GLORIA B: "Control the Controllables" - p. 5



BE THANKFUL ... - Page 4

POSITIVE | INSPIRATIONAL | EDUCATIONAL

The Valley Weekly

The Voice of the Valley

HUNTSVILLE • MADISON COUNTY • NORTH ALABAMA



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Charles W. Scruggs

Friday
November 27, 2026
Vol. 13, No. 13
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

Bryant Bank Scholarship Boosts UAH Business Students

Bryant Bank helps the College of Business at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) develop the next generation of outstanding business leaders through an annual $100,000 gift that supports the Bryant Bank UAH Business Scholarships, a non-endowed fund designed to benefit business students. This donation is part of a $1.5 million commitment from Bryant Bank. UAH is a part of The University of Alabama System. Each scholarship is in force for one year and pays for tuition, fees, books and other academic-related expenses. Recipients, known as Bryant Bank UAH Business Scholars, may be eligible for an additional year up to a maximum of four years, or until degree requirements have been met, whichever is shorter.

FTC, 17 States Secure $63M Settlement Against Store for Deception

Family Dollar will pay $63 million to settle Federal Trade Commission and state allegations that the company routinely charged customers more at the register than the prices displayed on shelves, price tags and advertisements, costing consumers millions of dollars.

The proposed order prohibits Family Dollar from misrepresenting the price of its goods or services and requires the retailer to establish and implement a pricing accuracy program that is independently assessed and annually certified.

"The FTC is committed to ensuring price transparency and fairness so consumers can make informed choices," said Christopher Mufarrige, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "[The] order will ensure Family Dollar stops deceiving consumers about its prices and returns money to consumers harmed by these practices." *- ftc.gov*

NAACP Calls for Intervention After Data Center Spill in Mississippi

Following reports that an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 gallons of industrial cooling fluid spilled from a tank at xAI's Southaven facility and entered a nearby drainage ditch, Abre' Conner, director of the Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at the NAACP, issued the following statement:

"... This incident is yet another confirmation that xAI's data center carries severe, far-reaching environmental and climate consequences--from air pollution to the direct threat of water contamination for the families who live and work nearby ..."

The Association continues to call for environmental reform and stricter permitting to protect Mississippians from the effects of unchecked corporate expansion that puts profit over people. *- naacp.org*

Alphas Donate $35K to Tech-Based Cancer Charity

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., gave an additional $35,000 donation to the Black tech-based cancer charity, the Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation, to raise awareness and critical funds to eradicate cancer for nearly 9 million people who die each year.

Physicist, Alabama A&M alumna and cancer researcher Hadiyah-Nicole Green has developed a new cancer treatment called Laser-Activated Nano-Therapy (LANT).

Santa's Sleigh Poised for 2026 Big Spring Appearance

Santa's coming to town for Parks & Recreation's fourth annual Big Spring Jingle!



Big Spring Park will be filled with holiday spirit from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, as Parks & Recreation welcomes everyone for an evening of free and festive fun.

Rock the night away with a DJ dance party and warm up with a snack or festive drinks from local food vendors for purchase.

Kids can enjoy creating a craft that could serve as a perfect homemade gift or memento and collecting a light-up prize. Santa may even bring flurries from the North Pole and is excited to visit and take photos with all his friends.

Thanks to Huntsville Downtown, Inc. and the Huntsville Museum of Art, attendees can also stroll through the Tinsel Trail and have some fun at Skating in the Park.

"Big Spring Jingle is always such a fun event because you can feel the excitement of the holiday season," said Director James Gossett. "The kids are always happy to meet Santa and celebrate the season and the adults have just as much fun enjoying the festivities. It's a great opportunity for families to be together and make special holiday memories."

- huntsvilleal.gov

The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

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

Former A&M Student Leader Returns in Administrative Role

Alabama A&M University has appointed Aaron Dixon assistant vice president for student success, retention and persistence, strengthening the University's commitment to academic excellence, student achievement and timely degree completion.

Dixon, who previously served as acting assistant vice president, will provide strategic leadership for University-wide initiatives designed to improve student retention, strengthen academic support services and help students successfully navigate their educational journeys. His responsibilities include advancing coordinated strategies that address barriers to student success, promote academic engagement and increase persistence toward graduation.

A graduate of Alabama A&M and former Student Government Association president, Dixon brings institutional knowledge and experience in student development, academic support and retention initiatives. He previously served as executive director of the University's Freshman Academy, where his work focused on strengthening the first-year student experience and supporting students as they transitioned into college.

As assistant vice president, Dixon will provide strategic leadership for undergraduate advising, tutorial services, academic coaching and recovery, and other initiatives that support student achievement. He will also work closely with faculty, academic administrators and student support professionals to strengthen collaboration across University divisions and ensure students have access to coordinated resources throughout their academic careers.



