

# Woman's A&M Plants Thrive for over 50 Years! - p. 8

# FREE



## Spiritual Game Plan: "Real Needs" - p. 3

Friday  
July 5, 2024  
Vol. 10, No. 44  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

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



Mrs. Ruby Ford



*"This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on."* - Thurgood Marshall

## Local Computer Scientist Among Men's Hall of Fame 2024 Honorees

The late trailblazing computer scientist and Alabama A&M University alumnus Clyde Foster will be among the three to be inducted posthumously into the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame on September 17.

Foster's tribute will be included with the late accomplished historian Milo Barrett Howard, Jr., the fourth director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and the late Marvin L. Mann, an outstanding businessman who rose to vice president of IBM and played a leadership role at numerous corporate entities.

Foster, who died in 2017, was a Birmingham native and 1954 AAMU graduate. After a military stint and brief teaching job in the Selma area, Foster returned to Huntsville to accept a position with the Army Ballistic Missile Agency as a mathematician technician. In 1960, he transferred to NASA's Marshall Space Flight



Center, where he played a major role in diversifying NASA and making a Huntsville a conducive place to live and work.

During the brief two years he was placed on loan to AAMU, he directed the Computer Science Department, establishing a Data Processing Laboratory and undergraduate degree program in computer science, the first in the state.

He re-established the charter of Triana, Ala., and served as its mayor for 20 years. He served on the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for 14 years and received many awards and honors throughout his lifetime. An auditorium at AAMU is named in his honor.

The induction ceremony luncheon is set for Tuesday, September 17, at 11:30 a.m. at The Club in Birmingham. For further information and reservations, call (205) 706-1289.

## UA Grad Stars in Short Film 'Madison the Musical'

Something Wild Productions is releasing 'Madison the Musical' on YouTube streaming platform. The short film made its debut at The Atlanta 48-Hour Film Project last year and features Erin Braxton.

"This is the beginning of a beautiful chapter," said Braxton. "I've spent most of my life gaining real life experiences and training for the longevity of a professional career."

"When the opportunity presented itself I knew in my heart it was time to put myself out there," she continued. "It was an opportunity to reach out and touch the stars. It's magical to create with fellow creatives. It is inspiring to see what can be achieved in 48 hours and all of the creative thought that stems from it."

Braxton spent her career training with prestigious academies. Her journey began at 13 years-old at Lincoln Park Performing Arts School in Midland, Pa.

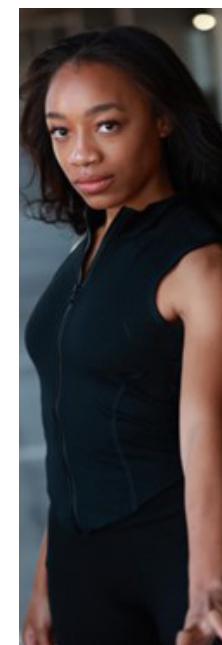
Erin went on to obtain her B.A. degree in theatre at The University of Alabama and furthered her studies at The Juilliard School Extension.

Braxton worked behind the scenes as executive assistant

on film productions in the Atlanta area and has trained in the acting craft with notable industry professionals.

Something Wild Productions was proud to present Braxton to the 48-Hour Film Festival for the first time.

Applicants find information about the festival at <https://48hourfilm.com/atlanta>. To view 'Madison the Musical,' click [HERE](#).



## Headliners Named for 805 After Five Concerts

Downtown Huntsville, Inc. and the Huntsville Music Office have announced the headliners for the upcoming July and August installments of 805 After Five.

Headlining the

**July 18** concert is Billy Allen + The Pollies, a touring band performing at the upcoming South Star Music Festival.

The opening act for the concert is The Wanda Band, a pop rock power trio

from Huntsville, Ala.

Taking the stage at the **August 15** concert is Aaron Lee Tasjan and opening act Camping in Alaska.

