

Why You'll Never (Ever) Get Ahead - p. 8

FREE



SALUTE!

Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Bhavani Kakani

October 17, 2025

Vol. 12, No. 7

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

A&M Homecoming 2025 - p. 10-12



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THE
VIOLENCE
Dr. Dedra
Muhammad
and the
Hidden Prince
Project

The Valley Weekly

"In America, the government took the land from the Indians and then established laws protecting private property." - Alvin Poussaint

HPD Seeking Community Feedback for Reaccreditation

The Huntsville Police Department (HPD) is asking residents for feedback as it pursues reaccreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement

Agencies (CALEA). Residents can share comments through CALEA's online **public comment portal**, which is designed to gather input on HPD's delivery of public

safety services, community engagement, professionalism and overall performance. Comments may include commendations as well as concerns and will be reviewed directly

by CALEA as part of its evaluation. HPD first earned CALEA accreditation in 1996 and has successfully maintained this status since then. Accreditation is considered

the gold standard in public safety, signifying that an agency consistently meets rigorous, nationally recognized best practices in policing.

Countdown: Daylight Saving Time Ends November 2

Daylight saving time will end for 2025 at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 2. This year's change comes a day earlier than last year and falls on the second-earliest possible date for the time change.

Under the Uniform Time Act, as amended, States



may exempt themselves from observing Daylight Saving Time by State law. If a State chooses to observe Daylight Saving Time, it must begin and end on

federally mandated dates.

Daylight Saving Time is not observed in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and most of Arizona.

- U.S. Dept. of Transportation (2025)

WhistleStop BBQ Festival Returns to MidCity

A 21-year North Alabama tradition, the WhistleStop BBQ Festival, returns to the MidCity District for the third year, promising two days of music, food, and community. Presented by the Apollo Coalition, the festival will be held on October 17-18 in a new location on the southeast side of the district. Weekend passes for the event are \$25 per person, or \$15 for a single-day pass; 12 and under free.

The festival will

fill the air with the smoke of competitive barbeque and the sounds of local talent. The two-day event features an amateur barbeque contest sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society. More than 40 teams from across the southeast will compete for the Grand Champion prize of \$2,000 cash. The competition categories include ribs, chicken, and dessert. Registration for the dessert competition is open to the public.

Local bands will

take the festival stage throughout the weekend. On Friday, the music kicks off with The Envied at 5:30 p.m., followed by The Michael Goldsmith Band at 7:00 and The Dawn Osborne Band closing out the evening at 9:00 p.m. Saturday's entertainment begins at 1:00 p.m. with bluegrass band The Grastro-nauts, followed by Bluejay and the Breeze at 2:30 p.m. Singing duo Emma Klein and Amber Schmidt will take the stage at 4:30 p.m.,

followed by Nashville rock band YearB4. Local favorite JUICE

will close out the festival with a 90-minute set at 8:30 p.m.

Huntsville Joins Top 10 for Gen Z Grads Seeking College Towns

Many Gen Z grads who are looking to move after college are staying put in their college towns, according to Jordan Pandy and Alcyanna Lloyd of Business Insider.

The duo concluded that many college towns offer reasonable lodging, cultural activity and overall affordability when compared to urban areas.

The research firm

RentCafe analyzed 122 metros with populations above 300,00 and ranked the top ones for Gen Z grads.

The top 10 cities follow:
10: *Seattle, Washington.*
9. **Huntsville, Alabama**, with a 7.11% of Gen Z adults, a job growth of 4.64% and median home sale price of \$348,514.
8. *Washington, D.C.*

7. *Albany, New York.*
6. *Fayetteville, Arkansas.*

5. *Portland, Maine.*
4. *Boston, Massachusetts.*
3. *Des Moines,*

Iowa.
2. *Lincoln, Nebraska.*
1. **Ann Arbor, Michigan.**

Huntsville Feminist Chorus Concert Oct. 26

The Huntsville Feminist Chorus will perform its free "I Wonder ..." fall concert at the Huntsville Madison County Public Library on Sunday, October 26, at 2 p.m. The public is invited.

