

**PRESTON: "When I Think about My Father" - p. 4****FREE****Our Seniors Deserve Better! - p. 5**

Friday

June 13, 2025

Vol. 11, No. 41

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK

Mrs. Gladys Branch

"Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them." - Madam C.J. Walker**Commission Recognizing Juneteenth with 'Community Conversation'**

Madison County will recognize Juneteenth with its third annual community conversation hosted by District 6 Commissioner Violet Edwards. Honoring the holiday's significance, the district is partnering with Huntsville-based Vision Excellence Company (VEC) for "Oh, Freedom 2025!"

This free event is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, at 10 a.m. at the

Robert "Bob" Harrison Wellness and Advocacy Center, 6156 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, Ala.

Community leaders will join Commissioner Edwards and Dr. Karockas "Doc Rock" Watkins of VEC to discuss: The Village R.E.S.E.T. - A conversation on the (R)eligion, (E)ducation, (S)ocial culture, (E)conomics, and (T)raditions of the Black community.

"When you reset,

you reevaluate and reprioritize. With this conversation, we hope to revisit the core values that helped us build our communities from scratch and have kept our families strong for decades," said Edwards. "How can we lean into those values, and what are the takeaways from our history to help navigate today's chaos?"

The program will feature a panel discussion, followed

by a mortgage-burning ceremony to celebrate the center's debt retirement. The festivities will conclude with a food truck rally and networking opportunities.

Juneteenth celebrations often center on family, culture, and education. In the spirit of Juneteenth, event organizers seek to hold a thought-provoking conversation on resilience.

Sharing their

expertise are Dr. Dorothy Huston of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium; Dr. Clarence Sutton, superintendent of Huntsville City Schools; Ms. Tiffany Draper of The Women's Expo Huntsville; and Dr. Lyle Lee of Huntsville Bible College. "As we gather for Oh Freedom 2025, we have a powerful opportunity to reflect, reconnect, and reset," said Dr. Watkins.

Huntsville JuneFest Weekend Coming

The countdown is underway for the Huntsville JuneFest Weekend, beginning Friday, June 27, with the No Limit Soldiers Reunion Concert at The Orion Amphitheater. The Concert starts at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, June 28, the #hsv-junefest carshow will feature Trill Burgers; Pop-up & Dre And Snoop; Pop-up live at Milton Frank Stadium. The carshow is from 12 p.m.-9 p.m.

On Sunday, look for June 29's USO

Lowrider Picnic at John Hunt Park East Parking Lot from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

TICKET LINK INFO BELOW:
<https://tickets.bestofhuntsville.com/events/9th-annual-hsv-junefest>

Ivy Center Foundation's White Linen Brunch Next Week

The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Inc. will sponsor its 16th White Linen Brunch, our annual fundraiser, on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 10 a.m.

The 2025 event will be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on

the campus of the historic Alabama A&M University.

This year's White Linen Brunch will continue to honor remarkable civic, social, educational, and business leaders in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community of



Greater Huntsville.

The 2025 "Making a Difference" honorees will be recognized for extraordinary service in education, health,

economics, religion and civic arenas.

Persons are invited to this traditionally festive and warm event. Tickets may be purchased for \$75 each. A reserved table for 10 may be purchased for \$850. Purchase tickets electronically via the online

store, which may be accessed at: <https://ivcf.memberclicks.net/icf-store>.

Contributions are tax-deductible, and all proceeds from the event support the Foundation's many endeavors to enhance the community.

The Valley Weekly**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

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Annual Juneteenth Festival This Weekend at Big Spring

On Saturday, June 14, the City's Office of Multicultural Affairs and Amazon team up to present the annual Juneteenth Festival.

The free, family-friendly event, which runs from 5-9 p.m. at Big Spring Park, will be headlined by Element XI. The Huntsville Com-

munity Drumline will open the event.

An addition to this year's festival is The STEAM Zone, a collaborative space featuring hands-on, educational activities centered on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Partners like Arts

Huntsville and the North Alabama NSBE Professionals will lead programming designed to spark curiosity and creativity in participants of all ages.

