

MALCOLM THOMAS Honored by Phillips CME - p. 8



FREE

A&M, Commission Launch Farm - p. 7



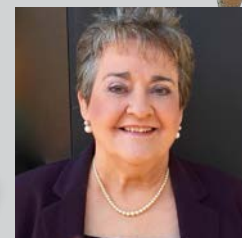
The Valley Weekly



GLORIA B: "STOP! Pay Attention!" - p. 5

Friday
March 29, 2024
Vol. 10, No. 30
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Elaine S. Plank

"The better we feel about ourselves, the fewer times we have to knock somebody else down to feel tall." - Odetta

The Camp Will Hold 'Adult' Easter Egg Hunt

It's an Easter Egg Hunt ... Grownup Style! Mark your calendars for the 4th annual Adult Easter Egg Hunt at

The Camp, MidCity District, 5909 University Drive, on Saturday, March 30, at 3 p.m. Be a kid again!

This event is free. Bring Your Own Basket! Remember, this event is for adults ONLY! Prizes are for adults only!

Sorry kids ... -Egg hunt begins outside The Camp. Live music will be provided by Emily Joseph Band at 7 p.m.

44th Annual Cotton Row Run Set

Join the Huntsville Track Club as it hosts the 44th annual Cotton Row 10k and 5K run sponsored by Bill Penney Toyota.

The USATF-certified course runs through downtown Huntsville with the 10k running going through the Blossomwood neighbor-



hood, up the Mt. Wood and then down Bankhead Parkway through historic 5 Points to

finish at Big Spring Park.

Register now at the event page: <https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Huntsville/Cotton-RowRun>

com/Race/AL/Huntsville/Cotton-RowRun

Huntsville to Start Major Music Fest

Get ready, Huntsville! The newest music festival to sweep the Southeast is coming to Huntsville this September.

Representatives from C3 Presents confirmed they are planning a two-day,

multi-genre festival for John Hunt Park. The name of the event, lineups and ticket information will be released in April.

"This is a win-win for Huntsville as well as the region,"

said Mayor Tommy Battle. "This is a great opportunity to work with a world-class festival producer to bring a world-class event to a world-class park. We can't wait to see the lineup."

The new music festival will enhance Huntsville residents' quality of life and provide new revenue for businesses and the hospitality industry in Huntsville and beyond.

- Huntsvilleal.gov

2024 Panoply Poster, Artist Announced

Each year, Arts Huntsville commissions an artist to create an art piece that captures the festival's spirit and the community.

This year's Panoply poster artist is Jessica Nunno (r). Originally from Connecticut, Jessica holds a BFA in illustration from New York's School of Visual Arts. Her work focuses on creature and character design, concept art, and comic and pop culture illustrations. She works out of her studio at Lowe Mill ARTS and Entertainment and she teaches locally with the Huntsville Museum of Art and Arts Huntsville's Creative Launchpad.

"We were thrilled when Jessica agreed

to create the artwork for our Panoply 2024 poster," shared Arts Huntsville Executive Director Allison Dillon-Jauken. "Jessica's work is filled with artistic energy and creative details, and it fancifully captures the vibrancy and excitement when Huntsville's arts, entertainment and music scene takes over Big Spring Park for the Panoply



Arts Festival. (April 26-28)"

Nunno will sell her original paintings at Panoply, and festivalgoers can purchase merchandise featuring her

artwork at the Panoply Store, presented by Georgia Pacific. Arts Huntsville will also offer a limited number of signed posters for the public to purchase.

The Valley Weekly

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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@valley-weeklyllc.com. Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

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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	\$600
	5x10 inches	
Fourth Page	Vertical	\$300
	10x5 inches	
Eighth Page	5x5 inches	\$150
	2.5x5 inches	
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

The Valley Weekly
**Washington
One Minute**

by Ron Hamm

Here is what's happening in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, this week:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess for the next 2 weeks and will reconvene on April 8 (Senate) and April 9 (House). After a mad dash to pass the remaining 6 Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills before last Friday's midnight deadline, the House and Senate finished work on the \$1.2 trillion package in the early morning hours of Saturday before sending it to President Biden for his signature. A majority of the House GOP Conference, 112 Members, voted against the bill, including Rep. Marjorie Taylor