The appointment builds on Dixon's previous work to establish a more integrated, student-centered approach to academic success. His leadership will emphasize the use of institutional data, evidence-based practices and proactive interventions to identify challenges, improve student engagement and support continued progress toward graduation.

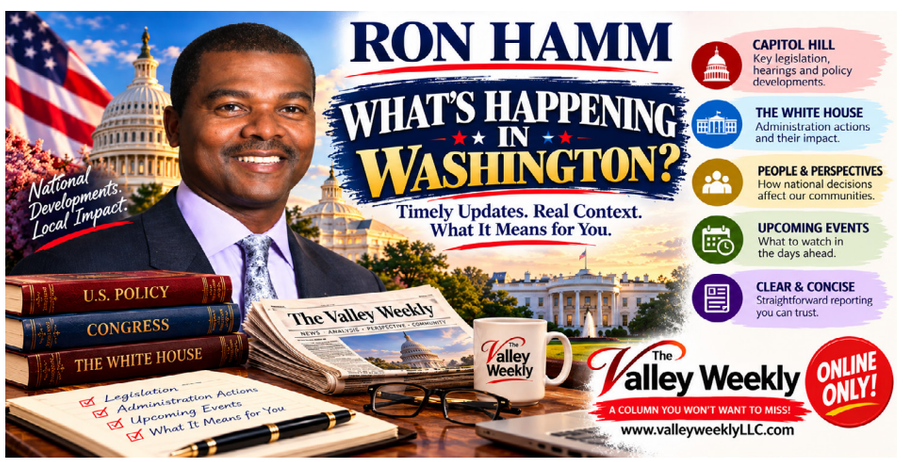
Dixon has consistently emphasized that student success requires a shared institutional commitment, with faculty, staff and administrators working collectively to create an environment in which students can thrive academically, socially and personally.

His approach also recognizes the importance of fostering a strong sense of belonging, particularly during the critical transition into college. By strengthening connections between academic programs and student support services, Dixon will help advance initiatives that promote student confidence, academic achievement and long-term success.

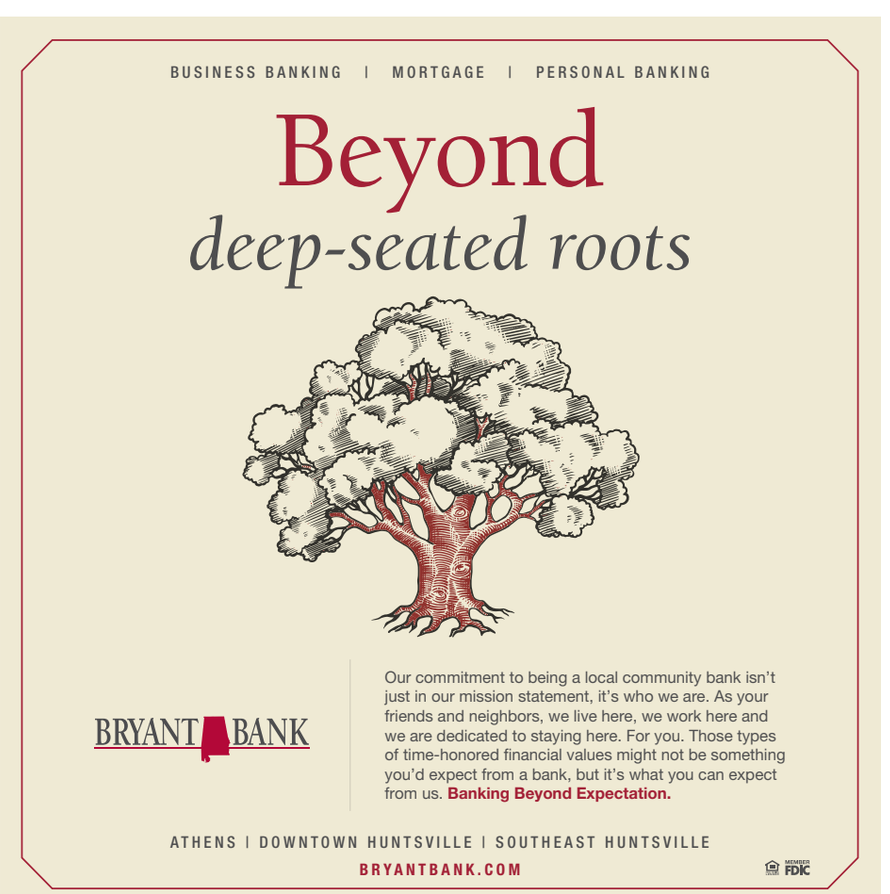
Dixon earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Alabama A&M University and a master's degree in college student personnel from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in leadership and decision making at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

His appointment reflects Alabama A&M University's continued commitment to strengthening student outcomes through intentional support, institutional collaboration and a comprehensive approach to student development, consistent with the University's Strategic Plan.

