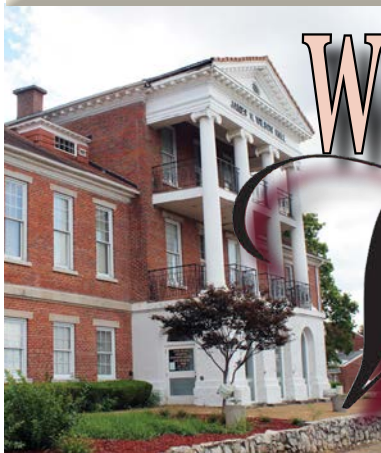


A&M Alum Makes Election History - p. 11

FREE



Whose Side Are You On? - p. 4

Friday
November 8, 2024
Vol. 11, No. 10
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

The Valley Weekly

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Jesse Johnson, Jr.

"Don't blow off another's candle, for it won't make yours shine brighter." - Jaachynma N.E. Agu

Trump Reclaims White House

Former President Donald Trump on late Tuesday evening became the first president in over 100 years to reclaim the presidential office after losing it, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.



the wee hours of Wednesday, media analysts noted the overwhelming dominance of Trump throughout the country, especially in the rural areas.

Trump survived the challenge by Vice President Kamala Harris to become the 47th President, with some sources posting 277 electoral votes.

They also reported inroads made by Trump among Hispanic males, the Arab-American stronghold of Dearborn, Mich., and

and other groups. According to the Alabama Secretary of State website, which listed unofficial election night results, Trump received 64.57 percent of the vote in Alabama, or 1.45 million votes, whereas Harris received 766,860 votes, or 34.10 percent. Blacks make up 25 percent of registered voters. In Madison County, Trump won 53.37 percent of the vote to Harris' 44.42 percent.

Early into

HMBCC to Host Business Opportunity Expo

The Huntsville Metro Black Chamber of Commerce (HMBCC) will host the upcoming expo themed "Power Up: Connections. Commerce. Community" on November 8 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the newly remodeled South Memorial Doubletree Suites Conference Center.

Speakin' Out News, Toyota and Alabama Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC) are the signature sponsors. Seminars and exhibitions are open and free to the public to attend. Lunch registration can be made through www.HSVBlackChamber.org.

Pre-registration is required to attend. For more information, media inquiries and to schedule interviews, contact HMBCC at (256) 427-2650 or visit the Chamber online: www.HSVBlackChamber.org.

UAH Releases New Magazine

The Fall 2024 print edition of UAH Magazine is now available on the UAH website. It's full of exciting events and accomplishments by UAH students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Published four times a year, UAH Magazine brings together academic

accomplishments, innovative research projects, extracurricular organizations, and alumni into one engaging source for all things UAH.

A researcher at the UAH Center for Space Plasma and Aeronomic Research wins grant to study the biggest



mystery in heliophysics. Read this and more. Visit uah.edu/magazine.

Lakeside UMC Holds Harvest Celebration

Lakeside United Methodist Church (Dr. Randy B. Kelly, pastor) will hold its 124th Harvest Celebration on Sunday, November 10, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Lakeside. The

theme is "Encourage One Another" (Hebrews 10:24-25). A memorial commemoration will highlight the 11 a.m. worship service. The afternoon event will feature

special guests Pastor Bennie Bonner and First Baptist Church, Russellville, Ala., and other invited guests. The surrounding community is invited.

Jazz Enthusiast Bankhead Heralded for His Role in Golf



The African American Golfer's Digest recently featured golf and jazz enthusiast for his role in promoting golf among young people in the Tennessee Valley.

Howard Bankhead has spent over 20 years working to introduce golf to children in Madi-

son, Morgan, and Jackson counties through various youth programs. His journey began with the Tennessee Valley Youth Golf Program and continued with the First Tee of Huntsville. Currently, he is an integral part of the Par Excellence Youth Development

(PEYD) initiative, which brings golf to local schools.

In recognition of his dedication to youth and golf, Bankhead was inducted into the African American Golf Hall of Fame in May, honoring his contributions and achievements in the sport.

The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

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Huntsville Site of World Police & Fire Games Promo Tour

The 2025 World Police & Fire Games Host Committee will kick off a statewide promotional tour in Huntsville, Alabama, November 8, at 11:30 a.m. to celebrate the opening of athlete registration for "The Games of Heroes," which will take place in Birmingham, Alabama, from June 27 to July 6, 2025.

The promo tour will be held at Auburn University Research and Innovation Campus, 345 Voyager Way NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Representative Rex Reynolds, leadership from the Huntsville Police and Fire Departments, and the Host Committee will be featured speakers. Auburn University will provide a K9 demonstration during the event.

Local organizers are inviting first responders, community, and corporate leaders to support the brave heroes and learn more about this once-in-a-lifetime

event coming to Alabama in the Summer of 2025.