The Valley Weekly

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Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

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

1. CONGRESS. The Senate met on Tuesday, while the House has canceled this week's session (for the third week in a row), with Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) vowing not to reconvene the House until the federal government reopens. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) told House Democrats on a virtual caucus call Friday that they should plan to return to D.C. by 6:00 p.m. Tuesday for an in-person caucus meeting, which will be followed on Wednesday by action on the Capitol steps, another caucus meeting, a Steering & Policy hearing on rising healthcare costs, press engagements, and a virtual National Town Hall. Last Thursday night, the Senate failed for the seventh time to approve either the GOP or the Democrats' version of a continuing resolution to reopen the

government—although it did manage to pass the nearly \$1 trillion FY 2026 Defense Authorization bill on a 77-20 vote, with Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) reportedly obtaining a commitment from Senate Armed Services Committee Chair Roger Wicker (R-MS) to hold a hearing on the White House's recent National Guard deployments as part of a deal to move the bill forward. Due to the shutdown, 2.1 million civilian federal employees who received pay last Friday were only paid for September 21-30 (with October 1-4 withheld), and 1.3 million active-duty troops will likely miss their first paychecks this Wednesday. (Note: on Saturday, the President ordered the Pentagon to issue paychecks to military personnel, reportedly using \$8 billion in unobligated Defense Department research and development funds.)

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

On Monday, the President was in Israel for a one-day visit to address the Knesset and participate in a Middle East Peace Ceremony. Last Friday, the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), which represents 820,000 workers, filed a lawsuit to stop the firing of 4,200 federal employees, reportedly marking the start of threatened mass layoffs by White House OMB Director Russell Vought in the following agencies: Treasury (1,446 workers), HHS (1,200), Education (446), HUD (442), Commerce (315), Energy (187), and DHS (176). On Saturday, the Chicago-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit upheld a lower court decision blocking the President's attempt to deploy Illinois and Texas National Guard troops to Chicago. On Wednesday, the 9th Circuit also prevented the deployment of Oregon National Guard troops to Portland – but in both cases, the appeals courts allowed the President to call the troops into federal service without actual deployment.

3. SUPREME COURT.

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on

Wednesday in *Louisiana v. Callais*, a challenge to the congressional map that Louisiana adopted in 2024 that created a second majority-Black district (Louisiana has 6 congressional districts). It is the second go-round at the court for this dispute in less than a year; the justices heard arguments in the case for the first time in March 2025 but punted on a decision during the 2024-25 term. In related redistricting news, Vice President JD Vance traveled to Indiana on Friday for the 2nd time since Aug. 7 to jumpstart GOP efforts to redraw Indiana's congressional map, said to be stalled in the state senate. The White House would like to get 2 new GOP seats in Indiana to add to the potential 6 new seats that have been drawn in new maps adopted in Texas and Missouri.

4. TARIFF WARS. In response to an October 9th announcement by China, which produces over 90% of the world's rare earth minerals, that it was restricting the export of 5 additional minerals (holmium, erbium, thulium, europium, and ytterbium), the White House announced late Friday that it was imposing

an additional 100% tariff on China's U.S.-bound exports, along with new export controls on "any and all critical software" by November 1. In related news, China announced new port fees on U.S. ships to go into effect Tuesday in retaliation for the \$80 per net tonnage port fee that the U.S. has levied on Chinese vessels also beginning tomorrow. This sharp escalation of the trade war comes as the President is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum that starts on October 31 in Gyeongju, South Korea.

5. FARMERS' BAILOUT + LABOR SHORTAGE. At last Thursday's White House Cabinet meeting, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins stated that the federal government shutdown has delayed the administration's plan to announce a major bailout, rumored to be in the \$10-\$20 billion range, for American farmers impacted by the U.S.-China trade war. In related news, the Labor Department warned of an urgent farm worker shortage that threatens the U.S. food supply "exacerbated by the near total cessation of

the inflow of illegal aliens," in an expedited interim rule published on Oct. 2 that seeks to cut farmers' costs by lowering the pay for seasonal migrants working in agriculture under the H-2A visa program.

6. HIGHER EDUCATION - MIT REFUSES COM-PACT.

Last Friday, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) became the first of the 9 American universities to reject an offer by the administration to receive expedited federal funding in exchange for pledging to abide by a list of conservative values (including a ban on political speech by university professors). The other universities are: Vanderbilt, University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth, USC, University of Texas, University of Arizona, Brown, and UVA. The administration has set a deadline of October 20 for the universities to respond.

