

# Huntsvillian to Get 1st "Rising Star" - p. 8

FREE



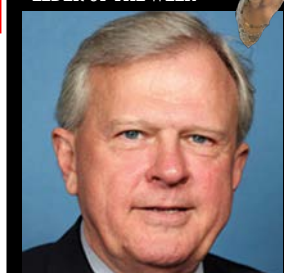
## Fayetteville State Makes History! - p. 2

Friday  
May 19, 2023  
Vol. 9, No. 37  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

Colored Hook and Ladder Company - p. 8



SALUTE!  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Parker Griffith, M.D.

"Neither love nor terror makes one blind: indifference makes one blind." - James Baldwin



### DLC Graduates Cohort XV

The Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) held its graduation ceremony for Cohort XV on Tuesday, May 9, at the UAH's Chan Auditorium.

The keynote speaker was Frances Akridge, retired member of the Huntsville City Council.

DLC is the premier provider of diversity, equity and inclusion training. In 2015, it was founded and facilitated by Dr. Dorothy W. Huston and Georgia S. Valrie, both retired university administrators.

DLC offers both aspiring

and experienced leaders opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices regarding attainment of excellence through diversity. DLC is designed for individuals interested in gaining access to networks, mentors, and sponsors that have traditionally not been available to diverse members of the broader community.

Pictured above are:

(Seated, l-r) Brittany Holley, Charisma Bailey, Shatika Armstrong, Kristeen Baker and Holly Barcoe; (Standing, l-r) Ashley Shannon, Aaliyah Lewis, Daniel Tait, Miguel Williams, Cory Green, Kelly Smith and QuaSonya Johnson. [Inset: Dr. O'Neal and former Council member Akridge].

Dr. Edwan L. O'Neal is executive director for DLC, while Dasi R Price is program coordinator. For additional information, email info@tnvalleydlc.com.

### Huntsville Ready for Southern Fried Film Festival

The four-day Southern Fried Film Festival (SFFF) is back and better than ever for its 5th year on June 8-11.

The opening night film, "The Longest Goodbye," directed by Ido Mizrahy, will be screened at the INTUITIVE Planetarium at U.S. Space and Rocket Center on Thursday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m. with a gala reception prior at 6:30 p.m. The film follows NASA psychologist Dr. Al Holland, rookie astronauts Kayla Barron and Matthias Maurer, and former astronaut Cady Coleman, among others, as they grapple with the tension between their dream of reaching new frontiers and their basic human need to stay connected to home.

Opening night will be shared by director Ido Mizrahy, producer Valda Witt, former astronaut Cady Coleman, her son James Simpson, and NASA psychologist Dr. Al Holland. They will be present to share their unique experiences and insights into the making of the film.

The festival also will showcase a variety of films over the next three days at Studio Theatre at Lowe Mill with various starting times. Live music will be per-



formed by local musicians, along with panel discussions with the filmmakers.

"We are thrilled to provide our community with more than just an exciting film festival - we're also offering unprecedented access to the master storytellers behind the films," said Festival director Trevite Willis.

SFFF is dedicated to promoting independent filmmaking and bringing together filmmakers, film

enthusiasts, and audiences to celebrate the power of storytelling.

"This year's lineup of films is truly outstanding, and we are excited to showcase the talent and creativity of independent filmmakers from around the world," Willis says.

SFFF will be held on June 8-11, 2023, at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center and Lowe Mill. Visit southernfriedfilmfestival.org.

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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 Assistants**

Linda Burruss  
Phyllis Chunn  
William Huston, Sr.  
Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

**Advertising Associate**

Phyllis Chunn

**- Contributing Editors -**  
tim allston

Lamar A. Braxton, Jr.  
Minister Preston Brown  
Gloria B. Caldwell  
Ron Hamm  
Margaret Kelly, Ph.D.  
Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

**Website Administrator**

Calvin Farier

**Mailing Address:**

The Valley Weekly  
2204 Whitesburg Drive- Suite 220  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(256) 651-9028  
www.valleyweeklyllc.com  
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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

The Valley Weekly  
**Washington**  
**One Minute**



by Ron Hamm

Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week:

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in session this week. The House Appropriations Committee reportedly will start marking up the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills this week at the subcommittee level (despite the recent House debt limit bill calling for \$130 billion in cuts to non-defense spending) with possibly the Agriculture, Military Construction, Legislative Branch, and Homeland Security bills getting done this week.