In his new role, Dixon will help align resources, strengthen existing programs and advance strategies that support student persistence, degree completion and long-term success.







The Valley Weekly

Publisher
The Valley Weekly, LLC

Editor-in-Chief
Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

Editorial Consultant/ Senior Editor
Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

Editorial Assistant
Linda Burruss

- Contributing Editors -
tim allston
Minister Preston Brown
Gloria B. Caldwell
Ron Hamm
Gary T. Whitley, Jr.
-and-
"Aunt Irma" (ChatGPT support)

Photographers
Anthony "Gip" Gibson
Jerome Saintjones

Website Administrator
Calvin Farier

Mailing Address:
The Valley Weekly
P. O. Box 893 - Huntsville, AL 35804
(256) 651-9028
www.valleyweeklyllc.com
Copyright 2026

Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least **TWO** weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to **info@valleyweeklyllc.com**. Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.
Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the editorial staff, and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions. We use A.I. tools occasionally to support tasks such as transcription, research, or draft refinement. All final reporting and editorial decisions are made by our newsroom staff

ONLINE NEWS ASSOCIATION

The Valley Weekly
Ad Rates Single Issue

Back Cover	10x10-inches	$1,500
Full Page	10x10 inches	$1,200
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	$900
Half Page	*Horizontal* 5x10 inches	$600
	Vertical 10x5 inches	$600
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

A LIFETIME OF BUILDING, SERVICE AND PRESERVATION

A Tribute to NANCY VAN VALKENBURGH



Continuing my series on "Making Impact and Building Legacy," let's look at one of Huntsville's finest ladies. As we know, some individuals make their mark on a community through the positions they hold. Others make their impact through the lives they touch, the institutions they strengthen, and the history they preserve. Mrs. Nancy Wilkinson Van Valkenburgh has spent a lifetime doing all three.

For more than six decades, Nancy has helped shape the character and cultural landscape of Huntsville, Alabama. A successful businesswoman, historic preservationist, philanthropist, and dedicated community volunteer, she represents the very essence of what it means to make an impact while building a lasting legacy.



In September 2026, Nancy was recognized by the Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC) Foundation as one of its prestigious Women Honoring Women honorees, a distinction celebrating women whose leadership, accomplishments, and service have strengthened our community and inspired future generations. This recognition was especially meaningful because Nancy's contributions extend far beyond professional success. Alongside her husband, Richard, she established Van Valkenburgh & Wilkinson Properties in 1985, building a respected real estate business while helping preserve Huntsville's historic neighborhoods and architectural treasures.

As a founding member and former chair of the Historic Huntsville Foundation, Nancy understood early that progress should never require us to abandon our past. Her commitment to preserving historic structures, including her involvement with Harrison Brothers Hardware, reflects a belief that a community's history is not simply something to remember, but something to protect for future generations. Her service has touched the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Huntsville Museum of Art, Burritt Museum, Rosetta James Foundation, and numerous cultural, educational, and civic organizations. Through these commitments, she has helped raise substantial resources while generously sharing her time, leadership, and expertise. Nancy's commitment to service also reflects a family tradition. Her mother, Sibyl McDougald Wilkinson, was recognized as a Rosetta James Foundation Elder in 2017. What a beautiful illustration of service and legacy passed from one generation to another!

At the Rosetta James Foundation, we believe that our elders are among our community's greatest treasures. They remind us that leadership is not measured solely by titles, wealth, or recognition, but by what we give of ourselves to improve the lives of others. Nancy Van Valkenburgh exemplifies that philosophy.

As Huntsville continues to grow and transform, we must remember the individuals whose vision, generosity, and determination helped build the community we enjoy today. Nancy's legacy reminds us that preserving history and investing in the future are not competing priorities. They are complementary responsibilities.

Nancy, thank you for demonstrating that a life of purpose is a life of service, and that the most enduring legacy is not what we accumulate, but what we leave behind for others.

That is making impact. That is building legacy. Until next week ...

Dorothy

NOVEMBER 27 - JIMI HENDRIX - James Marshall "Jimi" Hendrix (born Johnny Allen Hendrix) was an American rock guitarist, singer, and songwriter. Although his mainstream career spanned only four years, he is widely regarded as one of the most influential electric guitarists in the history of popular music, and one of the most celebrated musicians of the 20th century. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame describes him as "arguably the greatest instrumentalist in the history of rock music". Hendrix was the recipient of several music awards during his lifetime and posthumously.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

"BE THANKFUL"

Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God that transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

One of the ways we prepare for increase or promotion in our lives is to be thankful for what we already have. Let us not forget to be grateful for what God is already doing in our lives and for the talents that He has already given us. When we are thankful, we create an atmosphere and a spirit of joy and peace that brings us inner strength.

