



JAIME HARRISON

Boyd Campaign Adds Nat'l Consultant - p. 10



Friday
July 18, 2025
Vol. 11, No. 46
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Eugene "Dick" Scruggs, Sr.

"I cannot tell the truth about anything unless I confess being a student, growing and learning something new every day." - Sonia Sanchez



New Deadline for Mayor's Youth Advisory Council

Huntsville is extending the deadline to apply for the inaugural Mayor's Youth Advisory Council to Thursday, July 31, at 10 p.m.

High school students passionate about leadership, civic engagement and making a difference in their community are urged to

apply for this exciting new initiative.

Coordinated by the City's Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council attracts a diverse group of students grades 9-12 to learn how local government works, share ideas and give voice to Huntsville's youth.

Participants will meet monthly during the school year (September 2025-May 2026) and engage in leadership development, public service projects and hands-on learning experiences with City departments and elected officials.

Apply [HERE](#) and learn more.

Indian Creek PB Church Revival Set

Indian Creek P.B. Church (380 Indian Creek Road) led by Senior Pastor Timothy M. Rainey, will hold its Summer Revival Sunday, July

27, at 10 a.m.

Guest messenger will be Reverend Benjamin Adams, Jr., of Saint John P.B. Church in Clearwater, Florida.

Revival services will continue Monday through Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. *Begin praying now for a mighty move of God!*

Summer Sunset Concert at Ditto Landing August 12

Join the many at the Ditto Landing Pavilion on Tuesday, August 12, and enjoy local music along the Tennessee River from 6-8 p.m.

The activity is open to the public with free admission.

Follow Ditto Landing Facebook and Instagram for more information. Visit <https://www.dittoland.org/events>.

Persons interested in being a



sponsor or vendor should call or e-mail Brandi Quick at Ditto Landing to find out how to become a part of the Summer Sunset Concert Series at Ditto Landing! Call (256) 882-1057, (256) 990-4960 or e-mail b.quick@dittoland-ing.org.

New Senior Housing Creates Local Construction Jobs

Local residents are invited to apply for new construction jobs created under HUD's Section 3 program as work begins on Grove at Indian Creek, a federally funded affordable housing development in Huntsville.

Neighborhood Concepts, a local non-profit, is developing Grove at Indian Creek, a 48-unit senior housing community at 7199 New Life Circle NW. The project will serve residents aged 55 and older as well

as individuals with disabilities, offering apartments affordable to households earning 60% or less of Huntsville's Area Median Income.

"This project is about more than housing—it's about investing in our community. Grove at Indian Creek will create affordable homes and local jobs, helping Huntsville grow in a way that benefits everyone," said Mary Ellen Judah, executive director.

Construction should be completed in the third quarter of 2026, with pre-leasing by mid-year. Grove at Indian Creek will be located next to the Cottages at Indian Creek, a similar senior housing development completed by Neighborhood Concepts in 2022.

Neighborhood Concepts, Inc. is a Huntsville-based non-profit with over

30 years of experience developing affordable housing and expanding economic opportunity. NCI works across Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina to create housing for working families and seniors. In addition to housing, NCI addresses economic inequities through its CDFI, which provides loans to small businesses that may not yet qualify for traditional bank financing.

The Section 3 program, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, prioritizes jobs and training opportunities for individuals with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. Individuals interested in the opportunity may reach out to the Section 3 Coordinator for Grove at Indian Creek at (256) 534-0075 ext. 401.

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Freedom Isn't a Luxury: It's the American Way

There are moments in history when a nation has to look itself in the mirror and ask: What are we becoming? Right now, across this country, we're watching a dangerous pattern emerge — and it's not just policy we should be worried about. It's principle.

From calls to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education and gut the IRS, to threats against the free press and the very idea of a nonpartisan civil service, we are seeing something deeper and more troubling: an effort to chip away at the freedoms that make this country worth fighting for.

Let's be clear. Canceling NPR, banning reporters who ask tough questions, punishing institutions for telling the truth — that's not limited government. That's not liberty. That's censorship. And it has no place in a democracy. When we silence voices, we weaken the very foundation of the First Amendment. Freedom of the press isn't a partisan privilege — it's a constitutional guarantee. Our republic depends on it. No administration, no matter who is in power, should ever decide which journalists get to speak and which are banished for not falling in line.

