



# ALLSTON: 'The Upcoming MidTerm Elections - p. 5



## "Fix Your Attitude" -p. 5



Friday  
**April 24, 2026**  
 Vol. 12, No. 34  
 ValleyWeeklyllc.com



**SALUTE!**  
 Rosetta James Foundation  
 ELDER OF THE WEEK

**Mr. Charles Briggins, Sr.**

"The wound is the place where the light enters you." — Rumi

### VBC: Drake Prepares for Annual Jazz Fundraiser

**Mark your calendars!** Jazz in the City is back, and this time the fun is being taken indoors, at the Von Braun Center Mars Music Hall, as Drake State celebrates its 65th Anniversary of education, workforce development, and community impact.



Friday, June 19, at 7 p.m., headlined by the legendary AJ Ghent and His Singing Guitar. Ryon Schultz and Nina Marie Live will kick off the evening with special musical performances.

The Drake State Foundation's 5th Annual Jazz in the City is presented by Mazda Toyota Manufacturing and will be held on

Organizers look forward to sharing

an unforgettable evening of live jazz, great company, and real impact for Drake State students. Proceeds from the event will support scholarships, technology upgrades, and facility improvements, expanding access and opportunity for students pursuing high-demand careers in North Alabama.

Tickets are now available for purchase [HERE!](#)



**DYNAMIC DUO:** Alabama A&M University alums and philanthropists Michael and Chala Ford were among the hundreds whose presence graced the 26th Annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala on Friday, April 17, at the Event Center. The festive event surpassed the fundraising goal with an extraordinary \$1.3 MILLION raised in support of AAMU students! The sold-out activity welcomed 1,000 supporters and featured performances by TAMIA and DJ Jazzy Jeff. The remarkable generosity of donors and friends fuels the University's continued momentum and unwavering commitment to student success.

### TARCOG Holds MidCity Grand Opening

Nearly 200 people turned out last Friday to celebrate with TARCOG at the opening of its new office as the agency re-plants its roots in Cummings Research Park and MidCity. The new office is based at 4976 Corporate Drive NW, near the intersection of Old Monrovia Road. The agency has been in a temporary office for the past three years after

a flood destroyed its former longtime nearby office. TARCOG serves communities throughout DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, and Marshall counties, identifying common regional issues, opportunities, and challenges. TARCOG is responsible for serving the 173,694 residents throughout the region who

are 60 years old or older, said Executive Director Michelle Gilliam Jordan (r). This number represents 41 percent of TARCOG's total regional population of 742,021 people. The TARCOG Region includes DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison and Marshall counties. State Rep. Rex Reynolds was guest speaker and highlighted that nearly

1,200 nursing home eligible clients received care in their homes through the TARCOG Area Agency on Aging's Medicaid Waiver program – saving the Alabama Medicaid Program \$132 million dollars. State legislators and government leaders from throughout the region, and board members joined Jordan to cut the ribbon on the



new two-story office building with 25,000 square feet for its 100 employees.

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

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in session this week ... The Senate plans to take the lead on an amended FISA reauthorization bill, using a 3-year clean extension of the 702 program as the starting vehicle. The Senate Budget Committee is also expected to begin the reconciliation process to fund ICE and CBP by sending a budget resolution to the floor that instructs the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees to draw up plans to fund the agencies, reportedly in the \$65 billion-\$75 billion range (Punchbowl News reports that the upcoming April 24 payday for ICE and CBP employees is the last one the administration believes it can fund by executive order). As the Homeland Security Department shut-

down reached Day 65, the House has yet to act on the Senate's bipartisan FY2026 DHS appropriations bill — which includes everything but ICE and CBP.

**2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.** The President will speak at the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner at the Washington Hilton on Saturday night — marking the first time he will attend as president. Last Tuesday, Secretary of State Marco Rubio hosted the Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors in Washington for a two-hour meeting, during which they agreed to hold further direct talks on a peace agreement. The President announced that Iran had until Wednesday to make a peace deal and that the U.S. has reportedly offered to unfreeze \$20 billion in Iranian assets in exchange for Iran giving up its entire stockpile of

enriched uranium. Last week, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche moved to vacate some of the last remaining and most serious criminal convictions stemming from the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack against 12 members of the right-wing Proud Boys and Oath Keepers ...