Hamm Consulting Group
1717 K Street, NW,
Suite 900

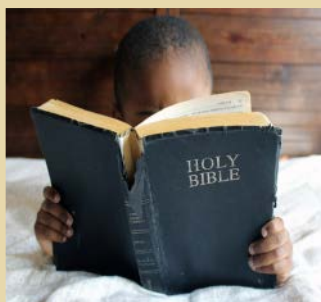
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T: 202-596-8384

rhamm@hammconsulting.com

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PLACES, AND POLITICS

This Sunday's Lctionary

Sunday, October 19, 2025
Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 121

Second Lesson:

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

GOSPEL:

Luke 18:1-8

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Publisher

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Editor-in-Chief

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

**Editorial Consultant/
Senior Editor**

Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

Editorial Assistant

Linda Burruss

Advertising Associate

Morgan Saintjones

- Contributing Editors -

tim allston

Minister Preston Brown

Gloria B. Caldwell

Ron Hamm

Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

-and-

“Aunt Irma”

Photographers

Anthony “Gip” Gibson

Jerome Saintjones

Website Administrator

Calvin Farier

Mailing Address:

The Valley Weekly

P. O. Box 893 - Huntsville, AL 35804

(256) 651-9028

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the editorial staff, and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.



The Valley Weekly
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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
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Sixteenth Page		
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Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

Alabama A&M University Homecoming: Long Live Thy Fame!

There’s a certain magic in the air every October on “The Hill.” It’s the time when maroon and white flags wave proudly, old friends return home, and generations of Bulldogs gather to celebrate a tradition that’s far deeper than football. Alabama A&M University’s 2025 Homecoming Week—began Sunday, October 5, and culminated with a triumphant win over Mississippi Valley State University on Saturday evening.



From the opening gospel concert celebration to the final whistle at Louis Crews Stadium, this year’s homecoming embodied everything that makes A&M so special: excellence, tradition, and a deep love for family—because at Alabama A&M, that’s exactly what we are!

Homecoming week created a message of gratitude and purpose. Alumni, students, faculty, staff, university leaders and friends reminded us that giving back is at the core of A&M’s mission—“Service is Sovereignty.” As the week unfolded, campus life came alive with energy and remembrance. I had the greatest time attending and participating in the gospel concert, Torch Bearers Ceremony and Reception, All-Reunion Brunch, Day Concert and the football game. The energy was high and positive.



The annual parade down Meridian Street, the Greek step show, alumni socials, and student celebrations kept the spirit alive deep in tradition and legacy. Saturday’s grand finale was everything homecoming should be. Tailgaters filled the fields, the smell of barbecue and soul food hung in the air, and Bulldog Nation came together in full force. The roar of the crowd, the music of the band, and the energy of the cheerleaders fueled the team to victory!

Homecoming at Alabama A&M is more than a week of events—it’s a reunion of hearts, minds, and memories. It’s a time when the past meets the present, and the future feels bright with possibility. This year’s celebration reminded us that while much has changed, the soul of A&M remains the same: rooted in excellence, strengthened by faith, and bound together by love for our university.

Let’s carry this spirit forward—with gratitude for where we’ve been and hope for all that’s still to come. Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog. *Long Live Thy Fame!*

Until next week ...

OCTOBER 17 - MAE JEMISON - Mae Carol Jemison is an American engineer, physician and NASA astronaut. She became the first African American woman to travel in space when she went into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on September 12, 1992. After medical school and a brief general practice, Jemison served in the Peace Corps from 1985 until 1987, when she was selected by NASA to join the astronaut corps. She resigned from NASA in 1993 to found a company researching the application of technology to daily life. She has appeared on television several times, including as an actress in an episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation. She is a dancer and holds nine honorary doctorates in science, engineering, letters, and the humanities. She is the current principal of the 100 Year Starship organization. - Blackcelebritybirthdays.org



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral services for **MRS. DOLLIE MAE BELL BANKS** (b. 1944) and **MR. TERRY TIMMONS** (b. 1967) will be announced at a later date.



Funeral service for **MS. RUBY "RURU" HAYGOOD** (b. 1965) was Sunday, October 12, at The Intentional Church, 8155 Highway 53, Toney, Ala., with Bishop Abraham Moore, Pastor, and Apostle Phyllis Morton, Eulogist.

Funeral service for **MRS. JULIA HALEY CHANDLER** (b. 1950) was Saturday, October 4, at Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Reverend Debra McGlathery-Holden as Officiant and Reverend Terence Haley as Eulogist.

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

Funeral service for **MS. BARBARA ANN TOWNSEND** (b. 1961) was Saturday, September 27, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Rev. Robert Peavy officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. RANDOLPH THOMAS** (b. 1960) was Saturday, September 27, at First Church of God in Christ.

Memorial service for **MR. GARY D. BAILEY** (b. 1956) was Friday, September 26, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MR. RONLY J. PARRISH** (b. 1960) was Thursday, September 18, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Dr. Larry Smith officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. SHARON JEANETTE ("D.D.") RAY WASHINGTON** (b. 1957) was Friday, September 19, at Blackburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Reverend Dr. Edward Anderson, eulogist and Reverend Tramaine D. Snodgrass, Senior Pastor.