We're also watching the erosion of freedom of association — the ability for citizens to gather, to organize, to protest, to worship, to learn — being treated like a threat, rather than a right. And when people in power start using the levers of government to punish communities of color, to lift up one group while pushing down another, to cozy up to racist rhetoric while turning their backs on justice and equality — well, that's not strength. That's fear.



This isn't about left or right. It's about right and wrong. I was raised to believe that government wasn't the enemy — unchecked power was. That freedom wasn't free — and it sure wasn't partisan. That America's greatness lies not in her ability to dominate, but in her willingness to listen, to learn, and to lead with compassion and strength.

Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." He wasn't talking about taxes or regulation — he was talking about character. About the responsibility we all share to protect the core values of this country. The freedom to speak. The freedom to dissent. The freedom to live with dignity — no matter the color of our skin or where our ancestors came from.

That includes protecting the institutions that serve all of us — public education, the Social Security Administration, the IRS, and yes, a free and independent press. These aren't obstacles to freedom — they're the mechanisms by which freedom is made real for everyday Americans. So to those who think patriotism means blind loyalty to one person, one ideology, or one version of history — I say, that's not patriotism. That's propaganda.

True patriotism means defending the freedom of your neighbor, even when you disagree. It means fighting for facts, not fear. It means standing up — not shutting down — when democracy is under threat. We cannot afford to be silent while others rewrite the rules of this nation to serve only the powerful and punish the rest.

Because freedom — real freedom — belongs to all of us. And it's our duty, as Americans, to protect it with everything we've got. Until next week ...

A NOTE FROM THE ...



The Valley Weekly

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JULY 18 - **NELSON MANDELA** - Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by tackling institutionalised racism and fostering racial reconciliation. Ideologically an African nationalist and socialist, he served as President of the African National Congress (ANC) party from 1991 to 1997.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

"The Man in the Mirror"

Matthew 7:3, Jesus says, "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank that is in your own eye?"

When it comes to dealing with people and their issues, we tend to look through a magnifying glass at their problems and their mistakes. But what we should be using is a mirror so we can see our own mistakes.

You see, whenever there is a need to change people it all starts from within ourselves because we all have issues, and sometimes when we see something in a person that makes us angry or upset, we are really looking at something inside ourselves that we have to deal with. So we have to decide, "Am I going to focus on their issues or my issues?"

The key to loving our neighbors as we love ourselves is to put down the magnifying glass, pick up the mirror, and ask God, "What do I

need to change in my life to be all that I can be for your glory?" Remember: if we want to make this world a better place, we have to begin with the man in the mirror.



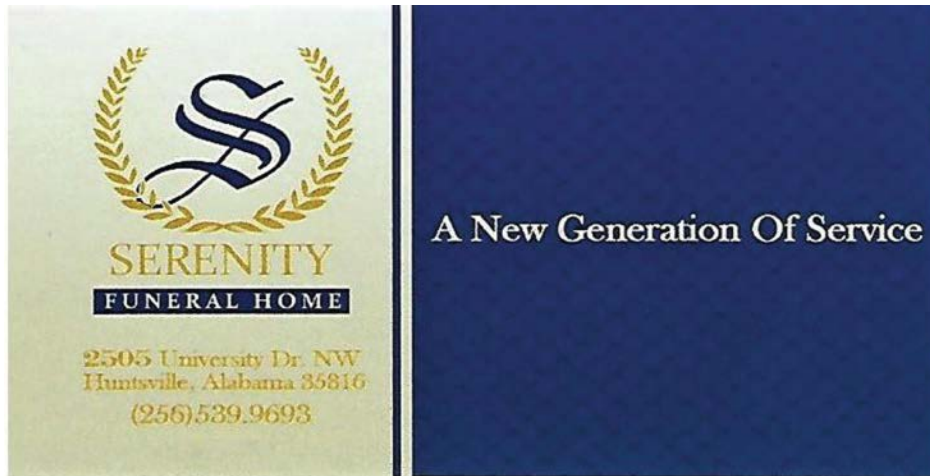
Prayer: Heavenly Father, allow us to not judge one another but instead love one another.

Question: Do you ever see mistakes in others that you don't see in yourself?

