

'JAHNI' MOORE - We Are the Monuments - pp. 9-10**FREE**

Friday
October 31, 2025
Vol. 12, No. 9
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Dr. Horace W. Rice

"We can never be gods, after all--but we can become something less than human with frightening ease." - N. K. Jemisin

**VOP One Table Returns November 24**

Village of Promise (VoP) announces the return of One Table Huntsville for its seventh year, presented by Bentley Buick GMC.

On Monday, November 24, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to

1:30 p.m., Big Spring Park, 200 Church Street SW, Huntsville, Ala., will transform into a vibrant gathering space where neighbors from every walk of life come together to share a meal, exchange

stories, and celebrate community.

For more information on One Table Huntsville or for volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit <https://www.villageofpromise.org/onetablehuntsville>.

Harrison Center Ready for Veterans Day

The Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center will host its annual Veterans Day Program on Thursday, November 6, at 11 a.m.

This year's theme, "Unified for Service," recognizes the strength, sacrifice,

and solidarity of all who have served this nation.

Join Center staff and members as they pay tribute to veterans from all branches of the military through reflection, recognition, and communion.

This program is a

meaningful opportunity to come together in gratitude and honor those who have dedicated themselves to protecting American freedoms.

All are welcome as we stand united in service and appreciation.

**OUC to Host Annual Fall Festival**

Oakwood University Church will host its Annual Fall Festival on Sunday, November 2, at the OUC Family Life Center, located at 5500 Adventist Boulevard, Huntsville, Ala., from 1-3 p.m.

Fall Fest aims "to provide an alternative place for children & families to enjoy costumes, candy and fun."

Under the theme, "Creation," kids can enjoy train rides, face painting, bouncy houses, live animal exhibits, a costume fashion show, free food, and other activities for all ages.

Families are invited to compete in the Trunk or Treat contest by decorating their car trunks in animal themes.

Admission is free, but attendees are encouraged to donate new sneakers to the OUC Kicks 4 Kids campaign.

Trunk or Treat participants should register online at: <http://oucscda.church-center.com/registrations/events/3216584>

For additional information, contact Patti Conwell at (256) 714-3822 or contact emailcommunication@oucscda.org.

HSO Presents 'Psycho'

Join the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Pops Series as it performs Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho" film with

live orchestra on Thursday, October 30, in the Von Braun Center Mark C. Smith Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets start as low as \$15.

For additional information, contact Wendy Zills at (256) 539-4818.

SSA Encouraging Online Services

The Social Security Administration is expanding its online services to give freedom and control when conducting business with Social Security. Use the personal my Social Security account to:

- Request a replacement Social Security or Medicare card
- Access benefit verification letters
- Apply for benefits
- Check your application or appeal status
- Access your Cost-



of-Living Adjustment (COLA) notice up to three weeks earlier than by mail (if you sign up for digital notices before November 20)

- Change your address
- Set up or change direct deposit
- Print your 1099

- View your latest statement
- Review your earning history

Are Local Offices Open?

Offices are open, but not all in-person services are available. Persons are encouraged to use their personal my Social Security account to easily access SSA services and benefits online. Log in to your existing account to access these services at www.ssa.gov.

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 is in session this week and was expected to vote again (for the 13th time) to pass the House-passed continuing resolution to reopen the gov't through Nov. 21, while House Speaker Johnson (R-LA) continues to keep the House out of session – the House has not voted since Sept. 19. Punchbowl News reported that House Democrats held an in-person caucus meeting in DC on Tuesday, with additional events planned for Wednesday. Last Thursday, by a vote of 54-45 (60 votes were needed), the Senate failed to proceed with Sen. Ron Johnson's (R-WI) bill to pay 700,000 federal employees who are working through the shutdown, while Senate Republicans blocked an attempt by Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) to bring up his bill that would have paid all federal workers, includ-

ing furloughed employees. It would also prevent the White House from laying off more federal workers during the government shutdown. It is expected that the Senate will vote again this week on the Johnson bill, and some news outlets have reported negotiations are underway to merge parts of the Johnson and Van Hollen bills, as well as introduce more targeted bills to fund the military and air traffic controllers.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. This week, the President is on a 6-day trip to Asia and is today at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Kuala Lumpur. On Wednesday, he arrived in South Korea to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' meeting, which included a private meeting on Thursday with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Last week, the President rejected a meeting request from

House and Senate Democratic leaders to negotiate an end to the government shutdown.