Greene (R-GA) – who displayed her displeasure with the legislation by introducing a Motion to Vacate the Chair to remove House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA). **2. THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Tuesday, President Biden went to Raleigh, NC, for a campaign event and on Thursday he went to New York, before heading to Camp David on Friday for the Easter holiday weekend. Last Saturday, the President signed H.R. 2882, the "Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024," containing funding for the operations and programs in the FY2024 Defense, Homeland Security, State/Foreign Operations, Financial Services/Gen Govt, Legislative Branch, and Labor/

HHS/Education appropriations bills – thereby averting a partial federal gov't shutdown and completing action on the FY2024 appropriations cycle. Also on Saturday, Vice President Harris (who heads up the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention) visited Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL – the site of a 2018 mass shooting – to announce the launch of the National Extreme Risk Protection Order Resource Center, which will support the effective implementation of the 21 states that have enacted red flag laws. Last Thursday, the President announced that he was canceling \$6 billion in student loan debt for 78,000 public service workers, including teachers, nurses, and firefighters, through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which has to date canceled debt for over 870,000

public service workers. The 78,000 borrowers will receive an email from the President next week and thousands of others in the program will also be notified via email if they are within two years of having their debt forgiven.

3. SUPREME COURT. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court heard oral argument in a pair of cases to decide whether a group of doctors and medical groups opposed to abortion have a right to bring a lawsuit to challenge the FDA's 2016 and 2021 actions increasing access to the abortion drug mifepristone, which in 2023 accounted for 63% of all abortions performed in the U.S. The cases are FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine and Danco v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine.

4. MORE GOP RESIGNATIONS. Last Friday was Rep. Ken Buck's (R-CO) last day in the House. It was marked by a

surprise announcement from House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party Chair Mike Gallagher (R-WI) who moved up his resignation date to April 19, bringing the GOP majority down to 217 Rs versus 213 Ds – meaning that House Speaker Mike Johnson will only be able to lose one GOP vote and still prevail on party-line votes. On the same day, retiring House Appropriations Committee Chair Kay Granger (R-TX) announced that she would vacate her post as Chair as soon as a replacement could be selected.

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WE KNOW THE PEOPLE,
PLACES, AND POLITICS

Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Welcomes National President



Above, l-r: Epsilon Kappa Chapter Members: Natasha Spearman, Miriam Summerville, Melisha Spain, Dedra Mills, Diana Greene, Southeastern Region Director, LaTara Bailey-Britton, Ashley Mills, and Johnnie O. Spain.

Alpha Omega Chapter of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated hosted the chartering of a new chapter, Epsilon Gamma, on Saturday, March 23, 2024 in Huntsville, Ala.

This chapter will be located in Tuscaloosa, Ala-

bama. The highlight was the attendance of National Officers, Regional Officers, and Southeastern Region members.

Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is a professional and business women organization, organized

in 1942 in Detroit, Michigan, by eleven industrious women.

Alpha Omega Chapter was chartered in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1975. The organization will hold its 36th Biennial Grand Boule' in Atlanta, July 21-26, 2024.



Above, l-r: Elsie Jefferson, National Secretary; Juanita Jones, National First Vice President; Sondra Bradfield, National President; Diana Greene, Southeastern Region Director; Tara Walker, Alpha Omega Chapter President; and Betty Collins, National Treasurer.



Left (l-r): Willye Robinson, member and Diana Greene, Southeastern Region Director.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
VALLEY DEATHS



SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693
www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral service will be Saturday, March 30, TBA, for MR. CHRISTOPHER CARTER (b. 1985).

Funeral service will be announced at a later date for MR. DAVID FLETCHER (b. 1952).

Funeral service was held Saturday, March 23, for MR. CHARLES JORDAN (b. 1976) at the Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. LeDARRIUS WILLIAMS (b. 1986) was held Saturday, March 23, at Lewis Chapel CPCA, 5001 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, Ala.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MS. BELLE BONE was held Wednesday, March 27, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Memorial service for MS. AUNDREA E. BURNS (b.1986) was Saturday, March 23, at Deliverance Outreach Worship Center, 3412 Mastin Lake Road, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for MR. FELIX F. "PHIL" CRUTCHER, SR. (b. 1964) was Thursday, March 21, at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 280 Beth Road, New Market, Ala., with Pastor James Battle officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481
www.royalfh.com

The funeral service for MOTHER MILLIE M. GLOVER (b. 1938) will be 1 p.m., Sunday, April 7, at the Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church, 2115 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, Sr. officiating.