Last week, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) returned to the Senate after a severe bout of shingles and cast her first vote Wednesday on the Senate floor since Feb. 16, 2023.

In recognition of National Police Week that draws 25,000 to 40,000 attendees from police departments across the nation, the House will take up several police-related bills, including one that would amend immigration law to make assaulting a law enforcement officer a deportable offense.

The Senate this week may take up a rail safety bill by Ohio Senators Brown (D-OH) and Vance (R-OH) that would require minimum train crews of two (2) people, enact new safety standards for carrying hazardous materials, and

increase fines for railroads found at fault.

**2. THE WHITE HOUSE.** Last week, the White House postponed a scheduled Friday (May 12) meeting with House and Senate leaders on raising the national debt limit, saying that it would happen on Tuesday, May 16. On Wednesday, the President departed for a 7-day trip to Asia and Australia, starting with the G7 Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima, Japan, on May 19-21, followed by a stop in Port Moresby, Papua, New Guinea, on May 22 to sign defense and surveillance agreements, and then on to the Quad Leaders' Summit in Sydney, Australia, on May 24, for a meeting with the leaders of Australia, Japan, and India.

**3. SUPREME COURT.** The Court will continue to issue decisions from its current docket on Thursday. In a very unexpected ruling last week, the Court in a 5-4 decision written by Justice Gorsuch, and joined by Justices Barrett, Kagan, Sotomayor, and Thomas, upheld a 2018 California animal rights ballot initiative (known as "Proposition 12"), which mandated minimum space requirements for egg-laying hens, pigs used for breeding, and calves used for veal, and prohibits the selling of animal products from farms outside the state that do not meet the minimum

requirements. In a dissent, Justice Kavanaugh warned that the Court's decision in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross* could provide a blueprint for states to pass laws to advance their policy preferences in the future, on issues ranging from illegal immigration to abortion.

**4. APRIL INFLATION REPORT.** Last Wednesday, the Labor Department announced that the annual

inflation rate slowed to 4.9% in April, rising only 0.4%, which is the lowest annual rate of inflation since April 2021. The 4.9% rate was down considerably from the high of 9.1% recorded in June 2022 and 6.4% in January 2023.

**5. EDUCATION.** On Tuesday, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona testified at a House Education and the Workforce Committee

hearing entitled "Examining the Policies and Priorities of The Department of Education."

Hamm Consulting Group  
444 North Capitol Street,  
NW Suite 840  
Washington D.C. 20001  
T: 202-596-8384  
[rhamm@hammconsulting.com](mailto:rhamm@hammconsulting.com)  
[www.hammconsulting.com](http://www.hammconsulting.com)

## Book Captures Black Life in North Alabama

Most Black folks had never traveled many miles from the area where they were born, but after the Civil War, others moved to northern cities seeking better lives for their families. For some, life was nothing more than survival with work from dawn to dusk; for others, life was an opportunity to provide a better existence for themselves and their family.

*Black Folktales of the Muscle Shoals* is a collection of stories from Black people interviewed by Huston Cobb Jr. and Rickey Butch Walker. In it, the authors share an array of personal stories about these individuals and their families

who were tied to the land along the Muscle Shoals of the Tennessee River in north-west Alabama.

Some of the Black individuals interviewed identified themselves as mixed-ancestry descendants of Black slaves, White folks, and American Indians.

Their stories are reminiscent of an era when life was much simpler, and change came slowly. When change came, it was primarily propelled by inventions, wars, and civil rights campaigns.

People who are interested in genealogy will find

BLACK FOLKTALES  
of the  
MUSCLE SHOALS



*Black Folktales of the Muscle Shoals* a wonderful source of information, including the census records of numerous Black families who are mentioned in the stories.

Also included is a brief history of the relationship of American Indians and Black folks who called the land along the Muscle Shoals of the mighty Tennessee River home.

Paperback copies (\$24.95) of the publication are available via [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

## Fayetteville State Confers Over 1,000 Degrees!

If one is talking about real African-American progress, then HBCU Fayetteville State can end the conversation--emphatically! Following an address by Alabama native and U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, the university awarded *undergraduate* degrees to 1,061 students during a historic commencement ceremony at

the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville, N.C., on May Saturday, May 13.