For more information, visit

[www.805AfterFive.com](http://www.805AfterFive.com) or contact Abigail Harrison, DHI Communications Coordinator, at [abigail@downtownhuntsville.org](mailto:abigail@downtownhuntsville.org) or (256) 609-9163.

# The Valley Weekly

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Washington Update, Page 2  
Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 3  
"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 4  
Gloria B. & Tim: Perspectives, Page 5  
Sunday Lectionary, Page 5  
Honoring Our Elders, Page 6



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ONLINE NEWS  
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The Valley Weekly  
Washington  
One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the top issues and events in Washington for the week.

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in recess this week for the July 4th Holiday and will reconvene next week. Last Thursday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, which allocates funding for education, job training, health programs passed its fiscal year 2025 appropriations bill by voice vote. The full Appropriations Committee is scheduled to vote on the spending bill on July 10.

**2. THE WHITE HOUSE.** Last Saturday, the President and First Lady spoke at the opening of the Stonewall National Monument Visitors Center in New York City commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, recognized as the start of the LGBTQ rights movement when police raided the Stonewall Inn on June 28, 1969. The President returned to the White House from Camp David Monday and visited the DC Emergency Operations Center Tuesday and then attended a fundraiser in McLean, VA. On Wednesday, he delivered remarks at a Medal of Honor Ceremony and on Thursday hosted a July 4th barbecue on the White House South Lawn for military families. Next week, President Biden will host the 32-member NATO 75th Anniversary Summit at the Washington Convention Center on July 9-11, including the newest member country, Sweden, which

ended 200 years of its official non-alignment policy to join the alliance in March 2024.

**3. SUPREME COURT.** All eyes were on the Court Monday as it handed down the final decisions of its 2023-24 term, including a decision in the presidential immunity case of Trump v. U.S. and whether laws enacted in Texas and Florida regulating social media content, passed in the wake of the Jan. 6 attacks on the U.S. Capitol in response to a belief that social media companies were censoring their users (especially those with conservative views), are constitutional. On Friday afternoon, the Court declined a request from former Trump White House aide Steve Bannon to delay the start of his 4-month prison sentence for contempt of Congress, which began July 1.

In a flurry of activity last week, the Court handed down key decisions on

homeless encampments, the power of federal agencies, and charges against the Jan. 6 defendants:

- In *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson*, the Court upheld an Oregon city's "camping ban," which imposes fines on people who use blankets, pillows, or cardboard boxes for protection from the elements while sleeping within the city limits.
- In *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, the Court overruled its landmark 1984 Chevron doctrine, which had held that if Congress did not directly address the question at the center of a dispute, a court was required to uphold the agency's interpretation of the statute as long as it was reasonable. Loper is expected to have far-reaching effects curtailing the power of federal agencies to interpret the laws they administer, impacting everything from environmental regulations to healthcare costs.
- In *Fischer v. U.S.*, the Court threw out the charges against a former Pennsylvania police officer who entered the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, attacks. The justices ruled that the law that Joseph Fischer was

charged with violating, which bars obstruction of an official proceeding, applies only to evidence tampering, such as destruction of records or documents, in official proceedings.

- In *Murthy v. Missouri*, the Court threw out a lawsuit, citing a lack of standing by the plaintiffs, who were seeking to limit the Biden Administration's ability to communicate with social media companies about their content moderation policies (pertaining to misinformation on COVID-19).
- In *Ohio v. EPA*, the Court granted a stay of the EPA's "good neighbor" rule regulating air pollution from power plants and other sources in 23 states for the benefit of the downwind states' air quality. The rule-making is now on hold while a challenge to it continues in a federal appeals court in Washington, D.C.