The Birmingham 2025 World Police & Fire Games will bring together over 8,500 first responders worldwide to compete in 60+ Olympic-style events, celebrating their resilience, skill, and unity. This statewide promotional tour aims to engage and invite communities across Alabama to honor and support first responders

while encouraging participation in the upcoming Games.

Founded in 1985, the World Police and Fire Games are a biennial event that strives to promote physical fitness and camaraderie among first

responders globally. The event is organized by the California Police Athletic Federation (CPAF) and has grown to become one of the largest athletic events in the world. For more information, please visit www.bhm2025.com



Additional contacts: bhm2025.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/BHM25-FAST-FACTS-Q1-2023.pdf
CONTACT: Steven Tricarico, SVP of Corporate Development & Marketing

Email: Steven@BHM2025.com

WEBSITE: World Police & Fire Games - Birmingham 2025

WPFG Fast Facts: <https://>

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Divorce Action
 IN THE FAMILY COURT - NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 COUNTY OF BERKELEY
 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 DOCKET NO. 2024-DR-08-1304

EBONI F. LEWIS, Plaintiff
 vs.
MYLES S. LEWIS, JR., Defendant

TO:
MYLES S. LEWIS, JR.
 101 Springview Lane
 Huntsville, AL 35606

Myles S. Lewis (M)40, residing at 101 Springview Lane, Huntsville, AL 35806, is hereby notified that a petition for divorce has been filed in the above-named court by Eboni F. Lewis, requesting that the court dissolve the marriage with the aforementioned, Myles S. Lewis, and grant other related relief.

The Defendant is required to respond to the complaint by filing an answer with the Clerk of the Court at the following address: Clerk of the Court, Family Court, County of Berkeley, P. O. Box 219, Moncks Corner, SC 29661. A Order of Continuance has been issued and the Requested Hearing has been set for the 20th Day of December 2024 at 10 a.m. in Courtroom B. The site is 300-B California Avenue, Moncks Corner, SC 29461.

This notice will be published in accordance with Alabama law three (3) times in The Valley Weekly, an online newspaper available at www.valleyweeklyllc.com, commencing 11/8/2024 and running 11/15/2024, and 11/22/2024.

Clerk of the Court
 Family Court
 County of Berkeley
 P. O. Box 219
 Moncks Corner, SC 29661

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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

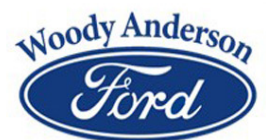


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The Valley Weekly

Publisher

The Valley Weekly, LLC

Editor-in-Chief

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

Editorial Consultant/ Senior Editor

Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

Editorial Assistant

Linda Burruss

Advertising Associate

Phyllis Chunn

Contributing Editors -

tim allston

Minister Preston Brown

Gloria B. Caldwell

Ron Hamm

Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

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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The Valley Weekly

Ad Rates Single Issue

Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,500
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$1,200
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$900
Half Page	Horizontal	
	5x10 inches	\$600
Fourth Page	Vertical	
	10x5 inches	\$600
Eighth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
	Classified 1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

Honoring Our Heroes on Veterans Day

Greetings!

In our community, Veterans Day isn't just a day marked on the calendar—it's an honored tradition woven into the fabric of our daily lives. We're a community of military families, veterans, and those who proudly support our men and women in uniform. On this Veterans Day, we gather to recognize, celebrate, and deeply thank those who served to protect our freedoms and uphold the values we cherish.

Veterans Day is not only an occasion to honor those who have worn the uniform but also a moment to acknowledge the sacrifices made by their families, friends, and loved ones. Behind each veteran stands a family that faced their own unique challenges, holding down the home front, awaiting news from far-off places, and dealing with the daily uncertainties that come with military life. They, too, deserve our gratitude and recognition today.

Many of our neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family members have served in conflicts from World War II to recent tours in the Middle East. Their experiences may differ, but they all share a common bond: the resilience and selflessness of military service. They have given up birthdays, holidays, and time with loved ones; they have endured long deployments, faced personal dangers, and, for some, experienced the lasting impact of their service. We honor these heroes by committing to support them, not just on Veterans Day but every day.



Roosevelt and Betty Williams
The Ledges, Huntsville (Sept. 2023)

Today, let us reach out to our veterans, whether they are members of our community or people we encounter as we go about our lives. Listening to their stories, learning from their experiences, and helping with the transition from service back to civilian life are ways we can continue to show our respect and gratitude. It's up to each of us to ensure that veterans receive the resources, care, and opportunities they so deserve.

In honoring them, let us also remember those we have lost in the line of duty. Their sacrifices remind us of the true cost of freedom, and they inspire us to work toward a world that values peace, justice, and mutual respect.

