

AAMU 150th Anniversary Poem! - p. 8

Friday
December 19, 2025
Vol. 12, No. 16
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mother Mary Strong

"Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within." — James Baldwin

Alabama A&M Holds 150th Anniversary 'Closeout' Ceremony

Alabama A&M University concluded its yearlong Sesquicentennial Celebration Tuesday with a formal Closing Ceremony that honored the institution's 150-year legacy and reaffirmed its forward-looking motto, "Rich Heritage, Bold Future." The ceremony, which brought together students, faculty, staff, donors and torchbearers, marked the culmination

of a commemorative campaign that surpassed its anticipated philanthropic goals and strengthened the University's foundation for its next era of growth.

The evening's program reached its artistic centerpiece when internationally acclaimed artist Charles Bibbs joined AAMU President Daniel K. Wims to unveil two original commissioned works

created to honor the milestone anniversary. Bibbs, celebrated for his synthesis of realism and abstraction in depictions of African American resilience and cultural identity, framed the University's 150-year journey as a narrative of endurance, intellect and communal purpose. A second silent auction featuring Bibbs' newly unveiled pieces offered collectors an opportunity



to acquire a rare work by one of the nation's most admired contemporary artists. The artworks will be made available in

several formats, including limited-edition remarques, museum-quality giclée prints and accessible offset editions, with

proceeds benefiting scholarships, campus enhancements and other mission-driven priorities.

A video presentation chronicled Bibbs' creative process, culminating in a reflection from the artist on the significance of the commission. "It was truly an honor," Bibbs said. "These works are my tribute to a legacy of perseverance, brilliance and hope, and it is

my deepest wish that they continue to inspire all who walk the grounds of this great University for generations to come."

President Wims emphasized that, even amid the pride of a remarkable sesquicentennial year, the University's pursuit of equitable state and federal funding remains ongoing. He outlined an ambitious vision that includes growth in enroll-

ment, expanded research capacity and heightened national competitiveness in fields such as quantum computing, engineering, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

Caption: President Daniel K. Wims (left) and artist Charles Bibbs unveil the latter's masterpiece at the 150th Closeout Celebration on Tuesday, December 9, at the Alabama A&M University Event Center. Photo by J. Saintjones

Eli Lilly to Invest \$6 Billion in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

The City of Huntsville has welcomed Eli Lilly and Company to North Alabama. The global pharmaceutical leader announced plans to invest more than \$6 billion in a next-generation manufacturing facility in Huntsville – the largest industrial

private investment ever made in the State of Alabama.

The advanced facility will be constructed on a 260-acre site at the northeast corner of I-565 and Greenbrier Parkway in Huntsville-Limestone County. Lilly's campus will

focus on domestic production of small molecule synthetic and peptide medicines, including oral GLP-1 products. Once operational, the project will create 450 high-value jobs, including engineers, scientists, operations personnel and lab techni-

cians.

"Eli Lilly's decision to invest \$6 billion in a next-generation pharmaceutical manufacturing facility here in Huntsville is a tremendous vote of confidence in our people and our future," said Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

"Huntsville has long been a place where innovation thrives and hard, 'impossible' things get done. We're proud to welcome Lilly to our community and excited to help shape the next era of breakthrough medicine."

-Huntsvilleal.gov

The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Letter from the Editor, Page 3
Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 4
Gloria B. & Tim: Perspectives, Page 5
"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 6
Spotlight on Our Elders, Page 7
Sunday Lectionary, Page 7

Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

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

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in session this week, which is scheduled to be the last week of this year's session for both bodies.

The Senate will finish debate on the \$900 billion Defense Authorization bill, which the House passed last week by a vote of 312-112, and then approve a block of 100 nominations. The House will consider a narrow GOP health care bill that would reform pharmacy benefit managers. Until Monday, House leadership was expected to allow a vote on an amendment pushed by GOP moderates to extend the expiring COVID-era subsidies, but that is now in doubt. Last week, the Senate failed to secure the 60 votes needed on a

Democratic bill to extend the subsidies, as well as on a GOP alternative that would have funded \$1,500 for health savings accounts. Last Thursday, the House voted 231-195, with 20 Republicans voting with Democrats, to reverse the President's March and August executive orders and restore collective bargaining rights for federal workers. That bill now heads to the Senate.

Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are continuing discussions on the next minibus, which would include the FY2026 Commerce, Transportation/HUD, Defense, Interior, and Labor/HHS appropriations bills, but no agreement has been announced yet.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. Last Friday, the President issued

a much-anticipated executive order - long sought by Big Tech - that would threaten states with lawsuits that pass laws regulating artificial intelligence - after he was unable to get Congress to add the provision to the Defense Authorization bill last week (and the Tax Bill last summer).

Last Saturday, the President attended the annual Army - Navy Football Game in Baltimore and did the coin toss (Navy won 17-16). Last Friday, the President approved an emergency declaration for the State of Washington, which was hit with severe storms, flooding, and landslides Dec. 9.

3. SUPREME COURT. The Supreme Court has finished hearing arguments for 2025 and will next hear cases on Monday, January 12. The court was expected to release an order list Monday at 9:30 a.m., which could include its decision in the interim docket case regarding the President's effort to deploy the National Guard to Illinois. Last week, reacting to an imminent

ruling from the court that might invalidate most of the administration's tariffs, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said that he "can produce the revenues need[ed] using other laws allowing for the President to impose tariffs."

4. HIGHER EDUCATION. On Friday, December 12, the U.S. Department of Education's negotiated rulemaking committee reached consensus on draft regulations to implement the new Workforce Pell Grants, enacted earlier this year. The agreement marks a significant step toward expanding Pell eligibility to short-term workforce programs, a long-sought goal for community colleges and advo-

cates. The finalized rules will guide institutions on program quality, accountability, and student protections, ensuring the grants align with federal standards. This consensus clears the way for Workforce Pell to launch in the 2026-27 academic year, providing new opportunities for students seeking rapid career training. Additionally, last Thursday, a federal judge denied the U.S. Department of Education's request for an 18-month delay in resolving borrower defense claims tied to the landmark Sweet v. McMahon settlement. The ruling means borrowers from 151 institutions flagged for misconduct will still receive automatic relief if decisions aren't made by January 28, while oth-

ers face a shorter extension until April 15. The case involves more than 200,000 borrowers with \$11.8 billion in outstanding loans, underscoring the stakes for timely adjudication. Advocates hailed the decision as a critical victory for borrowers who have waited years for justice and debt relief.

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

Ahhh ... Somebody Tell Me! A Christmas Reflection

Somebody tell me why lying, cruelty, and division have become acceptable—and even applauded.

Somebody tell me why we excuse behavior today that Jesus himself condemned.

The times we are living in are troubling. In America, words from those in power now divide rather than heal, dehumanize rather than uplift. People are labeled “bad,” “criminal,” or “unworthy,” and the result is fear, hatred, and violence. This is not leadership—and it is not what Christ taught.

Jesus healed the sick without asking for papers or payment. Yet today, people fear losing healthcare and families choose between medicine and food. Somebody tell me how that reflects the Gospel.

Jesus welcomed the stranger and protected the vulnerable. Yet immigrants—our neighbors and coworkers—are treated as criminals simply for seeking safety or opportunity. Jesus said, “Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me.” We should sit with that.

Jesus spoke truth, called out hypocrisy, and rejected the abuse of power. He did not mock, demean, or incite harm. He led with compassion, humility, and love.

Today, December 19th, would have marked my 44th wedding anniversary, if my husband were still living. In moments like this—when the world feels especially harsh and divided—I miss him deeply. I miss his steady presence, his kindness, and the way he believed in treating people with dignity, no matter who they were. His life, and our love, remind me that character still matters, especially in times like these.

So this Christmas, let us put Christ back at the center—not just in our celebrations, but in our conduct.

*Tell the truth—or be quiet.
Care for the sick.
Welcome the stranger.
Protect the poor.
Reject hateful language.
Lead with love.*

Love is not a slogan. It is an *action*. And in times like these, living out the teachings of Jesus is not just faithful—it is necessary.

From all of us at *The Valley Weekly*, we wish you a Christmas season filled with light, compassion, and renewed commitment to do better—for one another.

Until next week ... “Peace on Earth” begins with us.