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:

"Faith in the Right Place"



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY DEATHS



SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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www.serenityfuneralhm.com - (256) 539-9693

Funeral services for **MR. SAMUEL "DJ CHARLIE HUSTLE" OATES** and **MR. WALTER TAYLOR, JR.** (b. 1962) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. LORENZO PATTERSON** (b. 1948) was Sunday, July 13, at Oakwood University Moseley Complex, 7000 Adventist Boulevard NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. COURTNEY MCCAULLEY** (b. 1991) was Saturday, July 12, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816
www.nelmsmemorial.net - (256) 539-8189

Funeral service for **MR. JAMES RAY SCRUGGS** (b. 1950) was Monday, July 14, at First Seventh-day Adventist Church with Pastor Nelson Stokes officiating.

Memorial service for **MR. COY LEE HOUSTON** (b. 1959) was Saturday, July 12, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. JOHN R. PITTS** (b. 1949) was Saturday, July 12, at Mount Zion Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Dr. Mylon Burwell officiating and Dr. Billy Brewton eulogist.

Funeral service for **MRS. LEONIA PETTY WILLIAMS** (b. 1937) was Saturday, July 12, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Larry Petty as eulogist and Pastor Larry Davidson, Jr., officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35810
www.royalfh.com - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for **MR. DA-WON ALEXANDER MASSEY** (b. 1990) will be at 12 noon, Saturday, July 19, at the True Light Church of God in Christ, 6480 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, Ala., with Apostle Phyllis Morton officiating.



When the Doctor Becomes the Patient

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." - 3 John 1:2

I thought I was eating above the fray—vegetarian meals, vegan days, daily workouts. But a recent lab report exposed my illusion: **A1C 6.7—welcome to diabetes.**

The news humbled my wife (a retired licensed respiratory therapist) and me. It also forced me to practice what I teach: **ego-holism recovering**, the ongoing management of inflated pride and deflated insecurity.

T-O-P: Three Tough Realities

1. **Target the Problem** – I had to say, "I am diabetic." Naming a truth strips it of its hiding place.
2. **Own the Problem** – Genetics, geography (Alabama's "diabetes belt") and age were convenient scapegoats. Ownership put the fork back in my hand.
3. **Proceed to Action** – Seven practical shifts followed; here are two:
Change Lanes – Early lights-out ended late-night snacking.
Become an Active Listener – Reading nutrition labels became listening with my eyes.

Six-Week Report Card

- A1C: 6.7 → 6.4
- Fasting glucose: 93 → 81
- Four pounds lighter

We celebrated—briefly. Then my wife and I invoked Hall-of-Fame coach **Don Shula's 24-hour rule**: win or lose, you get one day to react; then it's prep time for the next game.

Diabetes—and ego—deserve even less leisure. After six hours, the victory dance ended, meal prep resumed, and alarms were set for safer bedtimes.

Leadership in the Mirror

Ego—whether swollen or shriveled—can derail our health as easily as it wrecks our leadership. The same humility that helps a CEO solicit feedback helps a patient accept a food plan.

I'm now a *recovering diabetic ego-holic*, determined to retire my "nurse-sergeant" wife by keeping the numbers trending down.

If you're wrestling with your own diagnosis—medical or moral—remember American novelist James Baldwin's wisdom: *"You cannot fix what you will not face."* Face it, own it, act on it. Your legacy—and perhaps your life—depend on it.

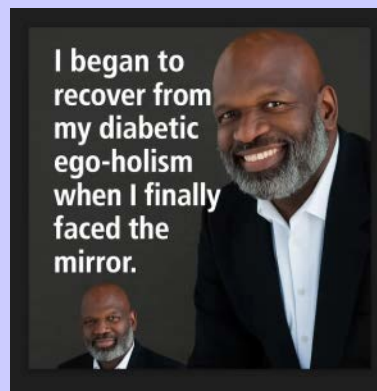
Tim Allston hosts *"The Tim Commandments of Leadership"* podcast and speaks on *ego-holism recovering* every weekday.



Tim Allston

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

<https://bit.ly/4aB9Lwm>, <https://bit.ly/4cYZyuz>
Email Address: leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com



Evaluations ...

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Have you ever taken the time to give yourself a midterm? I know; no one wants to talk about those. However, this is a good thing!

Have you ever looked at where you were going, stopped, and assessed how far you've come? From that point, either replanned your steps based on the pros and cons and said, "That plan and path still works for me," or redirect yourself to do something different so you could reach the actual outcome

you were striving for?

