

USDA Launches Land Access Program - p. 8

FREE

Marc's Making His Bold 'Mark' - p. 5

Friday
August 11, 2023
Vol. 9, No. 49
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



GLORIA B: 'The Wait ...' - p. 6



TIM: SUCCESS THRU MAMA - p. 5



Mr. Robert Wilson

"If you have no confidence in self, you are twice defeated in the race of life." - Marcus Garvey

Community Remembers Former Councilman, Rosetta James Elder

The Tennessee Valley area is mourning the recent August 1 death of former dentist and Huntsville City Councilman Dr. James "Jimmy" Wall. Wall was also a 2017 inductee and Elder of the Rosetta James Foundation.



Huntsville Madison County Dental Society and was, in 1980, elected as a Fellow in the American College of Dentistry. From 1966-70, he devoted one day a week as

an instructor of clinical dentistry for the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. He served on Madison County Cleft Palate Team from 1978-83.

An avid hiker who took on the entire 2,100-plus mile of the Appalachian Trail, Wall enjoyed water and snow skiing, photography, white water canoeing and bicycling.

Dr. Wall married the former Joanne Hunt, and they were blessed with two children, both UA graduates. His daughter Melinda Lawson also continued her studies at the master's level at Vanderbilt University, while his son—James III—earned the M.A. degree from Alabama. The Walls showed much pride in their three grandchildren (Kimberly, Sara and James) and their one great-grandson Grey.

Wall diligently served some two decades on the City Council and even longer on the Huntsville Utilities Gas & Water boards. He is also remembered as the founder of the Community Free Dental Clinic for financially vulnerable people throughout Madison County.

A 1952 graduate of Huntsville High School, Dr. Wall went on to the University of Alabama, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1955. He continued his studies at the University of Alabama in an earnest quest to become a dentist, receiving his DMD in 1958.

A life member of the Alabama Dental Association, Wall enjoyed a lengthy affiliation with the Hunts-

Apollo Park 'Closer to Reality'

The last phase of Apollo Park at Mid-City District is now underway, adding yet another beautiful and unique amenity to District 5 and the City as a whole.

In late July, the Huntsville City Council unanimously approved plans to proceed with a \$7.9 million construction contract to



move forward with the final piece of the park.

Council President John Meredith: "Apollo Park will provide locals and visitors alike the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful oasis just steps away from dynamic concerts, sports offerings, restaurants, retail and urban living."

AAMU Entering Fall Semester with New Appointments

With only weeks left until classes begin, Alabama A&M University has announced two major changes in the academic affairs arena.

Last week (July 24), the University announced that Dr. Peter Eley (below) will use his more than 20 years of expertise to shore up in an interim capacity the College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, formerly headed by Dr. Lena Walton.



AAMU announced on July 27 that Dr. Tim Mantz (r) will perform similar duties for the College of Business and Public Affairs, formerly headed by Dr. Charles Richardson.

An education professor at Fayetteville State University (N.C.), Eley currently serves as the NASA Liaison for Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) through the NASA Office of STEM (OS-TEM) and Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP).



Mantz has been a dean for over 14 years at both public and private universities. He most

recently was the dean of the School of Business and Professional Studies at Cabrini University, a Catholic University in the Philadelphia area.

Daughters of Zion Schedules Inaugural Women's Conference

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

The Daughters of Zion ministry will hold its inaugural "Women of Worship" Conference on Saturday, September 9, at the Westin Hotel in Huntsville, Ala., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The free session will include prayer, praise and worship, and the confer-

ence theme is "Travail."

For additional information, contact Min. Toni Savage, president/founder, at info@dzministries.com.

To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wow-2023-women-of-worship-conference-tickets-644439334397>

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least **TWO** weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC. Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the editorial staff, and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.

The Valley Weekly

Ad Rates Single Issue

Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,500
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$1,200
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$900
Half Page	Horizontal 5x10 inches	\$600
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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee



When No. 2 ... Try Harder!

Exactly one year ago, Huntsvillians were celebrating the city's 2022 listing by US News as the #1 city to live in throughout America. Indeed, it was definitely a cause worthy of celebration!

The downtown festivities included hours of live music, LED light experience, outdoor games, free downtown tours, food, local artisans and much more on North Side Square.

