

Exploring Alabama's Civil Rights Legacy - p. 8

FREE

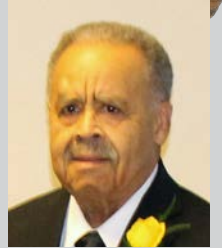


'Agreeing to Disagree' - p. 4

The Valley Weekly

Friday
November 15, 2024
Vol. 11, No. 11
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Albert M. Morris

"Don't fall asleep in your enemy's dream." - John Edgar Wideman



Diversity Leadership Colloquium

The Elite Eight! The Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium hosted a graduation ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 7, on the UAH campus for the eight members of Cohort 18. Among the distinguished graduates were (l-r) Brandon Pitts, Timothy Richards, Melody Blankenship, Dr. Ogechukwu Tasie, Dr. Jelisa Thomas, Cheryl Hickman, Jasmine Stewart and Christian Williams. Dr. Edwan O'Neal is executive director. (Photo by J. Saintjones)

AAMU First HBCU to Host South's BEST Robotics Championship

Alabama A&M University will serve as the new host for the South's BEST Robotics Championship on December 13-14, marking the first time an HBCU has hosted the event. The South's BEST Robotics program, which stands for

Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology, inspires middle and high school students through hands-on projects that cultivate interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The championship encourages

teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving by providing a platform for students to design, build, and program robots.

BEST Robotics is a leading national initiative with 50 local competitions across 18 states, involving more

than 850 middle and high schools and engaging over 18,000 students nationwide. The competition will bring more than 1,200 students, teachers, and family members from across the Southern region to campus for an exciting weekend

of innovation and learning.

BEST students learn to analyze and solve problems using the Engineering Design Process, which helps them develop technological literacy skills that industry seeks in its workforce. Call (256) 929-9009.

HBC Presents 'Laughing All the Way'

The Huntsville Bible College will present "Laughing All the Way", a comedic, old fashioned Christmas event on Friday, December 6, at the Jaycee Building located at 2180 Airport Road SW, Huntsville, Ala., at 6 p.m.

Among the listed comedians are Erika Kellom "Auntee Pam", Lamar Pullom and Shawn Crosskey. Victoria Gray will serve as emcee,



and music will be provided by Unique Live Band. Tickets are \$50 each. Tables are \$500. Dinner will be served.

For more information, call Cindy Smith at (256) 469-7536, e-mail dev@hbc1.edu or visit www.hbc1.edu.

The Valley Weekly

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Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

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

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate reconvened on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the House and Senate GOP held their leadership elections (House GOP at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill and Senate GOP in the Old Senate Chamber) for the 119th Congress that begins in January. House Democrats will hold their leadership elections on Nov. 19. According to the Associated Press, there are 18 House races that have yet to be called, with the current standing being 214 Rs to 203 Ds (218 is the number needed to gain the majority in the House). The AP has called all but the Arizona race in the Senate (where Democrat Ruben Gallego leads GOP Kari Lake by 66,000 votes with 92% of

the votes counted), with a current standing of 53 Rs to 46 Ds - a pickup of +4 for Senate Rs (in OH, MT, WV, and PA), enabling the GOP to take control of the Senate in January.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. On Wednesday, President Biden hosted a meeting with President-elect Trump at the White House. The Washington Post reported on Saturday that the Biden Administration has fast-tracked the issuance of several climate-related regulations in the 76 days remaining before the Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 20, including a waiver for the State of California allowing it to enforce a rule to ban sales of

new gasoline-powered

3. SUPREME COURT. On Wednesday, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments involving AI software giant NVIDIA (recently named the world's most valuable company at \$3.43 trillion and added to the Dow Jones Industry Average last Friday, replacing Intel) as to whether NVIDIA intentionally misled its shareholders on its finances, specifically by understating its reliance on sales to cryptocurrency miners. The case is NVIDIA Corp. v. E. Ohman J:or Fonder AB.

4. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION. Cam-

paign co-chair Susan Wiles has been named Chief of Staff in the incoming Trump White House. Reportedly, Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) - a member of the House Leadership - has accepted the post of Ambassador to the United Nations. Late Sunday, it was announced that Tom Homan, Trump's former acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement director, will serve as border czar in charge of security at the southern and northern borders, the administration's plan for the mass deportation of illegal aliens, and maritime and aviation security.