The memorial service for MS. EUGENIA CHRISTINE MOSS (b. 1955) will be 2 p.m., Saturday, March 30, at the First Missionary Baptist Church, 3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Don Darius Butler officiating.

The funeral service for MRS. JOYCE ANN DRAKE STANLEY (b. 1965) was Saturday, March 23, at the Hope and Restoration Church, 2525 Aspen Avenue, Huntsville, Ala., with Reverend Dr. Laurie McCaulley officiating.

The Valley Weekly
Spiritual Game Plan
PRESTON BROWN'S



"Learning How to Love One Another"

First Corinthians 13:6-7 says, "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

The apostle Paul has a perfect description of how love should be. In this scripture, you can't help but notice how simple it is to understand how to love. For

example, we all know what is being asked of us but the problem is the willingness to do what we are told.

When you love someone, your intention should never be to harm him or her. There is no need to worry about offending someone, because love creates an atmosphere of agreement. Even when we agree to disagree, this is still an attitude of love.

In 1 John 4:7-8, it

says, "Dear friends let us love one another, for love comes from God... whoever does not love does not know God because God is love."

Love prefers to be overly generous rather than overly suspicious. Some people are very suspicious because they never learned how to love anybody. What a miserable place to be. When we don't love people, we allow the enemy to get a foothold in our lives. That will take away our joy and our peace, because we are constantly complaining about people.

Let us all learn ways



to build each other up and not bring each other down with our words or our actions. Love does not dishonor others.

May God, with the love of Jesus, grant you spiritual success in learning how to love.

Question: Would you say that it is easy for you to love people the way the apostle Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 13:6-7?

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, or Westbow Books.

NEXT WEEK:

"Don't Focus on the Crisis"

"The only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

- Rosa Parks

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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

March 28

Cavalier Cigars Event with Jack Hadweh
7407 Highway 72 W, Ste. E
Madison, Ala. - 4-10 p.m.

Laughing Buddha Therapeutic Bodywork Grand Opening & Business Warming
2222 North Parkway, Suite E
Huntsville, Ala. - 5 p.m.

March 29

Teacher Professional Development
Huntsville Museum of Art
Downtown Huntsville
8 a.m.-3 p.m.

March 30

Kids Easter Celebration
Sherwood Baptist Church
6600 Old Madison Pike NW
Huntsville, Ala. - 10 a.m.

Taste of Soul Family Festival
The Orion Theater
Research Drive NW
Huntsville, Ala. - 12-8 p.m.

Charity Event to Support Ukraine
Cinemark Bridge Street

and XD
370 The Bridge Street NW
Huntsville, Ala.
3:30-6 p.m.

Rocket City Comedy Festival
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala. - 8 p.m.

April 4-6

Rocket City Regional (High School Robotics)
700 Monroe St. SW
Huntsville, Ala.
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

April 6

TAC Autocross Championship Series Event
Milton Frank Stadium
7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

STEAMposium 2024
Empowering Youth Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (e-STEAM)
Calhoun Community College
102 Wynn Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Lynyrd Skynyrd & ZZ Top

Propst Arena
Von Braun Center - 7 p.m.

April 12-14

Monster Jam
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

April 13

Animal Masks Workshop with Nan Jacobsohn
Tickets: SullivanPotteryHsv.com
2315 Triana Boulevard SW
Huntsville, Ala.
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

"Breathe for Wellness"
Waterfall Yoga Therapy
[https://waterfallyogallc.com/events-at-waterfall-yoga/?fbclid=IwAR07M-RcSXCKNFqIHfnQcHe2Ql-4zvDjiKOh4EnFtn26lCT5h-SThWQ3_Zjw]

ON THIS DAY



Entertainer Pearl Bailey was born on this day in 1918 in Southampton County, Va. A graduate of Georgetown University, the actress and singer won a Tony Award for her role in the all-Black production of "Hello, Dolly!"

- bet.com and wikipedia.org

MARCH 29 - PJ MORTON - Paul Morton Jr. is an American Grammy winning musician, singer, songwriter and record producer. Since 2012, he has been one of the keyboardists, alongside Jesse Carmichael, for the pop rock band Maroon 5. Morton originally joined the band as a touring member in 2010 and became an official member in 2012 after Carmichael went on indefinite hiatus (he returned to the lineup in 2014). Morton released his debut solo EP, *Following My First Mind*, in March 2012, through the record label Young Money. Adam Levine and James Valentine were featured on the lead single, "Heavy". In May 2013, Morton released his first major-label debut album, *New Orleans*.



- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



AAMU President Daniel K. Wims and Admissions Director Dwayne Green

AAMU Concludes Annual Statewide President's Tour

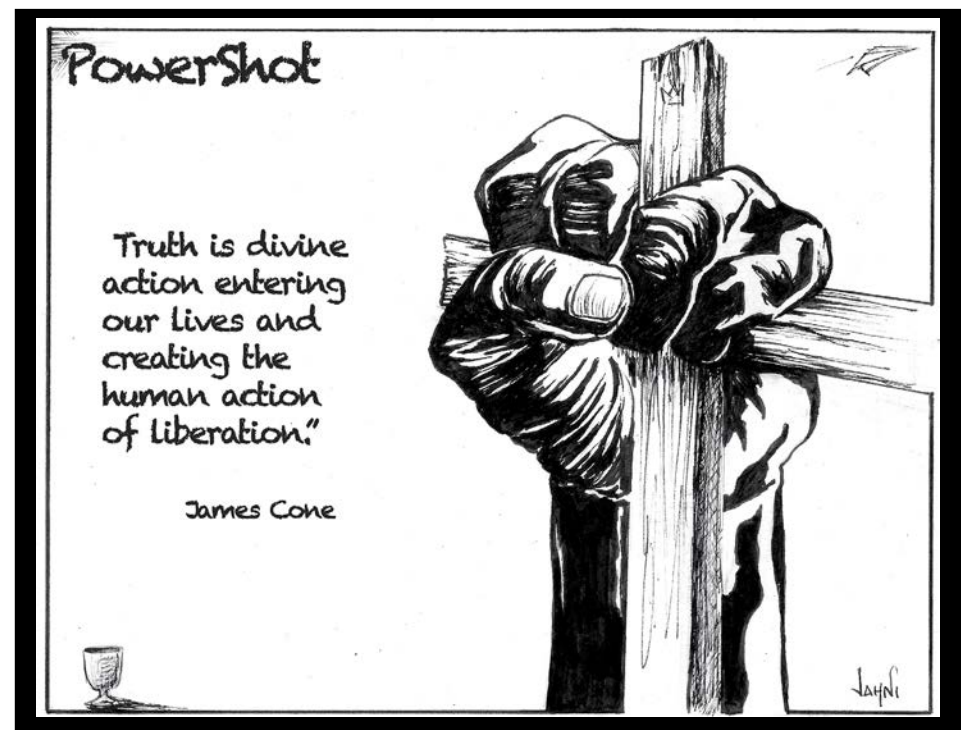
The 2024 Alabama A&M University President's Scholarship Tour concluded in Huntsville over the weekend. Accompanied by the Bulldog Beat performance troupe, President Daniel K. Wims completed the 9-day tour which included stops

throughout Alabama and Atlanta from March 1-9.

High school seniors from over 100 schools were awarded more than \$20 million in AAMU scholarships at 21 tour stops. President Wims touted the University's successes, academic offerings, and

trajectory during visits. Alabama A&M University anticipates another record-setting incoming class this fall.

For more on the President's yearly bus tour visit www.aamu.edu/bus-tour2024.



*"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change.
I am changing the things I cannot accept."*

- Angela Davis

Stop Doing That and Pay Attention!

Millennial Moment by Gloria B. Caldwell

Discipline and Focus have been drilled in us ever since we were little kids. From parents to teachers, they knew it took self-discipline, or instructed discipline and focus, to accomplish tasks and goals.

The classroom would get riled up and the teacher would say, "Everyone quiet down and pay attention!"

We would be doing something we had no business doing and a parent would say, "Stop doing that and pay attention!" Why do you think the concept of stopping and paying attention doesn't apply now?

If it's the recipe that works, no need to change

it, right? Following rules of driving, speed limits and signs, and keeping your eyes on the road, takes discipline and focus.

When operating in that realm, we are able to go places as safely as possible.

The point is: This has always been the ticket (no pun intended) to moving ahead.

It takes the discipline to stick to the task, follow the rules, not deviate from the

plan, and be silent about your dreams, and focus!

Focusing allows you to think clearly, be less stressed, achieve goals by not making excuses and procrastinating, and be in control of a situation.

So, let's stop falling back into bad habits that we know hinder us from progressing. Get up and

be alone and access your brainpower and think!!!!

We have things to do! We have a purpose. Pray and get the plan, and let's follow it! The world needs you. You need you!!