**4. DEBATE RESULTS.** The Biden-Harris Campaign announced that it had raised \$27 million last Thursday and Friday around the debate, despite the President's lackluster performance in Debate #1 against former President Trump (and this does not count the fundraisers Biden

attended in New York and New Jersey on Saturday). According to a 538/Ipsos poll of 7,500 likely voters conducted in 2 waves before and after the debate from June 20-27, 60.1% of respondents said Trump won the debate, while only 20.8% said Biden won (and 19% saying they didn't know). Notably, the debate does not indicate that the debate performances changed many voters' minds, with only 1.6% saying they were less likely to vote for Biden after the debate and an increase of only 0.5% saying they would support Trump after the debate. Nielsen and CNN reported on Friday that the debate drew 51.27 million viewers on Thursday, which is a 30% decline from 2020 when 73 million people watched the first debate between Biden and Trump and 2016 when a record 84 million people watched the first debate between Hillary Clinton and Trump.

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# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWNS



## "Real Needs"

Philippians 4:19 says, "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."

When God speaks of meeting needs, it is not about material needs, or the need to be prosperous. I believe that when God meets our needs, it is to direct us toward His good and perfect will for our lives. I also believe that God will meet our needs with a need. In other words, when I felt the need to be comforted, God met that need by providing me with someone who needed comforting. When I felt the need for prayer, God met that need by providing me with someone I needed to pray for. When I was in need of a blessing, God met that need by providing me with someone I could be a blessing to.

God is in the business of meeting needs with needs. Everything that He does is designed to meet our needs. Often, we have the wrong

expectations for having our needs met. Perhaps this is because our motivation is all wrong.

When we expect our needs to be supplied based on material things, we will always come up short. Not getting

what we want robs us of our joy. I heard someone



say, "When our joy is low, entitlement is high." This comes from not thanking God for what we already have.

God knows our real needs. They come from hearts that want to please God. They don't come from the desires of this world. Once we get

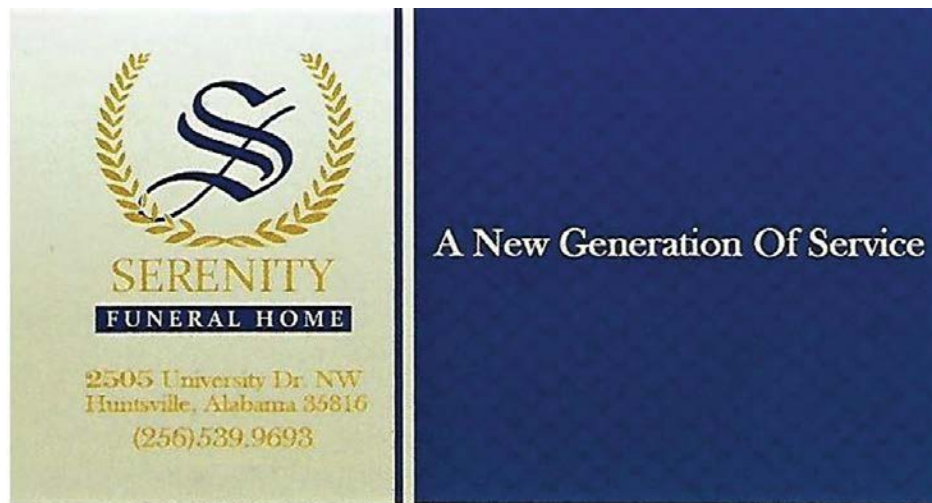
our hearts right, that will affect our motivation for whatever real needs that we want God to supply.

May God grant you spiritual success in obtaining the things that you really need and the wisdom to discern between wants and needs.

**Question:** What is the difference between a want and a need?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books *Spiritual Game Plans for A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life* at amazon.com or Westbow books.

**NEXT WEEK:**  
"Be Thankful"



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

Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MR. FRANCISCO PEREZ** (b. 1939), **MR. CHARLES BRYANT** (b. 1961) and **MR. BRUCE FLUKER** (b. 1952).

Funeral service for **MR. WALTER NICKERSON** (b. 1934) was Tuesday, June 25, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MRS. MARGIE MILLS** (b. 1933) was Wednesday, June 19, at Oakwood Memorial Gardens, 1 HL Cleveland Way, Huntsville, Ala.

## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189  
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Funeral services will be announced later for **MR. WILLIE D. McCORMICK** (b. 1955) and **MR. JESSE J. RICE** (b. 1950).

Funeral service for **MR. TIMOTHY JACKSON** (b. 1961) was Saturday, June 29, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MRS. LUCILLE CUFF THOMPSON** (b. 1949) was Saturday, June 22, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Dave Draper, Jr. officiating.

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Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MR. CLEVELAND "PEPPER" WESLEY, JR.** (b. 1952).

Funeral service for **MR. MAURICE PORTER** (b. 1959) was Tuesday, July 2, at the Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 759-A Pine Grove Road, Harvest, Ala., with Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. GEORGE FRANKLIN MURRAH** (b. 1945) was Saturday, June 29, at the New Beria Missionary Baptist Church, 21978 Highway 99, Elkmont, Ala., with Pastor Louis Horton officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. STEVEN LAJUAN MOSS** (b. 1961) was Saturday, June 29, at the Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ, 313 Beirne Avenue, Huntsville, Ala., with Elder Dave Draper officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. RICHARD LEWIS CROSS** (b. 1949) was Saturday, June 29, at the Liberty Primitive Baptist Church, 268 Burruss Road, Berkley, Ala.



# Valley Weekly VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

## July 4

Independence Day at Mid-City District 2024  
5901 University Drive  
Huntsville, Ala. - 12 p.m.

## July 5

"Soil to Mud Pies: July Seeds to Sprouts"  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW, Huntsville, Ala.  
10 a.m.-11 p.m.

## "TopHouse"

2024 City Lights & Stars  
Burritt on the Mountain  
3101 Burritt Drive SE  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

## July 7

The Market at MidCity  
MidCity District  
Huntsville, Ala.  
12-4 p.m.

## Band

New Atomic  
Back Forty Beer Company  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5 p.m.

## July 13

"Second Saturday" City Hall Art Tours Showcase (Join award-winning painters Ann Moeller and Yuri Ozaki)  
New City Hall  
10:30 a.m.

## July 14

The Market at MidCity  
MidCity District

Huntsville, Ala.

12-4 p.m.

## July 18

Campus 805 After 5  
Butler Green

## July 19

Food Truck Rally  
Big Spring Park  
Downtown Huntsville Inc.

## "Eric Essix"

2024 City Lights & Stars  
Burritt on the Mountain  
3101 Burritt Drive SE  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

## July 19-20

HaHa Davis  
Comedian  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
2012 Memorial Parkway SW (\$30-\$45)  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 261-3374  
huntsville.standuplive.com

## July 21

The Market at MidCity  
MidCity District  
Huntsville, Ala.  
12-4 p.m.

## July 26

Downtown Art Walks (Downtown Huntsville, Inc.)  
Courthouse Square  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5-8 p.m.

## July 28

The Market at MidCity  
MidCity District

Huntsville, Ala.

12-4 p.m.

## August 4

The Market at MidCity  
MidCity District  
Huntsville, Ala.  
12-4 p.m.

## August 9

"Gwen & The Retro Cats"  
2024 City Lights & Stars  
Burritt on the Mountain  
3101 Burritt Drive SE  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

## August 9-11

Desi Banks  
Comedian  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
2012 Memorial Parkway SW (\$30-\$45)  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 261-3374  
huntsville.standuplive.com

## August 10

"Second Saturday" City Hall Art Tours Showcase (*Greetings from Cynthia Wagner and David Nuttall. Stroll by the 11 panels of Wagner's "Transformative Soil: Terra Firma" while discovering the iconic symbols woven into her work and learn about Nuttall's upcoming installation of a hand-drawn nighttime map of Huntsville. REGISTER*)  
New City Hall  
10:30 a.m.

## August 11

The Market at MidCity  
MidCity District  
Huntsville, Ala.  
12-4 p.m.

## August 15

Campus 805 After 5  
Butler Green  
Huntsville, Ala.