5. EDUCATION.

President-elect Trump's proposal to potentially eliminate the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and transfer its functions to other agencies reflects a long-standing position among Republican presidential candidates. However, this idea has now been presented with much more detail than before. A significant issue related to the bureaucratic status of the ED is which programs will continue to operate as they

currently do.

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

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

rhamm@hammconsulting.com
www.hammconsulting.com

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.valleyweekly.com, commencing 11/8/2024 and running 11/15/2024, and 11/22/2024.

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Family Court
County of Berkeley
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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

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Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,500
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$1,200
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Sixteenth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$150
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Honoring November's Observances: A Month of Care and Awareness

Greetings!

November is a month rich in observances, each with a powerful message. From No-Shave November and World Diabetes Day to National Adoption Day and National Family Caregivers Month, the themes of compassion, awareness, and commitment to health and family are woven throughout. It's also Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month—a time to recognize the relentless courage of individuals and families affected by these serious illnesses.

No-Shave November, for example, began in 2009 through the American Cancer Fund. It's not simply about letting facial hair grow—it's an invitation for each of us to engage in conversations about cancer. This movement encourages us to discuss prevention, early detection, and ways to support patients and families affected by cancer. Similarly, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month shines a light on a disease that remains one of the most aggressive. The American Cancer Society's 2024 estimates are stark: over 66,000 Americans will face a pancreatic cancer diagnosis this year, and around 51,750 will lose their lives to it. These statistics are a solemn reminder of the ongoing need for research, early detection, and support for those affected.

But perhaps most poignantly, November is also National Family Caregivers Month—a time to recognize and celebrate the quiet heroism of caregivers who support loved ones through the most challenging of circumstances.

Family caregiving is something many of us will experience at some point in our lives, either as caregivers ourselves or by witnessing the dedication of a caregiver within our own family. For instance, my late sister, Claudia, spent years as a caregiver for her husband, shouldering the day-to-day responsibilities of his care with unyielding devotion. When he passed, the toll of her caregiving years was deeply felt—physically and mentally. Claudia's experience underscores the resilience, love, and sacrifice that family caregivers embody every day, often without adequate support or acknowledgment.

As we recognize Family Caregivers Month, let's remember to not only salute these individuals but also to offer our support, both emotionally and practically. Caregiving can be lonely and exhausting, but it's work done out of love and commitment to dignity. To all the caregivers who sacrifice so much to ensure their loved ones are safe and comfortable, we extend our deepest gratitude. Let's do what we can to stand beside these incredible individuals, uplifting them in their journey.

Let's remember to show our appreciation for those who care and keep November's messages of love and awareness close to our hearts. *Until next week ...*

Dorothy

NOVEMBER 15 - GLORIA FOSTER - Gloria Foster began acting on Broadway in 1963. Her first role was Ruth in the show of A Raisin in the Sun. Her first professional performance was "In White America." She won an Obie ("Off-Broadway Theater Award"). Instead of having to audition for roles, people started to make parts for her to perform. She was known for her work with Joe Papp, and appeared in his productions of Long Day's Journey into Night, Chekhov's Cherry Orchard, Brecht's Mother Courage (adapted by Ntozake Shange), and Shakespeare's Coriolanus. Foster searched for roles in which she could perform to the best of her ability. She once said, "Young people today, I think, are thinking in terms of stepping stones ... I don't know that I ever thought that way ... I was always thinking in terms of a more difficult role". - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly
PRESTON BROWN'S



“Agreeing to Disagree”

Philippians 2:14–15 says, “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars.”

Have you ever been in a heated argument where you can't seem to agree on anything and your opinions are not necessarily the opinions of the other person? Take my advice and learn to agree to disagree, because at the end of the day, it's really not that bad.

Today, politics dominates the headlines. Democrat or Republican, we can't seem to agree on many things and that is why we are divided on so many issues. Each party can make a compelling argument that represents its interests.

No matter which party we choose, we need to learn to agree to disagree. In other words, it's okay to disagree about certain things and still rejoice.

In 1 Corinthians 3, the apostle Paul talks about “divisions in the church” and sets the standard for agreeing to disagree. He helps us understand that each opinion from each person has value. What does it matter which opinion is better?