When we are thankful, we guard our hearts and minds against the spirit of complaining about what we don't have. You see, we all have to be careful about complaining, because when we complain, we remain stressed out and in a place where no progress can be made. Remember—life is about momentum, so don't let the enemy keep you from your blessings or from the increase that God wants you to have by complaining about what you don't have.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to be thankful for the gifts and talents that we are already blessed with and give thanks always.

Question: Can we complain and be thankful at the same time?



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:
"The Power of Forgiveness!"

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent



(Track 2, Year A)
First Lesson:
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
Second Lesson:
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
GOSPEL:
Mark 13:24-37

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home
"WE CANNOT ERASE THE STING OF DEATH, BUT WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER"
2501 CARMICHAEL AVENUE
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35816
(256) 539-8189 • (256) 539-8183 (FAX)
WWW.NELMSMEMORIAL.NET

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW | Huntsville, AL 35816
www.nelmsmemorial.net
(256) 539-8189

*Memorial service for **MR. JOHN KIRBY** (b. 1941) will be Monday, November 30, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home at 11 a.m.*

*Funeral service for **MR. JOHNNIE B. CRUTCHER** (b. 1955) was Saturday, November 21, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church, 1919 Brandon Town Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.*

*Funeral service for **MRS. WANDA FAYE FORD** (b. 1967) was Saturday, November 21, at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Elder Dr. Mario Ford officiating..*

*Funeral service for **MS. ANNETTE DUNCAN** (b. 1962) was Sunday, November 15, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Minister Michelle Miller officiating.*

*Funeral service for **MS. MARY LOUISE MITCHELL** (b. 1957) was Saturday, November 14, at St. James #2 Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 2950 Jeff Road NW, Harvest, Ala.*

*Funeral service for **MASTER ARLO UNDERWOOD** (b. 2026) was Saturday, November 14, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.*

*Funeral service for **MRS. ALLEAN KING** (b. 1935) was Friday, November 13, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, 2501 Carmichael Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.*

*Graveside service for **MR. CHARLES HAROLD PENN** (b. 1934) was Thursday, November, 12, at Pleasant Grove Cemetery with Rev. Gregory Bentley officiating.*

*Funeral service for **MRS. MILDRED SPRAGINS FIELDS** (b. 1934) was Monday, November 9, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Wendell Davis officiating.*

*Funeral service for **MRS. MARY STEGER-CARROLL** (b. 1947) was held Saturday, November 7, at First Missionary Baptist Church, 3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.*

*Funeral service for **MR. CHARLES BIRDSONG** (b. 1944) was Saturday, November 7, at Potter's Hand Church Ministries, 983 Indian Creek Road NW, Huntsville, Ala..*

*Funeral service for **MR. RANDY "ROCK STEADY" D. GREEN** (b. 1958) was Sunday, November 1, at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Elder James Battles officiating and eulogist.*



Drake, HBCU Consortium Sign MOU

Drake State Community and Technical College and the Alabama HBCU Consortium signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Monday, November 23, in the Leidos Advanced Training Complex on Drake State's campus.

During the event, Drake State received a $20,000 workforce development grant from the Alabama HBCU Consortium to support programs that prepare students for high-demand careers and strengthen Alabama's workforce pipeline.

The ceremony featured remarks from Dr. Patricia Sims, president of Drake State, and Teresa A. Smiley, executive director of the Alabama HBCU Consortium, along with the signing of the MOU agreement.

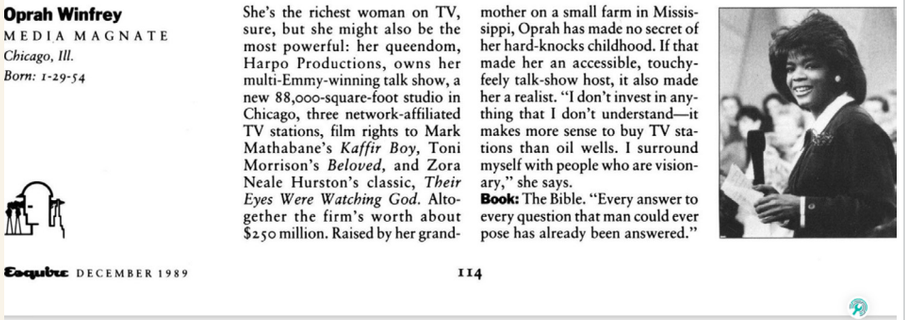
This announcement highlights the growing impact of collaboration among Alabama's HBCUs and the importance of workforce development in meeting the needs of regional employers and advancing economic opportunity throughout our state.

For additional information about the event, contact A'Melody Lee Jacobi, director of communications at Drake State at (256) 701-8869 or e-mail amelody.jaconi@drakestate.edu.