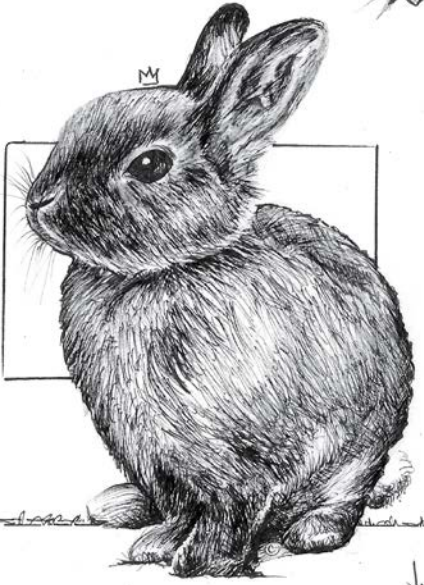
## August 16

Food Truck Rally  
Big Spring Park  
Downtown Hsv. Inc.

**PowerShot**

"Inspiration will show up in any space, shape or form. It's on us to be open to receive it."

J. T. Moore



*"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."*  
- George Orwell

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## June 27, 2024: Witnessing the BJ jump and the JB Slump

*"... your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." - Joel 2:28*

On June 27th, we witnessed not only the possible sunrise of NBA draftee Bronny James (BJ) and a potential sunset for Joe Biden (JB), but also lessons about building legacies.

Leadership expert Dr. John C. Maxwell differentiates between a legacy that you leave in your family or loved ones, and an inheritance that you leave for them but which will fade over time.



On one hand, "LeBron Raymone James, Jr." is the 19-year old son-successor and namesake of the NBA all-time scoring leader and trailblazer.

And opposite Bronny on that presidential debate night stage was Joe Biden, the successor to the first Black president and the potential trailblazer for the first Black and female president.

Both of these event makers make us consider the future legacies for each.



### Coronation vs. Swansong?

Bronny's star shone brightly in his NBA spring tryouts leading up to the June 27 draft day.

In contrast, Biden's debate performance later that evening resembled Muhammad Ali in his final bouts: a former victor struggling to survive until the final bell. "Biden won the debate on policy but lost it on presentation," the pollsters from www.538.com summarized.

In a culture more riveted to style than substance, Bronny's NBA sunrise contrasted a called-for Biden political sunset.

What then does the future demand of each? Bronny represents a high-profiled jump from only one year of lackluster college hoops and into not only the NBA but also on to the LA Lakers, his famous dad's current team. This drafting could mark the first father-son playing duo in the league's 68-year history.

On the other hand, JB's historic legacy could be remembered more as the bridge building, linking the first Black president to the first female president.

BJ's professional future and legacy will be shaped by his performance of scoring on offense and defensive rebounding in his rookie camp tryouts and NBA preseason exhibition games over these next several months leading up to the October start of the NBA season.

And JB's political future and legacy will be shaped by his "scoring on offense and defensive rebounding" on the campaign trail leading up to the November 5th presidential election.

Faced with such contrasting June 27th presentations, begin now building your legacy.



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Amazon Best-Selling Author  
"Leading from the Middle"  
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# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## Stuff Keeps Happening ...

Have you ever had a time frame where things keep going wrong? You would come out of one storm, and no sooner than you leave that one, you would be stepping into another one.

You would get your car fixed, and your air-conditioning unit would go out. You get that fixed, and your computer will crash. You get that fixed and get sick with COVID. Just thing after thing!

Yeah, that has been my story over the past two years. Sometimes, it has felt hard to come up for air!

Have you ever stopped to think why? See, people will put their own

"reason" on your circumstances. They, along with your wondering mind, will



try to figure out what you did wrong to deserve all of

this tribulation. However, you need to understand the closer your walk is with God and the greater the assignment you've been given, the more complex the tests will be. See, the devil does not attack things with no value. Would you guard something that doesn't have worth? I know you wouldn't; I wouldn't either.

