

# DELTA Inc. Hosts STEAM Event - p. 3

POSITIVE-INSPIRATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL

FREE



Friday

May 16, 2025

Vol. 11, No. 37

ValleyWeeklly.com

**SALUTE!**

Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Loretta Spencer

"You're in a mess, and in excess." - Billy Strayhorn

## HPAC Alumni Group Celebrates Teachers

Members of the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter (HPAC) of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., went "all out" recently to show their Bulldog appreciation for a revered profession.

For the past six years, HPAC, now under the visionary leadership of president Allen Malone, has provided a bountiful teacher appreciation lunch for instructors and staff at Rolling Hills Elementary School in northwest Huntsville, Ala.

"This is an opportunity for the community to play a role in supporting our teachers, who work hard for our students everyday," said school principal Lakeisha Moore Agun, a 2003 AAMU alum and native of Jasper, Ala. "Investing in our teachers keeps them motivated and mentally prepared to



HPAC members (l-r) Marvin Williams, Tonita Phipps, Rachel Walker, Mary Elizabeth Smith and Atty. Michael Walker.

serve at their best."

A former teacher who retired from years of federal service, Mary Elizabeth Smith began an affiliation with Rolling Hills that extends

more than 20 years. She has also served as its PTA president. Smith noted that efforts like the luncheon help fill a gap left by the many parents who truly ap-

preciate the teachers in their kids' lives but simply aren't able to formally show that concern or to advocate for the teachers' needs.

According to Tonita Phipps '87, a Huntsvillian; business alum Rachel Walker '89, formerly of Talladega, Ala.; and electrical engineering technology alum Marvin Williams '98 of Clanton, Ala., "it feels good to give back" to the teachers in appreciation for their hard work.

by Jerome Saintjones

## Local Scholar Graduates Magna Cum Laude as Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Jaelyn Reeves, a proud native of Huntsville, Alabama, has officially earned the prestigious title of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), graduating *magna cum laude* from the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine on Saturday, May 3.

She is the daughter of Johnathan and Norma Reeves. With years of hard work, perseverance, and a passion for animal care, Reeves crossed the commencement stage with high honors, joining a legacy of excellence at one of the nation's most respected historically Black colleges and universities.

Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM), established in 1945, has



long been a cornerstone in veterinary education and a leader in advancing diversity in the field. Reeves' graduation not only highlights her academic success but also underscores her deep commitment to both the science and service of veterinary medicine.

During her time at Tuskegee, Reeves

distinguished herself through academic excellence, hands on clinical experience, and community involvement and became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Her *magna cum laude* designation reflects a GPA in the top tier of her graduating class—a testament to her

diligence, intellect, and unwavering dedication.

As she embarks on her professional journey, Dr. Jaelyn Reeves' dedication as a doctor is her commitment to heal, protect and advocate for the voiceless by making the world a better place for all of us to co-exist and live in harmony.

The Valley Weekly  
**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

Washington Update, Page 2

Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 4

Gloria B. & Tim: Perspectives, Page 5

"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 6

Sunday Lectionary, Page 7

Honoring Our Elders, Page 7



# Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington:

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in session this week. Three key House committees will meet this week to mark up their pieces of the Budget Reconciliation bill/2017 tax cut reauthorization: Ways & Means, Energy & Commerce, and Agriculture. After the markups, the House GOP leadership's goal is to have the House Budget Committee assemble the bill by week's end and then bring

the package to the House Rules Committee on May 19 ahead of a floor vote later next week. Some key items expected to be included in the tax bill are a hike in the tax on university endowments, a repeal of the electric vehicle tax credit, and a rise in the cap for deducting state and local taxes from \$10,000 to \$30,000. The full House, among other bills, will vote on legislation to allow concealed carry of firearms by off-duty officers and retired officers at shopping malls, school zones, and on mass

transit. In a big defeat for the cryptocurrency industry, last Thursday the Senate failed to get 60 votes to proceed to the GENIUS Act, which would have streamlined the use of stablecoins – one of 2 main legislative items on the crypto 2025 agenda.

**2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.** On Monday, the President departed for an overseas trip to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE, which began Tuesday. Last week, the President urged House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) to establish a new 39.6% tax bracket for Americans earning \$2.5 million or more annually, or couples making \$5 million or more, as part of the new tax bill set to be considered in Congress. He also announced a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's air traffic control system,

aiming to replace outdated infrastructure with state-of-the-art fiber, wireless, and satellite technologies at over 4,600 air traffic control sites — including 25,000 new radios, over 600 new radars, and 475 new voice switches; construct six new air traffic control coordination centers; and replace towers and Terminal Radar Approach Control Facilities (TRACONS). According to Bloomberg Politics, as of May 1, the President is facing 328 lawsuits related to his executive orders, with the courts thus far issuing more than 200 orders halting the administration's actions in 128 cases.