THE TIM COMMANDMENTS OF LEADERSHIP

Trump's Stephen Miller: Rehoboam 2.0?

"My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!" — 1 Kings 12:14 (NKJV)



Oprah Winfrey
MEDIA MAGNATE
Chicago, Ill.
Born: 1-29-54

She's the richest woman on TV, sure, but she might also be the most powerful: her queendom, Harpo Productions, owns her multi-Emmy-winning talk show, a new 88,000-square-foot studio in Chicago, three network-affiliated TV stations, film rights to Mark Mathabane's *Kaffir Boy*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, and Zora Neale Hurston's classic, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Altogether the firm's worth about $250 million. Raised by her grandmother on a small farm in Mississippi, Oprah has made no secret of her hard-knocks childhood. If that made her an accessible, touchy-feely talk-show host, it also made her a realist. "I don't invest in anything that I don't understand—it makes more sense to buy TV stations than oil wells. I surround myself with people who are visionary," she says.
Book: The Bible. "Every answer to every question that man could ever pose has already been answered."

Esquire DECEMBER 1989 114

Original historical excerpt: Esquire, December 1989, p. 114. Reproduction subject to rights clearance.

In December 1989, Oprah Winfrey recommended the Bible in Esquire magazine, explaining that humanity's questions had already been answered within its pages. Thirty-seven years later, I couldn't agree more.

Consider the story of Rehoboam. Following King Solomon's death, Rehoboam inherited a kingdom burdened by his father's demanding leadership. The elders offered wise counsel: Ease the people's burdens, treat them compassionately, and they will serve you faithfully.

Rehoboam rejected their advice. Instead, he consulted younger contemporaries who urged greater toughness. His response? Essentially: "You think my father was tough? You ain't seen nothing yet!" Ten tribes rebelled, and Jeroboam became their king.

Rehoboam's kingdom fractured because he confused cruelty with strength and stubbornness with leadership. Sound familiar?

America's 2026 midterm elections delivered a message about leadership, accountability, and public dissatisfaction. Reports about Stephen Miller's possible elevation within Donald Trump's White House raise a troubling question: Would expanded authority for an architect of aggressive immigration policies bring compassion—or intensified enforcement?

Rehoboam had an opportunity to listen, reconsider, and lead differently. Instead, he doubled down. His kingdom paid the price. The lesson extends beyond any political party: Leaders who mistake public opposition for permission to become more punitive risk accelerating their own loss of legitimacy.

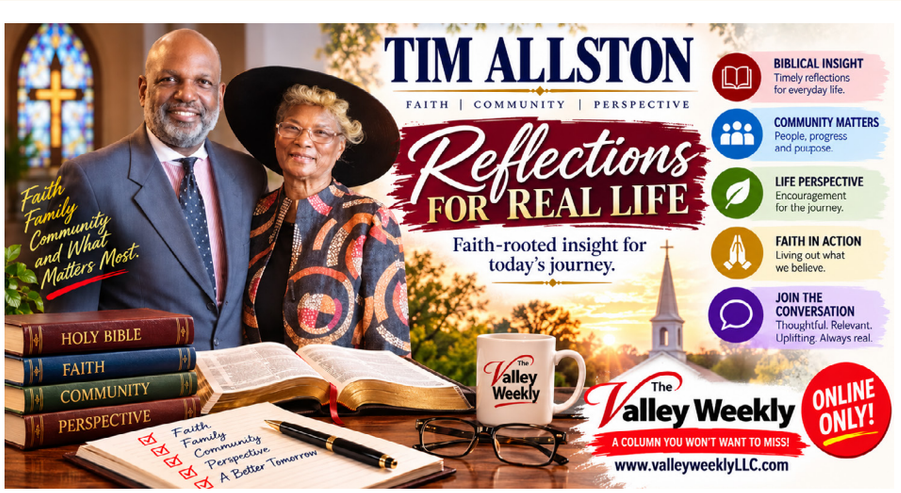
Sometimes consequences arrive in a sprint. Sometimes they unfold over a marathon. Rehoboam discovered that possessing authority does not guarantee retaining it. Later, King Nebuchadnezzar learned that arrogance can bring even the mightiest ruler low.

Modern leaders would do well to remember both. The seeds of tomorrow's consequences are often planted in today's decisions. When leaders refuse to listen, the people eventually find ways to make themselves heard.

I have no crystal ball. Only the Word of God.



Tim Allston
Leadership Strategist | Four-time Amazon Best-Selling Author
The Tim Commandments of Leadership
timallston.com



The Valley Weekly Millennial Moment by Gloria B. Caldwell

"Control the Controllables ..."



You've probably heard the phrase, "control the controllables." What does it mean, and how do we live it? Glad you asked.