Understand there is great pain with great purpose. Keep pressing in and pushing. The devil knows your destiny and he will try to block it. There is something on your life that is so significant and you're essential to God's purpose. Don't stop now, don't loose faith, keep pressing forward!

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.

## This Sunday's Lctionary

Sunday, July 7, 2024  
Seventh Sunday  
After  
Pentecost



(Track 2, Year B)

First Lesson:

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalms 123

Second Lesson:

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

GOSPEL:

Mark 6:1-13





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

## Mrs. Ruby Ford

Mrs. Ruby M. Ford was born in Fayetteville, Tenn., and raised in New Market, Ala. She was born to the late Alex and Ruby Adams, the eldest of 13 children. She received her elementary and secondary education in the Madison County School System. Ford enjoyed high school and participated in several school activities. While in high school, her teachers stressed striving for excellence and empowered her to do so.

She successfully completed course work at University of Alabama in Huntsville, Athens State University and Calhoun Community College. In 2005, she graduated magna cum laude from Alabama A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. She retired after serving 28 years at the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Parks Division. Most of her state service was with Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville, Ala. While at the state park, Ford managed all recordation procedures and book-keeping processes. She also manages accounting for Mack Ford's Construction, Incorporated, which

is a business owned and operated by her husband for over 50 years.

She is a faithful member of the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Larry Davidson, Jr., and is currently a member of the Deaconess Ministry and serves as Sunday School Teacher in the Adult Department. She has served formally in many capacities, such as president of the Deaconess Ministry and president of the Mud Creek North Alabama Missionary Baptist Association Deaconess Ministry. She enjoys being a workshop coordinator, seminar leader, event coordinator, as well as presenting at various speaking engagements. Very active in her community, Ford is a member of the Christian Cancer Support Group of North East Madison County, Alabama Democratic Conference, Alabama New South Coalition, and Habitat for Humanity of Madison County Women's Build Guild.

She has received several honors in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in her profession and contributions to



her community. In 1998, she received a Certificate of Appreciation from Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church for Educational Services rendered from 1997 to 1998. In 2005, she was honored as an Outstanding Employee from the State of Alabama, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In 2009, she received the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build Guild Award for dedicated service and unselfish contribution.

Ford enjoys reading and traveling. She and her husband are world travelers who have toured six of the seven continents in the world. She is married to Mack Ford and they are the proud parents of two children Vanessa and Michael. They have four grandchildren. Michael, Mone', Ruby and Maya.



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



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# Accomplished Gardener Recalls AAMU as Source of Her Passion

In 1974, a young Donica Jessick Richmond embarked on a field trip that would shape her life in an unexpected way. As a 9-year-old fourth grader at Weatherly

## A Growing Passion

"I've been growing these plants ever since that trip," Richmond shared in a heartfelt email to the University. "This is my 51st year, and

I've got 24 pots altogether. It's more of a dedication thing than a green thumb because they are awfully hearty. They're part cactus, so they don't require a whole lot of water, but they just don't

like cold weather."

Richmond, now an accomplished gardener, has transformed her childhood fascination into a lifelong passion. Her greenhouse brims with these resilient plants, each one a testament to her enduring care and dedication. To share her story, Richmond recently brought a few of her cherished plants back to AAMU,

sparkling memories and curiosity.

Richmond's story prompted a trip down memory lane for Dr. Govind Sharma, a retired professor who began his tenure at AAMU in 1970 and worked with Dean of Agriculture Dr. Winfred Thomas. AAMU's 972-acre Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station is named in his honor. He recalled the numerous field trips from local schools. "The tradition continued and took new forms, most recently as the Science Exploration Day, attracting students from across the state," Sharma said.

Sharma fondly remembered Mr. Henry Joiner, the expert horticulturist who managed the greenhouse tours and was a founding member of the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Joiner's expertise left a lasting legacy on the AAMU campus.

"Mr. Joiner had a me-

ticulously run greenhouse that existed north of the old Councill High School Building," says Sharma. "His legacy lives at many places on the AAMU campus, including two male Gingko Trees he planted across from the current Post Office Building and in the Patton Hall parking lot," Sharma

noted.

