several clinical trials in conjunction with the University of Alabama School of Medicine, and partnered with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. He retired from medicine in December 1992, though he still holds a license to practice in both Alabama and Texas.

Griffith won a seat in the Alabama State Senate, representing the



7th district (2006). He carried 66% of the vote to his opponent's 34%. During his term in the State Senate, he sponsored bills to promote investment in alternative fuels, cut taxes, and establish a Statewide Trauma Care System to speed critical medical care.

Griffith and his wife Virginia have five children and 11 grandchildren. He co-founded the Griffith Family Foundation, which awards cash grants to North Alabama schools and non-profits and to elementary school libraries in the region.

"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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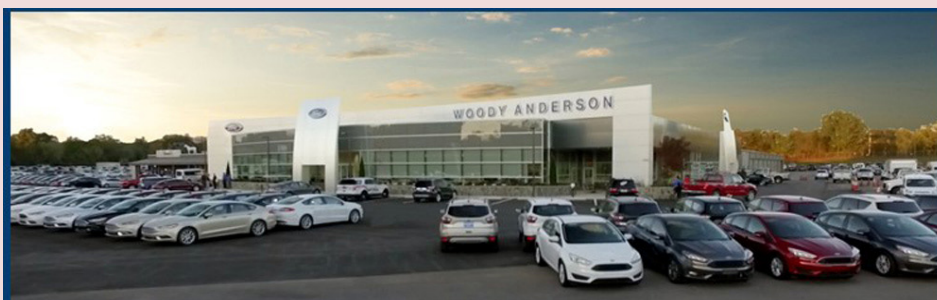
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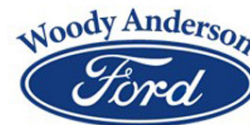
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[www.WoodyAndersonFord.com](http://www.WoodyAndersonFord.com)  
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# AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN...

## Waking Up the “Woke” Defense

Who would have thought that a word signaling Black consciousness would be literally turned “inside out”? It’s a process the powerful have spent decades perfecting.

The word “woke” has had a long and complicated evolution:

### Original Meaning

The term comes from African American Vernacular English (AAVE). It originally meant being “awake” or “alert”—especially to social and racial injustices.

As early as the 1930s–40s, Black communities used woke to mean being socially conscious, vigilant, and aware of systemic racism.

### Popularization

It gained wider use during the Civil Rights Movement, tied to calls for awareness of racial inequality.

In the 2010s, it resurfaced strongly in connection with Black Lives Matter, police brutality, and other social justice issues.

At this point, “woke” often meant being culturally aware, politically conscious, and progressive on issues like race, gender, and identity.

### Shift in Tone

In recent years, the term has been politicized and weaponized. Critics—particularly from conservative and right-leaning circles—started

using woke as a pejorative, to describe what they see as excessive political correctness, virtue signaling, or radical progressivism. Today, it is often used sarcastically or dismissively, though some still embrace its original meaning.

So, depending on who says it and how it’s said, “woke” can now mean:

*Positive:* socially conscious, aware of injustice.

*Neutral:* simply alert or paying attention.

*Negative:* overly politically correct or extreme in progressive politics.

### The “How” of It All

What, then, brought about the mindset shift that took a proud cultural expression to a term of attack faster than a line dance lesson?

By the time the 2000s arrived, “woke” had survived at least two generations. In more recent decades, “woke” was used proudly as shorthand for social awareness, particularly around issues of racial inequity, police brutality, and cultural erasure.

The Ferguson protests (2014) and Black Lives Matter era helped popularize “woke” beyond Black spaces. It became a symbol of vigilance and commitment to justice.

### Transition: From Solidarity to Trend

*Adoption by Allies:* As the term spread, non-Black progressives began using it to signal allyship with social justice causes—racial,

gender, LGBTQ+, environmental.

*Dilution:* Once embraced by mainstream culture and brands, “woke” began losing its rooted specificity. It turned into a broad catchword for being “socially conscious,” sometimes used performatively.

