



SET CLOCKS
BACK 2AM
NOV. 1!

The Valley Weekly

The Voice of the Valley

HUNTSVILLE • MADISON COUNTY • NORTH ALABAMA

GLORIA B: 'In a Split Second' ... -Page 5

SALUTE!
Rosetta James
Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Ms. Phyllis Chunn

Friday
October 30, 2026
Vol. 13, No. 9
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

Valley Mourns Death of Noted Servant Leader

The Tennessee Valley Community mourns the recent death of a popular civic and religious leader.

Rev. Earla S. Lockhart served First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., as a staff minister, beginning in January 1993.

Funeral service will be Friday, October 30, at 11 a.m. at First

Missionary Baptist Church, with Rev. Dr. Carlos D. Williams officiating.

She previously worked for the U.S. Army Space & Missile Defense Command and was formerly employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

A graduate of Athens State University, Huntsville Bible College and the



Kentucky School of Mortuary Science, she pursued the Master of Ministry

degree at Huntsville Bible College.

For decades, Rev. Lockhart was active in the community—having served on boards of directors for the Christian Women's Job Corps of Madison County, the Downtown Rescue Mission, the Alabama A&M University Foundation Board, Girl Scouts of North Alabama,

CASA, and the Interfaith Mission Service. She also served on the Diversity Committee for the local Alzheimer's Association.

In addition to her position at First Baptist, she enjoyed a long-standing affiliation with the Huntsville Bible College and Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Competing this summer in Jacksonville, Florida, Nia captured the Girls 8 and Under National Turbo Javelin Championship. She entered the meet ranked fourth overall and delivered a personal-best throw of 44 feet, 4 inches to claim the title. Nia also competes in the 100-meter, 200-meter and 400-meter races. Her club's 4x100-me-

Eight-Year-Old National Javelin Champ

Nia Davis, a third-grade student at Union Chapel Christian Academy and a member of Parker Track Club of Madison, Alabama, is celebrating a national championship.

ter relay team earned All-American recognition, adding another highlight to an outstanding season. The daughter of Eddie and Andrea Davis of the Huntsville area, Nia continues to demonstrate dedication, determination and a love for track



Nia with Parker Track Club Coaches

and field. Her accomplishments reflect the encouragement and support of her family, Parker Track Club coaches and teammates, and the Union Chapel Christian Academy community, all of whom are proud of her achievements.

As the fall track season begins, her family, coaches and supporters celebrate her accomplishments and wish her continued success on the track and in the classroom.



STRIKE Unit Continues Focus on Human Trafficking

One year after launching its specialized STRIKE Unit, the Huntsville Police Department (HPD) is evaluating the progress, challenges and investigative priorities shaping its work to combat human trafficking and internet crimes against children.

HPD brought members of the unit together at a media roundtable to discuss the realities of these investiga-

tions, the role of digital evidence and technology and the collaboration required among local, state and federal law enforcement partners.

During its first year, STRIKE investigators made nearly 100 arrests across human trafficking and Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigations. The unit also handled approximately 180 ICAC cases among its six

investigators.

As STRIKE enters its second year, the unit will continue investigating human trafficking and internet crimes against children while adapting to evolving investigative challenges and strengthening partnerships with agencies that help bring these cases forward.



HPD encourages parents and caregivers to remain engaged in children's online activities and to maintain open conversations

about online safety, recognizing that awareness and early reporting can play an important role in protecting children from exploitation.

- Huntsvilleal.gov

The Valley Weekly

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Huntsville City Council Meetings

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

★ A SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT ★

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Former Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command

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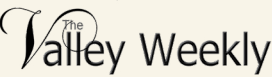
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A Sister’s Love, A Life Lost Too Soon ...

Remembering Vanessa

As we close out October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I am reminded of a loss that forever changed my life—the death of my beloved sister Vanessa, who passed away from breast cancer at just 38 years old.

Vanessa was more than my sister. She was my best friend. Although I was two years younger, I was only one grade behind her because our mother sent me to school early. We grew up together, shared dreams, and even became college roommates. I affectionately called Vanessa “the baby,” although I was actually the youngest of our family. She loved being at and around home. I loved going places and meeting new people.

Vanessa married her high school sweetheart after graduating from college and joined him at Fort Lee, Virginia, where he served in the Army. They later returned home to Monroeville, Alabama, built a home, and raised three beautiful children. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, and dedicated teacher who worked tirelessly to ensure her students had every opportunity to succeed.