**3. TARIFFS.** On Monday morning, U.S. and Chinese negotiators announced a 90-day pause in the 145% U.S. tariff on Chinese goods and the reciprocal 125% tariffs on U.S. goods, temporarily reducing the tariffs to 30% and 10%, respectively, while negotiations continue on a binding trade deal. Last Thursday, the White House announced the outline of a trade deal between the U.K. and the U.S., which would include Britain dropping its

tariffs on U.S. beef, ethanol, sports equipment, and other products, and buying \$10 billion worth of Boeing airplanes. In return, the U.S. said it would pare back its tariffs on cars and steel, though it will maintain a 10% levy on all British exports.

**4. SUPREME COURT.** The Supreme Court ruled last Tuesday that the Trump Administration may begin enforcing a ban on transgender troops serving in the military, which had been blocked by lower courts. The unsigned order provided no reasons for the ruling and will remain in effect while challenges to the transgender ban proceed. On Thursday, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Trump v. CASA, Inc.* regarding the federal government's request to be allowed to implement President Donald Trump's January 20 executive order ending birthright citizenship.

**5. STUDENT LOANS.** Last Monday, the U.S. Education Department (ED) resumed collections on defaulted federal student loans for the first time since March 2020, marking the end of a pan-

demic-era pause. Borrowers who fail to resume payments may face serious consequences, including wage garnishment and withholdings from tax refunds or Social Security benefits. A new TransUnion report reveals that over 20% of borrowers are now 90 days or more delinquent—nearly double the pre-pandemic rate. ED estimates that only 38% of federal student loan borrowers are current on their payments, while almost a quarter of the portfolio is in default or severe delinquency. In a "Dear Colleague" letter, ED reminded colleges of their role in helping students manage loan repayment and warned that institutions with high default rates risk losing access to federal aid. The department also announced it will begin notifying defaulted borrowers about wage garnishment this summer and will publish updated non-repayment data by institution later this month.

Hamm Consulting Group  
1717 K Street NW  
Suite 900  
Washington D.C. 20006  
T: 202-596-8384  
rhamm@hammconsulting.com  
www.hammconsulting.com

## Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Meetings

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet on **Monday, May 19, 2025**, 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, May 21, 2025**, 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/>

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.

"Get The S With Khrista Dees"

**Khrista Dees**, Broker Assoc.  
**Jay Matthews**, Real Estate Advisor

 **256.288.9070**  
 **DeesRealtyGroup.Kw.Com**  
 **1593 Hughes Road Suite A  
Madison, AL 35758**

  
**Dees Realty Group**  
brokered by Keller Williams Realty-  
Madison



# The Fierce Urgency of Growth

To the graduates of our high schools and colleges, to the dreamers standing at the threshold of tomorrow, we greet you with pride and hope. This is your season of crossing over—your moment to rise from the discipline of classrooms to the discipline of life.

But as you march forward, diploma in hand and destiny in heart, we pause to remind you that the true measure of a life is not found in titles or trophies, but in the quiet strength of character, the steady hand of hard work, and the unwavering light of spiritual purpose.

There is a myth loose in the land—a dangerous notion that greatness can be seized quickly, cheaply, without labor or sacrifice. But history teaches otherwise. Everlasting victory has been born in the fires of effort. Every meaningful achievement has been shaped by sweat and struggle. At least, that was the case for me.



So I say to you today: Do not seek the easy path, but the right one. Do not be content with mediocrity in a world that cries out for excellence. Work, not just for your own success, but to uplift the lives around you. Let your work be more than a job—let it be a ministry, a calling, a contribution to the beloved community.

Stay dedicated. In times of fatigue, remember that the arc of any worthy journey bends not to the swift, but to the steadfast. Be faithful in small things, and trust that they prepare you for great ones.

And above all, nurture your soul. The world will tempt you to go wide, but you must also go deep. You must cultivate an inner life strong enough to weather storms, quiet enough to hear truth, and bold enough to follow it. Whether you find that strength in prayer, reflection, or sacred service, make time for the nourishment of your spirit. For what does it profit a man to gain the world and lose his soul?

You were born not just for comfort, but for purpose. Not just for survival, but for significance. There is a light within you that the world did not give—and the world cannot take away. Let it shine, not only for your own glory, but to light the way for others.

This is your time. This is your moment. Let us go forth together—with courage, with conviction, and with a soul anchored in love. In the end, the titles, trophies and awards will become trash; but, your legacy will remain. Establish it well! Until next week ...