My brother, Roosevelt (left), is a Vietnam veteran. After his service, he established his home and family in Boston. I am proud of his service. So, as we celebrate Veterans Day, let's stand united as a community dedicated to the care, honor, and remembrance of those who have given so much. Today, and always, we thank our veterans—for their service, for their courage, and for the example they set for future generations.

Until next week ...

Dorothy



NOVEMBER 8 - SZA - SZA was born in Saint Louis, Missouri, and later relocated to Maplewood, New Jersey. SZA's debut studio album, Ctrl, was released on June 9, 2017, to universal acclaim from music critics. It debuted at number three on the US Billboard 200 and was eventually certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). The album and its songs were nominated for four Grammy Awards, while SZA was nominated for Best New Artist at the 60th annual ceremony. Ctrl was ranked as the best album of 2017 by Time. In January 2018, SZA featured Kendrick Lamar on the track "All the Stars," released as the lead single to the Marvel Studios superhero film Black Panther soundtrack album. The single peaked at number 7 on the Billboard Hot 100.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



Council Meetings


Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held on the 1st floor of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

HMBCC Meetings

The Huntsville Metro Black Chamber of Commerce promotes, creates and fosters economic development opportunities. HMBCC meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon. Call (256) 427-2650 or e-mail info@hsvblackchamber.org. VISIT

Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly
PRESTON BROWN'S



"Whose Side Are You On"

First John 3: 10 says, "This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister."

When I was growing up, my great-grandmother would always ask me, "Whose side are you on?" This meant, was I on God's side or the devil's side, to which I would reply, "I am on God's side." I believe she understood that the struggle that we all face between good and evil is real and that is why she asked the question.

Living in the state of Alabama, it is inevitable that you will be asked the question, "Whose side are you on?" In other words, do you pull for Alabama or do you pull for Auburn? The reason for the question is that this is one of the great rivalries of college football. When these teams play, there is a lot at stake, like bragging rights for a whole year. Unfortunately, there is much more at stake when it comes to the decision to follow Jesus or to follow the devil. This will decide where you will spend eternity. We all need to

realize that we are being influenced by God or by the devil.

Romans 6:16 tells us, "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves to the one you obey, whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?"

When we decide to follow the devil, we end up with a lot of broken promises. For example, the devil will promise us

pleasure but he brings us misery. He promises us fun but in the long run he brings us guilt and shame. He promises us life but he brings death. First John 3:8 says the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. However, we have to choose whose side we are on. God will not interfere with our free will. The choice is ours.

Once we make the decision to follow Jesus, He will strengthen us toward the direction that he wants us to take. Remember, Jesus will always meet us where we are but He refuses to leave us that way. When we choose to follow Christ, we will have all the bragging rights that we need

because we can say with full confidence that we are children of God

May God grant you spiritual success in choosing the right side to follow.

Question: What can you do to make sure that you are choosing the right path to follow?

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:

"Agreeing to Disagree"

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Funeral services will be announced at a later date for MR. ROY HAMILTON (b. 1947); MS. HAZEL SURRELLES; MS. LATIA WILLIAMS (b. 1987); MR. EDDIE WASHINGTON (b. 1950); MR. OLLIE LANIER (b. 1970); and MR. ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ (b. 1972).

Funeral service for MS. MILDRED JOHNSON-CHAMBERS (b. 1943) was Saturday, November 2, at Restoration Church, 5810 Wall Triana Hwy., Madison, Ala.

Funeral service for MS. TIFFANY FLETCHER-WARD (b. 1988) was Sunday, October 27, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace, 450 Mt. Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral service for THE REVEREND LEROY ROOSEVELT COLE (b. 1942) will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, November 8, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, 292 Cemetery Road, New Market, Ala.



Funeral services will be announced at a later date for MR. TONY A. BATTLE (b. 1959); MR. GEORGE EDWARD LOCKHART (b. 1971); and MR. EDWARD LEWIS (b. 1962).

Funeral service for MR. SAMUEL L. WHITAKER (b. 1941) was Saturday, November 2, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Joe Stevenson officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

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Funeral services will be announced at a later date for MRS. ERNESTINE MCCRARY (b. 1933); MRS. EDNA P. LOVE SANDERS (b. 1940); MRS. JOYCE ANN GARNER WATKINS (b. 1948); and MRS. BLANCHE JAMES (b. 1928).

Wednesday, November 6, 2024: "It's the Morning After in America, ... "Madame Kamal-elect, Sistah Boomerang!" (Part 2 of 3)

"Behold, I make all things new." - Revelation 21:5

(November 1, 2024) More than 67 million Americans have voted early, with women and new voters leading the way. For many like me, it strongly portends a Harris-Walz victory.

Therefore, what could Wednesday, November 6, 2024, the morning after Election Day, look and feel like across the United States?

Here's my take . . .

"Sistah Boomerang"

Instead of speaking from the White House or her Naval One Observatory Circle official residence, Kamala Harris chose to return to her alma mater Howard University and its 1,500-seat Cramton Auditorium. Like a boomerang.