My children could hardly wait for summer vacations when we would leave Ohio and travel south to spend time with Aunt Vanessa and my late mother. Those precious memories of family, laughter, and love remain treasures in my heart. But Vanessa’s life ended far too soon.

She discovered a lump in her breast, sought medical attention, and underwent a biopsy. Her physician assured her that it was not cancer. However, her breast did not heal properly following the procedure. My sister Mary and I were deeply concerned and encouraged her to seek another opinion. Vanessa trusted her doctor and believed everything would eventually be fine.



Sadly, it was not. By the time her cancer was diagnosed, the disease had spread throughout her body, including her lungs and lymph nodes. At 38, she left behind a husband, three children, and an extended family who loved her dearly.

Her husband took her to M D Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Mary and I brought her to Vanderbilt in Nashville. But it was too late, even with a bone marrow transplant. I have often wondered whether additional testing, a second opinion, or more attentive follow-up care might have changed the outcome. I will never know. But I believe Vanessa deserved better.

Vanessa’s story carries an urgent medical warning: A benign biopsy result does not mean that persistent or worsening breast symptoms should be ignored. If a breast biopsy site fails to heal as expected, or if a lump persists, grows, or changes, contact your healthcare provider promptly for reevaluation. Ask whether the biopsy findings adequately explain what was seen on imaging and during the examination. If concerns remain unresolved, request a second opinion, preferably from a breast specialist. Persistent symptoms deserve answers, even when an initial test is reassuring.

Vanessa’s death also reminds me of the continuing healthcare challenges in rural America. Too many women, particularly in underserved communities, struggle to access timely screenings, specialists, and quality medical care. With rural hospitals facing closures and financial challenges, these disparities remain a national tragedy.

How can America spend billions on so many other priorities while women continue to suffer and die because quality healthcare is unavailable, unaffordable, or delayed?

As Breast Cancer Awareness Month ends, my prayer is that every woman, regardless of race, income, or ZIP code, receives the healthcare, dignity, and attention she deserves.

I still miss Vanessa. I miss our conversations, our laughter, and the years we should have shared. But her love lives on in her children, the students she taught, and the beautiful memories our family holds close.

If sharing Vanessa’s story encourages even one woman to question her care, seek another opinion, or insist on answers, then her legacy continues to make an impact.

October may end, but our commitment to women’s health must never end.

In loving memory of my sister Vanessa—forever loved, forever missed, and never forgotten. Until next week ...

Dorothy

OCTOBER 30 - NIA LONG - Nia Talita Long is an American actress. She is known for her roles in the television series The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, Third Watch and Empire, and the films Boyz n the Hood, Friday, Love Jones, Soul Food, In Too Deep, The Best Man, Big Momma’s House and Are We There Yet? Long was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Talita Long (née Gillman), a teacher and printmaker, and Doughtry Long, a high school teacher and poet. Her family is of Trinidadian, Grenadian, Vincentian, and Barbadian descent. She has an older half-sister, the actress and comedian known as Sommore.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly
PRESTON BROWN'S

Today's Spiritual Game Plan:
"From Hate to Hope"

He deserves and that you deserve.

Romans 12:9 says, "Love must be sincere, hate what is evil, cling to what is good."

It has been said that before we can make any real changes in our lives, we have to be motivated by hate. Yes, hate, because hate is a powerful emotion. It means to dislike something intensely. But here is the thing: we should hate what is evil. We should hate the things that we do to ourselves that harm us. Like smoking, or eating too much, or watching pornography.

All these things need to be motivated by a healthy dose of hate. We have to learn to hate the bad things that are going on in our lives. You see, there is a healthy way to hate. We should hate racism. We should hate when people take advantage of other people. Psalm 119:113 says, "I hate the double-minded but I love your law." Until we hate something enough, we will never make the change to do something about it.

Therefore, whenever you are struggling with something you want to change, you have to hate it. Hate it because it is keeping you from bringing God the glory that

Prayer: Loving Father, take away the things in our lives that are causing us to harm ourselves as well as others around us. In Jesus's name, we pray.

Question: Is there anything in your life that you need to hate to get rid of?

