

# Should There Be a Mandate on the Blatant Overuse of Salt? - p. 10

FREE



## GLORIA B: Against Your Will ... - p. 5

Friday  
August 22, 2025  
Vol. 11, No. 51  
ValleyWeekllyllc.com

SALUTE!  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Ann Marie Cothron



"The unexamined life is not worth living." - Socrates



**MENTORS:** The Huntsville Parks & Recreation's Male Mentorship program has benefited Christian Rodriguez (c), who poses with his mentor, Christopher Daniels, and Parks & Recreation Administrative Coordinators Tony LaMarr and Brian Wilson. Story by Luch Yarbrough [HERE](#). Huntsvilleall.gov

## TARCOG Honored with 2025 Impact Award

TARCOG is being recognized nationally for efforts to make it safer to travel throughout

northeast Alabama with a new Regional Safety Action Plan for area roads. The National

Association of Development Organizations (NADO) will give TARCOG a 2025 Aliceann

Wohlbruck Impact Award at the organization's training conference later this year.

## Art Museum Hosting Community Free Day

The Huntsville Museum of Art Board of Directors, Executive Director Christopher J. Madkour, and the HMA

staff announce the grand reopening on Sunday, August 31 — kicking off with the Betsy and Peter Lowe Community

Free Day! Activities begin at 12 noon. The Huntsville Museum of Art is located downtown at 300 Church Street

SW, Huntsville. Join Museum friends, staff and administrators as they welcome the public back to art,

inspiration, and community, all part of a Grand Reopening Celebration. Tickets to the museum are FREE.



## Local Brewery Holding Jimmy Buffett Day

It's Margaritaville all over again! Straight to Ale Brewing will hold its Jimmy Buffett Day event on Saturday, August 30, at its location at 2610 Clinton Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala. Activities in honor the tropical rock songster-turned-businessman will begin at 7 p.m.

## Comedian Ali Siddiq Set for VBC

The Von Braun Center (VBC) and Outback Presents are bringing Ali Siddiq to the VBC Mark C. Smith Concert Hall on Friday, August 29. In 2024, Vulture called Ali Siddiq stand-up comedy's most prolific storyteller.

Born and raised in Houston, Tex., Ali's unique style of stand-up originated behind the walls of incarceration, an incubator for interesting experiences and good stories.

Tickets start at \$30.50 at the VBC Box Office and



online via Ticketmaster.

## HBC Golf Tourney Scheduled

The Huntsville Bible College will hold its 20th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament (\$100) on Friday, September 5, at the Colonial Golf Course, 400 Colonial Drive,

in Meridianville, Ala.

Team check-in is at 7 a.m., with a 8 a.m. shot gun start and two-person scramble and women's flight. Prizes encom-

pass hole-in-one, longest-straightest drive, and closest to pin.

For additional information, call (256) 469-7536 or e-mail dev@hbc1.edu.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

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## Rolling Hills Elementary to Unveil Moore's "Hills of Dreams" Mural at Open House

Rolling Hills Elementary School will unveil a vibrant new mural, Hills of Dreams, during its open house on Thursday, August 28, from 4-6 p.m.

The mural, created by artist and *The Valley Weekly* team member John "Jahni" Moore, transforms a once-blank cafeteria wall into a work of art that celebrates imagination, achievement, and the boundless potential of Rolling Hills students.

The project was funded in part by Huntsville City Schools community partners, and individual donors.

The Schedule of Events includes:

- 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. – Meet the Teachers
- 4:30 p.m. – Dinner served in the cafeteria
- 5:00 p.m. – Welcome remarks by Principal Agun
- 5:15 p.m. – Hills of Dreams Mural Reveal & Presentation

1) Photo opportunities with the mural

2) Meet-and-greet with community partners and businesses

3) Door prizes

"This mural is more than paint on a wall—it's a daily reminder to our students



that their dreams matter and that they have a community rooting for them," said artist Moore.

The public is invited to attend and witness this new landmark that reflects Roll-

ing Hills' commitment to student inspiration, creativity, and community pride.

Rolling Hills Elementary School is located at 2901 Hilltop Terrace NW, Huntsville, Alabama.

## Phillips CME Celebrating 160th Anniversary

Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will hold its 160th Anniversary Black Tie Gala, a milestone celebration of faith, heritage, and community service. The black-tie event will be held on Thursday, September 18, at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center South Hall Ballroom in Huntsville, Alabama.

This commemorative evening will bring together members of the congregation, local leaders, and special guests to honor the church's rich legacy and enduring impact. Guests will enjoy a night of formal dining, live entertainment, and reflections on 160 years of spiritual leadership and community outreach.