God loves you, and so do I! He has given you a gift, open it!



MOVE, put that junk food down, stop telling everybody what your plans or ideas are.

Focus, intentionally stay on course, get rest, stop trying to do so many things at once! Take a walk so you can

2 Timothy 1:7
7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Romans 12:2
2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

A March 2024 Reminder: Trump is not THE Enemy!

"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

Late Night Show host Seth Meyers opened his monologue on March 7, with a tirade about Donald Trump, <https://bit.ly/3Vsg2pE>.

"Presumptive GOP nominee for president, again, for a third time, despite the fact he is a twice-impeached, four-time criminal inductee and racist who's been found liable for fraud and sexual abuse. Banned from doing business in the state of New York for three years. Owes over half a billion dollars in fines. Took millions from foreign governments while he was president. Tried to extort a foreign country to interfere in an election in 2020 and encouraged another to help him win in 2016, . . ."

And while it's soothing and quite comforting to gang-tackle him due to these allegations, there is one thing that you and I must remember and never forget: Donald Trump is NOT the enemy. Just ask the Apostle Paul and even Malcolm X.



Submitted by Tim Allston

Paul's Warning to the Ephesians

Speaking to the early Christian church at Ephesus, Paul cautioned them with the words from the above Bible text: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, . . ."

Here, the evangelist admonished these new Christians not to demonize the wrongdoings of fellow countrymen, but instead point them to and expose their Enemy #1, Satan - "the ruler of the darkness of this world."

The "X" Factor

Likewise and although addressing the more specific matter of electoral politics in 1964, Malcolm X zeroed in on the same issue at hand, declaring, "Whether you use bullets or ballots you've got to aim well; don't strike at the puppet, strike at the puppeteer."

Both of these former religious leaders were seeking to make their followers wary of the dangers of expending too much of their energies on those who for a brief moment in time make noise but eventually burn themselves out; but by attacking Satan as the ultimate enemy of good, a greater sustained peace and resolution will be achieved.

At best, flesh-and-blood Trump is a momentary enemy-du-jour. With God's help, however, you and I can escape becoming Satan's soup-du-jour!



Tim Allston
Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time Amazon Best-Selling Author
"Leading from the Middle"
www.timallston.com - (256) 212-0949

Huntsville Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

"Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place."

- Zora Neale Hurston

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, March 31, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2.14-24
Second Lesson:
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
GOSPEL:
Mark 16:1-8



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

Mrs. Elaine S. Plank

Elaine S. Plank is a healthcare innovative entrepreneur, founder, owner, president and CEO of SafeHealth, Inc., a provider of occupational health and safety services, and integrative holistic healthcare.

The Missouri native started SafeHealth, Inc., an S-Corporation, in December 1993. SafeHealth Health and Safety Services hold onsite and offsite schedules of professional nurses, physicians and other health and safety personnel for small and large domestic businesses, universities and at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park.

The U.S Small Business Administration awarded Plank the U. S. Small Business Administration's "Alabama Women in Business Champion Award" in 2005. She

has a private practice of Body-Mind-Emotion-Spirit Health-care, Holistic Nursing as a Certified Interactive Imagery Guide and was the very first professional in Alabama to achieve such certification. She was a District Delegate to the Alabama State Nurses' Conventions, 2017 and 2018, and remains affiliated with the American Nurses' Association and Alabama State Nurses' Association.

Plank is a founding chair of the Women's Business Center of North Alabama (WBCNA), an autonomous "Women's Center" for the Women's Business Council. In



2003, she became the first president of WBC-NA. Moreover, she is a founding member of the Christian Cancer Support Group; has worked with Bosom Buddies, a breast cancer support group; as well as a Reach-to-Recovery Volunteer and Breast Cancer Survivors' Counselor for the American Cancer Society.

The mother of three and grandmother of five was married to the late Duane Plank for 56 years.

"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.

Free LearningQUEST Event Features Rep. Ball

Several public programs are offered free of charge by LearningQUEST each term as its gift to the community.

Rep. Mike Ball will present "Picking, Politicking and Pontificating" on Monday, April 1, in the Downtown Library Auditorium from 1-2:30 p.m.

Ball, who has served as a Marine, state trooper, criminal investigator, politician and musician, will share stories and songs from his personal and professional life, imparting insight about law enforcement and politics.