She opened with a noticeable hoarseness, "Thank you so much. I'm glad to come back home to Howard University, where my leadership was launched in 1982. It's also where I announced my candidacy for President of these United States in 2019, . . .

"When Dougie and I had our first date," glancing back at husband Doug Emhoff, "our first argument was about our favorite NFL teams.

"Naturally, I said 'the Oakland Raiders,' while he chose his Miami Dolphins and its coach Don Shula.

"Well, I still hold on to my Raiders, my future husband taught me a valuable lesson from Don Shula: Coach Shula had a 24-hour Rule which said that whether the Dolphins won or lost a game, he would only allow his players and coaches the next 24 hours to dwell on that game; after that, it was time to put behind them either the celebration or the defeat, and to now get ready for the next game.

" . . . And that's what I want all of us to do right now, . . .

"It's 10:28 in the morning now. So, let's get all of our celebrations and fist-bumps and high-fives out right now, and at," glancing back at her watch, "and at 10:29 tomorrow morning, let's get back to work.

"We won, America won, Democracy won, and so tomorrow morning at 10:29, let's put on our hard hats, and let's get back to work. Thank you, America,"

Upon leaving Cramton Auditorium, four college students huddled to recap the events of that morning and the overall campaign, . . .

Part 3 will capture these collegians' assessments as first-time voters.



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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Setback to Success ...

Question.

Have you ever started something, gone through the "tough parts", started to see results, and then hit a setback ... just to have to do it all over again?

What did you do in that moment? Did you quit? Did you say, "Nah, that was too tough; I'm not doing that," or did you say, "Let's go; I know how to get started; I'm ready!"

I know I've been there. I am there! What I am realizing is that the "process" is the sweet spot. It shows you the strength that lives within you. It shows me that I can overcome. It brings it back to memory. See, when I had hit my "mark," I had easily forgotten the journey. It had gotten to a place where it had become a little easier, or more

simple. In order for me to reach this next goal, I am going to have to remember what it took to get me where I was and understand that if I did it then, I can do it now!



We can't forget the pain and dedication it takes to reach our goals. Those are the keys that will take us through our next level. So God graciously reminds us, because He loves us, how to get through with the understanding that it is possible! Ergo, He did it before, He'll do it

again!

Repetition, although not enjoyable, embeds processes and procedures. It builds faith. It reminds me of elementary school, writing my spelling words over and over throughout the week. By the end of the week, I knew them well, just to start over with a new set of words the next week. After so long, I said to myself, "I know this process; by Friday, I'll have these down if I keep writing them during the week!" It's the same thing now.

Repetition teaches us how to persevere... and assures us that we can!

We are building to position ourselves for success. If we only pay attention to the life lessons. Our setbacks are setups for us to climb higher. The second time around, we do it even better. If we don't quit!

Keep pushing, growing, listening, and learning. Keep the faith!

God loves you, and so do I. He gave you a gift. *Open it.*

Image: DALL-E/Saintjones

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EVENTS
 HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

November 6
 Opportunity Expo
 Huntsville Madison
 County Public Library
 9 a.m.

November 8-10
 Comedy
 Lavell Crawford
 Levity Live Huntsville
 Times: Vary

November 9
 Fall FORE Golf Co-ed
 Clinic
 Sunset Landing Golf
 Course - \$65
 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

November 14
 Bulldog Football vs.
 Grambling
 Louis Crews Stadium
 Alabama A&M Univer-
 sity
 7 p.m.

November 16
 Community Thanksgiv-

ing Event
 Madison
 County Dis-
 trict County
 Shed (Free)
 9 a.m.-12
 noon

Nature Jour-
 nal Workshop
 205A Water Tank Road
 Toney, Ala.
 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bulldog Football vs
 Grambling State
 Louis Crews Stadium
 Alabama A&M Univer-
 sity
 Huntsville, Ala.

November 22
 Holidaze Christmas
 Wonderland Opening
 Night! - \$8, \$10
 360 Bevills Church Road
 Hazel Green, Ala.
 5-9 p.m.

November 28
 TTT: Theatre Turkey
 Trot
 Sponsor: Around the
 Curtain CHildren's
 Theatre
 Ditto Landing
 8 a.m.