"This is more than a celebration of history—it's



a tribute to the generations who built a foundation of faith, service, and unity, said Rev. Dr. Gregory Scott, pastor of Phillips CME Church. "We look forward to an unforgettable evening as we honor our past and look ahead to the future."

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available now. For more information or to RSVP, contact Clifford

March or visit [phillipscme-church.org](http://phillipscme-church.org)

Founded in 1865, Phillips CME Church is one of Huntsville's oldest and most storied congregations. Rooted in faith and community, the church continues its mission to serve, uplift, and inspire through worship, education, and outreach.

### Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Meetings

The **Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** will meet on **Monday, August 25, 2025**, at **5:00 pm**, on the **6th Floor of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building**, at **305 Fountain Circle SW**. The **Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board** will meet on **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**, at **4:00 pm** on the **2nd Floor, (Council Chambers) of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building**, at **305 Fountain Circle SW**. To review items on the agenda for these meetings, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>. For more information on the MPO, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/>



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# Celebrating a Decade of Leadership: *DLC's 10-Year Black-Tie Gala*

Founder, Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium

Ten years ago, the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) began with my vision: to identify, develop, and empower leaders who would shape the future of Huntsville and Madison County through excellence, inclusion, and service. With insightful inputs from my dear friends and colleagues, Georgia Valrie and Jerome Saintjones, we designed DLC to equip people from all walks of life with the tools, knowledge, and network to lead, to make our community stronger, more innovative, and more unified.



That vision has become a reality. Over the past decade, more than 250 graduates have completed the program. They now serve as leaders in government, business, education, nonprofits, and grassroots movements. They are making tangible differences—mentoring youth, creating opportunities for underserved communities, advocating for equity, and driving economic growth. The ripple effect of this leadership is felt in every neighborhood, in boardrooms, and in classrooms.

On Saturday, August 23, 2025, we will gather at The Jackson Center for a milestone celebration—our 10th Anniversary Black-Tie Gala. This year’s theme, “Impacting Communities and Developing Future Leaders,” captures both our history and our future.

This is more than an evening of music, dining, and shared memories. It is a celebration of the collective power of people who have chosen to lead with courage and compassion. It is a recognition of the partnerships—between alumni, community leaders, subject matter experts, and local businesses—that have fueled our mission. And it is a moment to recommit ourselves to building an even brighter future for Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley.

We invite the entire community—alumni, supporters, and friends—to join us. Your presence will not only honor the accomplishments of the past decade but also help shape the next one. Together, we can continue to inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

To reserve your seat or explore sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://dlc10yeargala.swell.gives/>. Let’s celebrate ten years of impact—and look ahead to decades more of leadership, diversity, and community transformation. I look forward to sharing this unforgettable evening with you.

Until next week ...

*Dorothy*

**AUGUST 22 - CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS** - Christopher Williams is an American singer–songwriter and actor. Williams, who emerged during the late 1980s as a recording artist for Geffen Records, has scored many R&B hit singles, notably “Talk to Myself” (1989), “I’m Dreamin’” (1991) and “Every Little Thing U Do” (1993). Christopher Williams is the nephew of jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald. Known for his passionate baritone voice, Williams has been called the “Modern Teddy Pendergrass”; he is praised till this day for “sounding just like he did when he first hit the music scene”. Many are in awe as to how Williams has maintained such stellar vocals for thirty plus years. He attended Purchase College; now known as State University of New York in Harrison, New York. He is an actor, singer, songwriter, and producer. - [Blackcelebritybirthdays.org](http://Blackcelebritybirthdays.org)



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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



# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



## Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "Forgiving Yourself"

Psalm 103:12 says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

God knows that we are not perfect. He just wants us to keep working toward perfection. He wants us to keep making progress and moving forward. Momentum is everything as it pertains to your spiritual growth. Keep moving forward and don't look back. Don't look back at past disappointments. Don't look back at past mistakes and bad choices that you've made, because you can't do anything about them now. Let's stop looking back at past sins and know in our hearts that God has forgiven us.

Isaiah 43:19 says, God is doing a new thing in your life. Can't you perceive it? God is a God of forgiveness and progress. And He wants all of us to be better.

Now, I realize that sometimes we may feel unforgiven for our past sins. But that's not the kind of God that we serve. Remember that Isaiah 43:25 says, "I even I am He who blots out your transgressions for

*my own sake and remembers your sins no more."*

When Jesus died on a cross, He paid a debt that none of us could pay, and because of it, our sins were forgiven.