Dorothy



DECEMBER 19 - CICELY TYSON - Cicely L. Tyson was an American actress and former fashion model. In a career spanning more than seven decades, she has become known for her portrayal of strong African-American women. Tyson is the recipient of three Primetime Emmy Awards, four Black Reel Awards, one Screen Actors Guild Award, one Tony Award, an honorary Academy Award, and a Peabody Award. Tyson was named a Kennedy Center honoree in 2015. In November 2016, Tyson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the highest civilian honor in the United States. In 2020, she was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame. Tyson died on January 28, 2021, at the age of 96. Her funeral was held February 16 at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, and was attended by Tyler Perry, her godson Lenny Kravitz, and Bill and Hillary Clinton.

- Blackcelebritybirthdays.org





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Celebration of Life service for MRS. ROSIE MARIE TAYLOR (b. 1931) was Thursday, December 11, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. CHRISTOPHER DEWAYN TONEY (b. 1974) was Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at Little Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church, 884 Indian Creek Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Elder Dwight Clark, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for MR. ELLIS M. HAMBRICK (b. 1953) was Tuesday, December 9, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Larry Davidson, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. GLORIA RAGLAND (b. 1965) was Saturday, December 6, at Moses Chapel Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Joe Hereford officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MARILYN RUSSELL WARREN (b. 1954) was Saturday, December 6, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Celebration of Life for MR. MICHAEL HUMPHREY (b. 1955) was Sunday, November 23, at New Life Seventh-Day Adventist Church with Pastor Nelson Stokes officiating.

Funeral service for MR. RAYANTHA HORTON (b. 1958) was Saturday, November 22, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Waymon Moore officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAYLAN TRAVON "POOH BEAR" WATKINS (b. 1999) was Saturday, November 22, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Minister Ricky Leslie eulogist.

Funeral service for MR. JUSTIN MARLO DAVIS (b. 2000) was Saturday, November 22, at Springhill Church with Pastor Ricky Morland officiating.

Funeral service for REV. CHARLES W. POWELL SR., (b. 1946) was Saturday, November 22, at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Oscar L. Montgomery, officiating.

Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly
PRESTON BROWN'S

Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

"The Main Event"

Luke 2:10 says, "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

We will never enjoy the season of Christmas until we enjoy the reason for Christmas. In other words, until we understand the real meaning of Christmas, it will only be about parties, Christmas trees, and making sure we get everything on our shopping lists. There is nothing wrong with these things if we keep them as side attractions and not the main event. We need to know that Jesus is the reason for the season and there is no substitute. So often when the season of Christmas gets here, we become distracted by so many other things that we miss the message.

Jesus did not come to entertain us. He came to be the Savior of the entire world. He didn't come to be politically

correct. He came for the message of hope. He also came to be Lord of our lives.

I believe we often miss the main event of Christmas because we make our God too small. We reduce Him down to



sleigh bells and jingle bells and Santa Claus coming to town. It's the most wonderful time of the year, but not for the reason that most people think. There is no way that any of us could be saved without God sending us His one and only son. This act of love will

always be the real meaning of Christmas.

May God grant you spiritual success in finding the real meaning of Christmas.

Question: What does the real meaning of Christmas mean to you?

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:
"Gifts and Talents"



Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Goodness and Mercy ...

As Christmas approaches, I find myself reflecting on the beautiful themes of goodness and mercy that define this season. It's truly a time to celebrate love, generosity, and the hope that shines brightly, even in the darkest moments.

During this magical time, we have a chance to embody these values in our daily lives. Goodness shines through in those small acts of kindness—the warm smiles, thoughtful gifts, tight hugs (I love these), and cherished moments with loved ones. Whether it's volunteering to help those who are struggling or reaching out to a friend in need, every act of goodness creates ripples that can touch many hearts.

Mercy invites us to extend grace to ourselves and others, reminding us



of the power of forgiveness. It's vital during this season to let go of grudges and embrace compassion, nurturing relationships that may have faced challenges throughout the year. It's so freeing. As forgiveness heals YOU!! Christmas provides the perfect backdrop for this, encouraging us to foster unity and understanding in our lives.

While we decorate our trees, sing carols, and gather with family, let's take a moment to consider

how we can bring more goodness and mercy into the world around us. This Christmas, let's commit to spreading joy and kindness, because these values are truly the heart of what we can give to one another. Embrace the spirit of the season, let your light shine bright, and together, let's make this world a little bit brighter! We can do it, one day at a time!!