FSU Chancellor Darrell T. Allison, presiding, welcomed more than 3,000 guests for the auspicious occasion, including families and friends of the graduates; dignitaries including guests from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD); Secretary Austin's

delegation; local, regional and state elected officials; UNC System representatives; members of the FSU Boards of Trustees and Visitors; City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County leaders; representatives from Fort Bragg; members and veterans of our military; alumni; faculty; staff; area residents and members of the media.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY  
**VALLEY DEATHS**



**NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for MR. ANTONIO R. MOORE (b. 1980) was held Sunday, May 14, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MS. CHARITY TORSHAE HUMPHREY (b. 1987) was held Saturday, May 13, at Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Mario Ford officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MARY ALEXANDER (b. 1941) was held Friday, May 12, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Terrance Stewart officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAMES W. TROUPE (b. 1935) was held Thursday, May 11, at the Round Island Creek Missionary Baptist Association Mission Center (13829 Lucas Ferry Road ~ Athens, Ala.).

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME**

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for DEACON ALFRED JEROME HARDEN, SR., (b. 1939) was held Tuesday, May 16, at the Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church (759 Pine Grove Road, Harvest, Ala.) with Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. ANDREA COLLIER (b. 1962) was held Saturday, May 13, at the Blackburn Chapel C.P.C.A. Church (507 Plummer Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Angela Anderson officiating.

Funeral service for DEACON ROBERT CLAY (b. 1941) was held Saturday, May 13, at the St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Benjamin Burt officiating.

Funeral service for DR. CLIFTON PEARSON (b. 1948) was held Friday, May 12, at the St. John AME Church (229 Church St NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Maurice Wright, III officiating.

**SERENITY FUNERAL HOME**

2505 University Drive NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for MR. CARL WARD (b. 1972) was held Wednesday, May 17, at House of Hope and Restoration, 2525 Aspen Avenue, Huntsville, Ala..

Funeral service for MR. DAMETRIC ANDERSON SR. (b. 1982) was held Saturday, May 13, at 11 a.m. at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church, 2115 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala.

Valley Weekly  
**Spiritual Game Plan**  
PRESTON BROWNS



**“RAISING OUR STANDARDS”**

Daniel 3:18 says, “But even if God does not (rescue us) we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

In this scripture, we find Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refusing to bow down to the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had made. The reason they refused was they had already established a “standard” for their lives that would not allow them to bow down to any golden image. Now a “standard”

means something established by authority, custom or general consent as a model, or example.

You see, God has a standard that He wants us to live by, and I believe that He is calling all of us to raise our spiritual standards, because how can we embrace God’s strength when we don’t accept his standards for our lives?

We live in a world today where our standards are being set by so many different sources--whether it be a famous celebrity, or a famous athlete or a powerful politician.

Our standards are not being set by God. When we set our standards low,

it’s easy for the enemy to “come in like a flood” and that’s when things go bad. That’s when we start living a life of compromise.

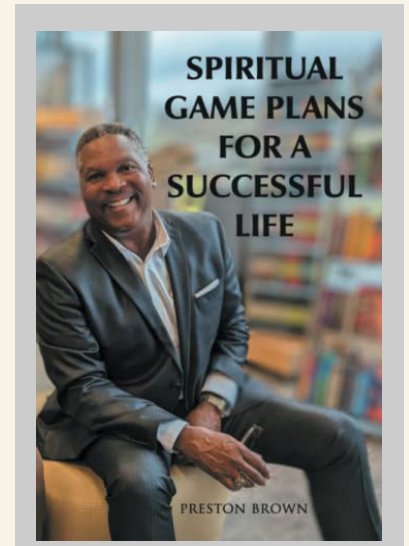
So many of our youth today remain isolated in their own world with their own thoughts, but who is setting the standard for them to live by?

That’s why I believe that everyone needs a plan to help them navigate through the good times as well as the bad. We all need daily reminders to reinforce God’s standards for our lives and we do this by first reading his word and then reading a daily devotional like “A Champion Game Plan for Life.”

I believe that when we

have a plan we will raise our standards to where God wants them to be.

Stay encouraged my brothers and sisters and be safe ... Also, remember that you can buy my books, “A Champion Game Plan for Life” and “Spiritual Game



Plans for a Successful Life” at amazon.com or Westbow bookstore online.