I listen to my son battling it out on his game system, and it takes me back. Nintendo. Atari. Yes, I know. Ancient. LOL.

When I played, I was locked in on one thing: the high score. I worked that controller to get where I needed to go. I didn't waste energy guessing what the enemy would do next.

I dealt with what they actually did.

If something came at me, I moved. If something blocked my path, I pivoted. If I lost a life, I regrouped, shifted my strategy, and started again. I never tried to control the game. I controlled my moves.

That's what controlling the controllables means: dealing only with what you have the power to say, do, or change.

Here's how to practice it. When something weighs on you, ask one question: Can I say, do, or change anything about this?

If no, release it. Stop spending energy there.

If yes, make your move. Today.

This isn't new wisdom. The Serenity Prayer asks God for peace to accept what we can't change, courage to change what we can, and wisdom to know the difference. Faith doesn't ask you to carry the whole game. It asks you to be faithful with your part.

So where is your focus? On the outcome, other people's thoughts, the entire scenario? Or on your controller?

You weren't handed the whole game. You were handed the controller. Use it.

God loves you, and so do I. He has given you a gift; *open* it.

The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

November 26
Thanksgiving

December 3
Women's Basketball
vs. Tuskegee
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 6 p.m.

December 6
Shapel Lacey
Comedian
Huntsville Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala. | 6 p.m.

December 15
Bulldog Men's Basketball
vs. LeMoyne-Owen
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center
Normal, Ala. | 7 p.m.

December 25
Christmas Day

December 29
Women's Basketball
vs. Allen University
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 6 p.m.

December 30
Bulldog Men's Basketball
vs. William Carey
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center
Normal, Ala.

January 1 (2027)
New Year's Day

January 2
Women's Basketball
vs. UAPB
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 2 p.m.

Bulldog Men's Basketball
vs. UAPB
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center
Normal, Ala. | 4 p.m.

January 4
Women's Basketball
vs. Mississippi Valley
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 5:30 p.m.
Bulldog Men's Basketball
vs. Mississippi Valley
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center
Normal, Ala. | 7:30 p.m.

January 16
Women's Basketball
vs. Alabama State
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 2 p.m.

Bulldog Men's Basketball
vs. Alabama State
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center
Normal, Ala. | 4 p.m.

January 21
Women's Basketball
vs. Prairie View A&M
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 6 p.m.

January 23
Women's Basketball
vs. Texas Southern
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 2 p.m.

Bulldog Men's Basketball
vs. Texas Southern
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center
Normal, Ala. | 4 p.m.

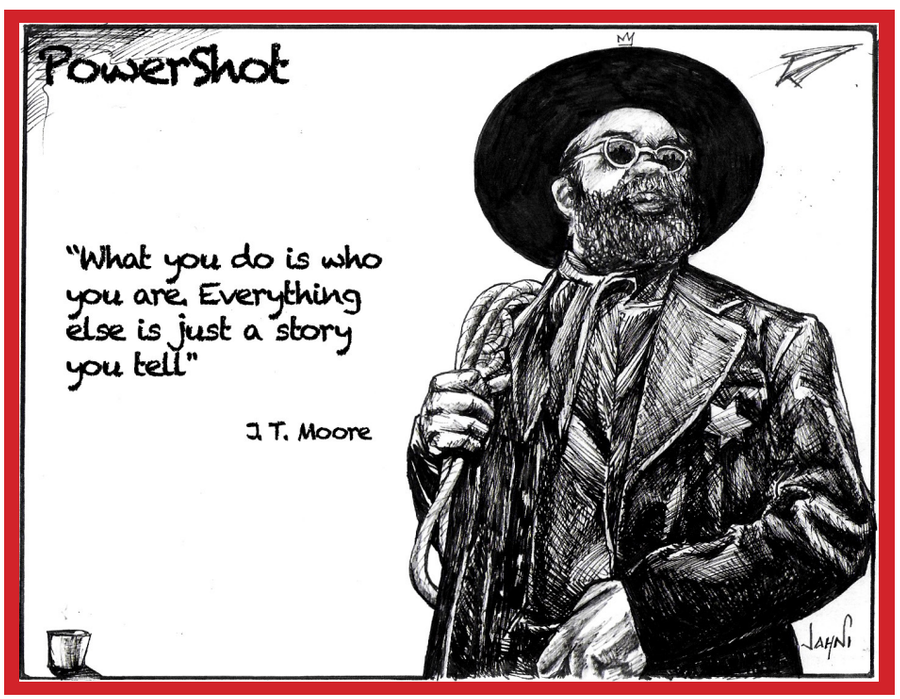
January 25
Bulldog Men's Basketball
vs. Prairie View A&M
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center
Normal, Ala. | 7 p.m.

February 4
Women's Basketball
vs. Grambling
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 6 p.m.

February 6
Women's Basketball
vs. Southern
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center | 2 p.m.