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.

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END-OF-YEAR REMINDER: Trump is NOT the Enemy - don't give him that much credit!

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers; against the rulers of the darkness of this world; against spiritual wickedness in high places" - Ephesians 6:12

Whether in or out of the White House, Donald Trump remains the most influential person on the planet. Challenge me.

Since his first term, virtually every news event - Russia's invading Ukraine, Supreme Court rulings, and inflamed racial injustice, for example - bore his influential thumbprint.

But despite his vitriol and our "Trump-xhaustion," this now two-time lame-duck president is not our main enemy, as the Apostle Paul noted in the opening Bible text.

Satan's Avatar?

Here, Paul reminded the Ephesians that their true enemy was not human but Satan, the spiritual being.

For many, Trump is merely a Satan avatar - just like you.

And me, quite honestly.

At best, Trump is a 9-year wide-screen TV, whose reflection mirrors our own shortcomings that we need to acknowledge and correct. Now.



Quick: Take the "Trump-in-You" Challenge, ...

True, we enjoy gang-tackling "45/47" for his thinly-veiled racism, sexism, and nativism.

Even as our criticism of him is justified, however, we also need to first ask ourselves:

We rail against Trump for promising to deport and separate children from their immigrant parents, ... *but do your and my words and actions similarly dismantle families - starting with our own immediate households?*

We decry Trump's well-documented misstatements, ... *but how often do you and I knowingly fail to be forthright and truthful?*

How often do we offer incomplete information, when transparency is what's needed?

How often do we remain mum and withhold vital fill-in-the-blank facts - the withholding of which we employ as a tool for control? And Yes, we were angered by Trump's un-confessed and vilifying statements of racial, ethnic, gender and class discrimination, ... yet can you and I accept Jesus' challenge of John 8:1-12, to the men accusing the woman caught in adultery and demanding that she be stoned to death, when he asked,

"So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, 'He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her'" - John 8:7?

... And a God Do-over!

If like me, you're 0 for 5 with those *in-your-face* questions, let's look now and forever at our own mirror reflections; and then, apply God's do-over: daily Bible reading and prayer.



Trust me, it works best when applied daily, ...

Tim Allston

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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

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. - 7:30 p.m.

February 22

Heart
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala. - 7 p.m.

February 28-March 1

Disney on Ice

Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

March 5

KC and The Sunshine Band
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall/Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala. - 7:30 p.m.

March 27-29

The 6th Annual Women's Expo Conference
The Westin Hotel
Huntsville, Ala.
www.thewomensexposv.com

April 10

The R&B Lovers Tour
Featuring Keith Sweat, Joe, Dru Hill and Ginuwine
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala. - 8 p.m.