These evaluations are *essential*. Everyone needs to assess what they are doing and where they are going. You can't point yourself aimlessly in a direction and keep heading there based on what life hands you and expect to hit your target. You've got to stop and look at what you've done.

How have you handled it? Does it work for you? Decide what you need to change; add or subtract. Figure out if there is another skill set required.

Do you need the help of another individual to get through this phase? Has someone's time lapsed, and is it time to let them go during this phase?

Evaluate people. Evaluations are an excellent understanding of how well you're doing.

Pause, be honest, don't beat yourself up; access and keep going, or redirect. Don't Quit! Redirect!

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He has given you a gift; open it.



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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru July 25

Summer 2025 Natue Rangers Camps
Burritt on the Mountain
3101 Burritt Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Harrison Brothers Hardware
124 South Side Square
Huntsville, Ala.
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

July 16

Feature Exhibition: Justice for the Johnsons

July 18-20

Bruce Bruce Comedian
Huntsville Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway

SW

Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 261-3374

July 21

Concerts in the Park
Big Spring International Park
200 Church Street
Huntsville, Ala. (Free)
Monday Evenings

July 27

"Weird Al" Yankovic: Bigger & Weirder 2025 Tour
The Orion - MidCity
Huntsville, Ala.

July 28

Concerts in the Park
Big Spring International Park
200 Church Street
Huntsville, Ala. (Free)

'The Bold Market' Celebrating Huntsville's Black Businesses

The public is invited to attend The BOLD Market, a dynamic community celebration hosted by BOLD Huntsville and Huntsville Black-owned businesses. The event is dedicated to uplifting and empowering Black-owned businesses in Huntsville and beyond during Black Business Month!

The activity will be held at the iconic Orion Amphitheater on Saturday, August

10, from 2-6 p.m. This high-energy outdoor event will feature a curated marketplace of Black entrepreneurs, creators, and service providers across industries—from fashion and food to wellness, technology, and more. Attendees will enjoy live



entertainment, networking opportunities, and a vibrant atmosphere of connection and celebration.

Whether you're a business owner, aspiring entrepreneur, or supporter of Black excellence, this is a can't-miss event to connect, grow, and celebrate.

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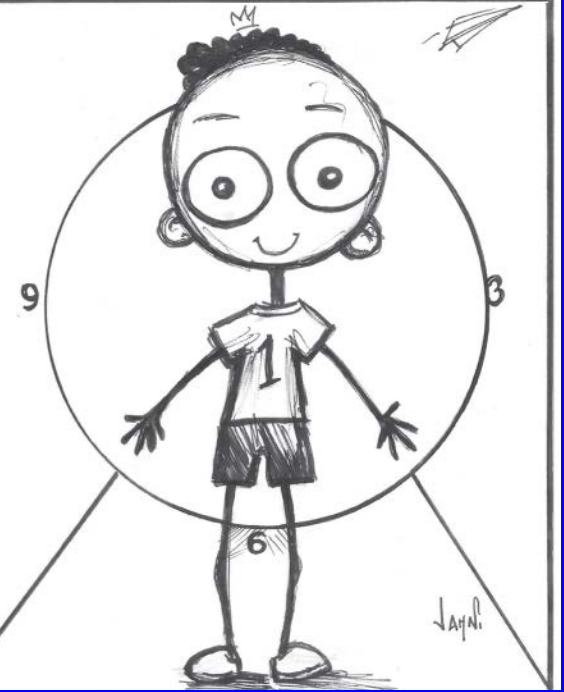
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matter so
much where
you start. What
counts most is
that you do."

J. T. Moore



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"I prefer to go to the grave
with my eyes open."

