



Mrs. Linda C. Akenhead

“Communities and countries and ultimately the world are only as strong as the health of their women.” — Michelle Obama

In the Rocket City, where innovation reaches toward the heavens, compassion begins right here on Earth. Every thoughtful gesture brings hope closer to home.

For everyday Americans, the numbers serve as a reminder that national economic progress does not always benefit every community equally.

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The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Sunday Lectionary, Page 7



Here are the top issues and events in Washington, D.C., for this week:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess until November 9.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The President will continue his campaign stops this week, starting Monday with a trip to Youngstown, OH, for a rally for Sen. Jon Husted (R-OH). On Tuesday, he traveled to Wasilla, AK, for a rally for Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK). Reportedly, he also made campaign stops in Arizona and Montana this week. Last Friday, the President announced an agreement with Russian President Putin for Russia to supply millions of tons of diesel. Shortly afterward, the Treasury Department issued a temporary license exempting

Russian diesel supplied to the global market through April 2027, notwithstanding the recently enacted "Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act" (signed into law on Sept. 18). Also last Friday, the President announced the creation of a 3-person committee to investigate allegations of mortgage fraud against Federal Reserve Board Governor Lisa Cook, less than 4 months after the Supreme Court blocked his efforts to fire Cook.

3. SUPREME COURT. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court heard argument in *Beard v. United States* on whether courts should continue to give strong deference to the Sentencing Commission's official commentary on the federal Sentencing Guidelines, which could affect many

federal sentences. On Wednesday, *Salazar v. Paramount Global*, the Court's first case under 1988's "Video Privacy Protection Act," asked whether someone who subscribes to any service from a company that offers video (here, a free sports newsletter) counts as a protected consumer whose viewing data can't be shared with Meta without consent.

4. MID-TERM ELECTIONS 2026. There are 22 days until the Nov. 3 midterm elections. Last Friday, the widely followed Cook Political Report shifted 18 House races in Democrats' favor, including moving 4 GOP seats from "toss-up" to "lean Democrat" (NOTE: Democrats need a net 3 seats to take control of the House). In the Senate, Cook moved 2 GOP seats from "lean Republican" to the "toss-up" column (Kansas and Maine) and moved the open North Carolina GOP seat from "lean Democrat" to "likely Democrat," while moving the open New Hampshire GOP seat from "toss-up" to "lean Democrat." Democrats need a net 4 seats to

take control of the Senate. Cook noted that the political atmosphere continues to favor Democrats despite over \$500 million in GOP campaign spending since Labor Day.

5. EDUCATION. The Department of Education has granted more than 1,000 institutions that missed the Oct. 1 deadline for 2026 Financial Value Transpar-

ency and Gainful Employment (FVT/GE) data an extension until Jan. 15, 2027, to report. The same deadline applies to nearly 1,400 institutions still delinquent for the 2024 and 2025 cycles, as well as to any revisions of previously submitted data. Institutions may also opt into the new Student Tuition and Transparency System (STATS) early to reduce

their reporting burden. ED is offering training sessions this fall. ED says this is the final extension, and institutions that miss it could face heightened cash monitoring, fines, or other sanctions.

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The Valley Weekly

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Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

More Than Coming Home ...

AAMU Is Part of Our Legacy

As I continue the series on making impact and building legacy, I take you to Alabama A&M University. On October 17, Bulldogs from across the country will come back to the University. There will be class reunions, tailgates, laughter, music, football, southern food, old friendships renewed and, of course, plenty of maroon and white.

But for me, Homecoming has always meant something more. Alabama A&M helped change the trajectory of my life. I earned my bachelor’s degree from there and years later, life brought me back



to Alabama A&M—not as a student, but as a faculty member and administrator. From 1995 to 2007, I had the privilege of serving the University in several capacities. Therefore, I have experienced Alabama A&M from both sides of the desk. AAMU educated me, and later it gave me the opportunity to help educate and create opportunities for others.

That is why Homecoming is personal. Homecoming should be personal for every alumnus. It cannot simply be the weekend when we put on our best maroon and white, attend parties, reconnect with classmates and cheer for the Bulldogs. Those traditions matter, but

the real question is: What are we coming home to do?

If Alabama A&M helped prepare us for our careers, introduced us to lifelong friends, gave us confidence, nurtured our leadership, or simply gave us an opportunity when others might not have, then we owe something to the generations coming behind us.

Come home—and give. Come home—and mentor a student. Come home—and support scholarships. Come home—and use your professional connections to create internships and jobs. Come home—and speak proudly about our University. Come home—and ask what you can do to make Alabama A&M stronger than it was when you arrived.

Our founders and those who came before us sacrificed so that we could walk across this campus and dream bigger dreams. Our responsibility is to make certain the doors remain open for the young people walking across “The Hill” today.