Dorothy

**MAY 16 - JANET JACKSON** - Janet Damita Jo Jackson is an American singer, songwriter, actress, and dancer. A prominent figure in popular culture, she is known for sonically innovative, socially conscious and sexually provocative records, and elaborate stage shows. Having sold over 180 million records, Jackson is one of the world's best-selling music artists of all time. She has amassed an extensive catalog, with singles such as "Nasty", "Rhythm Nation", "That's the Way Love Goes", "Together Again" and "All for You"; she holds the record for the most consecutive top-ten entries on the US Billboard Hot 100 singles chart by a female artist with 18. In 2008, Billboard placed her number seven on its list of the Hot 100 All-Time Top Artists, and in 2010 ranked her fifth among the "Top 50 R&B/Hip-Hop Artists of the Past 25 Years".



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

**Advertising Associate**  
Phyllis Chunn

**- Contributing Editors -**  
tim allston  
Minister Preston Brown  
Gloria B. Caldwell  
Ron Hamm  
Gary T. Whitley, Jr.


**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](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)  
Copyright 2025

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](mailto: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.



**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



# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

## "Doing the Right Thing"

Ephesians 6: 12 says, *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

As long as we are Christians, there will always be a battle for our minds. This battle is the struggle between good and evil. It is the struggle between doing what is right and doing what is wrong. Both God and the devil want to control our minds. The prize at stake is our salvation. The devil knows that if he can capture our thoughts, he can corrupt our minds. He also knows that a corrupt mind will lead to destruction. Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."

Today, we live in a world that has gone wild when it comes to

the things that we listen to and watch. These cause images to stay in our minds that can potentially be dangerous. That's why we as Christians need to set our minds on things above and not on earthly things (Colossians 3:2). It goes on to say in verse 5, "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed which

is idolatry."

We can change the way we live by changing the way we think. However, we have to realize that our strength is in our relationship with God. In other words, the more we know the word of God, the more weapons we will have to battle the enemy. Since this is a spiritual battle and we live in the flesh, Jesus is the only one who can help us win the war in our minds. When Jesus died on the cross, we no longer had to fight our battles in our own strength. In Luke 10:19-20, Jesus says that we have the power to demolish any strongholds that are in our lives. One

of the strongholds that we have to deal with is doing the right thing when no one is watching.

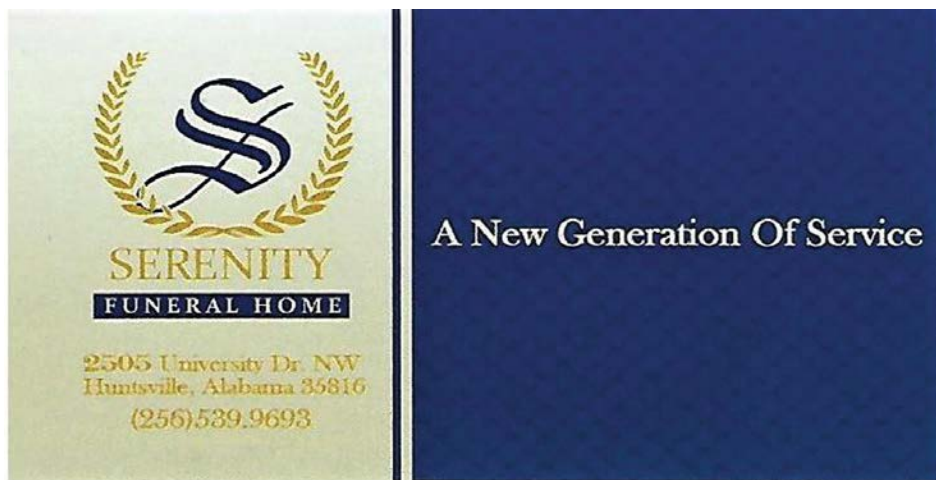
May God grant you spiritual success to do the right thing when no one is watching.

*Question:* What do we gain by doing the right thing when no one else is watching?

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

### NEXT WEEK:

*"Getting Your Priorities in Order"*



## 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](http://WWW.NELMSMEMORIAL.NET)

## THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY DEATHS



### SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816  
[www.serenityfuneralhm.com](http://www.serenityfuneralhm.com) - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for **MR. NICHOLAS WORRELL** (b. 2000); **MS. LAVONDA MOSLEY** (b. 1977) and **MS. LORINE SCOTT** (b. 1939) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MS. PEGGIE TERRELL** was Saturday, May 10, at Beaver Creek Cemetery, County Highway 16, Beaverton, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. ANTHONY TURNER** (b. 1965) was Friday, May 2, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

### NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816  
[www.nelmsmemorial.net](http://www.nelmsmemorial.net) - (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for **MR. RICKIE CARTER** (b. 1958) and **MS. LINDA FAYE SMITH** (b. 1953) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MS. FLORA FISHER** (b. 1939) will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 11 a.m. at Center Grove United Methodist Church, 185 Plummer Road NW, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor R. Seth Shamery officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. VIOLA MOORE PARKER** (b. 1941) will be Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m. at Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church, 291 Hamilton E. Holmes Drive, Atlanta, Ga.

### ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35810 -  
(256) 534-8481 - [www.royalfh.com](http://www.royalfh.com)

Funeral service for **MRS. HAZEL BETTS CUNNINGHAM** (b. 1936) was Monday, May 12, at the Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 759-A Pine Grove Road, Harvest, Ala., with Pastor Damon Betts officiating.

Funeral service for **MOTHER DAISY MAE GREEN COWAN** (b. 1940) was Saturday, May 10, at the Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, 13376 Dupree Worthey Road, Harvest, Ala. with Bishop Calvin Boone officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. LUTHER COLE** (b. 1956) was Monday, May 5, at the Blackburn Chapel CPCA, 507 Plummer Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Tremaine Snodgrass officiating.

## Somebody's Mother = Somebody's Leader

*"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." — Exodus 20:12*

Yes, the 2025 Mother's Day weekend has passed; however now in preparation for 2026, let's now begin to expand our vision beyond cards, flowers, and Sunday brunches.

Let's honor **mothers**—married, single, biological, and spiritual—as **emerging leaders** in our homes, communities, and organizations.

We often picture leaders in suits and corner offices. But the most transformational leadership may be happening behind the stove, in carpool lanes, or at a child's bedside.

As a 12-year old boy in 1967 my school principal mother, Mrs. Zeola Germany Allston, had me memorize a poem—not for a grade, but for life. Nearly six decades later, Somebody's Mother by Mary Dow Brine still echoes, from memory:

*"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,  
For all she's aged and poor and slow.  
And I hope some fellow will lend a hand  
To help my mother, you understand ..."*

Today's mothers—especially single mothers—are CEOs of their homes. They are operations managers, faith leaders, disciplinarians, and encouragers.

They don't just raise children—they raise **civilization**.

Research shows women bring humility and competence to leadership. According to Harvard Business Review's Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic, women score higher in emotional intelligence and teamwork—traits that build trust and drive performance, <https://bit.ly/3YEyuMH>.

Yet, their influence isn't limited to home or office:

- Women drive up to **85% of U.S. purchasing decisions**.
- **Black women** are now the fastest-growing group of entrepreneurs.
- Despite this, they receive **less than 1%** of venture capital.

Still, they rise—without applause, often without help.

This week and each succeeding week 'til Mother's Day Weekend 2026, take a moment to thank somebody's mother. Offer a hand. Share encouragement. Acknowledge her leadership, whether visible or invisible.

Because as that young boy in the poem reminds us:

"She's somebody's mother..."  
And she might just be **everybody's leader**.



### Tim Allston

Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time  
Amazon Best-Selling Author  
"Leading from the Middle"  
(256) 212-0949

<https://bit.ly/4aB9Lwm>, <https://bit.ly/4cYZyuz>

Email Address: [leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com](mailto:leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com)

Website: [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com)



# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## So That You Know ...

You're unique in every sense of the word.

You need to be told more! So I'm telling you. You're unique, a one-of-a-kind, and you're loved. Don't allow your fleeting thoughts to tell you any different. They said, "You're not enough." Well, shame on them for expressing their thoughts about you to you. You weren't created for them. You're too special for them to appreciate you. So, yeah, thanks, but no thanks, for their input.

They said, "You're not smart enough!" Interesting, by whose standards? I know some not so "intellectual" (by the world's standards) people that

can run circles around the average and above-average person. These people are cooking, cleaning, fixing cars, cutting hair, braiders, electricians, builders, lawn care, etc. I mean genius! These are skills we utilize every day! Everyone needs them! They are positioned to be millionaires if they do it right!

Interestingly enough, I get my hair braided by a lady who does it out of her home and makes more money monthly than the top workers at NASA. So, we must be careful about what we consider successful or intelligent.

My point is, as I told my daughter this morning, no one can attach

a narrative to you that is not for you. We are what WE think about ourselves, not what others say! It is your job to guard your peace and your worth!

No one else but you can determine what that is! You can be told you're gifted, unique, beautiful, intelligent, or needed....however, if you don't believe it, it's just useless words.