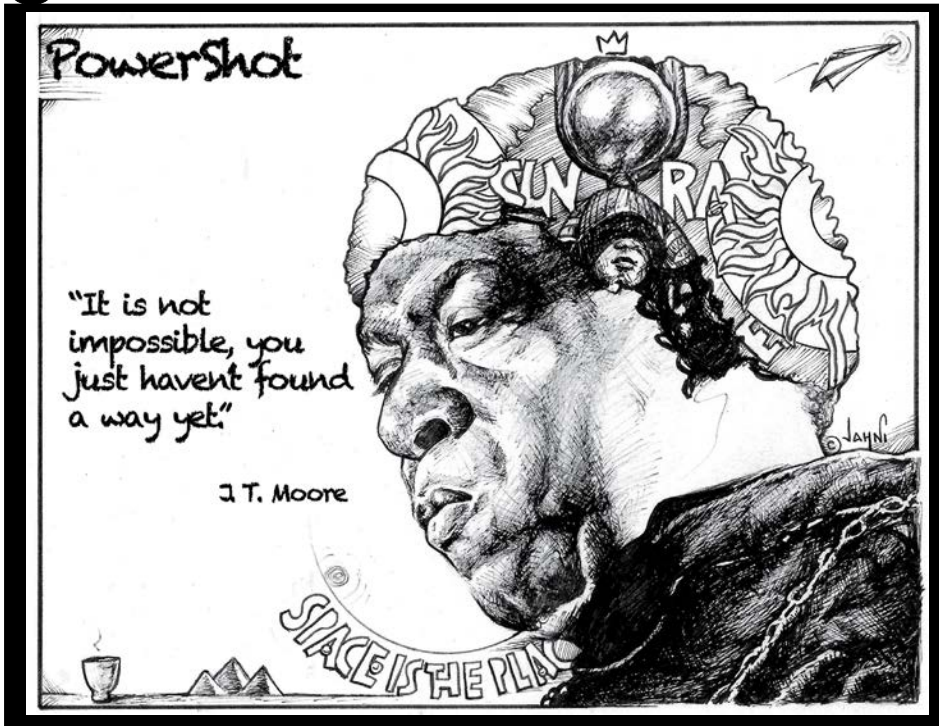


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**A New Generation Of Service**





# The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY

# EVENTS

## HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

**Thru May 20**  
 "The Bias Inside Us"  
 Host: City of Huntsville  
 HudsonAlpha Institute

Cody Jinks  
 The Orion Amphitheater  
 Online  
 5 p.m.

Univers (3:30 p.m.)  
 East Big Spring Park  
 Downtown Huntsville  
 12-4 p.m.

**Thru May 21**  
 "The Bias Inside Us"  
 Smithsonian Traveling  
 Exhibition  
 Downtown Huntsville-  
 Madison County Public  
 Library  
 Huntsville, Ala.

**May 20**  
 Rocket City BBQ & Soul  
 Fest  
 6001 Pulaski Pike NW  
 Huntsville, Ala.  
 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

**May 27-27**  
 Comedian  
 Michael Longfellow  
 Stand Up Live  
 Huntsville, Ala.

**May 18**  
 Coffee with Patti Calla-  
 han Henry  
 Discussion & Book Sign-  
 ing  
 Downtown Huntsville  
 Library  
 10 a.m.

Sun Ra Fest  
 Presentations:  
 William Hampton,  
 Huntsville Revisited  
 Museum; Mason Quick,  
 NASA; musician Nailah  
 Hunter; visual artist Sim-  
 one Taylor Cunningham;  
 and jazz scholar Howard  
 Bankhead  
 North Huntsville Public  
 Library  
 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**June 1**  
 Page to Screen Book Club  
 Octavia Butler's "Kindred"  
 Downtown Huntsville  
 Library  
 6 p.m.

**May 19**  
 Beginning of Sun Ra Fest  
 Screening of Cauleen  
 Smith's "Space Is the  
 Place (A March for Sun  
 Ra)" and John Coney and  
 Sun Ra's "Space Is the  
 Place"  
 UAH  
 6:30-9 p.m.