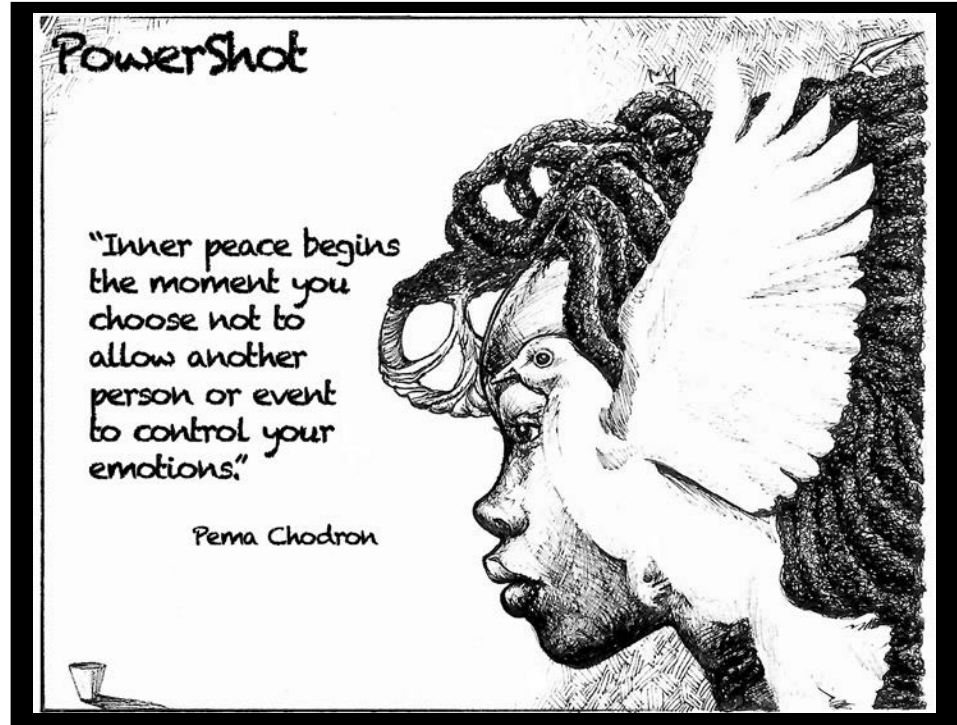
**November 29 Thru
 January 1**
 Tinsel Trail Market

December 7
 AUDITIONS: The Wiz-
 ard of Oz
 10300 Bailey Cove Road
 SE, Suite 7
 Huntsville, Ala.
 9 a.m.

December 8
 Cousin Tiera
 Comedian
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Parkway
 SW (\$35-\$45)
 Huntsville, Ala.
 (256) 261-3374
 huntsville.standuplive.
 com

December 14
 The Raven Masquerade:
 A Royal Fairy Court
 Masquerade Ball
 3110 Hwy. 31 S
 Decatur, Ala.
 5-10 p.m.

December 20
 Big Spring Jingle
 Big Spring Park
 Downtown Huntsville
 4-9 p.m.



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**"Don't wait for the perfect moment,
 take the moment and make it perfect."**
 - Frank Yerby



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

Veteran: Mr. Jesse Johnson, Jr.

Korean and Vietnam War veteran Jesse Johnson, Jr., of Tampa, Fla., devoted more than 41 years to a career built on enlisted, civilian and corporate experiences. He served the Army as an enlisted officer and served in both Korea and Vietnam for almost 11 years. From there, he served 30 years in the civil service arena as a specialist in equipment for the HAWK Missile System; to the Maintenance Engineering Directorate, USAMI-COM; as a logistics and program management specialist; and as an international program management specialist. Even for a few years following his retirement in 1995, he continued to serve as a consultant for international program management at Sigma Tech, Inc., of Huntsville, Ala. Mr. Johnson has been married to Mrs. Ella Mary Harris for 55 years and they are the parents of three children, one daughter in Hoover, Alabama and two sons one in Huntsville and the other in Jacksonville, Florida. One of his grandsons was just recently accepted into Harvard University of which he is awfully proud. They also have five beautiful grandchil-

dren, three grandsons and two granddaughters. In addition, he has one sister and two brothers. His religious and community service is legion and encompasses contributions to the Alabama A & M University Alumni Association, Defense Systems Management College Alumni Association, Pacesetters Lions Club, International Association of Lions Clubs, Blacks in Government, The American Legion, the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, the North Alabama International Trace Association and the Alabama Association of Human Resource Boards. Additional service include membership and board positions with the Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association, the Eyesight Foundation of Alabama, the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center, the Madison County Department of Human Resources, Harris Home for Children, First Community Health Plan, TARCOG Area Agency on Aging, Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature, Alabama Institute for the Death and Blind, Volunteers of America, State Bible Bowl Coordinator for the Scholastic Motivation Ministries of



the AL 2nd Jurisdiction Lions Club, Loan Executive for the United Way, Child Protection Board of Madison County, Madison County Juvenile Courts Dependency Task Force, Madison County/Limestone County Community Action Agency, C. H. Mason Bible College within the Church of God in Christ, the Nike Gold Tournament, and a Deacon, Past Trustee, Sunday School and Bible Teacher at First Church of God in Christ A sociology and economics graduate of Alabama A&M University, Johnson enjoyed golf, chess, home construction projects and gardening. He has awards and commendations too numerous to articulate. Johnson plays an active role in maintaining his health and finds himself volunteering somewhere within the community when possible.