**3. SUPREME COURT.** The Court will conclude its oral argument schedule for the 2025-26 term with 2 immigration cases. One concerned the rights of green card holders convicted of a crime (Blanche v. Lau on April 22), and the other addresses whether the Trump administration may end Temporary Protected Status previously granted to Syrian and Haitian immigrants under a statutory program begun by Congress (Mullin v. Doe on April 29). The Court will also issue opinions from its current docket this week. In a win for oil giant Chevron, last week the Court, in an 8-0 ruling — with Justice Alito recusing himself — allowed Chevron to sue in federal court, thereby potentially negating a \$745 million Louisiana state court judgment against it for damage to the state's coastline.

**4. NEW FED CHAIR.** On Tuesday, Federal Reserve Chair nominee Kevin Warsh testified before the Senate Banking Committee — although Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) is blocking Warsh's nomination because of the administration's criminal investigation into current Fed Chair Jay Powell.

**5. HIGHER EDUCATION PROPOSED ACCOUNTABILITY RULES.** On Monday, the U.S. Department of Education was expected to release its proposed rules for a new accountability system and related issues that will affect all of higher education. On Friday, the Department released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

(NPRM) overhauling the accountability framework for Title IV programs, replacing the prior debt-to-earnings metric with a revised earnings premium measure. Under the proposal, undergraduate programs whose completers do not earn at least as much as high school graduates would face limits on federal student loan eligibility and, in some cases, Pell Grant access. The NPRM also introduces the Student Tuition and Transparency System (STATS), which would require all Title IV-eligible programs to publicly report program-level data on tuition, fees, and financial aid. The public comment period closes on May 20.

**6. VIRGINIA SPECIAL**

**ELECTION ON REDISTRICTING.** On Tuesday, Virginia voters go to the polls to decide whether to allow a special redistricting through 2030 that would change the current congressional map from 6Ds/5Rs to 10Ds/1R. In related news, last Wednesday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) delayed a special session by a week to pass the state's new redistricting map, which could add 5 additional GOP seats to the state's current 20Rs/8Ds map. The new session will start on April 28.

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# CODIE GOPHER: Creator and Music Advocate

In our community, there are individuals who quietly—and sometimes boldly—shape culture, create opportunity, and leave a lasting imprint for generations to come. This week, we recognize one such individual whose work sits at the intersection of creativity, history, and community empowerment: Codie Gopher.

A native of Huntsville, Codie Gopher has spent more than two decades immersed in what he calls the “music creative zone.” But his impact extends far beyond music. As an independent researcher of modern culture, Gopher has dedicated his work to understanding how art, identity, and economics intersect—and more importantly, how those intersections can be leveraged to uplift communities.



Through his leadership as founder of the Huntsville Urban Symposium—formerly known as Huntsville Hip Hop Tech—Gopher has created a platform that brings together artists, innovators, and thinkers. This initiative is more than an event; it is a movement designed to bridge economic gaps and cultivate sustainable opportunities for creatives who often find themselves overlooked. In doing so, he is not only supporting today’s artists but also laying the groundwork for future generations to thrive.

Gopher’s influence has reached well beyond our city limits. His involvement in Huntsville-generated music projects has garnered recognition from respected national and international outlets such as Forbes, The New York Times, SPIN, National Geographic, and NPR. These acknowledgments affirm what many in our community already know: that Huntsville’s cultural contributions are significant, and that leaders like Codie Gopher are helping to tell that story on a global stage.

His commitment to preserving and elevating culture is perhaps most evident in his role in curating the first Hip Hop Exhibit at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. By doing so, he ensured that a vital and often underrepresented genre received the recognition it deserves within the broader narrative of Alabama’s musical heritage.

Yet, Gopher’s legacy is not defined by one initiative alone. His service on boards such as the Scottsboro Boys Museum, the North Alabama Film Commission, and the Huntsville Music Board reflects a deep commitment to storytelling, representation, and community advancement. As historian for Post 351 Buffalo Soldiers, he also helps preserve a powerful legacy of service and resilience that continues to inspire.

His work has not gone unnoticed. From the Beulah Ballard Toney Community Service Award to being named a two-time Entrepreneur of the Year by the Huntsville Metro Black Chamber of Commerce, Gopher’s accolades speak to both his vision and his execution. Honors such as the Reel Difference Award, the Visionary Leadership Award, and the Community ICON Award further underscore the breadth of his influence.