This year, there is still

much to celebration, although the Rocket City lost its top slot.

The new 2023 listing by U.S. News & World Report, released in the Tennessee Valley to lesser fanfare, included the following:

1. Green Bay, Wisc.; 2. **Huntsville, Ala.**; 3. Raleigh Durham, N.C.; 4. Boulder, Colo.; 5. Sarasota, Fla.; 6. Naples, Fla.; 7. Portland, Maine; 8. Charlotte, N.C.; 9.

Colorado Springs, Colo.; 10. Fayetteville, Ark.; 11. Madison, Wisc.; 12. Boise, Idaho; 13. San Jose, Calif.; 14. Ann Arbor, Mich.; 15. Melbourne, Fla.; 16. Jacksonville, Fla.; 17. Albany, N.Y.; 18. Myrtle Beach, S.C.; 19. Des Moines, Iowa; 20. Grand Rapids, Mich.; 21. Knoxville, Tenn.; 22. Syracuse, N.Y.; 23. Fort Collins, Colo.; 24. Tampa, Fla.; and 25. Hickory, N.C.

Mayor Disappointed Over USSPACECOM

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle recently released the following statement regarding the hite House announcement stating that USSPACECOM will remain in Colorado:

"We are deeply disappointed in the reversal of a meticulous decision-making process that selected Huntsville, Alabama for the permanent home of USSPACECOM. This community went through a lengthy selection process – twice.

"To have that process invalidated, and to have our selection taken away is demoralizing.

"It is even more disturbing that the selection is go-

ing to the community that ranked fifth in the selection process.

"Our systems should be better than that. The Department of Defense deserves better than that.

"No matter where USSPACECOM resides, Huntsville will move forward and continue to be a good neighbor with our national military partners.

"We fully support our military and aerospace sec-



tors and will work to ensure Huntsville remains a key component in furthering USSPACECOM's mission on the national and global stage."

Tommy Battle
Mayor

Burritt's Oktober Fest Set

Raise your glass to toast Oktoberfest [Sept. 14, Burritt on the Mountain, 6-8 p.m., \$45] overlooking the city of Huntsville at Burritt on the Mountain's spectacular view. Oktoberfest is always celebrated in September because of the longer days and warmer weather.

Oktoberfest has been a German tradition since 1810. It began as a commemoration

of the marriage of Bavaria's Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess. That year, Bavarians were treated to days of beer, food and entertainment. It was such a success that the tradition continued.

Tickets are limited. Please visit today burrittonthemountain.com/event/burritts-oktoberfest-dinner.

Atty. Points NBL Top 40 Under 40

David Points, III focuses his practice on discovery, early exploration of settlement potential, and judicious use of practice. He believes that it is the carrier's claim, money, and effective representation that inherently entails appropriate litigation to the size and complexity of the matter.

Points is focused on representing and advising insurance carriers in matters of coverage and bad faith. He handles a variety of claims in both federal and state courts. As a former plaintiff's attorney, he is well-respected by both sides of the insurance law bar for his professionalism and knowledge. Personal service and professional excellence are the foundations upon which his insurance law practice was built.

Points attended Howard University, where he earned



a B.B.A. in Business Management. He then graduated with an M.B.A. from the Florida Institute of Technology. He earned his J.D. from the Southern University Law Center in 2017. He is admitted to practice law in Texas, as well as the United States Eastern District Court of Texas, and the United States Southern District Court of Texas.

The National Black Lawyers is proud to have Atty. Poits represented among its Top 40 Under 40!

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Memorial service for MS. ADRIANA MCCANTS (b. 1992) will be on Saturday, August 19, at 11 a.m. at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. KENNETH GREEN will be Friday, August 11, at 1 p.m. at New Life Seventh-day-Adventist Church (3912 Pulaski Pike NW – Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor James Battle officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAQUAN T. ROGERS (b. 2000) was held Sunday, August 6, at the Saint Mark Baptist Church with Pastor Jeremiah Chester officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JERRON PAUL ELLIOTT (b. 1989) was held Friday, August 4, at the Northwest Church of Christ with Brother Jimmy Holman officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MS. ANDREA CHRISTINA BRANDON (b. 1978) was held Sunday, August 6, at the Mt. Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (3726 Pryor Road Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Willie Diggs as eulogist and Pastor James Robinson officiating.