More specifically, Ball will discuss how the circumstances of a tumultuous and tragic childhood led him into a lifetime of public service as a Marine, state trooper, and agent of the Alabama Bureau of Investigation before serving 20 years as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives.

Based on his memoir, "Picking, Politicking, and Pontificating: How an Ex-Cop Legalized Cannabis while Fighting Corruption," Ball uses stories and songs to describe "the gen-



esis of the moral compass that guided him through a series of ethical dilemmas that created a constitutional crisis at the highest echelons of Alabama State Government," according to event promotions.

Although politics and faith are central themes of the presentation, it is intended to be neither partisan nor dogmatic but only to provide useful information to those who are concerned about discerning truth and seeking wisdom in an era of ubiquitous propaganda.

The program will provide an inside look at the legal and political process from the perspective of a

former politician, whose investigative experience and moral judgment made him a philosopher.

Books will be available for \$24.95.

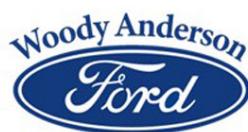
For additional information, visit <https://lquest.org/programs/public-programs/>.

LearningQUEST is a 501c3 volunteer-led organization for adults of all ages. It is dedicated to building a learning community through educational and enrichment opportunities.

Contact info: visit www.LQUEST.org, call (256) 529-8695, or email learningquest@lquest.org.



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A&M, Madison County Commission to Establish Community Farm



Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and the Madison County Commission recently signed a five-year agreement to establish a community farm near the AAMU campus. The farm will be used to address food insecurity and strengthen research and local food systems in Madison County.

AAMU and the Madison County Commission have a long history of working together to grow fresh produce for public distribution. This agreement allows the team to expand its operations to meet the increasing food insecurity needs throughout Madison County.

AAMU designated campus property near or adjacent to Meridian Street in Huntsville for the farm. The Madison County Commission, under the leadership of District 6 Commissioner Violet Edwards, will manage daily operations and work closely with campus units, such as the Alabama Co-operative Extension System (Alabama Extension), to not only establish the farm,

but to implement its community outreach activities.

“This has been 40 years in the making, and I am excited to see it come to fruition,” said Commissioner Edwards. “It makes sense that the county and the university work together to maximize investments already made and create a mutually beneficial program for the community, the university, and the students while addressing the lack of fresh, affordable produce in north Huntsville.”

AAMU Vice President of Research and Economic Development Majed El-Dweik added, “AAMU, including Alabama Extension, looks forward to working with Commissioner Edwards to tackle the rising food insecurity issues in this area.” Dweik

also serves as the interim director for Alabama Extension at AAMU.

According to Hunger Free America, food insecurity in Alabama grew to over 44 percent between 2021 and 2023. This means that nearly 500,000 Alabamians, including children and older adults, experience hunger, and at least 12 percent of residents experience hunger on a regular basis. Initiatives like the Madison County community farm will help to change those odds in Alabama.

For inquiries regarding this initiative, please contact Jason Andra, District 6 harvest manager at (256) 532-1505 or jandra@madisoncountyal.gov. Or, you can contact Dweik at (256) 372-7010 or majed.dweik@aamu.edu.

Phillips CME Church Honors Malcolm Thomas for 45 Years as Trustee Chair



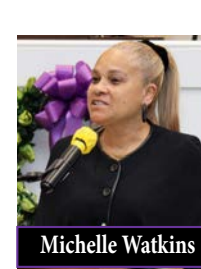
Malcolm Thomas



Bishop Teresa Snorton (c)



Rep. Laura Hall



Michelle Watkins



Comm. Violet Edwards

Photos by J. Saintjones



Thomas & VIP Guests



Thomas, Bishop and Pastor

Dorothy Huston



Alpha Ensemble



Thomas & Alphas

Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, pastored by Rev. Dr. Gregory Scott, honored Brother Malcolm Thomas for his 45 years of services as chairman of the Board

of Trustees.

Working under 10 pastors, during his lengthy tenure as chairman, Thomas led the board in fulfilling its routine responsibilities, including restoring and

repairing weather-damaged church property, coordinating a church renovation, as well as addressing issues relevant to eminent domain.

The Selma, Ala., native

earned the B.S. degree in business administration from Alabama A&M

University. Thomas and his wife, Dr. Mattie Daniels Thomas, have an adult

daughter, a deceased son, three grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

"You never find yourself until you face the truth."

- Pearl Bailey



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*"I was not a Girl Scout, but I try
to be very prepared."*

- Octavia Spencer