God made you significant! You're noteworthy because HE said you ARE a masterpiece! Find your superpower and rest in it! Develop it! Allow it to make room for you and your family.

Discover the beauty inside you, and bring it forth!

# MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE. ALLSTATE IS NOT.



**JAMES F SMITH & ASSOCIATES**  
**256-852-7310**

415 CHURCH ST NW BUILDING B  
HUNTSVILLE  
[jamesfsmith@allstate.com](mailto:jamesfsmith@allstate.com)



**Allstate**

Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co. © 2013 Allstate Insurance Co.



Valley Weekly  
**VALLEY  
 EVENTS**  
 HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

**May 19**

"The Roaring Twenties"  
 SIGNALS: Museum of Information Explosion  
 1806 University Drive NW  
 Huntsville, Ala.  
 11:30 a.m.

**May 20**

"Chicago Stepping"  
 Ballroom  
 Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center

6156 Pulaski Pike NW  
 Huntsville, Ala. -  
 (256) 519-2040  
 4 p.m.

"The Neverenders:  
 A Tribute To Coheed And Cambria Show"

The Electric Belle  
 3414 Governors Drive  
 Huntsville, Ala.  
 6:30 p.m.

**May 22**

The Greene Street Market at Nativity  
 208 Eustis Avenue (Corner of Eustis and Greene)  
 Huntsville, Ala.  
 3-6 p.m.

**May 23**

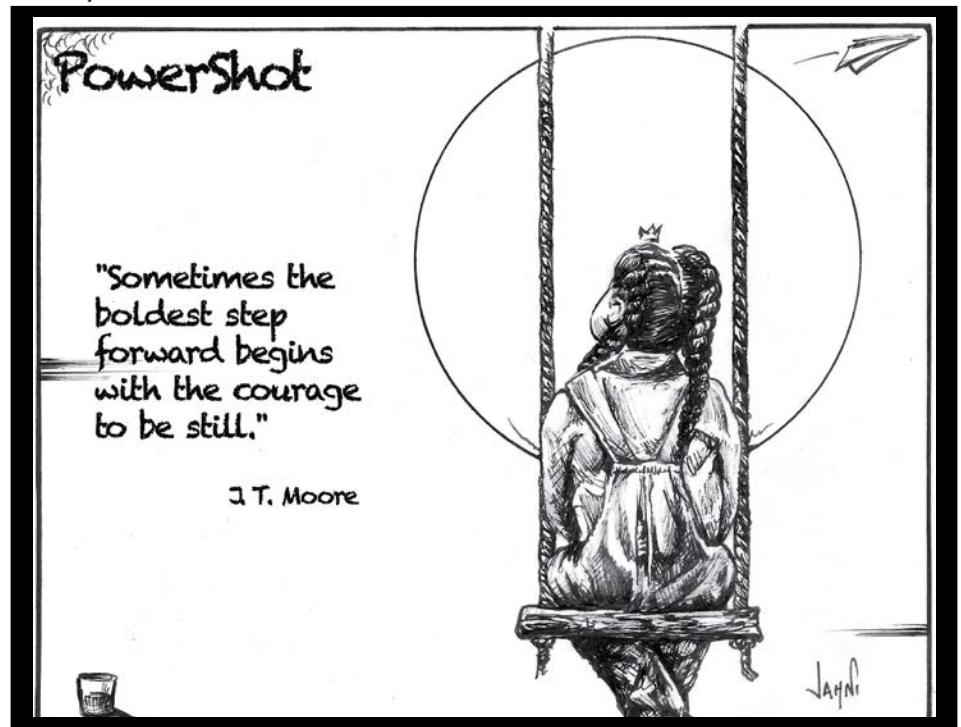
"Candlelight: Coldplay & Imagine Dragons"  
 The Belle at Stovehouse Event Center  
 3414 Governors Drive SW  
 Huntsville, Ala.

**May 23-25**

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

**May 24**

"28th Annual Old School and Blues Festival"  
 The Isley Brothers/Big Daddy Kane  
 www.jde.live - \$80  
 Huntsville Dragway



**Huntsville Bible College**  
**Academic Programs**  
 Programs that equip students to serve in their church and community.