As Alabama A&M continues celebrating more than 150 years of history, we should remember that legacy is not simply what we inherit. Legacy is what we strengthen and leave behind. I will always be grateful for what Alabama A&M University did for that 16-year-old girl who arrived in Normal, Alabama, in 1975. Nearly five decades later, I understand even more clearly the value of the education, relationships, opportunities and confidence that began there.

So, Bulldogs, on October 17, come home. Celebrate. Laugh. Hug old friends. Tell the stories. Enjoy the bands, the food, the fellowship and the football. But before you leave “The Hill,” do one more thing: Ask yourself what you are giving back to the University that gave so much to you. That is what Homecoming should mean. That is how Bulldogs make impact. And that is how we build legacy. Start Here. Go Anywhere.

Go, Bulldogs! Until next week ...



Dorothy

OCTOBER 16 - TERRI J. VAUGHN - Terri Juanita Vaughn is an American actress, director and producer. She is best known for her role as high school secretary Lovita Alizé Jenkins-Robinson in The WB sitcom The Steve Harvey Show (1997–2002), for which she received three NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series. She later co-starred in the UPN/The CW sitcom All of Us (2003–2005), and TBS sitcom Meet the Browns (2009–2011). In 2016, Vaughn was cast in the recurring role as housekeeper in Oprah Winfrey Network drama series, Greenleaf opposite Keith David and Lynn Whitfield. - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S

Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "Take Another Step"

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

What if every time you prayed, God answered your prayers immediately? I don't know about you, but I would be praying all the time. But God wants to know this: Will you still pray if He doesn't answer your prayers when you want Him to? Will you still trust Him? Will you still believe in Him?

You see, sometimes our progress is not as obvious as we would like it to be. But just because your promise isn't obvious, this does not mean your faith isn't working.

We all need to learn to take another step, even if nothing appears to be happening. When God allows us to be in a certain situation and we think that it's taking too long for Him to answer our prayers, maybe God wants us to be less focused on the outcome and more focused on our obedience. The outcome is God's responsi-

bility. Obedience is ours. So take another step, and you may just walk on past your problems. Prayer: Heavenly Father, give us the courage that we need to take another step of faith when you call us to do so.

Question: What are some things that keep you from following the plans that God has for your life?

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 TODAY!

NEXT WEEK:
"Overcoming the What-Ifs"

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Funeral services for **MRS. SELENA SIMONS** (b. 1944) and **MRS. IRENE MOORE** (b. 1946) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MRS. MARY LOU SANDERFER HOUSTON** (b. 1935) was scheduled for Thursday, October 15, at Union Hill C. P. C. A. with Elder Jonathan Pickett officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. CHESTERFIELD DAVIDSON** (b. 1957) was Tuesday, October 13, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MRS. MELODY ABBOTT MALONE** (b. 1958) was Friday, October 9, at Union Chapel M.B. Church, 315 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.

Public viewing for **MR. GEORGE W. SANDERS** (b. 1949) was Sunday, October 4, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MR. PRINCETON CRU'SHUN ALEXANDER** (b. 1991) was Saturday, October 3, at Syler Tabernacle, 904 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. LEONARD WATKINS** (b. 1954) was Tuesday, September 29, at Nelms Memorial.

Funeral service for **MR. LEO TURNER, JR.** (b. 1934) was Monday, September 28, at First Missionary Baptist Church, 3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala., with eulogy by Pastor R. L. Turner of Destiny & Legacy Ministries, Birmingham, Ala.

Graveside service for **MS. LIELIA MORRIS** (b. 1964) was Sunday, September 27, at Big Cove Cemetery.

Funeral service for **MR. CHARLIE BROWN** (b. 1944) was Sunday, September 27, at Blackburn Chapel CP Church, 507 Plummer Road, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MS. EULA MAE SLEDGE** (b. 1959) was Sunday, September 27, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Minister Bernard Parharm, Sr., of Chattanooga, Tennessee, officiating.

Funeral service was Saturday, September 26, for **MR. CHARLIE J. EUTSEY** (b. 1965) at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Submissions by Brenda Friend and Angel S. Wilson

TOMORROW: The Discipline of the Day After

Congratulations, New York Knicks fans!

After 53 long years, your wait is finally over.

On October 20, when the NBA begins its 81st season, the Knicks will raise their first championship banner in Madison Square Garden since 1973.

Enjoy it. Celebrate it.

Just don't get *too* comfortable.

Recent NBA history offers a sobering warning. The league has gone eight consecutive seasons without a repeat champion. Eight seasons. Eight different champions.

So, Knicks fans, what happens now?

For an answer, let's turn to another native New Yorker—a fellow born in Brooklyn on February 17, 1963.

Michael Jordan.