- Hubert Harrison

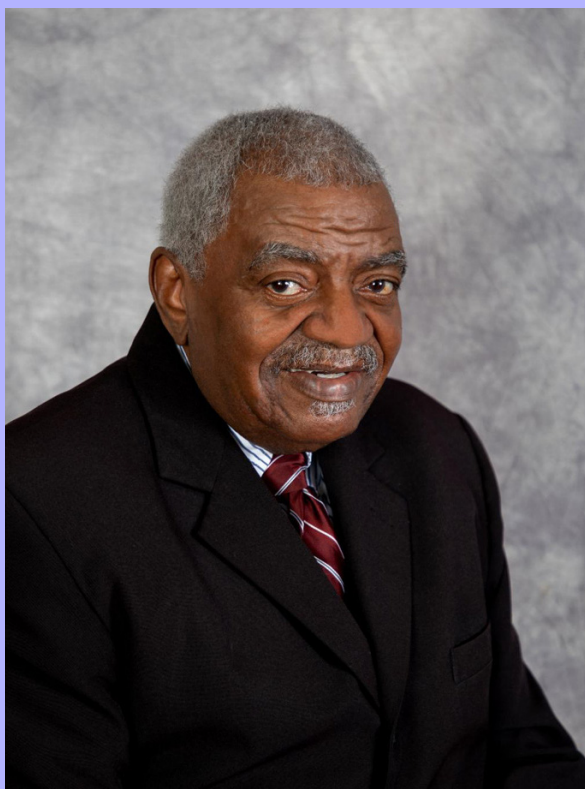


Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mr. Eugene "Dick" Scruggs, Sr.

Mr. Eugene "Dick" Scruggs, Sr., is a native of Madison County, Alabama, who was reared in Meridianville. He is also a former member of the Negro League's baseball dynasty, where he served as a pitcher with a fastball that touched 90 miles per hour and a secondary pitch known around the Negro Leagues as "that funky curveball." Dick Scruggs played for the Kansas City Monarchs and the Detroit Stars. He is a 2002 inductee into the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Cemented firmly in the legacy of the Negro Leagues, Dick Scruggs is also a local celebrity. Trained by the late R.E. Nelms, Scruggs has been a licensed embalmer and funeral director, since 1975, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Ala. With an impressive six decades of experience as a mortician, Mr. Scruggs has prepared thousands for burial. As an elder



statesmen within the mortuary science profession, Dick Scruggs has trained countless apprentice embalmers and funeral directors, most notably, his grandson, G. Terrell Scruggs. Lauded by colleagues throughout the nation for his work as a mortician, he is affiliated with the Alabama Board of Funeral Service, and the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association.

A strong family man, Mr. Scruggs is not one to rest on his laurels. In 1970, he founded Associated Contractors, Incorporated, a janitorial service to further provide for his family and to leave a legacy for future generations. Mr. Scruggs is married to Mrs. Ethel Scruggs, his bride of over 60 years. Together, they are the proud parents of six children and 18 grandchildren.

"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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What Have You Been Missing?

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, July 20, 2025
Sixth Sunday
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year C)
First Lesson:
Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Second Lesson:
Colossians 1:15-28
GOSPEL:
Luke 10:38-42



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November–March: Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 4pm & Sunday: noon – 4pm

Six Smart Ways to Help Pay for College

(BPT) - As high school graduation nears, it's time to start thinking about how to pay for college. Not sure where to start? You're not alone. According to a recent College Ave survey, 41% of current college students were confused when trying to figure out how to pay for their education.

Paying for college doesn't have to be overwhelming. Your family has multiple options to make college affordable. Read on for the six best ways to help pay for college.

1. FAFSA

The very first thing you should do is encourage your child to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form helps the government deter-

mine what types of financial aid your student qualifies for. Some states and schools also use this information to offer financial aid, such as scholarships and grants. Because some funding is limited, it's important to submit the FAFSA as early as possible.

2. Scholarships

Scholarships are for everyone, not just straight-A students. In fact, according to the survey, 53% of current college students are paying for college using merit aid like scholarships.

There are many types of scholarships out there that are awarded based on your background, extracurricular activities, area of study, and even random drawings. You can search for scholarships on websites like Fastweb, Scholly, Cappex and Unigo. One easy, no-essay scholarship to apply for is the \$1,000 scholarship sweepstakes at CollegeAve.com/scholarship.

3. Grants

Remember your FAFSA form? Based on your information, you may be eligible for a grant. For example, you've probably heard of the Pell Grant, a government-funded grant based on a student's financial need.

The Pell Grant isn't your only option. Your state or school may also offer grants, so make sure to check your state's department of education and your school's website.

4. Work-study

Many students work jobs while attending college to pay for their education. However, you may not be aware that your college may offer on-campus work-study jobs that are financed by government aid.

According to the College



Ave survey, students who use their income or savings to help pay for college work on

average 16 hours per week. Like grants and financial aid, you'll need your FAFSA to see if you qualify for work-study, so put that at the top of your to-do list.