3. SUPREME COURT.

The court has no meetings or arguments scheduled this week. Next Wednesday (Nov. 5), the court will hear arguments in a pair of cases – Learning Resources, Inc. v. Trump and Trump v. V.O.S. Selections – to determine whether the President has authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose his reciprocal and fentanyl trafficking tariffs. According to the SCOTUS blog website, the justices will discuss former Kentucky clerk Kim Davis' challenge to same-sex marriage at their private conference on Nov. 7 (it takes two conferences for a case to move forward; if the justices deny review, that announcement could come as soon as Nov. 10).

4. INFLATION REPORT/FED MEETING. Last Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released its September inflation report, which had been delayed 10 days by the government shutdown, showing that the annual inflation rate ticked up to 3% from the previous

month's 2.9%, as measured by the Consumer Price Index. Largest increases for September were gasoline that jumped 4.1% and airlines fares that were up 2.7%. The White House on Friday said that it doesn't expect the BLS to be able to release the Consumer Price Index for October as a result of the shutdown (the monthly jobs report is also indefinitely on hold). The Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday and was expected to cut interest rates by a quarter-point (the current federal funds rate range is 4.00% to 4.25%).

5. HEALTHCARE PREMIUMS. According to The Washington Post, 17 million Americans who pur-

chase healthcare coverage on the federal marketplace will see a dramatic 30% increase in their annual premiums for 2026. The spike in premiums became visible Monday, as the administration was expected to open Healthcare.gov for window shopping to browse the price of plans ahead of the Nov. 1 start of open enrollment.

5. HIGHER EDUCATION.

Last week, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) submitted comments to the U.S. Education Department regarding proposed changes to the E-App—the application colleges use to participate in federal student aid programs. In its letter, AACC highlighted ongoing concerns about the burden-

some nature of current procedures, emphasizing that participation agreements, recertification requirements, and program review processes need significant improvement. The association called for streamlined processes to reduce administrative burdens on institutions while maintaining program integrity and ensuring continued student access to federal aid.

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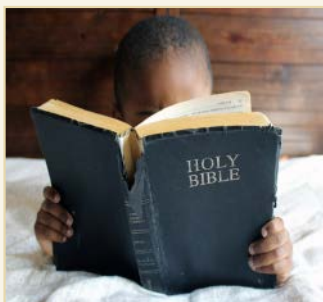
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This Sunday's Lctionary

Sunday, November 2, 2025
Twenty-First Sunday
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 1:10-18

Psalm 32:1-8

Second Lesson:

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

GOSPEL:

Luke 19:1-10

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The Valley Weekly

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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
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	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page		
	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

We Still Chant: Go, Bulldogs!

Another Magic City Classic has come and gone. Yes—let me address it upfront. Our Alabama A&M University Bulldogs took a loss last Saturday to the Alabama State Hornets. The scoreboard did not swing in our favor again this year. Yet, if you were there, you know the story was much bigger than the game.

From the parade rolling proudly through Birmingham, to the electrifying precision of the Marching Maroon and White at halftime, to the laughter, fellowship, and aroma of good food rising from miles of tailgates—the Classic belonged to the Bulldog Nation. In spirit, culture, community, and representation, we won on every front that matters.

My family is blessed to be second-generation AAMU Bulldogs, and that pride doesn't fade with a final score. Last week, we still had hope—and this week, we still do. Coach Connell Maynor had his time; now Coach Sam Shade will have his. And as with any meaningful foundation, it takes time to build. But build he will—and we will expect him to deliver!