April 17

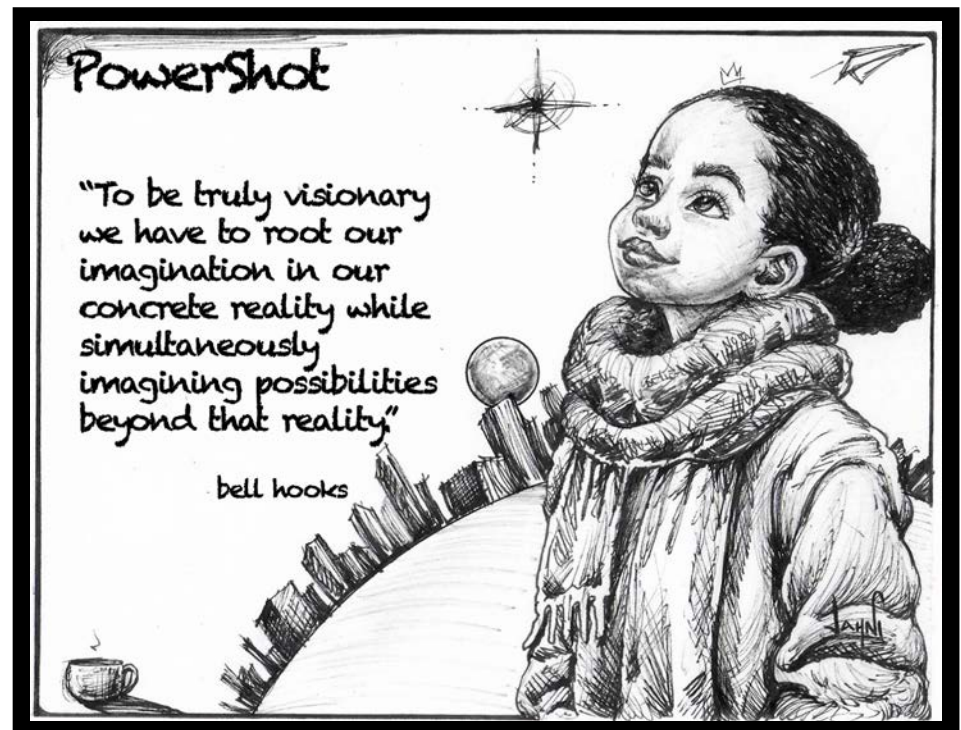
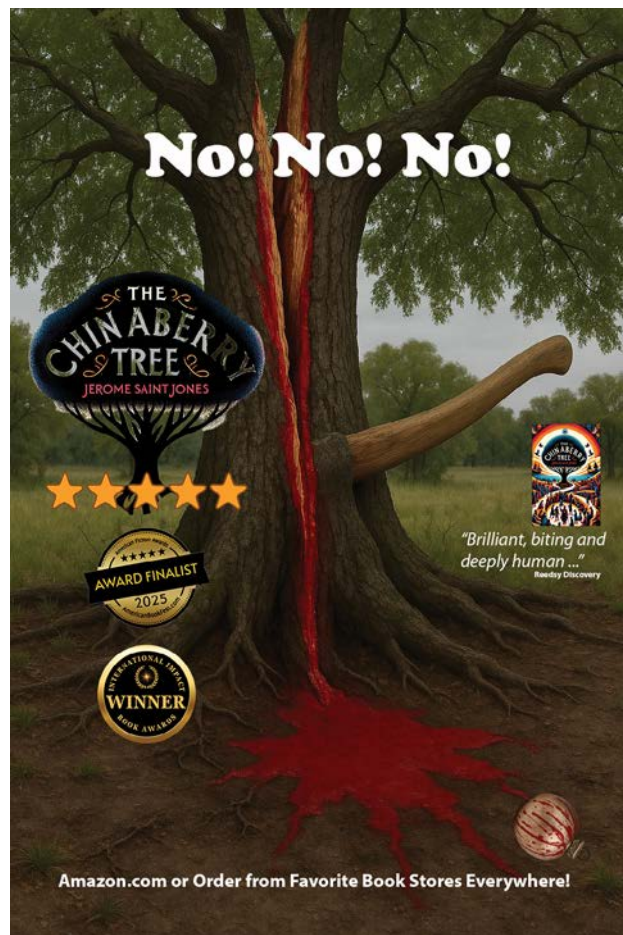
Concert
Rod Stewart
"One Last Time"
(with Special Guest Howard Jones)-RodStewart.com
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala.

April 24

Cake
Orion Amphitheater
MidCity
Huntsville, Ala.
8 p.m.

May 2

Ethel Cain
Orion Amphitheater
8 p.m.



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*"Peace on earth is not just a distant goal;
it is a means by which we arrive at that goal."*

— Martin Luther King, Jr.



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

Mother Mary Strong

Born in Ozark, Ala., Mother Mary Strong calls Talladega, Alabama, "home" because her family relocated to that town when she was only four years old. A business education graduate of Alabama A&M University, Mother Strong is also an alumnus of C.H. Mason Bible College and has received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from St. Thomas University.

Mother Strong was employed by the United States Air Defense Command for four years, followed by over 30 years of service for Alabama A&M University's flagship Department of Physics.

She has been married to the love of her life (Dr. James Strong) for forty-six years. They are the proud parents of two lovely children, one son (Elder Jamel Strong) and one daughter (Evangelist Faith LaJoy Bailey). They have a very loving son-in-law (Lance Bailey) and three wonderful grandchildren (Jordan Bailey, Christian Bailey

and Christopher Bailey).

Mother Strong has served in various capacities in her local, district and jurisdictional church. In addition to serving as the First Lady of Fountain of Life Ministries COGIC, she is a licensed Evangelist in the Church of God in Christ. Locally, she has served as Trustee, Executive Board Member, President of Bible Band, Junior High and Adult Sunday School Teacher, Usher, Young People Willing Worker (YPWW) Teacher, Choir member and President of Women's Department.