Bulldog Men's Basketball
vs. Southern
Alabama A&M University
The Event Center
Normal, Ala. | 4 p.m.





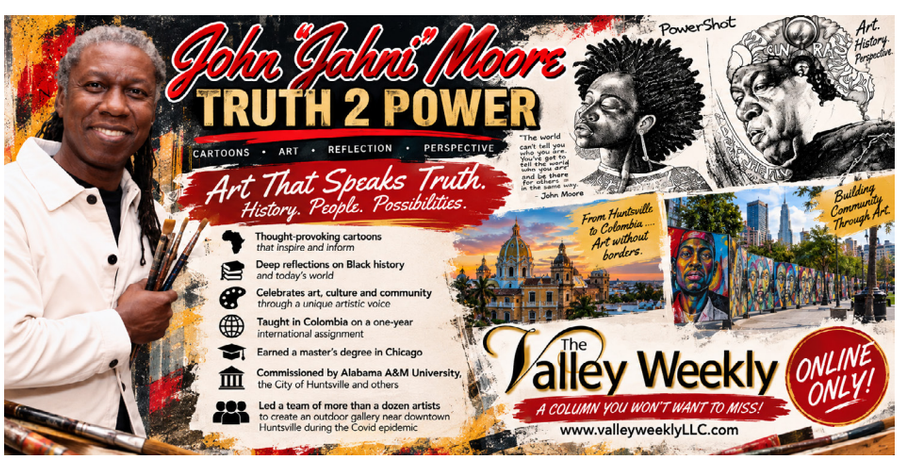


StateFarm®

Mary F Spears, Agent

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

The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.





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

Mr. Charles W. Scruggs



Mr. Charles Wayne Scruggs was born to the late Reverend and Mrs. Earl Scruggs, Sr. He grew up in Toney, Alabama, and attended Sparkman High School. He attended J.F. Drake Technical College and became a certified welder. Later, he continued his formal education at Calhoun Community College, where he obtained an associate degree in Education. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Athens State University.

Mr. Scruggs is a retiree from the Madison County Board of Education, Madison County Career Academy, where he taught welding for over 30 years. His common sense approach in a no nonsense teaching environment; and, adopting the philosophy of "no student left behind", formed the basis of his long and successful career in technical education. Because of the high level of training he provided, Scruggs was a community resource person, called upon by local industries and businesses for employment opportunities for his students. His teaching prepared students to become skilled laborers. He is particularly proud that 80-100 percent of his students either went on to post-secondary school or were hired in welding positions at NASA, Teledyne Brown Engineering, Schwarze Industries, and SCI Systems, to name a few. Scruggs was named 2014 Teacher of the Year among Madison County Schools Teacher & Support Professionals.

Scruggs is known for his love of fishing. Through obedience to God, he is committed to following Christ, and being a fisher of men, in accordance with Matthew 4:19: "And Jesus said unto them, follow me and I will make you fishers of men." This was demonstrated by being actively involved in the first formal witnessing teams at Antioch Baptist Church, East Chicago, Indiana, and establishing the Witnessing/Evangelism ministry at the First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama, both under the leadership and pastorate of Dr. Julius R. Scruggs. Charles, organized witnessing teams, and taught witnessing seminars to equip Christian soldiers to reach the unsaved. These teams actively sought out and witnessed to those seeking salvation, and sometimes those who were lost and needed a loving word from God.

Scruggs is an anointed, gifted, and inspiring teacher. His effective and "tell it like it is" teaching, led to his becoming a faculty member for the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, where he taught Evangelism and Church Growth for more than 10 years. His classes included pastors and lay ministers, and the impact of his teaching can be found in churches committed to bringing souls to Christ, throughout the United States. Scruggs' dedication to making disciples can be found throughout the community. He is a sought-after guest Vacation Bible School teacher, and he conducts Evangelism Seminars for churches and outreach ministries. Scruggs has touched thousands of lives and has led countless souls to Christ. He continues to serve at First Missionary Baptist Church as a deacon, Sunday School Teacher, Evangelism/Witnessing coordinator, Bible Study teacher, and in other outreach ministries.

Scruggs, since his retirement, has turned his attention to farming. He can be found tending to his cows, his gardens, and helping neighbors. Even though he has an immediate family of three, his gardens yield enough produce to feed 50 or more. His wife of 49 years, Debra, encourages him to share with as many folks as possible. Charles has three daughters, and two grandchildren. When he wants to relax, you'll find him on the banks or on a boat with his fishing poles, or spending time with family and friends.

"Honoring Our Elders" Rosetta James Foundation

"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.*

Black Chamber Plans Holiday Reception



The Huntsville Metro Black Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Christmas Reception on December 15 from 6:30-10:30 p.m.