Still, beyond the awards and recognition, what stands out most is Codie’s unwavering dedication to community. As a lifelong member of Madkins Chapel CPCA, his roots remain firmly planted in faith, service, and connection—values that continue to guide his work.

In a time when conversations about growth and innovation often dominate, Codie Gopher reminds us that true progress must include culture, creativity, and community. His efforts are helping to ensure that Huntsville’s legacy is not only one of technological advancement, but also one rich in artistic expression and opportunity for all.

And that is the kind of legacy that endures. Until next week ...



not only supporting today’s artists but also laying the groundwork for future generations to thrive.

*Dorothy*


**APRIL 24 - CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER** - Cedric Antonio Kyles aka The Amazing Cedric Kyles and Cedric the Entertainer is an American actor, comedian, and game show host. He hosted BET’s ComicView during the 1993–94 season and Def Comedy Jam in 1995. He is best known for co-starring with Steve Harvey on The WB sitcom The Steve Harvey Show, as one of The Original Kings of Comedy, and for starring as Eddie Walker in Barbershop. He hosted the 12th season of the daytime version of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire in 2013–14 and starred in the TV Land original series The Soul Man, which aired from 2012 until 2016. In 2019, received a Hollywood walk of fame star.



- [Blackcelebritybirthdays.org](http://Blackcelebritybirthdays.org)

# Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly  
PRESTON BROWNS



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

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 He deserves and that you deserve.

*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](http://amazon.com).

**NEXT WEEK:**  
"Getting the Weeds Out"



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## THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY DEATHS



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Funeral services for **MS. JO ANN MIMS** (b. 1947) and **MR. RALPH LOGAN** (b. 1955) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MRS. WENDOLYN B. READUS MOORE** (b. 1952) will be Saturday April 25, at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church at 1 p.m. with Elder Dr. Timothy Rainey officiating.



Funeral service for **MS. BOBBIE SALES** (b. 1956) was Saturday, April 18, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. THEODORE A. BREACH, JR.**, (b. 1966) was Saturday, April 18, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services for **MS. CASSANDRA FORD** (b. 1964) and **MR. QUINCY LADELL FORD** (b. 1985) were Saturday, April 18, at St. Mark Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MS. CAROLYN BOND** (b. 1943) was Friday, April 17, at Grady Madison AME Church with Rev. William C. Slade officiating.

Memorial service for **DR. ERNST CEBERT** (b. 1954) was Sunday, April 12, at First Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Funeral service for **MS. RACHAEL D. JACKSON** (b. 1955) was Sunday, April 12, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Larry Davidson, Jr. officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. MATTIE DAVIS** (b. 1933) was Saturday, April 11, at Pine Grove M. B. Church with Rev. Wesley Thompson officiating.

## U.S. Upcoming Midterm Elections: “When Davids Vote, Goliaths Fall ...”

“And when people find courage, giants can fall.” - Psalm 30:5

On Sunday, April 12, Hungary reminded the world of something the Bible taught a long time ago: giants can fall.

After 16 years of Viktor Orbán’s rule, Hungarian voters turned out in striking numbers and chose another path. That does not mean their struggle is over. It means their next chapter has begun.

But one thing is already clear: the people refused to accept the lie that entrenched power is permanent.

That is why this story sounds so much like David and Goliath.

### Hungary’s Election Victory: David vs. Goliath 2.0?

In 1 Samuel 17, David was not supposed to win. He was smaller, younger, less armored, and easier to dismiss. Goliath had history, size, and intimidation on his side.

But David had something greater: faith, clarity, courage, and the willingness to move forward when everyone else had grown used to standing still.

That is what the Hungarian people just demonstrated.

### From Winter to Springtime

For years, many had come to see Orbán’s “illiberal democracy” as something fixed and immovable.

But springtime has a way of exposing what winter tries to hide. Frozen ground can be broken. Buried seeds can rise. Hope can reappear where resignation once lived.

There is a leadership lesson here for all of us.

Whether in politics, organizations, churches, or families, unhealthy power often survives because people assume nothing can change. But history and Scripture both say otherwise. Change begins when ordinary people stop confusing long rule with rightful rule, and stop mistaking fear for fate.

Yes, Davids still beat Goliaths.

Sometimes David is one shepherd boy with five stones. Sometimes David is a citizen with one vote. But the principle remains the same: giants are never as invincible as they appear when people find the courage to stand up, speak up, and show up.