Sun Ra Fest Evening  
 Musical Performances  
 Straight to Ale Campus  
 805  
 Featuring Grimey Sea  
 5:30 p.m. and Nailah  
 Hunter-6:30 p.m.

Elvis to Sundial  
 Mark C. Smith Concert  
 Hall  
 Von Braun Center  
 7 p.m.

**June 3**  
 4th Annual Legacy Kickball  
 Tournament  
 Sponsor: The Legacy Center  
 Calvary Hill  
 Huntsville, Ala.

19th Annual Leadership  
 Awards Gala  
 Huntsville Progressive  
 Alumni Chapter (HPAC)  
 Alabama A&M University  
 Alumni Association, Inc.  
 Ernest L. Knight Reception  
 Center  
 Alabama A&M University

Food Truck & Trailer  
 Rallies  
 Big Spring Park  
 5 p.m.

**May 21**  
 Sun Ra Fest (Outdoor)  
 Family Fun/Parade  
 Music: Midlife Chysler  
 (2:30 p.m.) and Amiel

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*"The evil of slavery and colonialism was that these oppressions kept their victims out of history, disconnected them from the evolutionary struggle." - Shelby Steele*



# Hey You! Please Get Back on Track!

Life happens.

It's ever-changing, sometimes for good, sometimes not. Little distractions that bring a smile or frown can cause you to lose footing and get off track. You can be so blissful that you want to stay in the moment.

There is nothing wrong with celebrating. However, that moment is over! Don't just stand there in it. Stop, recognize, honor, and move to the next moment. Stay on track. There should be steps to get you to your next goal. As you arrive ... open the door to another stairway.

When the alternative strikes, it can cause you to retreat. Sleep. Feel defeated. Doubt. But don't stop! Keep moving. Again, acknowledge the moment, but then rise. You can't wallow in it forever. You've got to decide to keep pushing. It isn't over. You're still here, so you have to get back on track and keep moving.

Then, there's that exact spot. You're not excited or down; you're just blah. You are living your day-to-day life getting caught up in mediocrity, just going with

## Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell



the flow. You have a purpose, and that's a waste of

give. Get Back On Track! Have the plan to enable

you to stay on target. A "man" without a plan for the day is lost before he starts—

one

of my

time. STOP THAT NOW! You have something to

favorite quotes. Develop it, and understand your

purpose. Start with a goal if you haven't figured out your purpose. Have steps to get there. Take them. Be mindful of what you're doing while working towards that goal that happens effortlessly. Your purpose is often right in front of you. Usually, the easiest thing that serves others takes little effort but gives you joy! Stay busy figuring out what that is!

Stay focused. Stay on Track! Live fearlessly!

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**"First  
fight.  
Then  
fiddle."**

- Gwendolyn Brooks

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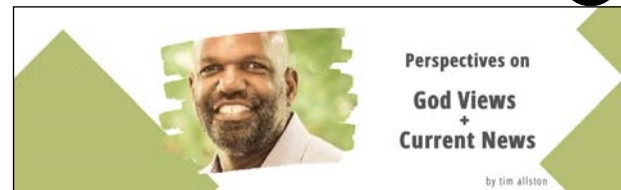
**MARY F SPEARS, AGENT**

7833-A Highway 72 West

Madison, AL 35758

Bus: 256-837-8899 Fax: 256-837-8225

mary.spears.cffc@statefarm.com



### Recurring News Flash: 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.*

Donald Trump is arguably the world's most newsworthy person. News-worthy but to many of us not praiseworthy.

Choose from your Trump "pick 6"

Take your pick of either the case of:

1. Stormy Daniels Hush Money (New York); or
2. Election Tampering (Georgia); or
3. Mar-a-Lago Classified Documents (Washington, DC); or
4. Sexual Assault (NY); or
5. January 6 and 2020 Election Aftermath (DC); or
6. Business Fraud (NY), . . .

. . . and he is currently or will soon be known as "Defendant Trump."

And while it's soothing and quite comforting to gang-tackle the former one-term twice-impeached former president 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.



#### 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 Coach & Three-time  
Amazon Best-Selling Author  
Leading from the Middle  
leadingfromthemiddle@gmail.com



## Huntsville Master Chorale Fest Set June 2



Proudly celebrating 25 years, the Huntsville Master Chorale will hold a Choral Festival June 2-3 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville, Ala.