"Juneteenth is not only a time of celebration, but also an opportunity to educate and inspire," said Randy

Barbour, the City's Director of Multicultural Affairs. "Through music, culture, community partnerships and now the STEAM Zone, this event ... reflect[s] the richness and resilience of our shared history."

Festivalgoers can explore booths from local nonprofits, community groups and organizations offering valuable resources and services. Food trucks will provide mouth-watering cuisines, and a live DJ will spin tunes between stage performances. The night will conclude with a fireworks display.

Attendees may bring lawn chairs or blankets and arrive early.

"The Black Employee Network (BEN) at Amazon hosts this event ... with the City of Huntsville," said Debra Gray, regional senior HR manager for Amazon. "This initiative demonstrates Amazon's commitment to the Huntsville community. The event serves three purposes: to recognize the past, to honor current African American community leaders and to bring the community together in fellowship."



Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held on the 1st floor of the Municipal Building.

The meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

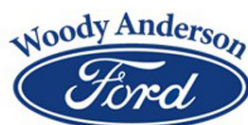


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Our Seniors Deserve Better Than This Cruelty

Every so often, someone in power says something so callous, so detached from the lives of ordinary Americans, that it stops you in your tracks. Recently, Donald Trump’s billionaire Commerce Secretary said that seniors “won’t care” if they don’t get their Social Security checks — and worse, that anyone who does complain is probably a fraudster.

Now, I’ve got to be honest: I take that personally. Because I know many seniors in our communities who spent their lives working long hours at jobs that never offered retirement plans or big paychecks. Folks who cleaned homes, took care of elders and children, waited tables, and raised families — not just their own, but sometimes their neighbors’ too. People who never asked for much, but earned every penny of what they now receive in Social Security.

To say people won’t care if that money stops coming? That’s not just wrong — it’s insulting and cruel. Social Security isn’t a handout. It’s a promise. A promise that after a lifetime of work, our society won’t leave us out in the cold. A promise that after we work and pay into the fund, that we can age with a little security and a little dignity. Break that promise, and we are not just shredding policy — we’re shredding trust.

Let’s be real. That monthly check might not seem like much to a billionaire sitting in a federal building in DC, but for many people I know and love, it is everything. It’s the roof over their head, its their food, the heat in the winter, the medicine that keeps them alive. It’s the difference between independence and desperation.

This idea that only the rich are entitled to comfort in old age — that’s not the America I thought I knew. That’s not the community we’ve built here. In every faith, every culture, every neighborhood across this country, we’re taught to honor our elders. To care for those who came before us. To build a society that looks out for the vulnerable, not one that throws them aside.



What this administration is signaling with comments like these — and with their steady efforts to chip away at Social Security, Medicare, and other pillars of support — is that if you’re not wealthy, your life doesn’t matter as much. But I believe, as I think most of you do, that the measure of our country isn’t how it treats the powerful and rich — it’s how we treats the people who need help the most.

So to the decision-makers in Washington: Don’t you dare call our family and neighbors frauds for needing what they earned. And to my fellow citizens: Now’s the time to pay attention. To raise our voices. To demand a government that protects, not punishes, those who’ve spent their lives doing the right thing.

Because dignity should never be up for debate. Not in this community. Not in this country. Not during our watch!

Until next week ...

Dorothy

JUNE 13 - ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON - Eleanor Holmes Norton is an American politician serving as a non-voting Delegate to the United States House of Representatives, representing the District of Columbia. As a non-voting member, Norton may serve on committees as well as speak on the House floor; however, she is not permitted to vote on the final passage of any legislation.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



A NOTE FROM THE ...



The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly
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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: "When I Think about My Father"

Colossians 3: 16 says, "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

When I read this scripture, it reminds me of my father Pastor John M. Brown, who passed away fourteen years ago. My father was a great man of God. He also had a beautiful voice. I can remember him every morning waking us up to the sounds of hymns and songs. The gift of song is one of the things that he passed down to me, my brothers, and my sister.