Memorial service for MRS. RUTH ANN BROWN WHITLOW (b. 1939) was held Sunday, August 6, at the New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (3912 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Nelson Stokes officiating.

Funeral service for MS. EVA LEE PRIDE JACKSON (b. 1946) was held Sunday, August 6, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Wilma Burton officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CARLOS DEWAYNE READUS (b. 1971) was held Friday, August 4, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral services for MR. JARVIS DENNIS (b. 1976) and MS. AVYANNA DAVIS (b. 2023) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MS. VERONA MOORE (b. 1945) was held Monday, August 7, at Valhalla Memory Gardens, 698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Life Is a Journey

Matthew 7:13 says, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it."

We are all on a journey as we walk on this road called life. However, the question is this: are we headed in the right direction? Jesus gives us instruction on how we can make sure that we are indeed headed in the right direction. Like so many things in life, it all begins with a choice.

Our Christian journeys in life begin when we accept Jesus as our lord and savior. Our journeys have a

destination called heaven. Keep in mind our journeys are not going to be perfect. There will be hills to climb, hardships to endure, and trials to overcome. However, as long as we keep our eyes on the prize, which is a city called heaven, that gives us a divine purpose.

That is why I believe that Jesus knows all about our journeys and He knows that we fall sometimes. That is why He gave us the ministry of the Holy Spirit to give us direction on our journeys.

God also sent us Jesus to meet us where we are on our journeys but not leave us in our brokenness, so that we would have lives filled with love, peace, and

joy.

In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never

walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." You see, life is a journey, and the more we walk in His

ways, the more we become like Him.

May God grant you spiritual success on your journey.

Question: Do you like the direction that your life is headed? If so why?

Stay encouraged my brothers and sisters and make sure you purchase a copy of my book Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life and A Champion Game Plan for Life at amazon.com, Westbow Books or if you have a PayPal account email me at prestonbrown81@gmail.com and I will send you an autographed copy.



Huntsville Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



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"It's always something to remind you that everything ain't never gonna be alright!"

- J. California Cooper

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The Valley Weekly
VALLEY
EVENTS
 HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru September 23

"Fire Becomes Her"
 Art Exhibition by Ace Lemley
 Lowe Mills ARTS & Entertainment
 UAH Project Space
 2211 Seminole Drive
 Huntsville, Ala.
 5-7 p.m.

August 10

"Designing an Edible Garden"
 Huntsville Botanical Garden
 6 p.m.

August 10-12

Jake Johannsen
 Comedian
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Pkwy SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 (256) 261-3374

August 12

Casting Call for "The King and I"
 Around the Curtain Children's Theatre
 9 a.m.

August 18-19

Christopher Titus
 Comedian
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Pkwy SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 (256) 261-3374

August 19

Shop Black Huntsville Fest
 Butler Green @ Campus
 805
 Huntsville, Ala.

Shakespeare in the Garden
 "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
 Huntsville Botanical Garden
 7:30 p.m.

August 23

Brad Williams
 Comedian
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Pkwy SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 (256) 261-3374

August 27

Learning Expo 2023
 The Orion Amphitheater
 MidCity
 Huntsville, Ala.
 1 p.m.

August 30

My Cousin Tiera
 Comedian
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Pkwy SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 (256) 261-3374

September 7

Steve Brown
 Comedian
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Pkwy SW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 (256) 261-3374
 7 p.m.

September 9

Bulldog Football vs. Lane College
 Louis Crews Stadium
 Alabama A&M University
 6 p.m.

September 15

NEACA Fall Craft Show
 Von Braun Center
 9 a.m.

September 21

Bulldog Football vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
 Louis Crews Stadium
 Alabama A&M University
 6:30 p.m.

September 30

Rich Girl Goals Conference
 A Boss Lady Society
 richgirlgoals2020@gmail.com
 Huntsville, Ala.
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bulldog Football vs. Tuskegee

Louis Crews Stadium
 Alabama A&M University
 2 p.m.

October 7

Rocket City Scottish Festival and Highland Games
 Sharon Johnston Park
 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Maxwell

Concert
 The Orion Amphitheater
 7:30 p.m.