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:
"If God Be for Us"



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Funeral services for **MRS. FROSTINE STEGER TENNYSON** (b. 1939); **MR. JEREMIAH CHANEY** (b. 1940); and **MR. JOHNNY E. WHITE** (b. 1939) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **REV. EARLA S. LOCKHART** (b. 1947) will be Friday, October 30, at First Missionary Baptist Church, at 11 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Carlos D. Williams officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. CAROLYN ANN RAY** (b. 1947) was Monday, October 26, at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Rev. Dr. Mitchell Walker officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. JOHNNY WHITE** (b. 1939) was Monday, October 26, at Saint Mark Baptist Church,

Funeral service for **MRS. SELENA SIMONS** (b. 1944) was Sunday, October 25, at Oakwood University Church, 5500 Adventist Boulevard NE, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. JEROME NAPOLEAN KELLY SHOULDERS** (b. 1968) was Saturday, October 24, at Consolidated Flint River and Running Water P. B. Tabernacle, 2131 Highway 72E, Huntsville, Ala. with Rev. Zachary B. Williams officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. HATTIE SUE LOVE** (b. 1952) was Saturday, October 24, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MRS. JANICE ROBERTA STRONG WRIGHT** (b. 1956) was Saturday, October 17, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Funeral service for **MINISTER IRENE MOORE** (b. 1946) was Friday, October 16, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

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

November's 2026 Midterm "Olympics": The House Sprint, the Senate Marathon--and the Discipline of the Day After

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?" — Luke 14:28 (NIV)

"Dollar Tree" Wisdom—Four Years Later

In September 2022, I shared a Dollar Tree experience that taught me an unexpected lesson about elections—and leadership.

Shopping for AA batteries, I initially grabbed three four-packs. However, a little more searching uncovered two six-packs at the same price per package.

Same 12 batteries. One less package. \$1.25 saved!

My discovery became a metaphor for America's midterm elections: the U.S. House of Representatives runs two-year sprints, while the U.S. Senate runs six-year marathons.

One Senate term equals three consecutive House terms.

Four years later, with November 3 approaching, that lesson deserves revisiting.

Winning Elections vs. Exercising Leadership

Every two years, voters elect all 435 House members and approximately one-third of the Senate's 100 members.

But here's what my original comparison didn't sufficiently emphasize: Longer terms don't automatically produce better leadership.

The House influences legislation, federal spending, and government accountability. The Senate shares legislative authority while exercising distinctive responsibilities, including confirming federal judges and other presidential nominees.

Both matter. Neither guarantees effective governance.

Consider President Barack Obama. During his final two years, a Republican-controlled Senate blocked consideration of his 2016 Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland.

That decision demonstrated how Senate elections can influence America's judiciary long beyond a single election cycle.

Yet political longevity without responsible leadership is simply a longer opportunity squandered.

The Discipline of the Day After

Jesus' counsel in Luke 14 reminds us to count the cost before undertaking commitments we cannot finish.

Elections offer a parallel lesson.

Candidates campaign to win. But have they prepared to govern?

Voters celebrate victories. But will they hold their elected representatives accountable afterward?

And leaders who lose? Will they learn, regroup, and continue serving?

November 3 isn't the finish line. It's another starting line.

The real examination begins November 4.

Because winning an election is an event. Exercising leadership is a continuing responsibility.

So, yes, learn to sprint. Master the marathon.

But above all, practice the Discipline of the Day After!



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

In a Split Second ...

Life can shift in a split second. In the blink of an eye, our world can be turned upside down, leaving us feeling lost, confused, and overwhelmed. But it is in these moments of unexpected change that we have the opportunity to grow, to learn, and to transform ourselves.

Change can be challenging, but it is also a catalyst for personal growth and transformation. It forces us to step outside of our comfort zones and confront our fears. It pushes us to adapt, to evolve, and to become the best versions of ourselves.

When life throws us a curveball, it's important to remember that we have the power to choose how we respond. We can choose to let fear and uncertainty consume us, or we can choose to take control of our narrative and find the silver lining in the midst of



chaos.

It may not be easy, but we can find strength in the midst of adversity. It is during these trying times that our true character shines through. It's when we tap into our resilience, determination, and perseverance that we discover the depths of our potential.

So, when life shifts in a split second, remember that you are not defined by your circumstances. Instead, you are defined by how you choose to respond to them. Embrace the change, no matter how difficult it may be, and trust that it is leading you towards a better and brighter future.

Remember that every setback is an opportunity for a comeback. Rise above the challenges, find the lessons in the hardships, and, in a split second, life can change. But in that same moment, you have the power to shift your mindset, embrace the change, and transform your life into something truly remarkable.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

RON HAMM

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VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

October 27
SWAC Men's Cross Country
Championships
Tallahassee, Fla.

October 28
Fang-Tastic Family Fun Fest
Optimist Recreation Center
Free | 5-8 p.m.