During my tenure as Vice President for Student Affairs, my family sat faithfully in the “Dog Pound” during basketball season inside the Elmore Health Sciences Complex. When we chanted “Who let the dogs out?” that building shook.

We had home court advantage—and

we used it. Well, the dogs certainly got out at Legion Field last Saturday—but ASU's Hornets came prepared. And let me tell you, it takes real Bulldog love to stay in that stadium and witness the struggle to the final minute! But love we have—and we remain. Because being a Bulldog is not just about winning games. It's culture. It's community. It's legacy.

Halloween is today!. Years ago, my family celebrated with costumes, candy, and neighborhoods full of children. But times have changed. So after dark, my porch light will be off. For those who will celebrate, I encourage you to choose safe, organized activities for the little ones. Our church, The Fellowship of Faith Church, at 3703 N. Memorial Parkway, will host HALLELUJAH Night on October 31st at 6 PM. Bring your family. We will have games, treats, and a warm community. No tricks—only love.

*Keep chanting.
Keep believing.
Keep loving our Bulldogs and one another.*

Until next week ... Go, AAMU!

Dorothy



OCTOBER 31 - DARLENE MCCOY - Darlene Jenise “McCoy” Johnson-Jackson is an American gospel singer, songwriter, author, radio personality, and Christian R&B recording artist. She started her music career in 2005 with the release of *Fallen in Love* single by EMI Gospel. She would release a precursor extended play, in 2007's *Fallen in Love*, again with EMI Gospel. This will lead to the release of Darlene McCoy later that year. This album was her breakthrough release on the Billboard magazine charts, which it placed on the Gospel Albums chart. She is the First African American Female to host a nightly syndicated radio show, as she hosted *Nightly Spirit* under Reach Media Inc. Darlene McCoy has 3 Children: Ambria Boyd, Chandler “Champ” McCoy, Dylan McCoy one grandson, Jax Nasir Scott, and one granddaughter. Darlene is also the first cousin, twice removed of legendary minister/activist Benjamin Mays and comedian/actress Moms Mabley.

- Blackcelebritybirthdays.org



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



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Funeral services are incomplete and will be announced at a later date for **MRS. JENNIFER GALANDA HEATHINGTON** (b. 1965); **MRS. LILLIE G. BONE WALKER** (b. 1931); and **MR. XAVIER CHAMBERS**.

Funeral service for **MS. LIZA MAE LOFTON** (b. 1934) will be announced later by Williams, Farr, and Purnell Funeral Home of Sikeston, Missouri. Ms. Liza Mae Lofton is the mother of Nelms Memorial Funeral Home staff member Ms. Liza Lofton.

Funeral service for **MRS. VINDA MENDENHALL** (b. 1963) will be Saturday, November 1, at 2 p.m. at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Pastor Thomas Beavers officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. LISA STEGER** (b. 1962) was Monday, October 27, at Northwest Church of Christ, 5008 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, Ala., with Brother John Branch officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. BRENDA STATEN** (b. 1967) was Saturday, October 25, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Sandra Richardson officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. RANDY REED** (b. 1966) was Saturday, October 25, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. SANDERS J. DAVIS, JR.** (b. 1935) was Saturday, October 18, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Jeffery Jefferson officiating.

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 **MR. TERRY TIMMONS** (b. 1967) was Saturday, October 11.

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "The Faith Bridge"

In Mark 9: 22 A concerned father asked Jesus, "If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us". Because his son had severe mental problems. So Jesus questions him and says, "If you can"? Then he goes on to say, "Everything is possible for one who believes. You know the problems that so many of us have is our unbelief. Any time we have a challenging situation in our life, our faith will be tested, just like we find with this father in this text. Now there is a "faith bridge" that we need to cross over to handle difficult situations.