**Associate of Arts**  
 + Business Management  
 + Christian Education  
 + Child Development  
 + Information Technology  
 + Mission & Evangelism  
 + Biblical Studies

**Bachelor of Arts**  
 + Christian Education  
 + Mission & Evangelism  
 + Biblical Studies  
 + Social Work

**Master of Ministry**  
 + Biblical Studies

**Doctor of Ministry**  
 + Biblical Leadership

**Certificates**  
 Biblical Studies, Christian Education, & More

**For More Info**  
 + 256-469-7536 906 Oakwood Ave,  
 Huntsville, AL 35806

**Apply Now**  
 www.hbc1.edu

**Imagine Your Invention**

**Mechatronics**

**DRAKE STATE**  
 COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Apply Now  
[drakestate.edu](http://drakestate.edu)

**THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM**  
**ALL-ELECTRIC MUSTANG MACH-E**

TEST-DRIVE IT TODAY!  
 Woody Anderson Ford  
 256-539-9441 | www.WoodyAndersonFord.com  
 2500 Jordan Lane Huntsville, AL 35816

*"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."*

*- Marian Wright Edelman*





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

## Mrs. Loretta Spencer

Loretta Purdy Spencer served as the 66th mayor of Huntsville, Alabama. Her first term began October 4, 1996, and her last term ended on November 3, 2008.

Spencer has been a resident of Huntsville since age 7. She graduated from Huntsville High School, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alabama. Spencer was the first woman mayor of Huntsville, and the first woman mayor of one of Alabama's "four main cities," which also include Birmingham, Mobile and Montgomery. When Spencer was first elected mayor in 1996, she was the co-owner of a local funeral home. Spencer is a former teacher in the Huntsville City School System.

Spencer first ran for mayor in 1996, after then-mayor Steve Hettinger announced he would not seek another term. Spencer was supported by Hettinger, leading her runoff opponent, Larry Mullins, to attack both as agents of the status quo. Facing a field of ten opponents, Spencer made the runoff, which she won by a convincing 66%-34% majority.

During her first term, Spencer garnered editorial praise for rejuvenating Huntsville's economic development. *The Huntsville Times* stated that her "string of recent successes is a whiff of the famous optimism and spirit that characterized the city for decades." At the close of her first term, Spencer was re-elected without a runoff, taking 58% of the vote.

In 2004, Spencer won a third term. During the 2004 campaign, Spencer came under attack on several issues. First, she was criticized for the state of Huntsville schools. She was also criticized for allegedly favoring the wealthier southern areas of Huntsville over the northern neighborhoods with larger minority populations. This criticism may have been reflected in voting results, in which Spencer failed to carry precincts in north Huntsville. Although forced into a runoff, she won that runoff with 55% of the vote.

In January 2007, Spencer was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce.



Among the accomplishments for which Spencer claims credit are a Target Distribution Center, and the construction of Toyota's V-8 engine plant in Huntsville. She points to the opening of two new schools, and in her third term, the rebuilding of one high school, with others in the planning stages.

Spencer's plan for tax incentive districts, she asserted, provided \$75,000,000 for capital improvements to Huntsville City Schools.

Spencer advocated volunteer involvement, and pointed to her own work in volunteer efforts such as the United Way, Community Free Clinic, Huntsville/Madison Co. Botanical Garden, and the Boys & Girls Club.

"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).



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](mailto:info@martinsonandbeason.com)

[www.martinsonandbeason.com](http://www.martinsonandbeason.com)

[facebook.com/martinsonandbeason](https://facebook.com/martinsonandbeason)

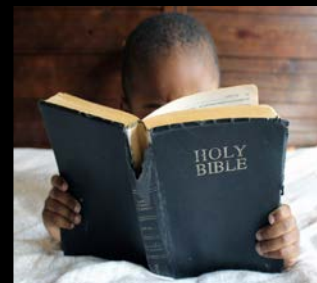


No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

## This Sunday's Lctionary

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Fifth  
Sunday  
of Easter



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148

Second Lesson:

Revelation 21:1-6

GOSPEL:

John 13:31-35



Woody Anderson Ford

256-539-9441

[www.WoodyAndersonFord.com](http://www.WoodyAndersonFord.com)

2500 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL



**State Farm®**

**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](mailto:mary.spears.cffc@statefarm.com)

The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.



# Archer Park Community Pillars Celebration Event May 17

Arts Huntsville is inviting the community to a celebration on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Archer Park to unveil "Community Pillars," a sculpture created by local artist Gwyer Sinclair in cooperation with members of the community.

The community celebration will take place at the green space of Archer Park, located at 3315 Archer Drive in Huntsville.

"Community Pillars" is a collaborative sculpture by local artist Gwyer Sinclair. Reflecting its name, "Community Pillars" integrates the creative

contributions of students from Ridgecrest, McDonnell, Challenger, and Rolling Hills Elementary Schools, as well as patrons of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library.

Over 200 participants submitted drawings for the project. From these, 40 designs were selected by Sinclair for inclusion on the artwork. The artist transformed the drawings into durable and colorful metal shapes that now adorn the surfaces of the three "Community Pillars" that stand near the park's pavilion and playground. The celebration event offers a morning of family-

friendly fun, featuring an interactive art lesson for kids and complimentary shaved ice for the first 100 guests.