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "Raising Our Standards"

Daniel 3:18 says, "But even if God does not (rescue us) we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

In this scripture, we find Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refusing to bow down to the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had made. The reason they refused was they had already established a standard for their lives that would not allow them to bow down to any golden image.

Now a standard is something established by authority, custom, or general consent as a model or example. God has a standard that He wants us to live by, and I believe that He is calling all of us to raise our spiritual standards. How can we embrace God's strength when we don't accept His standards for our lives?

We live in a world where our standards are being set by so many different sources. This could be by a famous celebrity, or a famous athlete, or a powerful politician. Our standards are not being set by God. When we set our standards low, it's easy for the enemy Satan

today remain isolated in their own worlds with their own thoughts, but who is setting the standard for them to live by? I believe that everyone needs a plan to help

lives. We do this by reading His word so that His truth can be revealed to us.

May God grant you spiritual success in raising your standards and living according to his word.

Question: Has there ever been a time in your life where you were asked to compromise your standards? What did you do?

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:
"If You Say So"



to "come in like a flood," and that's when things go bad. That's when we start living a life of compromise.

Many of our youth

them navigate through the good times as well as the bad. We all need daily reminders to reinforce God's standards for our



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This Is Just a Test: Conquering Your "Mount Moriah Moments"

"Abraham remained standing before the Lord." - Genesis 18:22

When life throws us a curve — an unexpected delay, disappointment, or even a sudden blessing — our first question often sounds like Abraham's could have: "Why me? Why now?"

We tend to think divine tests come only through pain. But God tests us through *pleasure* and *prosperity*, too. That surprise "yes" from a forgotten proposal, that unanticipated promotion, that overdue breakthrough — those, too, are "Mount Moriah Moments," times when God says, "I trust you enough to try you."

As one pastor-friend reminded me, "God has to trust you in order to try you." Every trial *and* triumph bears your spiritual initials. God custom-designs both, ensuring you don't receive my challenges, and I don't receive yours. Each is a hand-tailored test to reveal His glory through our faithfulness.

Abraham's faith didn't leap to maturity overnight. It grew one obedient step at a time, cut and polished like a fine gem through heat and pressure. When commanded to offer Isaac, his beloved son, Abraham obeyed — proving that even trembling faith can be true faith.

So when your Mount Moriah moment comes — when God calls you to trust Him beyond reason — remember: there are no wasted experiences in the life of faith. Every climb, every altar, every act of surrender is preparation for the next display of His power.

Trials and triumphs are God's twin teaching tools. Will we shrink from our challenges or credit ourselves for our victories? Or will we, like Job, declare, "*The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord*" (Job 1:21)?

Whatever you face today — setback or success — hear God's whisper: "*This is only a test.*" But it's also His invitation: to be trusted, refined, and used for His glory.



Tim Allston

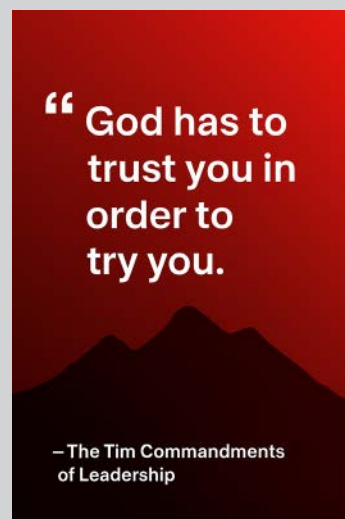
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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Did You Choose It Anyway? ...

Did you choose it anyway? ...

Have you been making decisions, slipping your morals, values, and time away from things that you know aren't good for you?

Did you let your mind beat you for what you know to be a good opportunity, focusing on superfluous things that don't matter?

Do you feel your progress slipping away? Or do you understand you chose it away?

Be *honest* with yourself.

Each decision begets a response, reaction, or circumstance. These decisions ultimately belong to you. We are given the gift of choice.



You can make wise decisions, considering outcomes that will work best for you.

You can decide to make decisions and take risks that may or may not pan out. You

can choose to opt out of opportunities and do nothing.

My point here is that it's all your decision. It would help if you took accountability for what you gain ... and lose.

Don't choose away the best livelihood you can provide yourself by being lazy, complacent, or afraid.

Choose abundant life through faith and proper action. The choice is yours!

Make the right decision.