These are situations that we have to go deeper spiritually to get anything resolved. These are problems that only Jesus can handle. Like we found with the woman with the issue of blood who had been suffering for years until Jesus got involved and healed her with the hem of His garment. Now when we cross this bridge of faith we allow Jesus to come into our circumstance. But our unbelief keeps us from

crossing over and staying in a place that God did not intend for us to be.

This is when we need to grow in our faith. Matthew 17:20, Jesus said if we have faith as small as a mustard seed, then we can move mountains. Now a mustard seed is small but the life inside of the mustard seed is large. Matter of fact there is a fifteen foot tree inside of a tiny mustard seed. So in order for



us to grow our faith, first we need to put life into our faith. Then we need to start putting our belief before our sight. So many people are waiting to see their blessings before they participate. Secondly, we need to stop "not believing". This father said 'I believe, but help my unbelief.' So we need to stop saying "if you can" and start saying "when you can". Finally, just like this father did, we need to ask Jesus to help our unbelief and

the only way to accomplish this is to cross over the "faith bridge" that God has constructed for us.

Prayer: Loving Father, help us to have the faith that we need during difficult times.

Question: When was the last time you had to cross the bridge of faith and totally depend on God?

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:

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Andrew Young: Doing “The Dirty Work” of Leadership

“Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” - Ecclesiastes 9:10

Yes, Rev. Ralph David Abernathy succeeded Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as leader of the civil rights movement. And Rev. Jesse Jackson went on to become a two-time presidential candidate and national convention keynote speaker.

But Andrew Young—civil rights activist, U.S. Congressman, UN ambassador, Atlanta’s 55th mayor, and co-chair of the 1996 Summer Olympics—arguably became Dr. King’s most *effective* heir apparent.

As MSNBC’s October 17 documentary “*Andrew Young: The Dirty Work*” revealed, Young’s genius was not in outshining others but in **serving from the shadows**. His willingness, in his own words, to do “the things nobody wanted to do—and feeling you had the responsibility to try” made him the perfect *poster child for leading from the middle*.

When King once told him for the 1963 Birmingham campaign, “I need you to be our Uncle Tom because you know how to talk to white people and negotiate,” Young didn’t flinch. He understood that **middle leadership** often means absorbing criticism, staying mission-focused, and getting the job done.

His journey—preacher → activist → congressman → diplomat → mayor → global spokesperson—models what I call the **Silver-Mettle Leader (SML)**: one who leads with courage, humility, and endurance from the middle, not the top.

Young’s life embodies the *A-SILVERPATH* leadership principles:

A – Awareness of role

S – Step back and allow Time & Circumstances to elevate you

I – Identify opportunity where others only see obstacles

L – “Lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5,6)

V – Validate those above and below you

E – Elude self-promotion

R – Ready your successors

P – Patience

A – Attitude grounded in collaboration

T – Teachability

H – Humility

For Recovering Ego-holics and Emerging Leaders (REELs), Young’s example shows that true greatness often hides in plain sight.

You achieve your #1-ness by embracing your #2-ness.

#Leadership #SilverMettleLeader #AndrewYoung #ServantLeadership #EgoHolismRecovering #EmergingLeaders #Teamwork #Humility #APathToSuccess



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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Mercy ...

“Mercy” was a word I often heard my grandmother say. She would entertain several of her grandchildren at any given time, and we were always energetic, loud, and constantly getting into trouble. We would break things, leave the front door open while coming in and out, annoy each other, and act up. Her response, when not scolding us in a stern yet loving way, was simply, “Mercy.”

At the time, I didn’t understand why she said that. I labeled it as a country term or some slang expression of frustration. Little did I know that the true meaning of mercy is to withhold something you might deserve. It is forgiving or showing compassion in a moment when you



have the power to punish, yet choose not to. Our reckless behavior was met with grace, and we were too foolish to understand that our lives were being spared.

As I navigate through life and its chaos, I see

that we are continuously granted mercy and protection. Even in moments when we foolishly desire things that could harm us, God’s mercy often keeps those very things from us. His protection is limitless.