Weeping may endure for a night.

But joy still comes in the morning.



#TheTimCommandmentsOfLeadership #DavidAndGoliath #HungaryElection #LeadershipLessons #BiblicalLeadership #Democracy #Courage #ServantLeadership #HopeInTheMorning #CurrentEvents

#### Tim Allston

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Join us Mondays through Fridays for *Tim Allston’s Leadership Nuggets: Educating, Equipping, and Empowering Emerging Leaders to Manage Ego Problems in 60 Seconds* (7am, 1pm, and 7pm), as well as for *The Tim Commandments of Leadership* (4pm), all Central Time and all available on Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## “Fix Your Attitude ...”

Yep, I’m putting it plainly: fix your attitude. You’re out here acting like it’s the end of the world because something didn’t go your way. Your plan didn’t come to fruition, someone said something mean or off to you, somebody cut you off in traffic, something went wrong at work, or you got passed over for a promotion.

But what if, at the end of the day, everything worked out for your good? You claim to have faith, and you know that God works things out for the good of those who love Him, right? But do you live that out in your everyday actions?

What if you truly believed that everything



would work out for your greater good? Would your actions change in the midst of what is happening? How about you act as if it’s going to work out? Psych yourself out—tell yourself, “This is going to end well.” So, if this is going to end well, how do you act accordingly in the midst of it all?

Think about it. Would

you treat people better? Would you be less short-tempered? Would you control your responses more? Would you be more loving, more kind, and less anxious? Think it over and then try it. You’re welcome. It’s going to work.

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

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The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**April 22**

Earth Day

**April 24**

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

**April 24-26**

Panoply

Monster Jam  
Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.

**May 1**

AAMU Alumni White  
Party  
Huntsville Country Club  
2601 Oakwood Avenue  
NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7 p.m.

Concert

Ty Myers  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

**May 2**

AAMU Alumni Awards

Luncheon

Ernest L. Knight Center  
Alabama A&M University  
12 noon-2 p.m.

Ethel Cain

The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8 p.m.

**May 5-10**

“Water for Elephants”  
Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall/Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.

**May 9**

Hosta and Companion  
Plant Sale  
1022 Cook Avenue NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8 a.m.

Huntsville Classic:

Rob Thomas  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

**May 10**

Mother's Day

**May 15-16**

Ms. Pat  
Comedian  
Huntsville Levity Live  
2012 Memorial Parkway  
SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 261-3374

**May 16**

Concert  
Sam Barber  
The Orion Amphitheater

Huntsville, Ala.

7 p.m.

Concert

Fantasia and Anthony  
Hamilton  
Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center  
8 p.m.

**May 22**

Concert  
Hardy  
The Orion Amphitheater

Huntsville, Ala.

7:30 p.m.