On the district level, she has served as Assistant District Missionary, Vice-President of Sunshine Band, and YWCC President. Presently, Mother Strong serves as District Supervisor of Women for the Huntsville District COGIC. On the jurisdictional level, Mother Strong serves as Vice-President of the Executive Board of Women, President of



the Credential Board and Treasurer for the Jurisdictional District Missionary Circle.

Mother Strong loves people and is committed to serving God by ministering to the needs of people, body, soul and spirit as she endeavors to help build the Kingdom of God here on earth. She loves sowing into the lives of the less fortunate, especially young children and the elderly. Her endeavor is to be more like Jesus every day.



"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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This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday
of Advent



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Second Lesson:

Romans 1:1-7

GOSPEL:

Matthew 1:18-25

"POWERSHOTS"

John 'Jahni' Moore

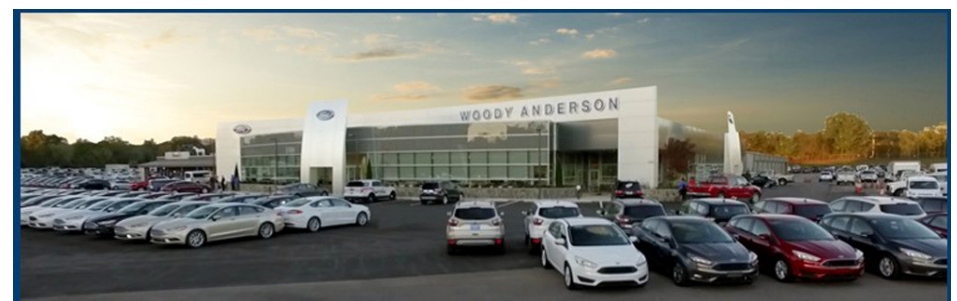
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Alabama A&M University 150th Anniversary Poem (Unabridged)

“The Hill of Resilience” by Jerome Saintjones (Primarily Iambic Pentameter)

Amid a nation of unrest—
Each soul a rupture at the seam—
Endured those Chosen for The
Quest,
The Ones who dared to hope and
dream.

In Eighteen and Seventy-five
Our Councill launched his vision
bold,
Where knowledge, will and pride
survive,
And leaders go to worlds untold.

For all looked
upward at the
sun—
Through
storms, through
pain, through
faith within.
What work their fathers had
begun:
A will to fight, a zeal to win!

With sixty-one seedlings he began
And teachers numbered only two.
Yet in hardly a decade's span
The sapling scholars grew and
grew.

Like Gideon, three hundred strong,
The school's student body did
swell—
New land purchased upon The
Hill—
The old site quickly placed for sell.

In fewer suns than fifteen years—
The vocational well-entrenched—
Despite the times and all its fears,
Knowledge's thirst was ably
quenched.

From meager means in crueler age
To new land-grant designation,
The Founder slowly turned the
page
On despair and resignation.

From kindling he began the flames
That lit the torch all others carry,
Outlasting ridicules and shames
That often make the lesser wary.

Buchanan
fought for what
was right
And, above
all, what he
deemed fair.

Yet, with each day another blight,
He traveled North and remained
there.



Oh! Dream
deferred; what
all-time low!
Our brightest
hope turned
darker.
The Hill averted
final blow,
Owing to one T. R. Parker.

We discovered maroon and white,
Our heads so high, our debts now
clear.
Ne'er dwelling on our former
plight,
Embracing days with hope and
cheer.

While Depres-
sion engulfed
the earth,
Our A&M kept
reaching higher.
And, Drake
pushed on with
all his worth
To build a campus all admire ...

The halls to learn, the halls for
sleep,
A hall for science and one to dine,
Improvements framed a hill once
steep
Into a city fair and fine.

Still, under Morrison we grew
In every
dimension
known—
Renamed
“university,”
too—
And soon made
Normal's Hill our own.

For business there was Patton
Hall,
Then later structure for the arts.
“The Block” became the beck

and call
For thousands of young minds
and hearts.
Insightful programs did abound:
New tools with which we could

compete ...
Food science, also speech and
sound,
Computing was an added treat.