On my journey, I have learned that mercy doesn’t always come in grand gestures. It can be found in the small, everyday moments when we choose to understand rather than judge, to forgive instead of holding onto grudges.

It serves as a reminder that we all stumble and fall; we are all works in progress who deserve compassion.

Remember, 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 30

Haunted Hallways & Fall Festival
Calvary Hill Community Center
Huntsville, Ala.
5 p.m.

October 31

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

Hallowfest
Lakewood Community Center
Huntsville, Ala.
6-8 p.m.

Recovery Trunk or Treat
Faith Covenant Academy
2603 Artie Street
Suite 22
Huntsville, Ala.
6 p.m.

November 8

Round Top Folk Festival
Burritt on the Mountain
Huntsville, Ala.
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

BULLDOG Football
vs. Grambling State
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
Huntsville, Ala.
2 p.m.

November 14

AAMU Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Honorees:
Minister Jonell Calloway
Dr. Samuel McAlpine
Pamela McDonald

Hon. Jameria Johnson Moore
T. M. Elmore Building
Alabama A&M University
Info
7 p.m.

November 14-15

The Mix & Mingle Tour
Starring: Sheryl Underwood, Kyle Erby & Mike Washington
Huntsville Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.
huntsville@levitylive.com

November 15

BULLDOG Football
vs. Florida A&M
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
Huntsville, Ala.
2 p.m.

Katt Williams
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
8 p.m.

November 28-30

Marcus Wiley
Comedian
Huntsville Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.
huntsville@levitylive.com

December 7

Christmas with C.S. Lewis
Mars Music Hall
Von Braun Center
1 p.m.

December 9

Alabama A&M University
150th Anniversary Closing Ceremony
Huntsville, Ala.
TBA

December 11

"Wheel of Fortune"
Mars Music Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
7:30 p.m.

December 13

Jeff Dunham
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
5 p.m.

January 16-17

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

January 25

Fantasia with Anthony Hamilton
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
8 p.m.

January 27-February 1

The Sound of Music
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

February 1

Harlem Globetrotters
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
3 p.m.

February 6

Diana Krall
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

PowerShot

"It's time for us to awaken and tap into the deeper parts of ourselves and into the natural magic that is offered to us by this very planet we inhabit."

Bri Luna



"True happiness is... to enjoy the present, without anxious dependence upon the future."

- Seneca



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

Dr. Horace W. Rice

Dr. Horace W. Rice is a professor of business law and ethics in the College of Business and Public Affairs at Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, Ala. He received his AA degree from Chicago City College, his B.S. degree from Alabama A&M University and his J.D. degree from the University of Toledo in Ohio. He has also served as an adjunct professor of business and labor law at Oakwood University in Huntsville and the University of Alabama in Huntsville's School of Business. He has been a visiting professor at the Florida Institute of Technology and Dakar University, Senegal, West Africa. Moreover, he has received invitations to teach summer classes from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Rapids and Anaheim University in California.

As a certified corporate arbitrator and mediator by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and the American Arbitration Association, he has adjudicated 100-plus business and labor disputes for corporations and various governmental agencies in the public and private sectors. As a consultant to corporations, agencies and unions, his service has covered venues at the local, state, regional and the national levels.

His professional affiliations include membership in the Academy of Legal Studies in Business, the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution and membership on the following National Arbitration Panels: AAA, FMCS, United States Postal Service, National Football League and the Ohio State Impasse Panel. Further, he has accepted invitations to present his research at the following National and International conferences: Global Conference of Business and Economics, Harvard University; Boston; American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences, Las Vegas; International Academy of Business Disciplines, Las Vegas; American Business Law Association, Atlanta; and American Arbitration Association International Conference, Senegal, West Africa.