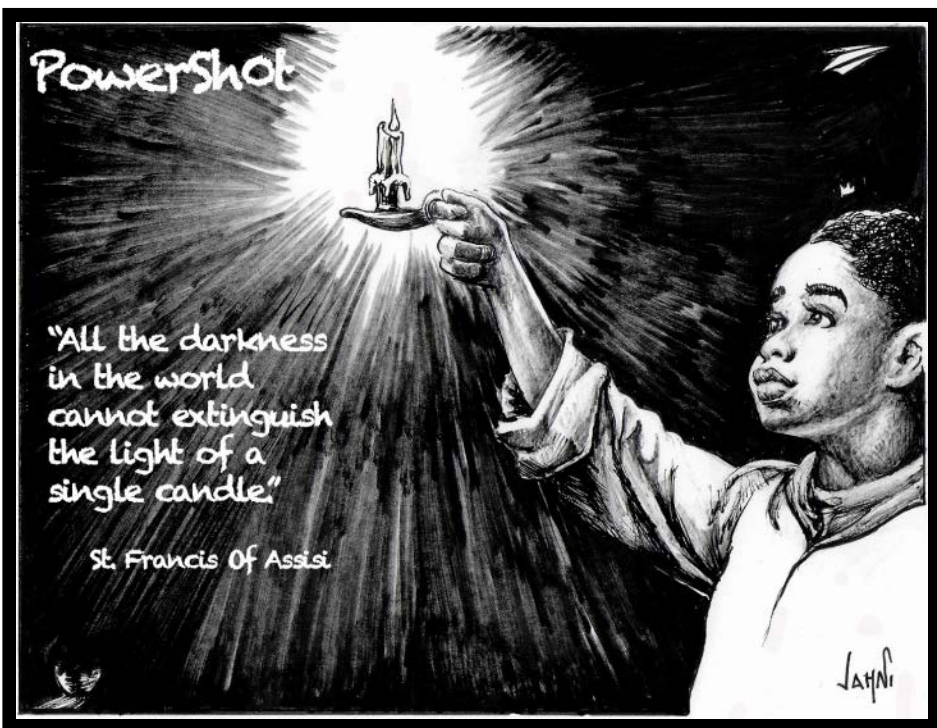
**May 23**

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*The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.***ON THIS DAY**

On April 24, 1967, Boxer Muhammad Ali was stripped of his title. The WBA and the New York State Athletic Commission stripped Ali of his title for refusing military service. Ella Fitzgerald was born on this day in 1918.

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

# Mr. Charles Briggs, Sr.

Charles E. Briggs, Sr., is a retired educator who enjoyed a productive career at Kentucky State University and in the Decatur and Huntsville City School Systems.

Briggs held positions ranging from classroom teacher to vocational coordinator and assistant principal of Lakeside High School in Decatur, Alabama. He earned his bachelor's and master's degree in trade and industrial education from Alabama A&M University.

After retirement, Briggs served as a weatherization coordinator for the Huntsville/Madison and Limestone Counties Community Action Agency. He is a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church, where he has served as director of the male chorus. He still



sings in the male chorus and other choirs.

Briggs gallantly served his country and is a proud veteran of the United States Army. His community service, however, involves active membership in the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the R.E. Nelms Elks Lodge #977.

He is also the Grand Deputy Inspector Gen-

eral State of Alabama and Worshipful Master of the Smith Grand Council of the Ancient and Scottish Rite Masons.



"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](http://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](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



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PowerShot: "It is not impossible, you just haven't found a way yet!" - J. Moore

PowerShot: "Dream more than others think practical. Expect more than others think possible. Care more than others think wise." - Howard Schultz

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THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

**They're Not Like Tim!**

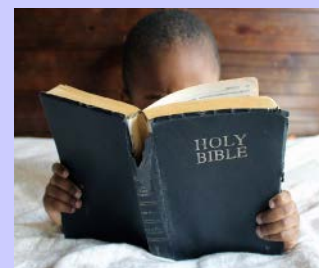
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## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, April 26, 2026  
Fourth Sunday  
of Easter



(Track 2, Year A)  
First Lesson:  
Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
Second Lesson:  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
GOSPEL:  
John 10:1-10

# AAMU Launches Bold New License Plate Campaign

Alabama A&M University is inviting students, alumni, and fans to help decide the next official AAMU specialty license plate for the State of Alabama through the Bulldogs Drive Bold campaign, which pairs pride with student support.

Voting will take place April 13 through May 4, giving supporters a limited window to make their voices count. Four options are up for selection, and Bulldogs can cast their vote by donating \$18.75 to their favorite design.

The plate that raises the most funds will become the University's next official specialty tag to hit roadways across Alabama

later this year.

Each donation represents one vote, and every dollar raised will support the Bulldog Market, a vital campus resource that provides food and essential items to hundreds of students each week.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, approximately 82 percent of undergraduates at Historically Black Colleges and Universities receive federal financial aid, and nearly half report experiencing food insecurity - almost twice the national average. At Alabama A&M,



the Bulldog Market has become a critical support system for students facing these challenges.

By participating, AAMU supporters are directly investing in student suc-

cess while helping drive Alabama A&M's presence

forward in a bold, visible way. Visit the campaign

webpage today to vote and track your favorite design on the leaderboard.

Located in the McCaleb and McIntosh Building, the Bulldog Market accepts donations of food, hygiene products, school supplies and clothing Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

For more information about donating, email [monica.clarke@aamu.edu](mailto:monica.clarke@aamu.edu) or call 256-372-4583.

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# First Lady Book Signing Event

## Climbing "The Hill" with the President: The Roles of the First Ladies of Alabama A&M University

Project Committee: Mrs. Abbiegail Hugine, Mrs. Felicia Wilson, Mrs. Brenda D. Davis and Mr. Jerome Saintjones

Saturday, April 18, 2026 - Ernest L. Knight Reception Center

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