The important thing is that in every way we need to allow God to be glorified.

We need to understand that we may not agree on many things. However, we should be able to agree to disagree and rejoice knowing that

and for His glory.

May God grant you spiritual success in learning how to agree to disagree.

Question: When is it a good time to agree to disagree?

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.



God has made everything and everybody according to His purpose

NEXT WEEK:

“Words Matter”

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BUT WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER”



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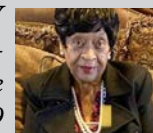
(256) 539-9693

www.serenityfuneralhm.com



Funeral service for **MR. RAYLYN HOLMES** (b. 1989) will be held Saturday, November 16, at Fellowship of Faith Church, 3703 Memorial Parkway NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MS. MARY CROWDER** (b. 1943) will be held Sunday, November 17, at 1 p.m. at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, 599 Brock Road, Brownsboro, Ala.



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www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MR. ROSEVELT EARSKINE** (b. 1942); **MRS. RITA J. JOLLY** (b. 1951); **MRS. JIMMIE KAY CONLEY TONEY** (b. 1963); and **MRS. VERA DALE TYLER** (b. 1961).

Funeral service for **MR. TONY A. BATTLE** (b. 1959) was Sunday, November 3, at the Northwest Church of Christ with Brother John Branch officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. SAM L. WHITAKER** (b. 1941) was held Saturday, November 2, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with the Rev. Joe Stephenson officiating and Rev. Vera Bell eulogist.

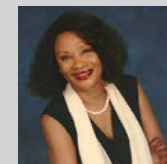
ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

www.royalfh.com

Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MRS. LAURA SHAND** (b. 1932); **MINISTER VICTOR L. GARNER** (b. 1966), Veteran; and **MRS. BARBARA ANN JOHNSON** (b. 1946).

Funeral service for **MRS. DORETHA WHITE ROSS** (b. 1953) will be Saturday, November 16, at the Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 3406 Meridian Street, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Gregory Bentley officiating.



Our Guarantees following the 2024 Presidential Election

These two words sustain me: 1) "If," memorized 50 years ago for my Alpha fraternity pledging; and 2) The words from Chorale director Dr. Eurydice Osterman, concluding our November 6's rehearsal. Be encouraged.

"If" by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run—
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Dr. O: I understand. I'm in shock, too. Here's a word of encouragement:

After The Election is over, we can still guarantee these results:

1. God will still be on His throne
 2. Jesus will still be King of kings and Lord of lords.
 3. The Bible will still have all the answers to every problem.
 4. The tomb will still be empty.
 5. Jesus will still be the only way to heaven.
 6. Prayer will still work - it will still make a difference and God will still answer prayer.
 7. The cross, not the government, will still be our salvation.
 8. There will still be room at the cross.
 9. Jesus will still save anyone who places their faith and trust in
 10. God will still be with us always - He will never leave us or forsake us.
- God is with us!



Tim Allston

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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Get Out ...

Domestic violence is real! Sometimes it starts as verbal and emotional abuse and slowly or quickly moves into pushes with rage and then that first gauge of contact, just to test what you will accept. Yeah, it's a NO to acceptance!

You should never feel so invalid that you have to accept that behavior from anyone! Not a man or a woman. Anyone who tries to govern you by mistreating you, whether emotionally or physically, is not healed, or whole.

Move away from that person, quickly. Get them out of your personal space.

Take a moment to reassess your situation and that relationship. Understand you are worthy of so much more



love, compassion, and support.

You will make it out. You will find something better. You can reclaim your narrative. You have the power!

Moving away from negativity and toxicity is not a sign of weakness but a bold declaration of your strength!

Surround yourself with people who uplift you and offer a safe haven. Take charge of your own life, and believe that there is something better waiting for you!

Embrace your journey toward healing and self-discovery. The path may seem daunting, but every small step you take towards a healthier, happier life is a victory. You are resilient, and you've got what it takes to make it through.

Reach for the support you deserve, and know that brighter days are ahead. Your best life is within reach—believe in yourself, and take that courageous step forward!

TAKE THE FIRST STEP...

SPRING REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.

Scan to get started!