Even if you don't qualify for a work-study gig, you could consider working a part-time job in your field of interest. It's a great way to earn money for your education and gain experience in your chosen profession.

5. Federal loans

Once you've received

all the aid you qualify for, your family may still need to borrow money to cover the remaining college costs. Federal student loans are a common option. Start by applying for a federal student loan in the student's name. These loans offer benefits not offered by private lenders. To access them, you must complete the FAFSA.

In fact, the survey found that 41% of students use federal loans to help fund their education. These loans offer fixed interest rates and flexible repayment plans, including income-driven repayments.

6. Private student loans

Federal student loans have annual limits, which may not cover your full

college costs. To bridge the gap between your financial aid and remaining expenses, consider a private student loan as an additional option.

With a private student loan, you can borrow up to the cost of college attendance minus awarded financial aid. If you'd like to learn more about private student loans, go to CollegeAve.com. There you can also use the student loan calculator to estimate monthly payments, compare interest rates and review available repayment terms.

Find the best options for you

Every family's path to paying for college is unique. Explore these six strategies and find the right mix to fund a college degree.

ON THIS DAY

On July 18, 1966, the Hough Uprising in Cleveland, Ohio, began. This event, also known as the "Hough Riots," was a five-day period of protests and unrest sparked by racial tensions and a white-owned bar's refusal to serve Black patrons water, according to the Zinn Education Project. The uprising resulted in four deaths, 50 injuries, and 275 arrests.

- Zinn Education Project

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Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in session this week. The Senate will take up the White House's \$9.4 billion Rescissions bill to zero out funding for public radio and TV stations and cut \$8.3 billion in foreign aid, which the House passed in a squeaker 214-212 vote on June 12. The House declared this week "Crypto Week" and put three bills on the schedule to regulate and promote the cryptocurrency industry, including the Senate-passed version of the stablecoin bill known as the GENIUS Act. The House Appropriations Committee will continue work on the FY2026 appropriations bills with subcommittee markups scheduled Monday for the Transportation/HUD and Energy & Water bills, with more bills to be marked up this week. Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee's markup of the Commerce/Justice/Science bill ground to a halt when a Democratic amendment passed that would stop the administration from moving the FBI HQ 3

blocks to the Ronald Regan Building instead of to its new planned home in Greenbelt, MD.

2. RECONCILIATION/TAX CUT BILL. With the ink barely dry on the newly signed 940-page, \$3.3 trillion Tax Cut/Reconciliation bill, Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) last week introduced bipartisan-sponsored legislation to cancel a new provision in the bill that imposes a significant tax increase on Americans who gamble by reducing from 100% to 90% the amount of losses they can deduct from gambling winnings for their income taxes. Last Thursday, Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) tried to bring up the bill on the Senate floor but was blocked by Senate Republicans.

3. WHITE HOUSE. On Monday, the President met with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and reportedly told him that he is sending Patriot missiles and other munitions to Ukraine. Last Wednesday, the President announced that the U.S. will impose a 50% tariff on copper imports starting August 1,

2025 (according to Reuters, half of the refined copper the U.S. uses is imported from Chile, Canada, and Peru). He also continued to send out letters to countries around the world threatening new tariffs, including a 50% tariff on goods imported from Brazil if it does not end its trial of former President Jair Bolsonaro, who is accused of trying to overthrow the government. On Thursday, he announced a new 35% tariff on about half of Canada's exports to the U.S. (not counting separate tariffs on autos, copper, steel, and aluminum) for failing to stem the rumored flow of fentanyl across the northern border. On Saturday, he announced 30% tariffs on imports from Mexico and the European Union starting Aug. 1. In other news, the President's strident immigration agenda suffered two setbacks last week: (1) on Thursday a federal judge in New Hampshire certified a class action lawsuit including all children who will be affected by the President's executive order ending birth-right citizenship and issued a preliminary injunction blocking it; and (2) on Friday a federal judge in California issued two temporary restraining orders blocking the administration from making indiscriminate immigration arrests in the Los Angeles area and from denying detainees the right to consult with a lawyer (note: amid concern over immigration enforcement raids in the area, on July 8 Ro-

man Catholic Bishop Alberto Rojas of San Bernardino, CA, issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for the faithful if they fear for their well-being).