"Community Pillars" was made possible with the support of District 4 Council Member Bill Kling, through the City of Huntsville's discretionary improvement fund, underscoring the city's commitment to community enrichment through public art.

Arts Huntsville is a non-profit organization founded in 1962 to stimulate and support community creativity and engage-

ment by advancing the arts, entertainment, and culture to enrich quality of life, education, and economic development in the greater Huntsville metropolitan region.

Arts Huntsville serves

Huntsville's arts and cultural organizations, individual artists, and arts-related businesses through five core program areas: Arts Promotion & Support, Arts Education, Public Art, Community Events, and the Sandra Moon Perform-

ing Arts Center.

For additional information, contact Patrice Johnson, arts marketing and opportunity manager, at (256) 519-2787 or (256) 469-8682, or e-mail patrice@artshuntsville.org.



THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

**They're Not Like Tim!**

**The Valley Weekly**

"A thought-provoking and insightful take on the latest news and views. Join TIM ALLSTON every week for interesting perspectives you can't find anywhere else!"

ValleyWeeklyLLC.com

## Albert's Flowers

Located Downtown in Medical District; Closest Florist to Huntsville Hospital  
Free Delivery to Huntsville Hospital and Local Funeral Homes

**716 Madison Street - Huntsville, AL 35801**

**FLOWERS, GIFTS,  
EXOTIC FLOWERS**

**Graduate of  
American Floral Art School**

**256-533-1623**

**256-536-6911**

**www.albertsflowers.com**



**BURRITT**  
ON THE MOUNTAIN

*Come Discover  
the Magic on  
the Mountain!*

No matter what time of year you explore Burritt on the Mountain, there is something delightful and new to see. And no matter how young – or old – you are, there is something for you on the Mountain! If you've never visited, you're in for a treat. If it's been awhile, what are you waiting for? Come on up and let the Magic begin!

3101 Burritt Drive • Huntsville, Alabama 35801 • 256.536.2882  
www.burrittonthemountain.com

OPEN: April–October: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday: noon - 5pm  
November–March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm



# DELTA Hosts AAA-ASFL STEAM Event



*Destination Innovation Drone Group*



*Destination Innovation Cyber Security*



*Destination Innovation DELTA, Inc. and Michael Green*



*Destination Innovation ASFL Group*

On Wednesday, April 16, 2025, Diverse Educational Life Training Activities, Inc. (DELTA Inc.) hosted approximately 150 eighth-grade students from the Academy for Academics and Arts (AAA) and the Academy for Science and Foreign Language (ASFL) at their inaugural STEAM event, "Destination Innovation."

DELTA Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to engage in charitable, benevolent, educational, civic, social, cultural,

and literary activities. All activities are considered necessary and incidental to improving the quality of life for the residents of the Northern Alabama area.

Thanks to the generous support of various funding sources, students enjoyed the day at the GigaParts community room. The event featured captivating demonstrations of STEAM activities, a delicious lunch, and exciting giveaways, creating memories and learning moments that

organizers say will last a lifetime.

The event started with a motivating presentation from Dr. Angela Davis, a physicist who inspired the students to continue believing in themselves to accomplish their dreams. Next, Michael Green, the Science Machine from Atlanta, Georgia, amazed attendees with his blend of showmanship and education mixed with science.

Science for Everyone, Michael Green's company,

is a 20-year-old, Atlanta-based science and technology company committed to inspiring and educating the next generation of leaders, scientists, mathematicians, innovators, and engineers.

The students then participated in round-robin discussions at twelve stations, covering fields related to photography, forensic science, cyber-security, gaming, robotics, biology, drones, 3D printing, and more. Afterward, the students were pro-

vided lunch and received a charge from Mrs. Charlotte Canady-Slater, a professor at Alabama A&M University.

Special thanks to the following: Dr. Rosemary Hodges, Dean of Teacher and Student Learning from the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering, for providing student presenters: Zamo-rah Morton, Avin Handley, Wilson Lemke, James Norris, Justin Wright, Noah Bobo, Kyler Loftin,

and Sam Ballard, as well as Charles Owens of Charles Owens Photography, Lydia Owens, Chad Gross, and Calvin Rousseau of Drake State, David Jones, Dr. Valerie Green, Forensic Pathologist, and Raven Griffin.

Thanks to the station presenters, the 8th-grade teachers from both schools, and 30 volunteers, Destination Innovation was a huge success and has been established as a premier event in Huntsville.