*Satire and Overuse:* As the word became trendy, it was also mocked—even within progressive circles—for being shallow or virtue-signaling.

### Weaponization: From Pride to Attack

*Conservative Backlash:* Around the late 2010s, opponents reframed “woke” as negative. It was cast not as awareness but as excessive political correctness or radical left ideology.

*From Awareness to Overreach:* Critics portrayed “woke” as a force that censors, cancels, and destabilizes traditional norms.

*Media Amplification:* Conservative media especially latched onto “woke” as a cultural bludgeon. It became shorthand for anything perceived as progressive “overreach”—from corporate diversity training to inclusive casting in films.

### The Present: Polarized Meanings

*For Supporters:* “Woke” still quietly signals a commitment to seeing structural

inequities and refusing complacency. It is cultural shorthand for vigilance.

*For Opponents:* “Woke” is now used sarcastically or pejoratively to dismiss efforts toward inclusion, painting them as naïve, hypocritical, or authoritarian.

*Power Dynamics:* The transformation shows how language rooted in Black cultural survival can be appropriated, mainstreamed, and then weaponized by those invested in maintaining traditional hierarchies.

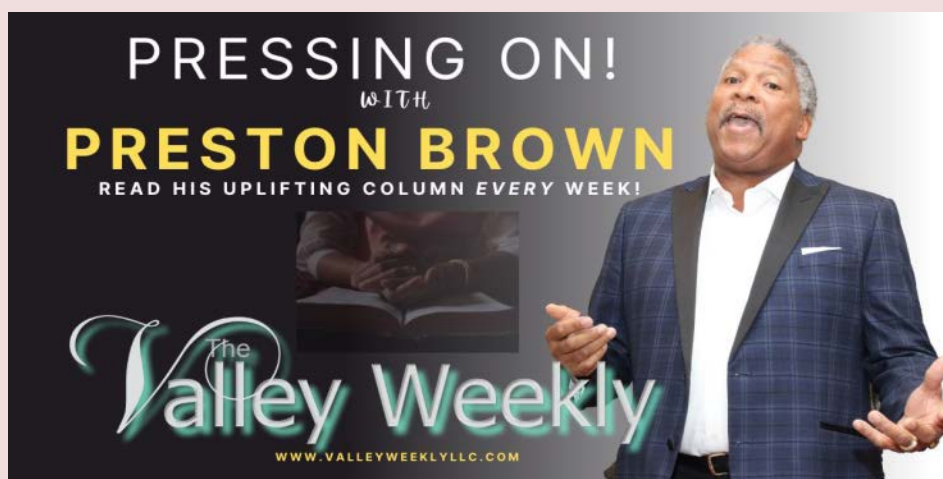
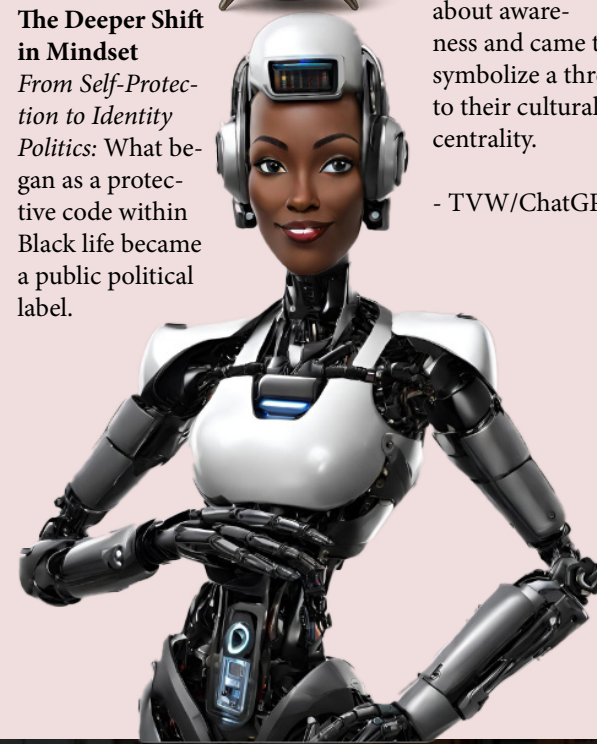


*From Empowerment to Fear:* For many white Americans, “woke” stopped being about awareness and came to symbolize a threat to their cultural centrality.