You can do it. I believe in you! Start believing in yourself.

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 18

Huntsville Police and Parks
& Recreation Halloween
Party
2200 Jaycee Way SW
Huntsville, Ala.
3 p.m.

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

October 19

Rocket City Pridefest 2025
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala.

12-6 p.m.

October 23

Boo Bash
Brahan Spring Recreation
Center
5-8 p.m.

October 25

Monster Mash
Mark Russell Recreation
Center
10 a.m.-12 noon

Steamers & Dreamers

102 East Laurel
Scottsboro, Ala.

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

October 26

Halloween Decorating Cup-
cake Class
Dublin Park
8324 Madison Pike
Madison, Ala.
1 p.m.

"I Wonder ..."

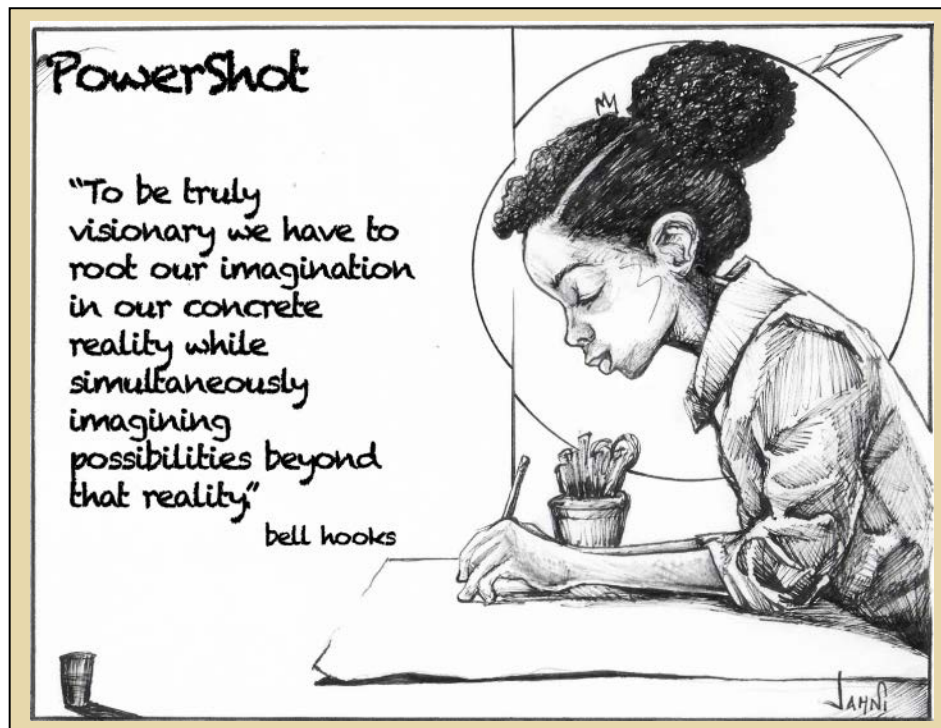
Fall Concert
The Huntsville Feminist
Chorus (Free)
Huntsville Madison County
Public Library
915 Monroe Street
Huntsville, Ala.
2 p.m.

October 30

Haunted Hallways & Fall
Festival
Calvary Hill Community
Center - 5 p.m.

October 31

Bootacular Family Fall Fest
Fern Bell Recreation Center
3:30 p.m.



"Which would frighten you more? A slave who is crazy or a slave who is sane and sees you clearly?"

- Percival Everett


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

Mrs. Bhavani Kakani

For 50 years, Mrs. Bhavani Kakani has brought a unique combination of healthy compassion, strong commitment, sharp business acumen and servant leadership skills to empower people and organizations in Huntsville.

Her vision for "building bridges" led her to found and lead AshaKiran, a non-profit organization dedicated to educate, empathize, and empower foreign-origin/culturally diverse individuals who are experiencing "crisis" situations.

The treasurer of Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Kakani is also a founding director/secretary of the board for Progress Bank and Trust. She has served as a senior staff supervisor in international finance for Intergraph Corporation; a cytologist; and an office manager for a physician's office.

As a trailblazer in building healthier communities, she educated, raised funds and advocated for better health for all persons by providing leadership for Madison County Medical Alliance (president), Alliance to the Medical Society of the State of Alabama (president), Southern Medical Association Alliance, Alliance to the American Medical Association, Huntsville Hospital Foundation, Statewide Health Planning Council, and ambassador to the Hudson Alpha Institute and Hospice.