Covington brought new perspec-
tive,
A touch of flare
and refinement.
With each
leadership
directive
Came focus on
his realignment.

Instead of using steel and stone,
To make the institution great,
He chose a different style and
tone
That history would appreciate.

In *people* was his stock and store,
In partnerships and agreements,
A thrust to build enrollment,
more
Attention to antecedents.

Marbury, too, maintained the old
Through targeted renovation.
A fair pay scale he sought to mold
For employee
compensation.

A Normalite,
pure through
and through,
A bulwark for

education,
Because of him the doctorates
grew
And pride throughout Bulldog
Nation.

While wrestling much financial
stress,
A quiet Henson
gave his all
To build despite
heaping duress
And keep The
Hill away from
fall.

With him, a larger residence
So graced the campus on the east.
But therewith gathered evidence
That strife within comprised the
Beast.

When new millennium arrived,
Our A&M brought with it flak.
But still strong
leadership
survived
And even
pushed it into
SWAC.

For Gibson led with plan in hand,
Carving each vision into form.
Among his dreams for westward
land
Was chiseled out the largest
dorm.

A stadium brought games back
home,
Repairs to roofs kept rains at bay,
One doctorate—with more to
come—
And engineering of the day.

Ideas and plans and vision soared
As Jennings entered the domain.
His boldness ne'er could be
ignored—
And how he made his wishes
plain!

Student-focused
and student-led,
He ventured
forth on new
terrain.
When all is done as well as said,
His impacts on The Hill remain.

The great to campus he did bring
With wonder and in mystery.
He made the legendary sing,
Secured The Hill in history.

A new horizon graced the dawn
And Hugine proudly entered.
Throughout his leadership was
drawn
Bold new strategy well-centered.

For this path he
had tread before
As professor
and president.
He knew the
nuances galore
That faculty and boards present.

So, with such confidence and skill
The eleventh one did aim high
And reimaged for The Hill

Futures beyond the common eye.

Comprehensive renovations,
Endowment building as an art,
Many service celebrations—
First Lady support off-the-chart!

Clean energy and campus green,
Astute capital financing;
Despite pandemic few had seen,
There was faith and even danc-
ing.

Twelve priorities Wims assayed,
All to make a great school
greater.

Following plans our fathers laid,
He became a shrewd creator.

New Normalites traversed the
land,
Enrolling in struc-
tured courses,
Earning degrees
in high demand—
And with ad-
equate resources.

The campus proper did expand,
Along with reach outside its
walls.
And athletes, scholars, staff and
band
Join forces as victory calls.

The quality of student life,
Impactful thrust for modern
STEM,
Fewer hardships, less college
strife—
Will be attributed to him.

From times of anguish and of woes
Span carpenters to CEOs;
From stoned dreams and endless
jeering
Sprang forth hope and engineer-
ing.

No holding history deep within
From racist epithets once hurled,
Because the Bulldogs always win
Throughout The Hill and 'round
the world.

But what bold leaders lie ahead,
As each century glimmers
brighter:
A future telepresence-led,
With the neuro-links much lighter.

Envision A.I.-human teams,
The lyceums holographic,
Professors fluid, so it seems,
In all things symbiotic.

Zero-gravity transit, too,
Structures bio-integrated,
Mixed-reality quads of blue,
The dorms virtually gated.

Yes, A&M will always be,
Regardless of its future form.
From hill to hill and tree to tree,
Service-learning remains the
norm.

For Normalites around the earth
Ensure tomorrows of our days,
Giving to education birth,
To Councill and our God ... the
praise.