Activities for Friday, June 2, will be held from 6-9 p.m., while Saturday activities will span 9 a.m.-5 p.m., with a free concert at 5:30 p.m.

The concert will feature the winning composition from the choral composition contest.

Dr. Jeffrey Murdock, right, the 2021 Music Educator Grammy Award Winner, will be the featured guest clinician.

The Festival counts among its sponsors the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Huntsville Arts & Cultural Grants Program, City of Huntsville, Arts Huntsville, Mercedes-Benz of Huntsville, Landers McLarty Nissan Huntsville and the Pei Ling Charitable Trust.



The Huntsville Master Chorale, a 501(c) 3 corporation, is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

For additional information, contact the Huntsville Master Chorale at [hsvmasterchorale@gmail.com](mailto:hsvmasterchorale@gmail.com).

### 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.



## This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, May 21, 2023

Seventh Sunday  
of Easter

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Second Lesson:

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

GOSPEL:

John 17:1-11



### ON THIS DAY

Willy T. Ribbs overcomes numerous mechanical problems in qualifying to become first African-American driver to make Indianapolis 500 starting grid.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

- Frederick Douglass

### NAAACC Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

**MAY 19 - GRACE JONES** - Beginning in 1977, Jones embarked on a music career, securing a record deal with Island Records and initially becoming a star of New York City's Studio 54-centered disco scene. In the early 1980s, she moved toward a new wave style that drew on reggae, funk, post-punk and pop music, frequently collaborating with both the graphic designer Jean-Paul Goude and the musical duo Sly & Robbie. Her most popular albums include *Warm Leatherette* (1980), *Nightclubbing* (1981), and *Slave to the Rhythm* (1985). She scored Top 40 entries on the UK Singles Chart with "Pull Up to the Bumper", "I've Seen That Face Before", "Private Life", and "Slave to the Rhythm". In 1982, she released the music video collection *A One Man Show*, directed by Goude.

- [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com)



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# WJAB

## 90.9 FM

[www.wjab.org](http://www.wjab.org)





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

## Parker Griffith, M.D.

Born August 6, 1942, Dr. Rolf Parker Griffith, Jr., is an American retired physician, entrepreneur and politician in Huntsville, Ala., who served in the Alabama State Senate from 2006 to 2008 and then as the U.S. Representative for Alabama's 5th congressional district from 2009 to 2011.

Griffith was born in Shreveport, La. He taught 7th-grade arithmetic for less than a year at T.H. Harris Junior High School (later Middle School) in Metairie in Jefferson Parish in suburban New Orleans prior to being admitted to medical school. He received his medical degree from the Louisiana State University Medical School in 1970 and served in residency at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

After serving at the LSU Service Charity Hospital in New Orleans and a year of neurosurgery at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, Griffith began preparing to become a radiation oncologist, one who specializes in using radiation to cure cancer, training in radiation oncology through a combined

program between UTMB and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He served as a Medical Corps captain in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1970 to 1973, while continuing his medical training at the LSU Service Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

Griffith was recruited on a "cold call" to Alabama and established the Huntsville Cancer Treatment Center. As a physician, he provided discounted care to patients who lacked insurance. Griffith also conducted several clinical trials in conjunction with the University of Alabama School of Medicine, and partnered with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

He retired from medicine in December 1992, though he still holds a license to practice in both Alabama and Texas.



Griffith won a seat in the Alabama State Senate, representing the 7th district (2006). He carried 66% of the vote to his opponent's 34%. During his term in the State Senate, he sponsored bills to promote investment in alternative fuels, cut taxes, and establish a Statewide Trauma Care System to speed critical medical care.

Griffith and his wife Virginia have five children and 11 grandchildren. He co-founded the Griffith Family Foundation, which awards cash grants North Alabama schools and nonprofits and to elementary school libraries in the region.

"2023 Sponsors" 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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# Huntsvillian to Be Honored with Inaugural 'Rising Star' Award at Southern Fried Film Festival

*Huntsville native Michael Luwoye (right) will be honored with the inaugural Rising Star award at the Southern Fried Film Festival in June. The award will be presented to Luwoye, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the entertainment industry.*



HAMILTON on Broadway. Luwoye's Series Regular credits includes WACO: THE AFTERMATH, now airing on Showtime, and BLUFF CITY LAW, opposite Jimmy Smits (NBC).