"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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November–March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Twenty-Fifth Sunday

After

Pentecost



(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:

1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalms 146

Second Lesson:

Hebrews 9:24-28

GOSPEL:

Mark 12:38-44

How to Maintain Your Valley Plumbing Throughout the Upcoming Winter Season

(BPT) - Along with shorter days and dropping temperatures, fall brings a sense of urgency to get your home in shape before winter arrives. This is especially true for plumbing, as frigid temps can wreak havoc on pipes and outdoor faucets.

Along with maintenance, homeowners can use the season to make simple plumbing repairs or upgrades so essential household functions run more smoothly throughout the colder months.

To help you tackle these tasks, plumbing experts at Mr. Rooter Plumbing, a Neighborly company, offer tips for jobs you can do yourself, and those that might be better left to the pros.

Freeze-proof your pipes

Be proactive to safeguard against freezing weather. Start by ensuring any exposed pipes are insulated to prevent freezing, especially in unheated areas like basements, crawl spaces, and garages. This is also the time to disconnect and drain outdoor garden hoses and shut off water to any exterior faucets to avoid burst pipes.

In the winter, your water heater may need to work harder, so make sure to have the tank inspected, cleaned and flushed if needed. If you have a sump pump that experiences extreme weather conditions, ensure that it's properly cleaned and insulated.

Need help preparing your plumbing for winter? Contact the pros at Mr. Rooter Plumbing.

Prevent laundry hazards

The laundry room is one of the most used but often overlooked spaces in your home. To keep appliances in top shape, focus on the plumbing. Key tasks to ensure your washing machine will continue working problem-free include inspecting hoses, pipes, and valves around your washer and laundry sink for leaks. You could consider replacing rubber hoses with durable, braided stainless steel hoses.

Check that the trap seal, the pipe that prevents sewer gases and odors from backing up into the laundry room, is full of water. Occasionally pour a bucket of water down the drain to



flush the line and keep the trap fresh and sealed.

Pro tip: Secure exposed pipes or hoses with zip ties to keep the washer's movement from shaking them loose.

Keep toilets problem-free

While you're checking areas needing repair, toilets should top your list. Fortunately, some common problems are easy DIY fixes. For example, you can often resolve a running toilet on your own. It may be caused by a flapper or

ball float that's not working correctly.

Troubleshoot by first turning off the water. Turn the small knob on the wall, usually near the toilet's right side, clockwise (to the right). Take off the toilet tank's ceramic lid and place it on a towel to prevent breakage. Then look inside to check if the flapper's working. Over time, rubber or silicone flappers deteriorate, collect dirt, or become brittle, so they no longer work as a seal.

You can find replacement flappers at hardware

and home improvement stores. Installation instructions are typically included when you buy toilet replacement parts. Other fixes for running toilets include chain link adjustment, trimming the toilet fill tube, adjusting the ball float arm, or replacing a broken ball float. If repairs seem too challenging, consult a plumbing professional.

Pro tip: Take pictures of parts that need replacing before heading to the store.

Upgrades to consider

Some household issues may be improved by making plumbing upgrades.

Soften your water: If you find your skin and hair experiencing soap buildup and dryness or you see soap buildup on your shower and tub surround, you may have hard water. The high mineral content in hard water can be detrimental to your plumbing as well as your personal care.

Installing a water softener can make a big difference in terms of your skin and hair, and for your home's pipes. Contact your plumbing professional if you're interested in a water soft-

ener for your home.

Upgrade your faucet: Today's kitchen faucets use cutting-edge technology to offer convenience and cleanliness in two new ways: You can choose a faucet requiring a simple touch (even from a wrist or elbow), or that you only need to wave your hand under to turn on. Either option helps keep your faucet and sink cleaner - and is easier to use for children, older adults and with messy or full hands.

Consider a bidet: Choosing a bidet can enhance your bathroom and improve personal hygiene. While getting a full bidet needs professional installation, a simple bidet toilet seat is something that's easy to install yourself. Most of these products include instructions and require minimal tools for installation.

For all your plumbing maintenance, repair and upgrading needs, be sure to find a trained, licensed plumbing professional such as Mr. Rooter and highly recommended other local professionals.



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Mary F Spears, Agent

(Behind McDonald's)
155 Chestnut Drive
Madison, AL 35758
Bus 256-837-8899 Fax 256-837-8225
mary.spears.cffc@statefarm.com

The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.

Notes of a Native Son: 'Sight'

by afroblastik [John 'Jahni' Moore]

In a meadow full in bloom with the palette of Autumn tones

Of browns, reds, yellows, burnt oranges, and gold

A man came running though

Fast, straight through he came

Dodging branches of low hanging trees

Over the leaves and across the creek

But not a color he did feel

He was on the run you see, for committing a robbery

On he ran through the palette of Autumn tones

Past browns, reds, yellows, burnt oranges, and gold

In a flash he was gone.