4. SUPREME COURT. Last Tuesday, the Supreme Court lifted a lower court order that had blocked the President's February executive order requiring government agencies to lay off hundreds of thousands of federal employees. In a brief, unsigned opinion, the justices temporarily paused an order by a federal judge in San Francisco that prohibited the government from carrying out the executive order while its appeals continue. The Court's majority explained that the administration will likely prevail on its argument that the executive order and a memorandum from the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management intended to implement the executive order are legal. Following this

ruling, the State Department fired 1,100 civil service employees and 240 Foreign Service members on Friday. Last Wednesday, the Court refused to allow Florida to enforce a state law that makes it a crime for anyone who entered the United States illegally to enter or remain in the state, leaving in place an order by a federal judge in Miami that bars the state from implementing the law while an underlying lawsuit progresses.

5. EDUCATION and LABOR. On July 10, the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor issued final rules reinterpreting the 1996 welfare reform law (PRWORA) to significantly restrict access to federally funded education and workforce programs for undocumented individuals, including DACA recipients. The Education Department's rule classifies adult basic education, postsecondary career and technical education, and dual-enrollment

programs as "federal public benefits," thereby excluding undocumented students from participation. In tandem, the Department of Labor's new guidance requires grantees to verify work authorization for all participants in WIOA-funded programs, including adult education, dislocated worker services, and youth programs. These coordinated actions establish a new legal framework that could reshape access to public workforce and education services, prompting institutions to carefully assess their compliance obligations and seek legal guidance.

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Drake State Strengthens Long Partnership with NASA HUNCH

Drake State Community and Technical College is strengthening its 15-year partnership with the NASA High Schools United with NASA to Create Hardware (HUNCH) program through major enhancements to its advanced manufacturing lab. This collaboration continues to offer students unique opportunities to work on real aerospace components and engage directly

with NASA professionals.

As part of this continuing partnership, Drake State recently installed a Haas VF6 SS Machining Center in its new Leidos Advanced Training Complex. The VF6 significantly expands the college's machine tool lab capability, making Drake State one of the only post-secondary institutions in the nation with a machine of this caliber.

Drake State became the

first two-year college in the Southeast to join the NASA HUNCH program in 2010.

"This is not just an equipment upgrade; it's a transformative leap," said Dr. Patricia Sims, President of Drake State. "Through this partnership with NASA HUNCH, our students will gain hands-on experience using full-scale aerospace components and prepare for real-world careers in

the aerospace and manufacturing sectors."

The college is also pursuing the acquisition of a 3-foot by 5-foot Coordinate Measuring Machine (CMM), which would further enhance the precision capabilities of its lab and complement the VF6's functions. NASA HUNCH representatives have expressed their strong support for this next step, noting its potential to multiply the benefits of the partnership exponentially. "Our team is excited



about what's happening at Drake State," said Tyler Williams, NASA HUNCH Mentor. "With the right tools and continued support, Drake State could become the premier NASA HUNCH program in the country."

Drake State and NASA

HUNCH look forward to leveraging this partnership to enrich student learning, boost program visibility, and strengthen Alabama's role in the future of aerospace innovation.

- Richard Davis

Boyd for Governor Campaign Adds National Consultant

The Will Boyd for Alabama gubernatorial campaign has announced that Vision Blue Strategies (VBS) has joined the team as a national consultant. VBS was founded by Jaime Harrison, former Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and brings a wealth of experience in political strategy, grassroots organizing, and public service.

"Chairman Harrison and the Vision Blue team bring strength, vision, and focus to our campaign," said Dr. Will Boyd. "Their leadership and deep understanding of what it takes

to connect with everyday Americans makes them the right partners for this moment. With their support, we're going to take this message of opportunity and dignity to every corner of Alabama — and win."

This partnership comes at a time of growing momentum for the Boyd campaign, which has already added over 500 volunteers in just a few weeks. From Mobile to Huntsville, supporters are stepping up in every region of the state — helping build a movement powered by hardworking Alabamians who are ready for a future that works for

everyone.

Vision Blue Strategies advises a wide range of Democratic candidates, from seasoned public servants to first-time candidates. The firm also supports local and state Democratic parties, advocacy groups, and civic organizations through strategic training and outreach.

"The Democratic Party is only going to win if we're competitive everywhere," said VBS founding partner Harrison. "That means ceding no ground. Dr. Boyd understands that. He knows how to win, and he's willing to put in the work."

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