The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

November 14

Bulldog Football vs.
Grambling
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
7 p.m.

Huntsville, Ala.

November 16

Community Thanksgiving Event
Madison County District County Shed (Free)
9 a.m.-12 noon

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 Wizard 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

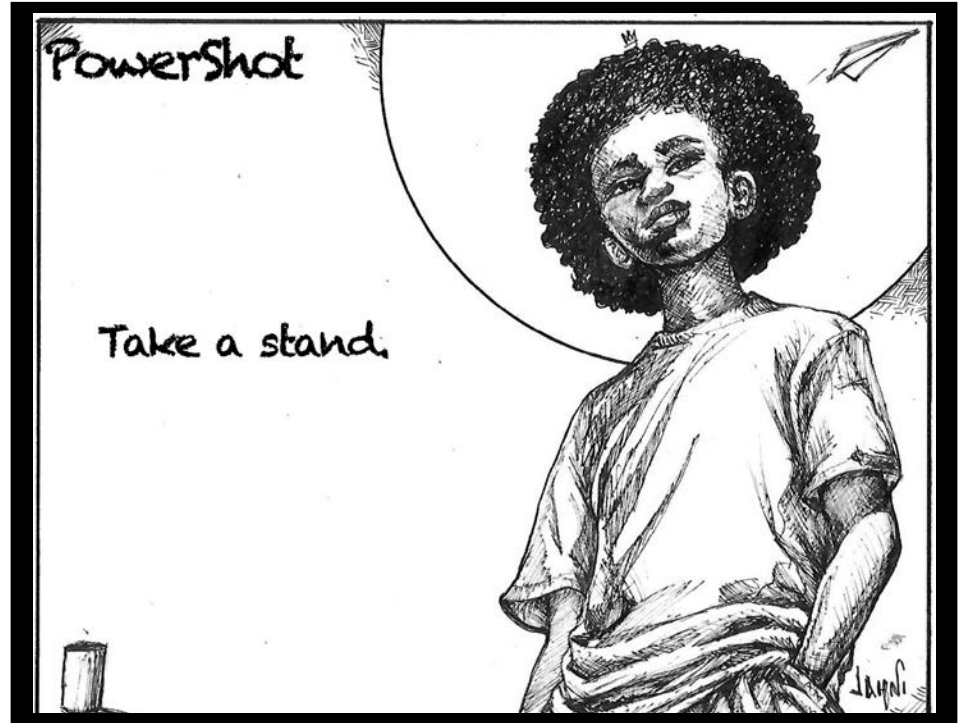
The Raven Masquerade:
A Royal Fairy Court
Masquerade Ball
3110 Hwy. 31 S
Decatur, Ala.
5-10 p.m.

December 20

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

December 21

Winter Solstice Plant
Medicine Ceremony
Coordinator: <edusa
Dakini - \$10-20
205A Water Tank Road
Toney, Ala.



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*"Our accomplishments show
what kind of people we are."*

- Gil Scott-Heron



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

Mr. Albert Merrell Morris

Long-time local businessman and florist Albert Merrell Morris has served the Huntsville area for six decades. Straight out of college to his noble service in the Navy, Morris started working full-time at the business on Pulaski Pike, the first of four locations. His name was chosen for the retail store since "Albert" started with an "A". The business started with an initial investment of about \$3,000 from the late Thomas Vivian Morris a professor of Botany and Horticulture at AAMU and his late wife Ruth Daniels Morris. Thomas earned several tree patents while a professor at AAMU. The wholesale greenhouses started in 1965 with brother Roland Morris as manager.

The talented native of rural Eufaula, Ala., and Alabama A&M University horticulture graduate, joined his brother, sister-in-law and his five-year-old daughter (who put stamps on the envelopes with the bills in them) in launching a signature floral service in the Tennessee Valley. Albert's Flowers began in 1958 and today is thought to be the longest running floral business in Huntsville, Ala. It never occurred

to him that a business owned by Negroes was unique or hard to run. He was always around prestigious people at AAMU, where his parents worked. They were all doing important things; therefore, he just thought operating a business was part of being members of the community. And, today they supply florals and gifts all over the world. As a family-owned business, they are committed to offering only the finest floral arrangements and gifts, backed by service that is friendly, prompt and caring. They always go the extra mile.