Sharma emphasized the broader importance of her cherished plants. "Green plants are a veritable bio-chemistry laboratory of our planet. They sustain every type of life from humans to animals to bacteria. Numerous plant-derived medicines, including antitumor

compounds like Bryophyllin from the Kalanchoe species, have contributed to human well-being," he explained.

"I've always told people, 'When these plants are gone, that means I am gone.' I've had them so long, they're just part of me," said Richmond.



Elementary, she visited a greenhouse at Alabama A&M University and received a few tiny "babies" from a plant known as the "Momma Daughter." These plants, scientifically named Kalanchoe daigremontiana and affectionately called Mother of Thousands or Mexican Hat Plant, have been a part of her life ever since.

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**JULY 5 - "JOE"** - Joseph Lewis Thomas is an American singer, songwriter and record producer. Raised in Columbus, Ga., he later relocated to New Jersey, and he signed a record deal with Polygram Records in 1992. He rose to prominence after releasing his debut album "Everything" the following year. He followed it with a series of successful albums under Jive Records, including All That I Am (1997), the international bestseller My Name Is Joe (2000) as well as the multi-certified albums Better Days (2001) and And Then ... (2003). Several songs from these albums became hit singles on the pop and R&B record charts, including the number-one hit "Stutter."

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org



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## Battle Declared Mayor Winner by Council

The Huntsville City Council voted to declare Mayor Tommy Battle as the mayoral winner in the 2024 municipal election. Mayor Battle will continue serving in his post for a fifth term, beginning Nov. 4.

When qualifications for municipal elections ended on June 25, Mayor Battle was the sole candidate for Mayor.

According to state law, a City Council shall declare an unopposed municipal candidate as the winner, upon proper certification. The move saves resources and taxpayer dollars because polls do not have to open in unaffected precincts.

"I am humbled and honored at the opportunity to continue serving this great

city," said Mayor Battle. "Council's action gives us a chance to get a jump start on preparations for the coming term, to meet with our administration and be ready to start out of the gates quickly."

The municipal election will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 27 with candidates for City Council and School Board Districts 1 and 5.

## McIntoshes Endow Chair in Biology at AAMU

Alabama A&M University trustees established the Ronald & Patricia McCalep-McIntosh Sr. Endowed Chair in biology during its recent meeting, honoring the lifelong dedication and generosity of the McIntoshes, who have been steadfast supporters of the University.

The couple presented a \$100,000 check to establish the prestigious endowed chair, which will support the biology department and foster student success.

"We saw a need and we're trying to help fill that need," said Ron McIntosh. "Both of us were biology majors. This endowment means we are trying to help AAMU students



fulfill their dreams, and we always encourage others to help someone else along their way."

The McIntoshes have deep roots at AAMU. Patricia McCalep-McIntosh grew up on campus and is the daughter of George O. McCalep, Sr., a long-time AAMU administrator, educator, and advocate who taught at the University for over 40 years.

Patricia graduated from Council Training School in 1965, earned her B.S.

degree in biology from Fisk University in 1969, and later obtained her master's degree from AAMU. She went on to work as a systems analyst for Xerox Corporation for 35 years.

Ron McIntosh, originally from the Ensley section of Birmingham, Ala., graduated from Western-Olin High School in 1966 and earned his biology degree from Alabama A&M University in 1970.

He worked as a sales rep and facsimile specialist with Xerox Corporation for seven years before serving as an ombudsman and security specialist at McDonnell-Douglas Corp., which later became Boeing, retiring in 2010.

## HU Natural Gas Manager "Person of the Year"

John "Bubba" Jones, Huntsville Utilities Natural Gas Manager, was named "Person of the Year" by the Alabama Natural Gas Association (ANGA). The award honors a natural gas professional in Alabama for exemplary service and leadership.