Dr. Rice is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and is listed in Who's Who International based on his activities in national and international affairs. He has accepted several invitations from the American Arbitration Association in New York and the Citizens Ambassador Program in Washington, D.C., to serve as an international delegate to lecture and present papers on inter-



national business law and arbitration for business and labor organizations and universities in Moscow, St. Petersburg, London, Paris, Stockholm, Senegal, Egypt and Brazil. Other foreign enrichment travels include: Canada, Peru, Mexico, East and West Africa and the Caribbean.

As an author, Dr. Rice has published one book chapter and more than 40 articles, cases and abstracts. Further, he has published in numerous national and international journals and conference proceedings.

His research interests include the areas of business and labor law, ethics, corporate governance, dispute resolution systems, international business law, labor management relations and white-collar crimes.



"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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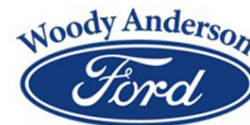
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AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN...

Black Representation Plummet in Several Occupations

Here's the story the Bureau of Labor Statistics data tell when you focus on jobs where Black workers were over-represented ~20 years ago ($\geq 14\%$) but where, over time, Hispanic workers grew to dominate the headcount.

Over the early 2000s, Black workers held strong footholds in several "gateway" hourly occupations—especially in building/grounds cleaning and parts of transportation/material moving. In 2004, for example, Black workers made up 17.8% of janitors and building cleaners and 18.0% of maids and housekeeping cleaners—well above their overall workforce share at the time—while Hispanics were already significant but not yet dominant in janitors (26.8%) and were rising fast in maids (38.2%). Two decades later, the composition has shifted markedly: Hispanic workers account for 35.7% of janitors and a majority 52.5% of maids, while the Black shares edge down to 16.7% (janitors) and 15.2% (maids). In short, the space Black workers once occupied in these roles shrank as Hispanic participation surged.



A similar pattern shows up across the "back-of-house" and material-moving corridor of the labor market. In 2004, Black workers were $>14\%$ in several hands-on roles—packers and packagers, hand (14.1%), industrial truck/tractor operators (22.2%), cleaners of vehicles and equipment (16.2%), and laborers & freight movers, hand (17.0%). By 2024, the Hispanic share had become the largest slice in each: packers/hand (44.2% Hispanic vs. 21.3% Black); industrial truck/tractor operators (35.8% Hispanic vs. 21.6% Black); vehicle/equipment cleaners (35.8% Hispanic vs. 14.1% Black); and labor-

ers & freight movers (28.7% Hispanic vs. 18.7% Black). That's a clear re-tilting of who gets hired into the same jobs Black workers once held at above-population rates.

Food-service support moved the same way. Black workers exceeded 14% in 2004 as cooks (16.2%) and food-prep workers (15.1%); by 2024, Hispanics hold the largest shares—41.0% of cooks and 33.2% of food-prep workers—with Black shares roughly flat (16.4% cooks, 15.0% prep). Again, the absolute number of Black jobs in these niches likely didn't keep pace with expansion, while Hispanic headcounts grew into

the majority or near-majority.

Put plainly: in a band of occupations that historically offered steady wages without a college degree—cleaning, packing, moving, dish/pantry, basic logistics—Black over-representation from the early 2000s has given way to Hispanic dominance of the same roles. Some of this reflects overall Hispanic labor-force growth and concentration in these sectors; some reflects

hiring pipelines, subcontracting and staffing channels, and regional construction/food-service booms that tapped Hispanic networks more intensively.



But across multiple titles, the BLS tables line up the same way: Black $\geq 14\%$ ca. 2004 $\rightarrow$ Hispanic becomes the largest share by 2024, often by double-digit margins.

- TVW/ChatGPT

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We Are the Monuments ...

by afroblastik [John 'Jahni' Moore]



"We've all, at some point, walked past monuments built by others, honoring others. Why do we wait for someone else to honor our stories? What happens when we realize we are the monuments, the living, breathing proof of endurance, imagination, and grace? Our buildings aren't just brick mortar, and glass. Our art is never just paint on a surface. They are evidence of belief and resolve that refused to fade. It's the kind of creation that reminds us our presence is the monument, our work the foundation, and our progress the pedestal upon which our future stands."