As we honor Father's Day, I wanted to reflect on some of the things that fathers should pass down to their children. Keep in mind nobody is perfect, however we should all be striving towards perfection.

The first thing my father passed down to me was his faith in God. He assured me that no matter what I was going through, I must not let my faith waver. All I needed to do was believe that with God all things are possible.

Fathers should also pass down God's standards of excellence. This includes what people will do or not

do, or what they will say or not say around people, or what they chose to watch on television and social media. God has a standard that He wants us to live by. Fathers should let their children know what is acceptable but, most importantly, what is not acceptable.

Finally, fathers need to pass down character. We must be men of character who will stand up for God in our homes. First Timothy 6:11 says, "but you man of God, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love,



endurance and gentleness."

When I think about my father, I think about these wonderful things that he left me. Now I have an excellent example to follow.


May God grant you the spirit of remembrance, so that you will pass those standards down to your children.

Question: What are some valuable things that

your father passed down to you?

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:
"Take Another Step"



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY DEATHS



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Funeral service for **MR. QUINCY OWENS** (b. 1983) was held Sunday, June 8, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MR. TYREK NORRIS** (b. 2003) was held Saturday, June 7, at Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Miss.

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Funeral services will be announced later for **MS. MYRTLE JO CUMMINGS** (b. 1964) and **MR. SOVOY JORDAN** (b. 1937).

Memorial service for **MR. GREGORY LEON TYSON** (b. 1950) was Wednesday, June 11, at McKenzie Funeral Home in Tuskegee, Ala.

Funeral service for **MRS. CAROL LYNN WILLIAMS POPE** (b. 1955) was Saturday, June 7, at the First Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Temple Ritchie officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. CHARLES LEE THORN** (b. 1939) was Saturday, June 7, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Chapel with Rev. Wendell Thompson officiating.

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Funeral service for **MR. MARCUS "TYRONE" HAMPTON, SR.** (b. 1971) was Monday, June 9, at the Eagles Nest Ministries, 6831 Hollow Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor DeWayne High officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. GLORIA JEAN MCCRARY** (b. 1953) was Saturday, June 7, at the Hope Community Church, 1111 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, Ala., with Minister Trevian Smith officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. EVA LEE TURNER** (b. 1938) was Saturday, June 7, at the Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church, 3020 Belafonte Avenue, Huntsville, Ala. with

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

M'brothas: What Does a Woman Want? A H.O.T. Man*

Vulnerability, Masculinity, and the Beginning of Ego-Holism Recovering

Inspired by D. Stuart Briscoe's "The Vulnerable Man" and the witness of John the Baptist

"Of those born of women, none is greater than John." — Luke 7:28

When Manhood Is a Mask

Society teaches that a "real man" must always be strong, right, and in control—never asking for help, never admitting fear. But as D. Stuart Briscoe noted, the five hardest phrases for men to say—I don't know, I was wrong, I need help, I'm afraid, I'm sorry—are not weaknesses. They're the starting point of **Ego-Holism Recovering**.

John the Baptist: A H.O.T. Man

When Jesus praised John the Baptist, He didn't admire toughness or wealth. He saw **honesty, courage, simplicity, and vulnerability**. John declared in John 3:30, "I must decrease so He may increase." That's the heart of a real man—a **H.O.T. man**:

- H — Honest
- O — Open
- T — Transparent

This isn't soft. It's spiritual strength. That kind of manhood doesn't weaken homes—it heals them.

When a Man Turns to God, the Family Follows

Research shows:

- If a child comes to faith, 4% of families follow.
- If a woman does, 17% follow.
- But if a man does? 94% of families follow.

That's not male dominance—it's spiritual responsibility. When a man surrenders his ego, his family finds hope.

Vulnerability Starts the Healing

The first step in Ego-Holism Recovering is looking back—honestly—at where ego first got in the way. True healing begins when men trade image for integrity.

The Healing Man is H.O.T.