Into a meadow full in bloom with the palette of Autumn tones



Of browns, reds, yellows, burnt oranges, and gold

Came a child bright with life and surely just as bold

Poor in goods and material things

her legs twisted and small

She gasped with open eyes and a wide mouth smile

As she gazed to the painted trees that stood so straight and tall

She took it all in again and again

And spun around in circles big

Dancing in the wind

To the rustle of the autumn leaves

And the sound of the flowing creek

And had not noticed the piles of money swirling at her feet.

Alumni Association Announces Fundraising Effort for AAMU's 150th Anniversary

As alumni approach Alabama A&M University's 150th anniversary, the national Alumni Association aims to raise \$150 million by December 25, 2025.

With 421 days left, Association officials are asking alumni support to make this milestone a success, according to Michael Miller, president of the AAMU Alumni Association, Inc.

The alumni giving goal is \$15 million, and there are 15 months remaining to raise \$15 million

dollars (15/15). "We need 10,000 alumni to contribute \$1500 to this campaign," says Miller.

Here's the breakdown to meet the ambitious goal!

\$25 per week x 60 weeks = \$1,500 per alum **OR**
\$100 per month x 15 months = \$1,500 per alum

Of course, this statement holds true if Normalites begin today.

"We cannot expect



corporations to contribute if we do not," say fundraising coordinators.

"Your contribution will support student scholarships, enhance university initiatives,

and strengthen our community," says Miller. "Start today with weekly payments and consider setting up auto-pay for convenience. Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today!"

Set-up your recurring donations online at: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/aaui/> - Select 150th Anniversary Campaign from the dropdown list.

Make check payable to: Alabama A&M University Foundation (150th donation in the

memo)

Mail to:
Marketing, Communication & Advancement
Alabama A&M University
309 Patton Hall
Normal, AL 35762

Learn more about the 150th celebration online at AAMU 150th Celebration: <https://www.aamu.edu/aamu-150th-anniversary-campaign/>

Thank you for your dedication and generosity. Let's make the 150th anniversary unforgettable! *Go, Bulldogs!*

City of Huntsville Oath of Office Ceremony

Monday, November 4, 2024

Surrounded by family and friends, Mayor Tommy Battle and Council Members John Meredith and Michelle Watkins were sworn into office to begin four-year terms, each pledging to advance Huntsville's progress.

Beginning his fifth term, Mayor Battle took the oath from Municipal Judge Lonzo Robinson. The Mayor was accompanied by his son, Drew Battle, daughter-in-law Lauren Battle and grandsons George and Benjamin Battle.

"We have brought in industry to provide jobs so that everyone has that opportunity, so that we have jobs for everyone, not just a certain few, but everybody," Mayor Battle said. "And we have everybody at the table, everybody has that opportunity. So as we've done that, we've taken care of our future for the next 10, 15, maybe even 20 years. Now the job that we have today is to start working on that future that's 20 or 25 years away and make sure that our future is just as bright tomorrow as it is today."

Madison County Probate Judge Frank Barger administered the oath to Meredith to begin his second term as the District 5 representative. He was accompanied by his wife, Tina Palacios.

"As the next four years unfold," Meredith said, "I look forward to continuing to not only listen to but to empower constituent voices, raising the quality of life in District 5 and working hand in hand with my colleagues and the administration to Huntsville the very best it can be."

Watkins took her first oath of office after being elected to represent District 1. Retired Madison County District Judge Martha Lynn Sherrod administered the oath to Watkins, accompanied by her mother, Bettye Lanier-Carter, and her uncle, Tommy Milton.

"This opportunity did not come lightly," Watkins said. "It came at a cost. To whom much is given, much is required. I plan on doing the work. Jeremiah 29:11, my favorite Bible verse, 'For I know the plans I have for you, plans for a future.' And District 1, we have a future. I look forward to working with you, Mayor Battle, and I look forward to working with my Council members and this is going to be a phenomenal time for District 1."

Following the Oath of Office ceremony, the Council met for its annual organizational meeting and elected officers for one-year terms. The Council voted Meredith as president, Jennie Robinson as president pro tem and Bill Kling as third presiding officer.

Caption, top left: Council Members, from left, Jennie Robinson, Bill Kling, John Meredith, David Little and Michelle Watkins.



Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

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

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess until Tuesday, November 12. The House and Senate GOP will hold their leadership elections on Nov. 13 for the 119th Congress that begins in January.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. Last Friday, President Biden traveled to Philadelphia to announce that his Administration has protected more than 1.2 million pensions because of the American Rescue Plan's (ARP) Butch Lewis Act and announced further action to prevent cuts

to the earned pension benefits of 29,000 United Food and Commercial (UFCW) workers and retirees, primarily in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. Last Thursday, the President sent 2 senior advisers to Israel to try to strike a diplomatic deal between Israel and Hezbollah that would end the war in Lebanon and allow displaced civilians from both sides of the border to return to their homes.