The event will be held at the ANRO Business & Event Center located at 3000 Bob Wallace Avenue SW, in Huntsville, Ala.

Admission for members is $40 and $50 for guests. Tables for six cost $350.

The evening will feature food, beverages, a DJ, dancing, Old School dance contest (1980s, 1990s and 2000s), and a $500 Karaoke Challenge.

Dinner, drinks and a DJ spinning all night long. Attendees invited to "bring the best moves from the decades that did it best", as well as to "take the mike and compete in the Challenge.

The Huntsville Metro Black Chamber of Commerce (HMBCC) is dedicated to economic development, job creation, and advocacy — the foundation that fuels the growth and future success of our members and the community at large.

The leadership believes that when Black businesses thrive, communities flourish. That's why the Chamber invests in people, ideas, and partnerships that build generational wealth and sustainable impact.





100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville to Host Annual Holiday Gala

The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville Chapter, Inc., will hold its annual Holiday Gala Scholarships Fundraiser on Saturday, December 19.

The festive event will be held at 7:15 p.m. in the Saturn Ballroom of the Von Braun Center, 700 Monroe Street SW, in Downtown Huntsville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the one-hour reception begins at 6 p.m.

The 2027 theme is: "Our Legacy, Their Future: Celebrating 27 Years of Excellence, Leadership & Service."

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Daniel K. Wims, president of Alabama A&M University.

In July 1999, Dr. Prince Preyer, Jr., Madison County District 6 Commissioner and Earnest L. Starks began exploring the creation of the Greater Huntsville Chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. The first meeting to seek affiliation with 100 Black Men of America, Inc. was well-attended. The group quickly



expanded and in December 1999, The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville was formally chartered as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that emphasizes the national focus on mentoring, education, health and wellness, and economic empowerment to empower youth to reach their fullest potential. Since its inception, the 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville has been funded by member dues, grants, fundraisers and private donations. Our two major fundraisers each year are the John Riche Memorial Golf Tournament and the Annual Holiday Gala.

For purchases of tables and individual tickets, visit www.100BMOGH.com or contact Curtis A. Taylor, Sr., (256) 566-9653; William Kelly, (804) 898-2196; or an additional contact at (256) 277-3488.



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.

MB MARTINSON & BEASON, PC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW SINCE 1937

Dedicated To You. Delivering Results.

Personal Injury | Auto Accidents | Probate & Estate Administration
Corporate Law | Real Estate Law Divorce | Criminal Law

Contact Us
Phone: 256-533-1667
Fax: 256-533-1696
info@martinsonandbeason.com

www.martinsonandbeason.com
facebook.com/martinsonandbeason

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.

thrivent

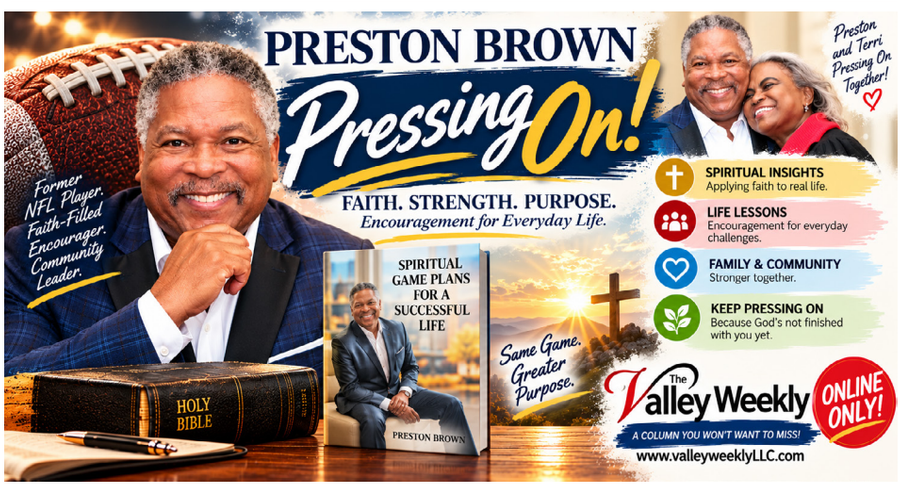
A personalized financial approach based on your Christian values



Craig E Satterfeal
Financial Consultant
craig.satterfeal@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/craig-satterfeal
256-883-5509

Advice | Investments | Insurance | Banking | Generosity

Insurance products, securities and investment advisory services are provided by appropriately appointed and licensed financial advisors and professionals. Only individuals who are financial advisors are credentialed to provide investment advisory services. Visit Thrivent.com or FINRA's BrokerCheck for more information about our financial advisors. 27193 R4-24





Woody Anderson Ford
256-539-9441
www.WoodyAndersonFord.com
2500 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL

Woody Anderson Ford




ALABAMA A&M
START here
go ANYWHERE