In my talks, I ask, "What does a woman want?" The room laughs when I say, "A man who's H.O.T." But then I explain:

- **Honest enough** to admit faults
- **Open enough** to accept feedback
- **Transparent enough** to build trust

That's what makes a man *worth following*.

Final Word: From Toughness to Truth

God isn't looking for macho men—He's looking for surrendered ones. Recovering ego-holics.

Who lead not with bravado, but with brokenness becoming strength. Because, as Paul wrote, "His power is made perfect in weakness."

(*Thanks, Brother Emanuel Chester for that HOT man acronym.)



Tim Allston

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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

That Is Beneath Your Thought Process ...

So, I was conversing with a successful businessman, a place where you sit and absorb valuable and wise information, patterns, etc...if you're smart!

In that setting, even playfully, I choose my words wisely because his thought process differs from mine. If one desires to become successful in the same realm, one would want to reshape one's thinking process and habits to mimic those who hang in the 5% and lower category.

Anyhow ... I made a comment, and in return, he stated, "That is beneath your thought process." One could take that in many ways; however, I took it as a call to elevate my mindset.

We often encounter

situations that test our resolve and perspective in a world of challenges and setbacks. Considering it's easy to feel bogged down by negativity or complacency, his phrase was a powerful reminder to elevate my thinking and rise above mediocrity.

When faced with adversity or discouraging situations, it's vital to recognize that our reactions and responses define us. Instead of succumbing to frustration or self-doubt, we can view these moments as opportunities for growth and self-improvement. Elevating our thought process involves adopting a mindset of resilience and curiosity.

Ask yourself: What can I learn from this

experience? How can I turn this setback into a stepping stone toward success? By reframing challenges as opportunities, we unlock our capacity for innovation and creativity.

Ultimately, "beneath your thought process" is more than just a phrase; it's a rallying cry to elevate our thinking and embrace our full potential. As you navigate your journey, remember that every setback can lead to spectacular comebacks.

Challenge yourself to think bigger, act bolder, and pursue the extraordinary. The only limits are the ones we place on ourselves.

Lace Up! Let's Go!

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 EVENTS**
 HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

June 13-14
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June 14
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 The Orion
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June 20-22
 Trey Kennedy
 Comedian
 Huntsville Levity
 Live
 2012 Memorial
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June 22
 Concert
 Ledisi with Mar-
 sha Ambrosius
 Von Braun Center
 Tickets: \$75-\$150
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June 25
 Silent Book Club
 The Orion Am-

phitheater
 (Backstage/Enter
 via Artist Meadow
 off Amphitheater
 Drive)
 5:30-7 p.m.
 (Free)

June 27
 Concert
 No Limit Soldiers Reunion:
 Master P, Silkk The Shocker,
 Mia X, Fiend and Mac and
 More

The Orion
June 28-29
 DC Youngfly
 Comedian
 Huntsville Levity Live
 2012 Memorial Parkway SW
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June 29
 Rocket City Pickle Fest
 The Orion
 Huntsville, Ala.

OH FREEDOM 2025!
A Juneteenth Community Conversation

10:00AM | June 19th

TOPIC
The Village R.E.S.E.T.
Revisiting Our Core Values For A Vibrant Tomorrow.

HOST: COMMISSIONER VIOLET EDWARDS

MODERATOR: DR. KAROCKAS "DOC ROCK" WATKINS

ROBERT "BOB" HARRISON
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All Are Welcome To Join The Conversation. A Food Truck Festival Will Follow.