They began making funeral baskets, sorority corsages and wedding bouquets. Amid rockets at Redstone Arsenal and a neighboring predominately black college, Thomas, Albert, Ruth and Tomasena Morris started what they knew would be a long-lasting family business. Almost everyone in the Morris extended family in Huntsville has at one time or another worked at the flower shop.

After his studies at AAMU, Morris lived and studied in Chicago at the Floral School of America, completing his course of study in 1957. Morris is



married to the lovely Mrs. Floretta Morris. He has two daughters, Amoretta of Washington, D.C., and Margaret of San Francisco, Calif.

In addition to his success in the business realm, Morris has long been considered a true advocate of the TREASURE Forest concept since 1999. Perhaps this single achievement can be traced back to his family's ownership of hundreds of acres of forest land in rural Barbour County, where he grew up as one of nine children. Morris maintains an active affiliation with First Missionary Baptist Church, as well as Evening Star Lodge #6 and the MDA Professional Group. He has received numerous honors from the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association.



"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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OPEN: April–October: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday: noon - 5pm

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

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, November 17, 2024

Twenty-Sixth Sunday

After
Pentecost



(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16

Second Lesson:

Hebrews 10:11-25

GOSPEL:

Mark 13:1-8

AHA Offers Alabamians Chance to Explore 'Civil Rights Legacy'

The Alabama Humanities Alliance invites Alabama's K-12 educators to participate in a week-long field study of Alabama's role in the movement for human and civil rights.

"Stony the Road We Trod" is an immersive, residential experience that takes place July 6-12, 2025. Educators have the chance to visit sites of conscience across the state and spark new ideas to bring this history to life for their students.

Among the listed sites are Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery and Tuskegee.

Educators selected for this opportunity will engage with leaders, foot soldiers, and scholars



of the civil rights movement and access invaluable texts, primary sources, and archival

footage to help you draft a new lesson plan before departing for home.

The project director is

Martha Bouyer, Ph.D., educator, Alabama Humanities Fellow, and executive director of the

Historic Bethel Baptist Church Community Restoration Fund.

A completed applica-

tion will consist of questionnaire, resume, essay, and letter of support from an administrator, supervisor or employer. The letter should be addressed to Dr. Martha Bouyer, c/o Alabama Humanities Alliance, 100 Ireland Way, Suite 202, Birmingham, AL 35205.

Alabama educators selected to participate will receive a \$500 stipend. Group transportation, accommodations, and most meals are provided.

Selection is competitive. Applications now available and will be accepted until March 31, 2025. For additional information, contact landerson@alabama-humanities.org or call (205) 558-3992.

NASA Grant to Boost Engineering, STEM Diversity

NASA has awarded Alabama A&M University a \$1.2 million grant to expand programs supporting students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved in

science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

AAMU is among six minority-serving institutions sharing \$7.2 million in grants from NASA's Mi-

nority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) and the National Science Foundation to address disparities in STEM and strengthen diversity across engineering fields.

Faculty will play a critical role in developing curriculum modules that integrate space science and AI, guiding minority students, especially female

students in engineering, through NASA-focused capstone projects, internships, and preparing them for professional conferences. This support is

essential to opening doors for minority and female students to succeed and thrive in engineering and space science fields.

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Thankful for My People!

by Brenda Barley Chunn

"Tradition is not worshipping ashes but preserving the fire." - Gustav Mahler

There are many experiences, memories and traditions to be thankful for especially during this season of Thanksgiving. Mine will always include my grandfather, David Dixon Barley, and grandmother, Rhoda Barley. How well I knew their story, and my grandmother Big Mama was active in some of my earliest memories. There is something special about people that you have known, no matter how short the time.

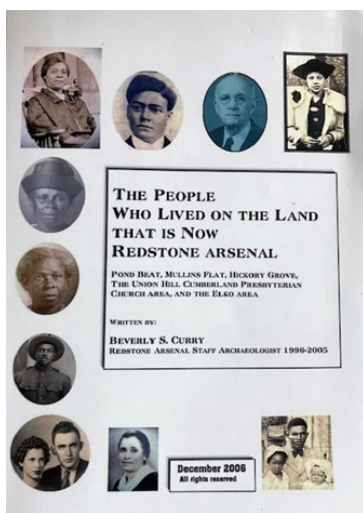
Acknowledging good memories almost invariably requires recognizing those that represent profound sadness, the ones that change lives forever and ultimately brings us back to what is good again.