October 20

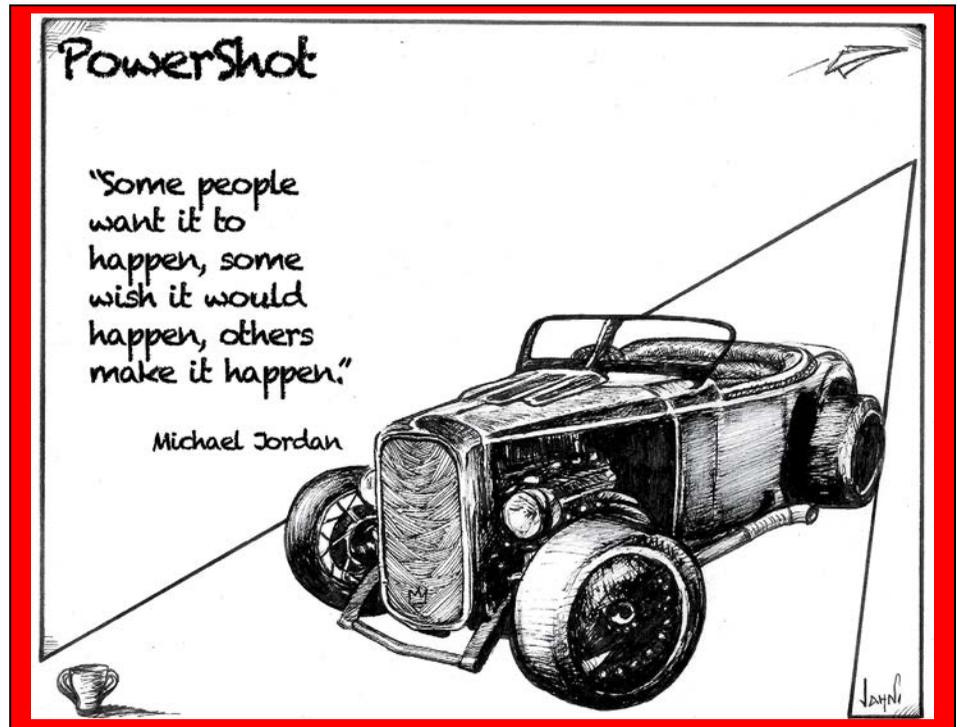
Mystic Forest Fantasy
 Masque II
 Embassy Suites
 7 p.m.

November 4

Bulldog Football vs. Florida A&M
 Louis Crews Stadium
 Alabama A&M University
 1 p.m.

November 17-19

Preacher Lawson
 "America's Got Talent"
 Stand Up Live Huntsville
 2012 Memorial Parkway
 Huntsville, Ala.
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**"I depend on novelty steps
 a two-legged man couldn't do."**

- Peg Leg Bates

Local Speaker-Writer-Producer Serious about His Crafts

'Pen-pointing' MARC LACY

The Valley Weekly shines a spotlight on longtime local creative activist and prolific writer Walter Marcellus "Marc" Lacy, who traces his love for writing back to his teen years.

In 2001, Lacy had co-founded The Legendary ArtNSoul Society of Expression. Via the local open mic circuit, Lacy transformed from a writ-

as I found excitement in my World, American, and English Literature classes in high school," Lacy recalled. "I couldn't wait to write essays, short stories, and book reports on subjects/books that I found very interesting."

The native Huntsvillian said that momentum continued throughout his college years at Alabama A&M University. He



ten poet, into a spoken word artist.

In 2004, Lacy published his first book, *The Looking Heart*, and co-produced his first spoken word CD, *REFlux*, (Charles Owens, Touchzone Production & Publishing). Both works were the recipients of several independent publishing/performance awards.

By 2007, Lacy released his second book of poetry *Rock & Fire*, which garnered him a nomination for "Poet of the Year" – Open Book Awards along with Nikki Giovanni. He has traveled the nation participating in various spoken word/literary endeavors.

"As a kid, I knew I had a knack for creative writing

found that his humanities courses offered him similar opportunities.

"Although I knew I had the knack, my instructors knew it needed to be polished up immensely," he said. "They took every opportunity to teach, train, and inspire me to work harder at it."