PANELISTS

DR. CLARENCE SUTTON
 Huntsville City Schools
 Superintendent

DR. DOROTHY HUSTON
 Diversity Leadership Colloquium
 Founder

MS. TIFFANY DRAPER
 Women's Expo Hsv.
 Founder

DR. LYLE LEE
 Huntsville Bible College
 President

DOC ROCK LEADERSHIP

AAA TRAVEL

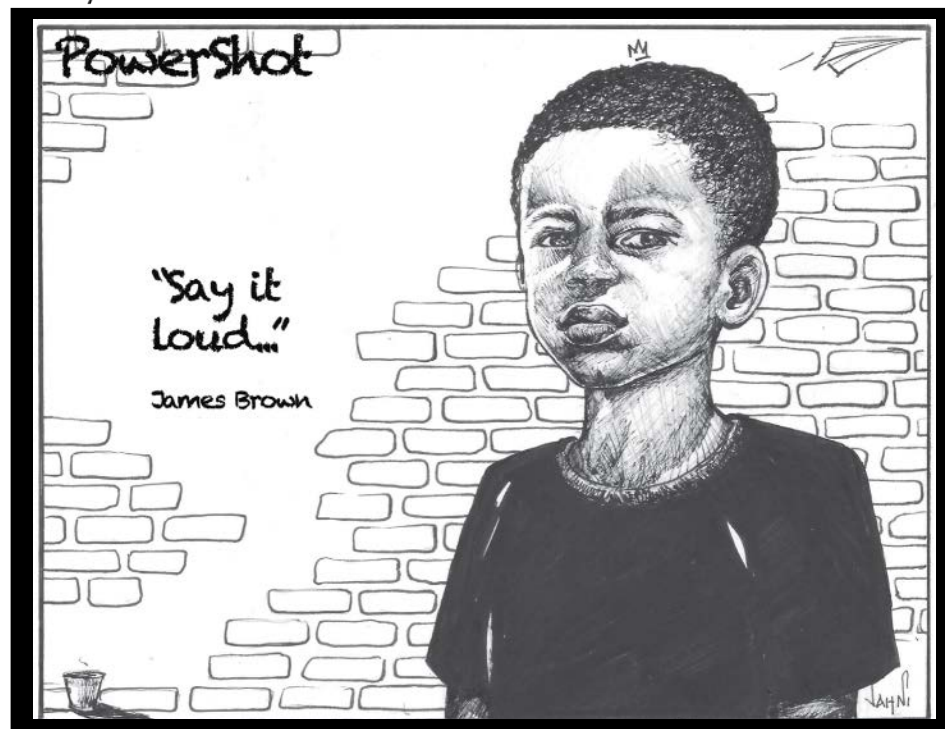
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*"The soul that is within me
 no man can degrade."*

- Frederick Douglass



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

Mrs. Gladys Branch

When Gladys L. Branch received her diploma as a Top 20 student at Birmingham's Hooper City High School in 1964, she knew that there were still plenty of opportunities during a turbulent time in America during the 1960s. She entered historic Alabama A&M University, where she received the Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and general science in 1968. She returned to obtain her Master of Science degree in guidance and counseling in 1974.

Over the years, Mrs. Branch has developed an impressive career that has spanned more than 40 years. For some five years, beginning in 1969, Branch was an elementary and middle school teacher for the Athens (Ala.) City School System, where she prepared and carried out lesson plans for second graders and later for math and science students at the middle school level.

In 1974, she served one year as a counselor for the Huntsville Sickle Cell Center before returning for a final year of mathematics, teaching at Westlawn Middle School. She remained at Westlawn for an additional 20 years as a general counselor and then as a vocational counselor until 1996.

In August 1996, Branch decided to use Westlawn



as a base for a position in administration and served as Westlawn's assistant principal for four years. She was acting principal for a year at McDonnell Elementary School before culminating her career as principal of Rolling Hills Elementary School.

Branch has been affiliated with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., for over 50 years and is a past president of the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter. Currently, she serves as the co-chair of the Protocol Committee for Huntsville Alumnae and is a member of the State Protocol Committee. She is also president of the Association of Ladies for Agape of North

Alabama; member and past secretary, Madison County Retired Educators Association; member, Northwest Church of Christ, where her husband serves as the Pulpit Minister; and she works on various committees and teaches ladies and children Bible classes. Moreover, the retired educator also serves as vice chair of the board of Diverse Educational Life Training Activities, Inc. (DELTA, Inc.).

She and her husband, Elder John Branch, have two children and three grandchildren, along with another couple of adopted children, who also have three children of their own.



"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.