AAMU Student Secures Career Post with Vulcan Materials

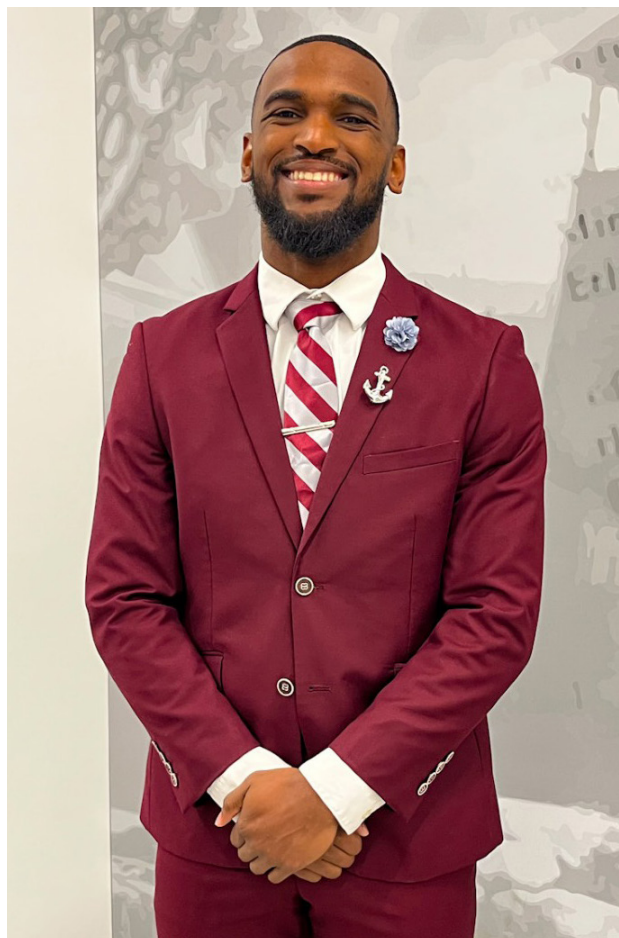
Alabama A&M University civil engineering major Anthony Coleman is among the graduating seniors who secured full-time employment well before crossing the stage at AAMU's Fall 2025 Commencement on Dec. 12.

In September, the Prattville, Alabama, native accepted a project manager position with Vulcan Materials at the company's Glencoe office, just a two-hour drive from his hometown. Like several of his classmates, the job followed a successful summer 2025 experience as a transportation construction intern with the company.

"This opportunity came through my internship where my performance and dedication led to a full-time offer," said Coleman. "What I'm most excited about in this role is the opportunity to apply my previous years of internship experience, along with the valuable skills I've gained on The Hill, especially in communication, time management, and people management, in a professional environment."

A first-generation college student, Coleman said he chose Alabama A&M because of how the campus made him feel during his initial visit.

"Honestly, I didn't know much about college or how to choose the right school, but AAMU



welcomed me and made me feel at home," he said. "It provided a supportive environment that guided me, cared for me, and allowed me to grow into my own person while leaving my mark on this campus."

During his time at AAMU, Coleman immersed himself in academics, internships and student life. He served as a construction intern with the Michigan Department of Transportation and worked as a design intern with General Motors Company.

He's also a member of Eta Kappa Tau Engineering and Technology Fraternity, Inc., and Alpha

Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

"My time on The Hill was transformative," Coleman said. "I grew as a person, a student, and a professional, surrounded by a community that pushed me to reach higher. The best part was being part of a community that truly feels like family. The brotherhood, the friendships, and the culture at AAMU are unmatched."

Coleman credits several faculty mentors with shaping his academic development.

"I want to highlight three professors who truly made an impact on me," he said. "Dr. Sudip Bhat-

tacharjee who made sure I mastered key engineering concepts beyond what was needed to pass a class; Dr. Mohamed Ashour, who challenged me academically and helped me think like a real-world engineer; and Dr. Pooja Preetha, who taught me how to operate professionally in the engineering field rather than just as a student."

He also offered thanks to Alabama A&M's Career Development Services. "The staff there supported me throughout my time at AAMU and backed my efforts to help make the campus a better place," he said. "Their encouragement and willingness to

assist students makes a real difference."

Coleman is eager to contribute to meaningful projects at Vulcan Materials as he advances in his profession.

"I am looking forward to applying everything I learned at AAMU to real world engineering projects, growing my technical skills, and contributing to infrastructure work that makes a lasting impact. My ultimate goal is to become a licensed professional engineer, manage major infrastructure projects, and eventually move into project management or executive leadership."

As he prepares to leave

AAMU and begin his career, Coleman reflects on the people and experiences that shaped him.

"I am grateful for everything AAMU has poured into me. The Hill shaped me into who I am today, and will always be with me. Also, I would like to give special recognition to my family and friends, especially my mother, who supported me even when I didn't believe in myself. Without them, I would not be here."



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