- Some Wise Dude

About a year or ago I got a call from a fella, telling me he needed a mural done on the FX Market on Pulaski Pike. Now, mind you, I used to get a lot of spam calls like that. So much so that I was advised to remove my phone number from my contact information. The gentleman on the other end was Vincent E. Ford, serial entrepreneur working on a plethora of projects. He said he'd tried

to reach me two years prior. We set a meeting and went from there. At our first meeting, I felt I knew him from somewhere. He tuned in to the familiarity, so we started climbing the family tree. We did have some people in common but only by marriage. I came to know that he had a construction company, a flagging company, some housing developments, an event center in the works, and one other FX Market gas station before the one upon which he wanted the mural painted. For some reason, it didn't take long for us to begin bantering like we were old friends.

When he came through on the mural and shared his why, I felt better about the project. The subject matter was The Buffalo Soldiers, the U S 10th Cavalry Regiment that had camped on a hill near the FX Market site in the late 1800s because they were not allowed to stay with the white soldiers. At first the idea of painting this on a



gas station didn't thrill me. After some consideration. I came to realize it was the best place. Besides, I'd already activated the land long before I knew who was doing something with it when I had exhumed red clay from the site. This was people's art and all types of people patronize gas stations. It wasn't just about painting on a gas station, it's creating legacy in so many ways. And this isn't just a gas station; it's a monument honoring monuments.

In the 1960s, according to local historians, there were at least four

Black owned gas stations in the Huntsville/Madison County area. Currently, according to one study there are only four in the entire state of Alabama. Two are here in Huntsville/Madison County and Vincent Ford is the proprietor of them both. He had an idea, dreamed it up, and brought it to pass. At the end of the day, we all need gasoline, right. The first one he built is on family land in Harvest. The other one (with the Buffalo Soldier mural) sits on Pulaski Pike across the street from Northwoods Public Housing Community where he grew

up, and the namesake Historic Space after the Buffalo Soldiers, Cavalry Hill. It stands as a testament to belief beyond borders, and attitude determining altitude. What started as a request for paint on a wall between us became something bigger, a mirror held up to what's possible when vision meets purpose. His gas stations aren't just a business; they are a declaration that our stories belong in full color, on our own walls, in our own neighborhoods. A gentleman stopped and inquired about the FX Market gas station one day. He had heard it was Black

owned. I affirmed. He smiled as he pulled off and said on repeat, "We comin' up." I felt his sense of pride and resolve echoed in the declaration. So if you're reading this and haven't gone by. Do so if for no one else but yourself. This is an investment in us. When we see what we can do, it gives us the inspiration to continue to do.

This is what happens when belief outlives circumstance. When we stop aiming for the idea of Black excellence and start setting the reality of a Black standard, where ownership, craftsmanship, and community care are the norm, not the exception. When we build, we build for generations to come. When we create, we create capacity. And when we pour into our own, the return is legacy. That mural isn't just about art in public space. It's about arrival. A reminder that we don't just dream beyond our address, we redefine it.

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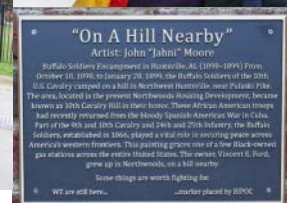
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Buffalo Soldier Mural and Marker Dedication

Sunday, October 26, 2025 at FX Market - 1512 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Artist: John "Jahni" Moore - Owner: Vincent E. Ford, FX Market (Photos by Jerome Saintjones)

This powerful mural, created by renowned artist John "Jahni" Moore, stands across from the very grounds where the Buffalo Soldiers, U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment, arrived in Huntsville just over a century ago. Their story rises again, in color, in spirit, in art. The celebration attracted nearby neighbors, prominent historians, veterans and supporters.





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