October 30
Trunk or Treat
GigaParts
6123 University Drive

Huntsville, Ala. | 4 p.m.

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

Krewe De Phoenix
Disco Dolly's
Huntsville, Ala. | 9 p.m.

October 31
Halloween
85th Annual Amazon Magic

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

Halloween Event
Trunk or Treat
Central Church
407 Clinton Avenue
Huntsville, Ala. | 6-9 p.m.

Ghost Hunt
Lowry House
1205 Kildare Street NW
Huntsville, Ala. | 7 p.m.

Halloween Party
Free Admission
436B Nick Fitchard Road
Huntsville, Ala. | 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

November 1
Daylight Saving Time Ends
Women's Soccer vs. Southern

Alabama A&M University
1 p.m.

Bulldog Men's Basketball
vs. Oakwood University

Alabama A&M University
The Event Center
Normal, Ala. | 7:30 p.m.

Set Clocks Back at 2 a.m.!!!

November 2
Women's Basketball
vs. Talladega
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 5:30 p.m.

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HUNTSVILLE AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETINGS

The **Citizens Advisory Committee** of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet on **Monday, November 16, 2026**, at **5:00 pm**, on the **6th Floor of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building**, at 305 Fountain Circle SW. The Metropolitan Planning Organization **Policy Board** will meet on **Wednesday, November 18, 2026**, at **4:00 pm** on the **2nd Floor, (Council Chambers) of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building**, at 305 Fountain Circle SW. To review items on the agenda for these meetings, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>. For more information on the MPO, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/>

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

Ms. Phyllis Chunn

Phyllis Chunn's life reflects the quiet power of faith, perseverance, and imagination shaped by history and sustained through service. Her educational journey began at William Hooper Councill High School and continued at Lee High School during the pivotal years of school integration in the late 1960s—an experience that broadened her worldview and strengthened her resolve. Following graduation, she pursued further studies at North Alabama Business College, where her promise was recognized by Dr. John Cashin.

Dr. Cashin invited Chunn to serve as his assistant with the National Democratic Party of Alabama during his historic campaign for governor against George Wallace. Working alongside Dr. Cashin and other leaders during a transformative moment in Alabama's political history introduced her to public service at its highest level and expanded her sense of what was possible. That early experience

nurtured her confidence and set her on a path defined by courage, curiosity, and adaptability.

After relocating out of state, Chunn built a distinguished career in the technology sector, holding positions with major corporations including IBM and MCI WorldCom. She concluded her professional career at Hewlett-Packard, retiring as a Senior Project Manager. Along the way, she gathered experiences that sharpened her leadership skills and deepened her understanding of people, purpose, and perseverance.

At the heart of Chunn's life has always been storytelling. The Bible was the first book she read, grounding her imagination and shaping a narrative voice rooted in faith. Her stories are Christ-centered and reflective, addressing life lessons drawn from hope, fear, resilience, and unspoken dreams. Through memory and moral insight, she crafts stories intended to uplift and inspire young readers.

Her love of storytelling began in childhood, when she wrote plays and creat-



ed puppets from scraps, charging neighborhood children a penny to attend afternoon performances beneath a favorite tree. Those simple gatherings—filled with laughter, creativity, and shared wonder—revealed her lifelong calling. Even today, Chunn delights in entertaining children in her cartoon-themed garden, offering moments of joy, innocence, and imagination.

Beyond her creative pursuits, Chunn has remained deeply committed to community service. She has mentored young people, supported educational initiatives, and quietly invested in the lives of others. Her life reflects an enduring belief in being part of a village—using stories, faith, and experience to guide the next generation with wisdom and love.

"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, November 1, 2026
Twenty-Third Sunday
After Pentecost



(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Second Lesson:

1 John 3:1-3

GOSPEL:

Matthew 5:1-12

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

**"WE CANNOT ERASE THE STING OF DEATH,
BUT WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER"**



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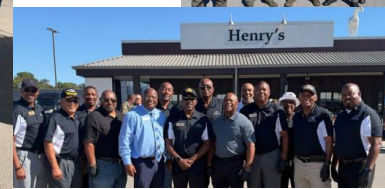
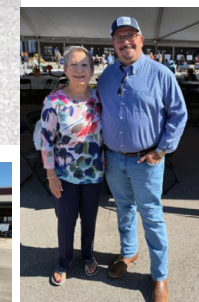
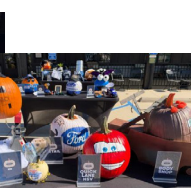
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