Recurring roles include THE MAGICIANS (SyFy), Spike Lee's SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT (Netflix) and THE GIFTED (FOX). Other television credits include PRODIGAL SON for

feature, EMANCIPATION, opposite Will Smith. He is also well known for playing the title role in

(FOX) and THE GILDED AGE FOR (HBO).

The event will take place at the Studio Theatre at Lowe Mill on Friday, June 9, at 7 p.m. The evening promises to be thought-provoking and engaging, as Michael Luwoye participates in an "In Conversation With" session with Sundance programmer Ania Trzebiatowska. The conversation will explore Luwoye's meteoric rise from Huntsville to Hamilton, providing attendees with a unique insight into the life and career of this talented actor.

This unforgettable evening is sure to inspire and celebrate the power of the arts to transform lives and communities. It is an opportunity not to be missed by anyone interested in the entertainment industry, particularly those

interested in learning from the career journey of this accomplished actor.

"We are honored to present this award to Mr. Luwoye," said Trevite Willis, executive director of the Southern Fried Film Festival. "His talent and dedication to his craft are truly exceptional, and we are excited to provide our audience with an opportunity to gain insight into his journey and the lessons he has learned along the way. We look forward to celebrating his achievements and the transformative power of the arts with our community."

In other theater, Luwoye played the role of Jacob, a Ugandan dreamer in INVISIBLE THREAD for which he received a Lucille Lortel Nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical. He also starred as Peter Tosh in the World



Premiere of MARLEY, a bio-musical of Bob Marley at Baltimore Center Stage. Other regional credits include roles in CARDBOARD PIANO at Actor's Theatre of Louisville and WITNESS UGANDA at American Repertory Theatre.

Luwoye was recently nominated for an EMMY, along with three others, in the category of Best Musical Voiceover in children's programming for his role in BABY SHARK'S BIG SHOW!

Tickets for the event will

soon be available for purchase online at the Southern Fried Film Festival website. SFFF will be held June 8-11, 2023, at The Intuitive Planetarium and Studio Theatre at Lowe Mill. For more information, please visit southernfriedfilmfestival.org

The four-day event which shines a spotlight on culturally diverse films and filmmakers and provides attendees with the opportunity to experience a diverse range of storytelling.

- Hollie Beaver

## Huntsville's 19th Century Black History Telling Our Stories

**Hook and Ladder Company**  
A Circle of Remembrance

Olye B. Conley  
Researcher  
The Circle of Remembrance



In 1870, the following article appeared in *The Weekly Advocate* on May 6th:

**A new Fire Company has been organized, of which see notice.**

**A Colored Hook and Ladder Company. They will, we are satisfied, give the city an efficient Fire Brigade in times of need.**

*The Huntsville Weekly Democrat stated that on October 1, 1874, the fire bell startled the city. The Steam Fire Company and Colored*

*Hook and Ladder Fire Company went promptly to the burning house. The Hook and Ladder Company put it out promptly with buckets of water. The Steam Fire Company, attached the hose to the nearest plug, the hose could not reach the burning house and was not effective.*

On many occasions the Hook and Ladder Company was there to save buildings and people throughout the city. The

Journal stated in an article dated January 25, 1901 that L. C. Betts and Mingo Steele served as members of the Hook and Ladder Company for twenty-five and thirty-three years, respectively. L.C. Betts was foreman and Mingo Jones was clerk. During all this time, they never missed more than one or two fires.

Mingo Jones was born in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1851. He married Kate Russel. They had three children; Henry, Robert

and Charles. Mingo was a carpenter by trade. He died in January of 1907.

Lucian C. Betts was born in 1860. He married Mollie Coleman, daughter of Charles and Susan Coleman. They had seven children: Rosa Lee, John W., Hanna B., Carroll, Clarence, Theodore and Leander. The family lived on

Clinton Street, across from the present day Von Braun

Civic Center.

Lucian, frequently referred to as "L.C.," was one of the organizers of the Evening Star Lodge Number 6. There he served as worshipful master. The Masonic Order applauded his outstanding service for over a quarter of a century. L.C. Betts died during the month of August in 1905. He is buried in historic Greenwood Cemetery. *Image (left): Archival Huntsville Fire Department photo at Green, Eustis and Randolph Streets, via Huntsville Public Library.*