On Sunday, May 18, 1995, Jordan's Chicago Bulls were eliminated from the NBA playoffs by the Orlando Magic.

Jordan had returned to basketball only weeks earlier after nearly 18 months away from the game. The comeback generated enormous excitement, but there would be no championship celebration that year.

After the loss, Jordan's personal trainer, Tim Grover, approached him in the locker room.

Grover essentially asked when Jordan wanted to begin training again.

Jordan's answer?

"Tomorrow."

Not next month. Not after an extended vacation. Tomorrow.

And there, I believe, is a leadership lesson much larger than basketball.

I call it **T.D.O.T.D.A.—The Discipline of the Day After.**

Defeat presents an obvious leadership challenge. But victory can be equally dangerous.

Yesterday's success can quietly become today's entitlement. Celebration can become complacency. The disciplines that created the victory can disappear because we begin believing the victory will somehow reproduce itself.

Jordan didn't.

After the disappointment of 1995, he went back to work. The following season, Chicago won 72 regular-season games and the NBA championship—the first of another three consecutive titles.

Which brings us back to the Knicks.

The question isn't whether New York deserved its 2026 championship. It did.

The question is what happens **after** the banner goes up.

And that's not merely New York's question.

It's ours.

What do you do the morning after the promotion?

The successful presentation?

The great sermon?

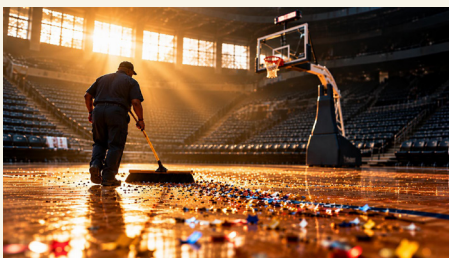
The big sale? The answered prayer?

Celebrate yesterday.

Learn from yesterday.

Then ask the leadership question that may determine what happens next:

What am I doing tomorrow?



Tim Allston

Leadership Player-Coach and Four-time Amazon Best-Selling Author, "Leading from the Middle"

Contact: (256) 212-0949 - <https://bit.ly/4aB9Lwm>

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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Prolonging Happiness

What things are in your morning thoughts? What consumes your mind throughout the day? What is that one thing you can't shake? When your mind goes idle ... it goes back to it. Whatever that thing is, it's what you are allowing to control you.

Is it something positive, or negative? Is it pain, disappointment, or dreams and goals? You need to understand that you can only have one thought at a time. What thought is your thought of choice today?

Reliving hurt and pain that has probably been there over a long period of time is not conducive to achieving your greatness, or betterment.

It's actually inimical to that which you desire to be. So why allow that to



control your destiny? Get over it, forgive it, and move that is haunting you has no place setting up residence in your mind. Evict it!!! Replace it with a goal, desire ... want.

You don't have one (a goal)? That definitely means you've been dwelling on your past for too long! Take a moment to reset your mind.

Write out something positive to think of. Look

at that every morning, and every night.

Hopefully, it's something you want to move towards. Whether it's happiness, a business idea, a talent you want to develop, or to figure out your gift (because you do have one): Be intentional about what your mind frequents!

How long will you be held captive by unforgiveness, dismay, old wounds? Set yourself free! It's your decision. Focus on new life, new love, new hopes, and big dreams. If you set yourself up for that, it will keep you busy and, I promise, in time, you will see gain as opposed to pain!

How long will you prolong happiness? It's up to you.

Don't delay!

Go get it!



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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

October 15
AAMU Homecoming
Golf Tournament
Hampton Cove Golf
Course
7 a.m. Registration
8 a.m. Shot Gun Start
\$600 Foursome/\$150
<https://mp.gg/23yc17khq>

October 15
AAMU Homecoming
Alumni Pep Rally - 6-8

p.m. | Mixer 6-11 p.m.
The Orion Amphitheater
701 Amphitheater Drive
Huntsville, Ala.

October 16
Alumni Homecoming
Affair
Stovehouse
DJ Nakidfine and Element
XI with BigTim da DJ
3414 Governors Drive
Southwest, Huntsville,

Alabama
"Back on the Yard: The
Reunion"
20 Years of Ivy & Influ-
ence
Sands of Sahara
1426 Paramount Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
2-7 p.m.
(256) 441-5818

October 17
Pastoral Installation
Service for Pastor-Elect
Maurice Lee
Fletcher's Chapel P.B.
Church
Speaker: Elder Dr. Ken-
neth Duke
30592 Hardiman Road
Madison, Ala.
10 a.m.