Mrs. Kakani continues her volunteer activities by

serving on the Healthcare Authority of Huntsville. To solidify her commitment to empower abused children and their families, she served on the Board of Voices for Alabama Children and as treasurer of Human Trafficking and Coordinated Community Task Forces.

She also served on the National Children's Advocacy Center in various capacities for many years, including two years as board chairperson. Her belief in providing a second chance through education and mentoring to increase self worth and to excel the careers of the less fortunate is demonstrated through mentoring for Women's Economic Development Council Foundation. She was an active participant on boards of Randolph School, UAH Foundation, Women's Business Center of North Alabama, Alabama Space Education Commission and Women's Economic Development Council Foundation.

Her dedication for community inclusiveness and betterment is displayed through her leadership as a graduate of Leadership Alabama, Mayor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Board Chair of Leadership of Huntsville/Madison County and service on the boards of Southern Cord, Botanical Garden, International Society of Huntsville (founding board member) Huntsville India Association, Huntsville Telugu Association (founder



and initial president), Women's Guild of the Huntsville Museum of Art (president), Arts Council, Huntsville International Society (founding member), United Way Professional Division Campaign chair, member of Committee of 100, and as co-chair of Legacy for Huntsville Bicentennial Celebration Committee.

She is a recipient of the Girl's Inc. "She Knows Where She is Going" award, National Conference for Community and Justice's "Brotherhood and Sisterhood" award and many others.

Kakani earned a B.S. degree in finance, summa cum laude and an MBA from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She has been married for 55 years to Dr. Rao Kakani, retired general and vascular surgeon, and the couple has three children and two grandchildren.

"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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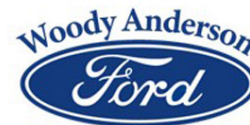
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It's our birthday,
but we're
celebrating
you.

This year, as Bryant Bank marks our 20th birthday, it's our customers who deserve the accolades. For two decades, you've trusted us, believed in us and relied on us to help you meet your financial goals. Without you, there would be no us. So thank you to everyone who has been, and continues to be, a valued part of our family.

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AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN...

Why You'll Never (EVER) Get Ahead

Ever stop to question that elusive American Dream people keep talking about?

Here's the blunt reality:

1. Wages haven't kept up with costs

For decades, wages for most working Americans have grown far more slowly than productivity and profits.

Median paychecks buy less today when stacked against housing, health-care, education, childcare, and transportation costs.

Raises that do come often get eaten up by inflation, rent hikes, and medical bills.

2. Housing is rigged against the average earner

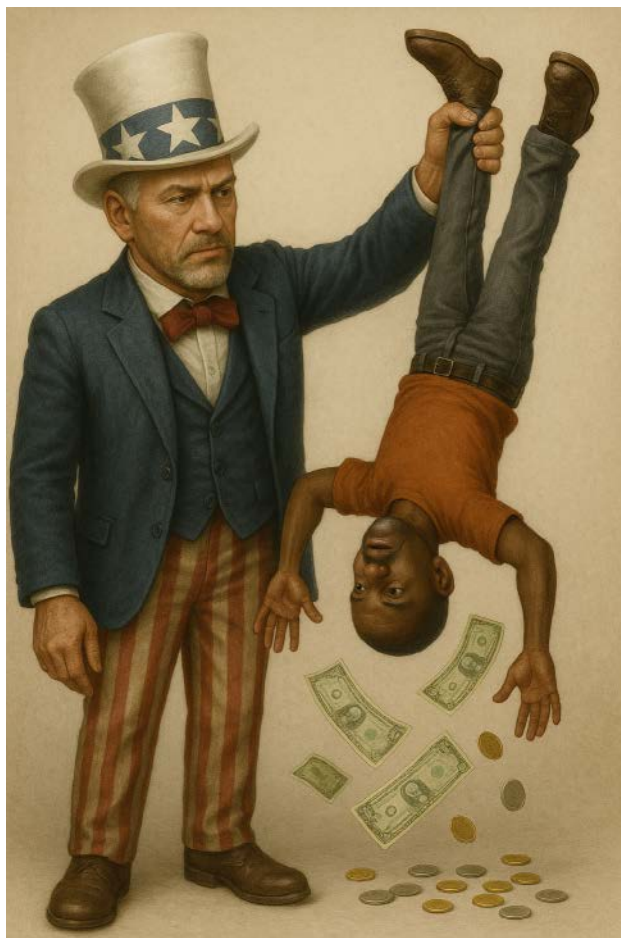
Home prices and rents have skyrocketed, especially in cities where the best jobs are.