- TVW/ChatGPT

### The Deeper Shift in Mindset

*From Self-Protection to Identity Politics:* What began as a protective code within Black life became a public political label.





The Valley Weekly  
**Washington**  
One Minute  
by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington, D.C.:

**1. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.** On Saturday, the President authorized the deployment of 300 National Guard troops to Chicago, despite objections from Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker. On the same day, federal District Court Judge Karin Immergut issued a temporary restraining order to pause the deployment of troops in Portland, OR, on 10th Amendment grounds. Last Tuesday, the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration approved a second generic version of the mifepristone abortion pill (the first generic was approved in 2019), despite a recent pledge from HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to review mifepristone's safety. As the federal government shutdown reaches its first week, The Washington Post reported that the White House is planning to fire 16,000 federal workers.

**2. SUPREME COURT.** On Monday, the Supreme Court started its 2025-26 term. Last Friday, the Supreme Court

paused a Sept. 5th ruling by a federal judge in San Francisco that barred Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem from ending the protected status of hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan nationals under federal immigration law.

**3. SEPTEMBER JOBS REPORT DELAYED.** The Department of Labor did not publish the September Jobs Report that was expected on Friday morning, citing a lack of data due to the federal government shutdown. According to published reports, data from payroll processor ADP last Thursday showed employment at private companies dropped by 32,000 in September, the largest decline in 2 years.

**4. UNIVERSITY COMPACTS.** Last Wednesday, the administration trans-

mitted a proposal to 9 universities promising priority access to federal funds and invitations to White House events in exchange for pledging allegiance to conservative values, including: (1) prohibiting gender, race or politics as factors in admissions, scholarships, and university programs; (2) freezing tuition for 5 years; (3) banning professors and university employees from engaging in political speech; (4) capping international student enrollment at 15%; and (5) publicly posting average graduate earnings. The universities that received the proposal are: Vanderbilt, University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth, USC, MIT, University of

Texas, University of Arizona, Brown, and UVA.  
**5. FEDERAL PROJECT HOLDS AND CANCELLATIONS.** In conjunction with issuance of an interim final rule on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program (read the rule here: DOT Rulemaking), the Department of Transportation last week put a hold on four projects in New York and Chicago using \$20 billion in federal funds to allow for an administrative review to "ensure no additional federal dollars go towards discriminatory, illegal, and wasteful contracting practices." The projects include New York's 2nd Avenue Subway and the Hudson Tunnel Project; in

Chicago, it's the CTA's Red Line Extension and the Red and Purple Modernization Program. Last Wednesday, the Department of Energy canceled \$8 billion in federal awards for 223 green energy projects in the following states: CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, MD, MA, MN, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OR, VT, and WA.

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**A&M to Build State's First Hemp Structure**

Alabama A&M University is advancing sustainability and innovation in construction by becoming the first university in Alabama – and possibly the first historically Black college or university (HBCU) – to build a structure made



of hemp. The University hosted

world-renowned hemp builder Sergiy Kovalenkov for a two-day workshop that brought together architects, contractors, researchers, students, and community partners to explore the promise of hemp-based construction materials.

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**ON THIS DAY**

On this day in Black history, **October 10** (1871), civil rights activist Octavius Catto was murdered by white supremacists in Philadelphia while trying to vote after the ratification of the 15th Amendment. Other significant events in Black history include the 1927 birth of General Hazel Johnson Brown, the first African American woman to become a U.S. Army general, and the 1917 birth of jazz pioneer Thelonious Monk.





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