3. SUPREME COURT. Last week, the Supreme Court handed down 3 rulings affecting tomorrow's presidential election: (1) on Tuesday it declined an emergency petition from Robert F.

Kennedy Jr. to remove his name from the presidential ballots in Wisconsin and Michigan; (2) on Wednesday it temporarily blocked an order by a federal judge that would have required Virginia to return more than 1,600 people to the voter rolls that had been removed due to a new state program intended to remove suspected noncitizens from the voting rolls; and (3) on Friday it left in place a ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that requires election boards in the state to count provisional ballots submitted by voters whose mail-in ballots were deemed invalid by a ballot-sorting machine.

4. FEDERAL RESERVE MEETING. The Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee meets this Tuesday and Wednesday and is expected again to cut

the federal funds rate by a quarter percentage point, especially after last week's jobs and inflation reports that showed a paltry 12,000 jobs added in October (well below the expected 100,000) and that the annual inflation rate was down to 2.1% (very near to the Fed's 2% inflation target). The unemployment rate is holding steady at 4.1%, however, and hourly earnings rose 0.4% for annual increase of 4%. In an October 23-29 Reuters poll of 111 economists, the majority view was that the Fed will do a .25% reduction next week, followed by the same-sized move in December, taking the fed funds rate to a 4.25%-4.50% range.

5. CAMPAIGN EVENTS. Yesterday, Vice President Harris held 3 events in Pennsylvania, starting with a rally in Allentown,

followed by a rally in Pittsburgh, and ending with a late-night rally in Philadelphia. She will spend election night at her alma mater, Howard University, in Washington, D.C. Former President Trump started yesterday with a morning rally in Raleigh (NC), followed by 2 events in PA in Reading and Pittsburgh; ending the day with a late night rally in Grand Rapids (MI). He will spend election night at the West Palm Beach (FL) convention center near his Mar-a-Lago resort.

6. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. Advocates for community colleges and workforce development are pushing to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). They believe that this initiative has a chance of being enacted during the lame-duck

session that begins on November 12, when Congress reconvenes in Washington. A reauthorization bill would improve the program and provide a stable foundation for future funding. Reports indicate that staff members from both the House and Senate committees have been meeting daily to negotiate a final bill based on the House's A Stronger Workforce for America Act (H.R. 6655) and draft legislation released earlier this year by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Notably, both bills have bipartisan support.

Hamm Consulting Group
300 New Jersey Ave, NW Ste. 900

Washington D.C. 20001
T: 202-596-8384

rhamm@hammconsulting.com

www.hammconsulting.com

AAMU Alumna Makes History as First Black Woman Elected to Huntsville City Council

On this election day, Alabama A&M University alumna Michelle Watkins has achieved a historic milestone, becoming the first Black woman elected to the Huntsville City Council. Watkins took the Oath of Office on Monday evening, surrounded by family, friends, and supporters from Alabama A&M. President Daniel K. Wims attended the ceremony along with students from the Honors Program, and members of the faculty and staff.



Watkins broke new ground in September by defeating two-term incumbent Councilman Devyn Keith in a runoff election for the Huntsville City Council District 1 seat.

"Start Here, Go Anywhere," Watkins said with

pride. "I started at Alabama A&M, I had great professors, role models, my mother graduated from Alabama A&M University, so it's always been my desire to follow what Dr. Council said, 'Service is Sovereignty' and this is service."

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and District 5 Councilmember John Meredith were also part of the Oath of Office Ceremony. All three city leaders had a chance to speak to a packed council chambers

in Huntsville City Hall. Watkins extended heartfelt thanks to her friends, family, and dedicated supporters, including her sisters in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., many of whom were in attendance. She expressed her eagerness to start making an impact on the council and to continue her long-standing commitment to service.

Watkins, a Management & Program Analyst for the U.S. Army Garrison at Redstone Arsenal, earned her Bachelor of Science in

Business Administration, and Master's in Secondary Education at Alabama A&M. She previously served eight years on the Huntsville City Board of Education, representing District 1. Additionally, she has led as President of the Parent Teacher Student Association at Johnson High School, worked with the Junior League of Huntsville, and served the United Way of Madison County, the City of Huntsville Community Development Citizens Advisory Council,

and the Alabama A&M University Youth Motivational Task Force.

Asked what her next step is in her new role, Watkins said, "I'm going to sit down, find out what's coming to my district, what are the plans, and move forward with trying to get some things going in the district, as well as collaborating with Alabama A&M University, the most beautiful campus in North Alabama. We've got to do some things to make Alabama A&M more visible."