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This Sunday's Lctionary

Sunday, June 15, 2025

Trinity
Sunday



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Second Lesson:

Romans 5:1-5

GOSPEL:

John 16:12-15



It's our birthday,
but we're
celebrating
you.



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ATHENS | DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE | SOUTHEAST HUNTSVILLE

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AAMU Students Earn 2025-26 NASA Space Grant Scholarships and Fellowships

Three Alabama A&M University students have been named recipients of 2025–26 scholarships and fellowships from the NASA Alabama Space Grant Consortium (ASGC), a prestigious statewide program that supports STEM education and research aligned with NASA's mission.

The ASGC was established in 1989 as part of NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. Based at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), the consortium includes eight Alabama research universities, community colleges, industry partners, and educational outreach organizations.



This year's AAMU honorees include sophomore computer science major Joel Nick Friedman, who received a \$1,500 Undergraduate Scholarship in recognition of his academic

performance and potential in STEM fields.

Two graduate students, Elijah Kerry Nix and Israel Katari Micah Scott, were each awarded \$37,000 Graduate Fellowships to support their advanced

research in plant and soil sciences.

Nix earned a one-year renewal of his previous fellowship for his work titled "Transforming Arachis hypogaea for Aflatoxin Resistance." He is pursu-

ing a Master of Science in Plant and Soil Sciences and is expected to graduate in May 2026. His research is advised by Dr. Xianyan Kuang in collaboration with NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Scott received his fellowship for the research project "Exploring the Generational Effects of Ionizing Radiation on Apomictic Plants for Sustainable Space Agriculture." He is also pursuing a Master of Science in Plant and Soil

Sciences, with a projected graduation in May 2028. His work is guided by Dr. Alex Harkess and conducted in partnership with NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Gerald Vines serves as Alabama A&M University's ASGC campus director.


For more information about the NASA Alabama Space Grant Consortium and its student opportunities, visit <https://www.uah.edu/asgc>.

HMBCC Meetings

The Huntsville Metro Black Chamber of Commerce promotes, creates and fosters economic development opportunities. HMBCC meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon. Call (256) 427-2650 or e-mail info@hsvblackchamber.org. VISIT

THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

They're Not Like Tim!



The Valley Weekly

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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!

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

Annual Sickle Cell Walk-A-Thon

North Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation - Pam Thompson, Executive Director - sicklecellna.org
Robert “Bob” Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center
Huntsville, Alabama - Saturday, June 7, 2025 (Photos by J. Saintjones)



20th Annual Leadership Awards Gala

Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter/Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc.

Ernest L. Knight Reception Center-Alabama A&M University

Saturday, June 7, 2025 (Photos by J. Saintjones)



Dr. Daniel Wims, Denver Betts,
Dr. Dorothy Huston and Mac McCutcheon



Dr. Daniel K. Wims



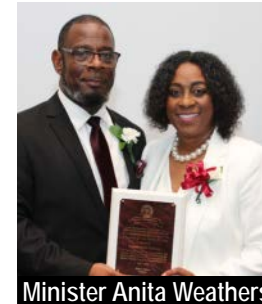
Mr. Allen Malone



Min. Theromiles Flowers



Dr. John Jones



Minister Anita Weathers



Ms. Linda Fowlkes



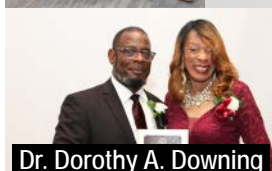
Mrs. Frances Akridge



Mr. Earl Wootson



Mr. Daryl Sharpe



Dr. Dorothy A. Downing



Mr. Charley Burruss



Mrs. Marjorie Battle



Atty. Kimberly A. Ford



Mrs. Georgia S. Valrie
Mr. Curtis Summerville



Pastor Larry Davidson, Jr.



Mr. Van L. Strickland



Rev. Dr. Edward Anderson



Tenn. Valley Masters of Jazz



2025 6th Annual Legacy Charity Kickball Tournament

Cavalry Hill Park and Center - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Huntsville, Alabama

Saturday, June 7, 2025