Owning and operating the Barley Farm during the 1900's in Pond Beat, Ala., required the completion of daily tasks that were arduous, daunting and sometimes even life threatening. In 1937 my grandfather died quite suddenly in a hunting accident. Big Mama Rhoda was widowed. The Farm ownership and the family went from a patriarchy to a matriarchy, and somehow the family needed to go on.

I am thankful for the life and legacy of David Dixon Barley,

family patriarch. As the matriarch, still with four minor children and through great sadness, Big Mama Rhoda needed to assume the leadership role of the family and move forward.

In the midst of being a blessed family, what joy was there that Papa Dave could partake in.



He enjoyed the flourishing of his marriage and farm, the birth and upbringing of his sixteen children, the marriage of his children with four of his daughters married to four Joiner men, expanding professional interests of Lockie in teaching and Cora Dixon in nursing, and the sons mastering farming. Papa Dave enjoyed his Studebaker automobile. The family worship center was at the Center Grove Church, and all sixteen children accepted Christ and were active members in churches they attended,

and some in lodges that helped meet needs of the community.

David Dixon Barley built a family that enjoyed the bonds of family love, respect and the good will of the community.

The communities of Pond Beat and Mullins Flat no longer exist. The story of people who lived and worked there is told through family oral and written histories, church histories and further documented in the book *The People Who Lived on the Land That is Now Redstone Arsenal* by Beverly S. Curry, Redstone Arsenal Staff Archeologist 1996-2005. My grandfather, David Dixon Barley, like some others in the book, is described as a "pillar of the community".

My grandmother Big Mama Rhoda Barley bore her grief during the time of her families' greatest needs. Papa David Dixon Barley had died unexpectedly. She was the executor of his estate. The courts entrusted decision making about the farm to her. She enjoyed the full cooperation of her children.

The U. S. Government was taking possession of the land and therefore the community, purchasing farm lands and

requiring the relocation of residents to make way for Redstone Arsenal. Mama Rhoda, with most of her children now adult, several minor children remaining, my father Earl among them, faced the future unknown resolutely.

The community where my grandfather and grandmother, my father and his siblings started their lives no longer exists. I would love to enjoy a connection to this community and be at home there. When my late father Earl told me stories about Pond Beat,

it always seemed so far away and long ago. Now I realize that on a good day, from my residence, I could probably throw a stone into land that belonged to my family.

Pond Beat as a community offered many desirables, including a way forward for the residents. Most needs were met in the community that shared values of faith, hard work and helping one another in the manner that a community characterized by the times requires. Re-

location would present its own challenges, but the family had to expect good from something new and unknown.

Rhoda Abernathy Barley settled in the early 1940's on Pulaski Pike and Daisy Street. 302 Pulaski Pike was the property address, described as a "large es-



Rhoda Abernathy Barley at Pulaski Pike and Daisy Street Residence.

tate property ... that she reigned there in queenly majesty which was characteristic of her general demeanor." On Pulaski Pike and Daisy Street, one block from Holmes Street, up to University Drive, she had moved into the Black community that supported the educational, business and faith institutions on Church Street, close to William Hooper Councill High School, and to a lesser extent around Huntsville, Alabama.

Neighbors included an early Councill High

School teacher and popular child care and kindergarten owner Ms. Annie Cooper. How well I remember walking through her gate, into her neat arrangement of seating rows for her students, to deposit my older sister. She was very purposeful, firm and fair with her children. Throughout Pulaski Pike and up through Magnolia Terrace and University Drive, a dynamic community formed that included many educators and educational leaders, entrepreneurs, doctors, religious leaders and service providers in the Black community in

Huntsville. If the community of Pond Beat represented the nascent of Black community life in the early 1900's in Huntsville, maturity took place later along Clinton Street, Church Street, Holmes Avenue, Pulaski Pike and Magnolia Terrace. There are other neighborhoods that should be described, but this one I know personally. These circumstances, events and people warrant utmost admiration and respect.