Real estate is increasingly treated as an investment vehicle, not shelter. Investors and corporations can outbid families.

Without affordable housing, people spend a crushing share of income just to keep a roof over their heads.

3. Healthcare and education are wealth traps

A medical emergency can bankrupt a middle-



class family, even with insurance.

College, once a ladder to upward mobility, now leaves many saddled with decades of debt.

These costs drain disposable income and block wealth-building.

4. Jobs are less secure and benefits thinner

Gig work, contract jobs, and temp labor have replaced many stable, full-time positions.

Employers cut pensions, healthcare benefits, and retirement contributions, shifting risks onto workers.

Automation and outsourcing keep workers anxious and replaceable.

5. Wealth inequality is systemic

A disproportionate share of income and wealth goes to the top 1–10%.

Profits flow to shareholders, not the employees creating the value.

Political influence follows money—meaning tax codes, labor laws, and policies tend to reinforce inequality.

6. Debt keeps people stuck

Credit cards, student loans, car loans, and medical debt consume future earnings.

Interest payments funnel wealth upward, limiting savings and investments for the average worker.

7. Retirement security is vanishing

Social Security alone isn't enough, and many can't save for retirement.

401(k)s replaced pensions, leaving workers exposed to market swings.

Older Americans often

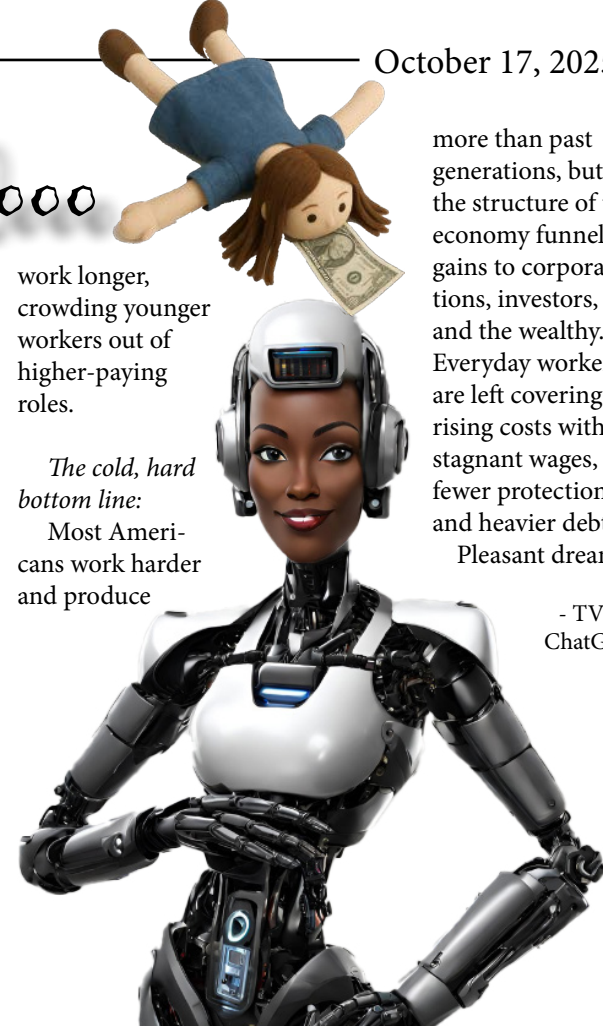
work longer, crowding younger workers out of higher-paying roles.

The cold, hard bottom line:

Most Americans work harder and produce

more than past generations, but the structure of the economy funnels gains to corporations, investors, and the wealthy. Everyday workers are left covering rising costs with stagnant wages, fewer protections, and heavier debt. Pleasant dreams.

- TVW/
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STOMP THE VIOLENCE: Hidden Princess Retreat Uses Art to Illuminate Domestic & Gun Violence Issues

Huntsville, Ala. — On September 27th, community members gathered for an evening of storytelling, healing, and empowerment at the Hidden Princess Book and Movie Retreat. The event, centered around the powerful themes of domestic violence and gun violence in impoverished communities, served as both an artistic showcase and a vital community awareness initiative.

Hosted by the Rising South Literacy School and directed by Cory Rogers, the retreat was not just a gathering—it was a movement. Featuring a 58-minute film adaptation of the book *Hidden Princess: The Rebirth of Making Mary*, the event provided a poignant, at times humorous, yet deeply emotional look into the realities faced by survivors of domestic violence.

“Tonight is more than a celebration—it’s a statement,” said Rogers during his opening remarks. “This kickoff is not just to bring awareness to one month out of the year. It’s meant to make a difference in somebody’s life—even if we do not know who right now.”