Bulldog Football

AAMU vs. Grambling
State
Louis Crews Stadium

October 23
"Illuminating the Path to
Excellence in Music Edu-
cation"
The Bradford Scholar-
ship Foundation, Inc.
Fundraising and Awards
Luncheon
Church Street CPCA Fel-
lowship Hall
228 Church Street NW
Huntsville, Ala. | 11 a.m.
bradfordscholarship.org

October 24
Rocket City Blues Festival
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala. | 7 p.m.

October 30
Three Days Grace, Prevail
& The Funeral Portrait
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala.
7:30 p.m.

October 31
Halloween

85th Annual Amazon
Magic City Classic Pre-

sented by Coca-Cola
AAMU vs. Alabama State
Legion Field
400 Graymount Avenue
West
Birmingham, Ala. 35204
2:30 p.m.

November 1
Daylight Saving Time
Ends

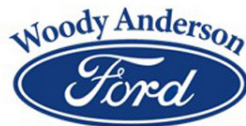
November 7
"The Great Big Book
Festival"
Downtown Huntsville
Public Library
9 a.m.-5 p.m.



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"It will always sound
like bragging to
those who are
slacking."

Darnell Lamont Walker





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

Mrs. Linda C. Akenhead

Linda Akenhead was born in San Diego, California, and raised in Bakersfield, California. She attended college at Cal State Bakersfield for two years but yearned to travel outside of California. She applied to the University of Alabama and was accepted. She graduated with a B.S. in foods and nutrition and passed the National Dietetics Exam and became a registered dietitian.

She was hired at the University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham as a clinical dietitian and worked on the general medicine unit. Linda met her husband, Rob, who was a resident in internal medicine on the unit. They married and moved to Montgomery, Alabama. Both worked at a new hospital called University Medical Center. While Linda worked at the hospital, she also did dietetic consulting work at the Father Purcell Memorial Center—a residential care program for developmentally disabled children. She was also active in the Montgomery Dietetic Association.

When Rob and Linda left Montgomery, they

moved back to Birmingham for Rob to complete another residency this time in Radiology. Linda went back to UAB to complete her master's degree.

After Rob completed his residency, they moved to Huntsville where Rob joined the group Radiology of Huntsville. Huntsville became their permanent home.

Linda has always been passionate about art and music. She had played flute and piano growing up. Her flute teacher asked her to start teaching beginning flute students while she was in high school and college. She was also asked to perform for weddings and church events. This love of music helped her become involved in many art organizations such as the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra and Huntsville Museum of Art. For over thirty years, numerous organizations have benefited from Linda's love of the community. She has served as an officer, board member and volunteer for the following organizations: Trustee with Randolph School; Chair for Vive Le Livre for the Library Foundation; Christian Women Job Corps; Blount Hospitality House; Huntsville Hospital Foundation Board



of Trustees and Millennium Society Founder; First United Methodist Church having served as a Recording Secretary, Altar Guild, Meal Prep for members who are homebound as well as a Liturgist; Arts Council Advisory Committee; Leadership Greater Huntsville Graduate and Committee of 100.

Huntsville is where Linda and Rob have raised their two sons and have made many wonderful friends. When asked why they contribute their time and money to so many organizations, Linda notes that this community has been so good to us that we feel blessed to give back so that future generations can enjoy what Huntsville has to offer.

A&M MBA Director Among Top 50 Women in Accounting

Dr. Felicia Farrar, CPA, CFE, has been named one of the Top 50 Women in Accounting for 2026, earning global recognition for her leadership and impact on the accounting profession.

Farrar, director of Alabama A&M University's MBA program and accounting coordinator in the College of Business and Public Affairs, is among 50 women selected from a record 1,265 nominations representing 835 nominees. The 2026 honorees represent countries around the world, including the United States, Australia,



Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

According to Farrar, she is the first AAMU professor to receive the recognition.

"Being recognized as one of the Top Women in Accounting for 2026 is deeply meaningful to me because it reflects more than professional achievement — it represents purpose, perseverance and service," Farrar said.

A certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner, Farrar has dedicated her career to supporting students, expanding access to CPA preparation, promoting financial literacy and increasing representation within the accounting profession. Her professional experience also includes service with the IRS.

Beyond her work at AAMU, Farrar serves as board chair of the National Association of Black Certified Public Accountants and as a board member of the Delaware State Board of Public Accountancy.



This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, October 18, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday
After Pentecost



(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-13

Second Lesson:

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

GOSPEL:

Matthew 22:15-22

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BUT WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER"



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"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.



"POWERSHOTS"

John 'Jahnu' Moore

TRUTH 2 POWER



PowerShot

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and every one
has got to
figure out who
they are, what
they believe
in, and what
they want to
do."
- Ron Chappelle

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than others think
practical. Expect
more than others
think possible.
Come more than
others think wise."
- Howard Schulz

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impossible, you
just haven't found
a way yet!"
- J. T. Moore

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