Lacy also recalled that there was always ample



literature around his house to feed his literary appetite.

"At the time, my mother was an instructor and my father was a logistician," he explained. "My folks were always reading and would assign my siblings and me certain books to read and to write reports on. Of course, when mom and dad emphasized the reading and writing, it didn't seem fun, but it ended up being great training for the long run."

With the 2020's bringing in a multitude of uncertainties, chief of which was the COVID-19 pandemic, Lacy said he knew it would be a period in which he really needed to get on the ball with his publications.

Before his recent batch of eight books were released, Lacy already had five (5) under his belt at that stage in his professional writing career.

"Mind you, there were numerous collaborations,

as well as appearances in anthologies," acknowledged Lacy, "but as far as solo projects are concerned (when the pandemic kicked in), I had two books of poetry, one short story book, and two fiction-thriller novels (comprising the first two books of the *Whiskey House Trilogy*)."

While sitting in his office, pecking away at a manuscript during the pandemic, he made up his mind to publish the third book of the trilogy, *Ghost of Ace Honeycutt*, as well as to release his *entire* poetic vault.

The seven books in Lacy's Clairvoyance Poetic Vault are: *Ammunition*, *Beatific Ambrosia*, *Crescendo*, *Enraptured Felicity*, *Expose*, *Geometry*, and *ReQuiem*.

Indeed, the 2020's definitely proved that tomorrow is not guaranteed. This sobering experience served as Lacy's main motivation.

The end result is the simultaneous release of a mammoth collection of eight Lacy works.

Enjoy Lacy's publications on a favorite ePub file app or the Amazon Kindle e-reader.

Also visit <https://marclacy.com>.

Photography:
Fredo Star Photography



Black Man's Success Secret Formula?

A \$500 Loan from Mama!

"Good friend, . . . don't wander off from your mother's teachings." - Proverbs 6:20

Q: Ever wonder, when TV cameras pan the sidelines at college football games, why the Black players are quick with the "Hi, Mom" tributes?

A: It's probably because those tributed Moms invested time and faith in those sons - probably absent of a Dad. Historically, the mother-son bond pays rich dividends for humankind:

My college professor Dr. Nancy Bullock McGee once recounted that in 1942, one of her fellow lunchroom colleagues used to amuse the other Black students about starting a magazine about their people.

They all would laugh routinely until his single mother took out a \$500 collateral loan against her furniture so that he could establish the *Negro Digest*-turned-*Black World*, then *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, and later *Ebony Fashion Fair* and *Cosmetics*.

In 1982, John H. Johnson became the first African American listed in *Forbes Magazine's* 400 wealthiest Americans; and

Also in 1974, a single mom deposited her 18-year-old son on the steps of then-Oakwood College's Cunningham Hall, then pulled from her purse a tightly-rolled wad of \$500, saying, "Son: if I had more, I'd give you more. But God will provide."

Thirty-six years and two doctorates later, Dr. Leslie Polard became his alma mater's 11th president.

These two single Black Moms invested \$500 in their sons, and we've all benefited from that return on investment.

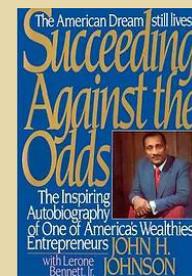
But can Black Lightning Strike Thrice?

I'd been stuck for three years, admittedly unclear of God's fullest calling for my life.

Then, Changing Lane Christian Wellness Ministry & Counseling Center co-founder and men's ministry partner Reuben Griffin suggested a Christian Life Coaching certification, and it clicked immediately as the missing piece: one-to-one ministering. But \$500 for coursework? "I'll sponsor you," volunteered my 92-year-old widowed mother, then smiled, "but as a loan, mind you!"

M'brothas: Today, go bear-hug that woman who has already invested \$500+ in your dreams!

Tim Allston, Leadership Coach and Three-time Amazon Best-selling Author, Leading from the Middle (256) 212-0949 - www.timallston.com
<https://www.timallston.com>
leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com



The Wait ...

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Pacing, foot tapping, exasperated breaths, frustration, and build-up. The wait will have you acting strange. Your mind is racing, anticipating the very thing you're waiting for, seeing the person, the adventures, the trip, the first day of school/work. You can't wait to start, be on your way ... or get there!