The film underscored the all-too-common struggles faced by those



experiencing domestic violence, bringing raw truth to the screen while offering moments of levity to uplift the audience. Following the film, a brief but impactful discussion allowed attendees to reflect on the themes and share in collective empathy.

A moment of silence was observed for those who have lost their lives to domestic violence. Then, in a tone that blended solemnity with celebration, attendees were invited to enjoy music, food, and the signature white carpet walk, which featured actors who have previously

contributed to the *Stomp the Violence* initiative. These individuals have used their talents to channel healing through art—a recurring theme throughout the night.

“October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month,” the MC reminded the crowd, “And tonight we’re raising our voices for healing, for hope, and for safer communities. No more silence, no more suffering—*stomp the violence!*”

Statistics presented during the program painted a sobering picture:

- 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the U.S.
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence from a partner.
- Nearly 30% of women and 10% of men report long-term impacts from intimate partner violence.

These numbers served as a call to action, urging the community to move beyond awareness into advocacy.

Dr. Dedra Muham-

CONTACT: Dr. Dedra Muhammad
www.dedramuhammad.com | (256) 602-1494
counselor@dedramuhammad.com
 My “Why” Part 1 - 19 Reasons Why | Good Reads Author

mad, the visionary behind the *Hidden Princess* project, led a powerful presentation on the history of *Making Mary*, offering a chapter reveal and sharing the inspiration behind both the book and its cinematic counterpart. Her message was clear: stories heal, and storytelling is activism.

Door prizes added a festive touch to the evening, but the most lasting takeaway was the reminder that “empathy is everything.” As one speaker noted: “It’s easy to judge until you walk in someone’s

shoes. Their words carry weight, born from experiences others can’t comprehend.”

The Hidden Princess Book and Movie Retreat not only gave voice to survivors but also lit the path toward a safer, more compassionate future—one story, one conversation, one community at a time.

For more information on future events or to support the Stomp the Violence initiative, visit www.risingsouthliteracyschool.org.





Alabama A&M University Recognizes 75 Years of MISS ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

Saturday, October 11, 2025
The Welcome Center - Normal, Alabama
Photos by J. Saintjones



Alabama A&M University TORCH BEARER'S BRUNCH

Homecoming 2025 Culmination
The Event Center - Normal, Alabama



Alabama A&M University Homecoming Parade 2025

Saturday, October 11, 2025
Meridian Street - Huntsville, Alabama
Photos by J. Saintjones



Alabama A&M University The Homecoming 2025 Recap

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Meridian Street - Huntsville, Alabama

Photos by Dorothy W. Huston



AAMU Business Students Excited about New Stock Ticker



Alabama A&M University celebrated a major step toward enhancing its business education programs with the ribbon cutting of a new stock ticker, generously sponsored by Lockheed Martin.

The ceremony took place last month in front of the AAMU School of Business building, marking the ticker's official debut inside the building's second-floor lobby.

The gift, valued at \$10,000 per year, stems from a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Lockheed Martin in Fall 2024.

The global aerospace and defense leader provided the ticker as part of its ongoing partnership with AAMU to support innovation and student success.

"This installation represents the first step in transforming the College

of Business and Public Affairs into a space that reflects a professional business environment," said Dr. Timothy Mantz, dean of the College of Business & Public Affairs. "Our students will now gain daily exposure to the same real-time financial data that drives decision-making in the marketplace."

The ticker, which runs automatically via the vendor, will continuously display live stock

market updates. Its presence is designed to immerse students in a real-world setting, giving them a stronger connection to the concepts they study in class.

Yvette S. Clayton, former director of Career Development Services at AAMU and now University Relations and Recruitment Manager for Lockheed Martin, returned to campus for

the event.

"Lockheed Martin values our relationship with Alabama A&M, and we're proud to provide resources that prepare students for future careers in finance, business, and beyond," she said.

Students in the Department of Accounting and Finance have welcomed the installation,

noting that the finance program is gaining momentum and the addition of a live stock ticker signals a strong investment in their academic experience.

Many said the display makes their learning environment feel more professional and better connected to the real world, reinforcing AAMU's commitment to advancing the program.



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ON THIS DAY

On **October 17**, Black Poetry Day is celebrated to honor the birth of Jupiter Hammon, the first published African-American poet. Other key events include the 1969 dismissal of the Black 14 student athletes at the University of Wyoming for planning a protest, and the 1888 founding of the first Black-owned bank, Capital Savings Bank, in Washington, D.C.



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