Bubba has been with the Huntsville Utilities Natural Gas Department for 32 years. In addition to his role as Natural Gas Manager, he is actively involved



in both the Alabama Natural Gas Association and the American Public Gas Association.

"Bubba's leadership and expertise are invaluable to

not just our Natural Gas Department, but to Huntsville Utilities as a whole," said Chris Jones, Senior Vice President/Chief Operations Officer of Huntsville Utilities. "We are thrilled to see him receive this much deserved recognition, and we all celebrate with him."

The ANGA is a non-profit organization that promotes the natural gas industry throughout the state of Alabama.

*"Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them."*

- 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.

### Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the 1st floor City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 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.

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- N. K. Jemisin

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# CREEJ Presents Gift to A&M's Women's Basketball Team

As part of its commitment to supporting HBCUs in north Alabama, the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (CREEJ), founded by Dr. Catherine Coleman Flowers, was scheduled to donate a golf cart to the Alabama A&M University (AAMU) women's basketball team.

The presentation was set for Tuesday, July 2, at 10 a.m., at the Event Center on the university's campus.

"It's a privilege to be able to support Coach (Dawn) Thornton and her wonderful program," says Dr. Flowers. "CREEJ is committed to helping Alabama A&M University and the other great educational institutions in Huntsville, and the students they serve. Many of the students live in or will serve communities impacted by climate change or environmental justice."

AAMU women's Coach Dawn Thornton said that this gift is much needed. "We have a walking campus," she says.

The golf cart will allow the Coach to transport recruits, alumni, and potential donors who come to visit. "It has endless possibilities," said Thornton.

Coach Thornton has been leading the AAMU women's basketball program since April of this year, but she has been a college coach for some 17 years. Before joining the faculty and staff on "The Hill," she was the head coach at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff (UAPB), also an HBCU, for five years.

Dr. Flowers, a MacArthur Fellow, founded CREEJ in 2019. Its mission

is to seek the implementation of best practices to address the reduction of health and economic disparities, improve access to clean air, water, and soil in marginalized rural communities by influencing



policy, inspiring innovation, catalyzing relevant research, and amplifying the voices of community leaders. This is done within the context of climate change and through the lens of environmental justice.

When Coach Thornton expressed her desire for a golf cart for the team, CREEJ's Project Manager James La Grande went to

work searching for one that could serve the team for years to come.

"Because of our commitment to Net Zero, it was important for us to find a company that would work with us and provide a vehicle that was electric," Mr. La Grande said. "A big shout out to Huntsville Carts and to everyone on our CREEJ team that made this possible."

For more information about Dr. Flowers, CREEJ, or its donation to AAMU, please contact David Person, CREEJ's Alabama media contact, at (256) 763-7910.



*Dr. Flowers*

## Ribbon Cutting Held for New EV Fast Charger

Huntsville Utilities, The City of Huntsville, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Seven States Power Corporation, and ChargePoint/Owl Services held a noon ribbon cutting for a new electric vehicle DC fast charger facility (DCFC) in the Publix parking garage at Twickenham Square (310 Pelham Avenue) on Friday, June 28.

This facility, which can accommodate up to four EVs, is part of TVA's initiative to have fast chargers at least every 50 miles throughout the TVA service area. Funding for

the chargers came from an 80/20 split between TVA and Huntsville Utilities (respectively). A DCFC can charge a typical EV to 80% in 20 minutes to an hour.

"Huntsville and Madison County have seen significant growth in the number of EVs in recent years," said Quisha Bryant, Director of Parking and Public Transit for the City of Huntsville. "We appreciate our partnership with Huntsville Utilities, TVA, and all those involved to bring more rapid charging infrastructure to our community."

Huntsville Utilities is

a not-for-profit, public utility owned by the City of Huntsville, Alabama, serving the residents of Huntsville and Madison County.

The utility currently has approximately 223,000 electric, 108,000 water, and 63,000 natural gas customers.

Its mission entails strengthening trust in Huntsville Utilities, delivering excellent customer experiences, and "doing what's right, building community, and getting better every day."

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