The adrenaline you get wanting to arrive at your destination is magnifying. This is the energy you need to bottle up to remind you of why you want something.

The thoughts of seeing your friends, putting your plan into motion, just being in THAT moment. It is unbearable. Being so close, yet so far. What if they forget about me? What if I don't make it? What if I fail? What if my plane is late? Please let me make it to that mark! It is so annoying, and I just want to be there!



So what do you do? How about thinking about what your next moves will be? Take a breather, and concentrate on the next planning phase. What will that look like? After the newness wears off, what's next? After you've reached that mark, it's only the beginning.

You will reflect and celebrate, as you should, but then you'll be on to the next phase. That moment will come and go quickly. A long time coming, a few

days duration in excitement. You know the drill. This has happened so many times.

So, in the wait, continue.

Keep your mind in creative mode. Keep your body active. Think about the plan. Make sure the strategy and priorities are clear.

Rest. Meditate.

It is coming; there's no doubt about that. Time waits for no one. Just relax in the moment and stay prepared. Be ahead of the game. The wait becomes the moment in time.

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.



ON THIS DAY

Week-long race riots began in 1965 in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, killing 34 and injuring over 1,000 people.

- Thepeoplehistory.com

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.

"Up,
you mighty race!
Accomplish
what you will."

- Marcus Garvey

AUGUST 11 - VIOLA DAVIS - An American actress and producer. Having won an Academy Award, an Emmy Award, and a Tony Award, she is the first black actor to achieve the Triple Crown of Acting. Born in St. Matthews, South Carolina, Davis began her acting career in Central Falls, Rhode Island, starring in minor theater productions. After graduating from the Juilliard School in 1993, she won an Obie Award in 1999 for her performance as Ruby McCollum in *Everybody's Ruby*. She won the Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play for her role as Tonya in August Wilson's *King Hedley II* in 2001.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, August 13, 2023

Eleventh Sunday
after Pentecost

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm 85:8-13

Second Lesson:

Romans 10:5-15

GOSPEL:

Matthew 14:22-33

MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE.
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Allstate

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

Mr. Robert Wilson

Robert Wilson was born January 23, 1939, in Gastonia, N.C. He received his education at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School and Highland High School. In 1954, he earned the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Rank, and in 1956 he was mayor of student government.

Wilson went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree (1960) in mechanical engineering from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, N.C. He continued his studies in professional management at Florida Institute of Technology (1975-77). His work assignments in engineering and management were in the states of New Jersey, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky and Alabama. His winning management style led to numerous honorary and other awards.

In 1968, Wilson became a movie star for his role in a movie titled "Maintainability of Nuclear Warhead Sections," which won an award in an industrial competition. Wilson retired in 1994.

Wilson was raised a Christian at Pleasant Ridge AME Zion Church. As a teenager, he was appointed Assistant Superintendent, Sunday School, and Presi-



dent, Men's Organization. He became a Presbyterian in 1963, was ordained an elder in 1964 and was ordained a deacon in 1972. As an inactive elder at Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Ala., he chaired the Christian Education Committee; served as past president of the Presbyterian Men; assisted the staff of the Fellowship After-School Study and Tutorial (FASST) Program; and worked as a member of the Rev. Dr. John Herndon's Moderator Candidacy Team.

Additionally, Wilson volunteered his time and talent as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President and President of North Alabama Presbytery, Presbytery Men, where he earned the "Church Man of the Year Award." Wilson was the Logistics Commit-

tee Chair for the National Council of Presbyterian Men (NCPM) Assembly in Louisville, Ky., in 1991, where 2,000 men from the United States and South Korea participated.

He also volunteered his time and talent as President of NCPM in 2001-2003. At Fellowship, Wilson claimed the infrequently bestowed distinction of "Honorary Presbyterian Woman." Wilson was confirmed as Vice Moderator of the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in June 2006 and served for two years with the Rev. Joan Gray of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery.

The Huntsville community continues to benefit from Wilson's generosity of time and talents. Wilson was active in the community with the Boy Scouts of America; the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAHuntsville; and AARP's Driver Safety Program. He was inducted into the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame as an Honorary Member in 2004. Wilson counted among his diverse interests traveling, reading, tennis, golf and spoiling his grandchildren. He married Dr. Patricia Isles Wilson, retired professor of Alabama A&M University. They have one son.