- Phyllene Washington



## Third Annual Love of Music Awards Set

Second Chance Deliverance and Restoration Ministries, Inc. will hold its Third Annual Love of Music Gala on Saturday, June 28, at 5 p.m., at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the campus of Alabama A&M University.

This special evening will honor individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to music across organizations, businesses, churches, and communities throughout the Huntsville-Madison County area.

Congratulations to this year's honorees! A portion of the proceeds will provide scholarships for deserving, academically talented students pursuing two-year and four-year college degrees.

For tickets and sponsorship information, please contact Mrs. Donna Bone

Second Chance Deliverance & Restoration Ministries, Inc.  
Saturday, June 28, 2025, 5:00 p.m.  
Ernest L. Knight Reception Center  
Alabama A&M University

*Third Annual Love of Music Awards Gala 2025 Honorees*

 Kannyetta Ammons Singer Best Female Vocalist/Nominee Kingdom Image Award	 Thomas Holman, Sr. Founder/The Gospel Impulse Singing Group	 Dr. John Humphrey Director of Music Union Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America	 Ryan Patrick Parker Actor, American Gospel Singer
 Evangelist Elaine Tibbs-Rice Recording Artist/Professional Singer Autistic Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America	 Minister Paula Rooks Minister of Music/Ministries St. Elizabeth Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America	 Arthurine Shackelford Professional Singer, Recording Artist "Remember" & "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" First Missionary Baptist Church	
 Demetrice White Minister of Music & Songs North Central Primitive Baptist Church	 Roy E. Williams, Jr. Pastor & Singer Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church	 Cleveland T. Wilson Choir Director First Church International Choir First SDA Church	
 Gala Emcee/Host Reverend Chantey Elisee Keesee	 Guest Performers: Calvin Drake Professional Singer	 Shelby Williams Songwriter	

For ticket information, please call 256.714.3029

Robinson. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to: Second Chance Deliverance and Restoration Ministries, Inc., P.O. Box 17591, Huntsville, AL 35810 or CashApp: \$DBRobinson23.

## A&M Students Attend Conference in Netherlands



Two Alabama A&M University students recently traveled to Europe to join peers from across the globe at a prestigious international gathering of innovation leaders in Netherlands. Seniors Jaylen Ware, an elementary education major, and Jaeveon Jordan, an accounting major, were selected as University Innovation Fellows (UIF)

through Stanford University's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design (d.school). As part of this highly competitive fellowship program, Ware and Jordan traveled to Enschede, Netherlands, to participate in the University Innovation Fellows Meetup hosted by the University of Twente.

The UIF program at Stanford empowers stu-

dents to become change agents on their campuses by equipping them with the mindset, tools, and global network to drive innovation, design thinking, and entrepreneurship.

Accompanying them were Dr. Samantha L. Strachan, associate dean of the College of Education, Humanities, and Behavioral Sciences, and Dr. Lena Walton, associate professor and program coordinator of the Ph.D. program in curriculum and instruction. Both faculty members have supported student participation in the UIF program and continue to integrate innovation principles into academic initiatives at AAMU.

Photo l-r: Dr. Lena Walton, Jaylen Ware, Jaeveon Jordan, Dr. Samantha L. Strachan

## Ladies Love Lemon Drops Set

Ladies Love Lemon Drops is back and better than ever! Join organizers at The Orion Amphitheater on Sunday, May 25, 3-9

p.m. to soak up the sun, sip on refreshing lemon drop cocktails, and enjoy the sounds of summer in a vibrant, festival-style

atmosphere. This event is all about good vibes, great drinks, and even better company.

Visit [theorionhuntsville.com](http://theorionhuntsville.com).

## Huntsville Black Business Expo May 17

The Spring Black Business Expo will be held Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Luke Christian Church, located at 1800 Sparkman Drive,

Huntsville, Ala.

This event is all about celebrating Black excellence, say organizers, building strong business

connections, and creating real opportunities for growth.

For more information, visit [EXPO](http://EXPO) here.

BUSINESS BANKING | MORTGAGE | PERSONAL BANKING

Beyond  
feeling right at home.



BRYANT BANK

Banking should be more than just spreadsheets and financial transactions.

Banking beyond expectation.

DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE | JONES VALLEY | ATHENS  
256-535-1045 | [BRYANTBANK.COM](http://BRYANTBANK.COM)

12-24

MEMBER  
FDIC



# A&M Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter Shows Teacher Appreciation

*Alumni group members prepare lunch for teachers and staff of Rolling Hills Elementary School in Northwest Huntsville. Allen Malone is chapter president, and AAMU alum LaKeisha Moore Agun is school principal.*