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Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess until September 5 (Senate) and September 12 (House).

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. On Monday, President Biden welcomed the 2022 World Series Champion Houston Astros to the White House and then the President departed Washington for a 4-day tour of western states

through Thursday, visiting Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico to highlight climate change, manufacturing and clean energy jobs, and military veteran health issues.

3. SUPREME COURT. Last Thursday, Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Richard Durbin (D-IL) and all committee Democrats sent a letter to Chief Justice John

Roberts calling for Justice Samuel Alito to recuse himself from any future cases involving pending legislation that would create a new code of ethics for Supreme Court justices (on July 20, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal and Transparency Act and, on July 28, Justice Alito was quoted in The Wall Street Journal saying that Congress had no authority to regulate the court).

In related news, last Friday former President Trump posted a message in which he called on the Supreme Court to intervene in his legal battles, including his

recent arraignment in D.C. on August 3 on 4 federal felony charges related to the Jan. 6 insurrection.

4. JULY JOBS REPORT. Last Friday, the Labor Department announced that the U.S. economy created 187,000 jobs in July, which was below the predicted 200,000 jobs, but the unemployment rate nonetheless declined to 3.5% from 3.6% in June. Wages continued to increase last month by 0.4%, for an annualized 4.4% increase. In related financial news, last Tuesday credit agency Fitch Ratings downgraded the long-term credit of the United States one notch from AAA to AA+, citing the nation's \$31 trillion debt and continued government dysfunction - as displayed by the recent debt limit bill brinkmanship and the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol (note: Standard & Poor's

issued a similar downgrade in 2011).

5. IMMIGRATION ASYLUM RULE. Last week, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals granted an emergency request from the Biden Administration to keep its immigration asylum policy in place as a challenge to the policy progresses through the courts. In May 2023, the Biden Administration imposed new temporary restrictions on asylum seekers as the Covid-era Title 42 rule came to an end. The Title 42 policy had allowed rapid deportations of migrants without a hearing, while the new Biden rule bars migrants from seeking asylum if they crossed the border illegally or failed to apply for protection in another country.

6. CYBERSECURITY TALENT SHORTAGE. Last Monday, the White House unveiled Monday

a comprehensive plan to address a yearlong shortage of qualified workers in the IT security industry. The National Cyber Workforce and Education Strategy calls for government officials to work with the private sector and other key stakeholders to open foundational cyber skills to all Americans. Officials also plan to expand the number of training programs available for professional training and help develop a more diverse workforce, which has been vastly underrepresented by women and people of color.

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USDA Launches Land Access Program

The USDA recently launched the Increasing Land Access Program to help underserved producers by increasing land, capital, and market access.

The program funds projects that help move underserved farm producers from surviving to thriving. Alabama A&M University was awarded \$750,000 to lead an effort to increase the number of farmers of color in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

The overall \$300 million investment is meant to increase access to specialized technical support for small farmers.

"Land access, market access and capital are critical to the success of the hard-working producers who keep agriculture thriving," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The Increasing Land Access Program is part of the Biden-Harris admin-



communities of Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi to ensure the success of existing farmers and ranchers.

"We're excited about the implications of this project as we work closely with peer institu-

tion's commitment to advancing equity for all, including people who have been underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, by providing the resources, tools and technical support needed to directly help local farmers and ensure we have a strong agricultural system across the country."

AAMU, in collaboration with four other 1890 Land Grant Universities (Alcorn State University, Fort Valley State University, Southern University, and Tennessee State University) will provide delivery of technical assistance to underserved farm populations in chronically and economically depressed

tions to address this relevant issue," said AAMU College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences Dean and 1890 Research Director Dr. Lloyd Walker. "Our students and faculty are already engaged in the work. This is one example of the many opportunities being made possible for students in our college beyond the classroom. We look forward to the impact of this meaningful grant."

The project, led by the AAMU Small Farms Research Center, seeks to grow the number of farmers of color in the region by at least 25 percent (from the current 27,677 producers to 34,552) by 2027.

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