**Prayer:** Most merciful God, help us to realize that our sins are forgiven because of the debt that Jesus paid when He died upon a cross.

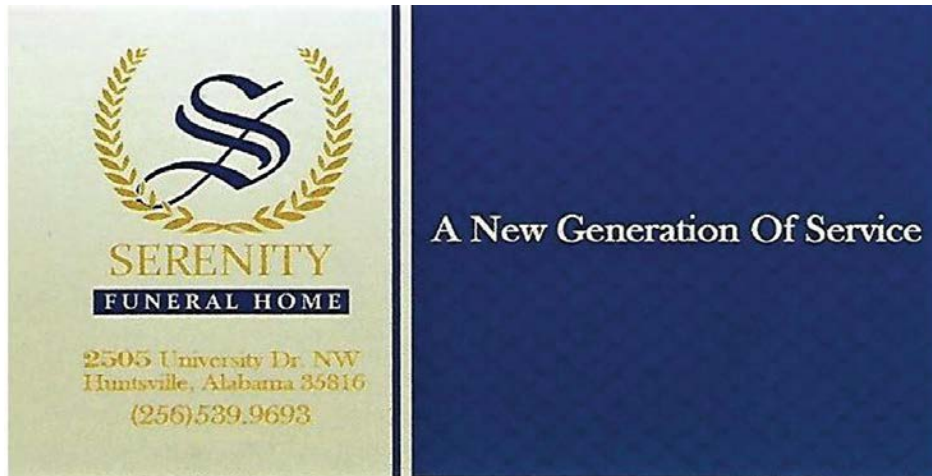
**Question:** Is there any past sin that you are holding on to? Remember, only you and God

need to know so you can forgive 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](http://amazon.com).

## NEXT WEEK:

**"God's Presence in Your Life"**



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## THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY DEATHS



### NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral service for **MR. GABRIEL CORTEZ HORTON** (b. 2009) was Saturday, August 16, at Chelsea Cumberland Presbyterian Church with Pastor Terence Haley officiating and eulogist.

Funeral service for **MR. CHARLES E. JOHNSON, JR.** (b. 1961) was Saturday, August 9, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Dr. H. Wendell Thompson officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. ODELL BENTLEY** (b. 1947) was Saturday, August 9, at Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with The Reverend Dr. Mitchell M. Walker, Sr. officiating.

### ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35810

[www.royalfh.com](http://www.royalfh.com) - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for **MS. MILDRED BONE ALEXANDER** (b. 1940); **MS. DOROTHY MARIE RICE** (b. 1938); **MS. SERECIA "RESA" DANCY** (b. 1972); and **MR. EZELL L. RICH** (b. 1955) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. SAMMY DAVIS BONE, JR.** (b. 1961) was Saturday, August 16, at the Saint Luke Christian Church, 1800 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, Ala., with Elder T.C. Johnson officiating.

### SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816

[www.serenityfuneralhm.com](http://www.serenityfuneralhm.com) - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for **MS. NATASHA JONES** (b. 1978) will be Saturday, August 23, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **BABY JANIYAH GARNER TAYLOR** (b. 2025) was Saturday, August 16, at Valley View Memorial Gardens, 139 Meridianville Bottom Road, Meridianville, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. JAMES MASSEY** (b. 1943) was Saturday, August 16, at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, 2562 Bob Wade Lane, Harvest, Ala., with Rev. Ricky L. Sykes officiating.



## Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella: The Accidental “Recovering Ego-holic”

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” - Psalm 139:23-24

According to Inc.com’s article, “Why Self-Awareness Is Crucial to Effective Leadership,” When Satya Nadella took over as Microsoft’s CEO in 2014, the company wasn’t in freefall — but it was stale. Competitors were out-innovating them. Morale was sagging.

Many CEOs in that moment would have started with strategy: cut costs, restructure teams, launch new products. Nadella started somewhere most leaders never think to look... in the mirror.

He didn’t ask, ‘What’s wrong with the company?’ He asked, ‘What’s wrong with me?’

He realized that to transform Microsoft, he first had to transform how *he* related to himself — and how his leaders related to each other.

### Leaders: Go to the T.O.P.

And that is exactly where “The Tim Commandments” **T-O-P model** begins:

**T — Target the Problem:** Nadella identified himself as the first point of change. Not the market, not the org chart — himself.

**O — Own the Problem:** He admitted his blind spots. He invited his leadership team to do the same, not just in business metrics, but in how they ‘showed up’ emotionally and relationally.

**P — Proceed to Action:** Instead of lip service, he embedded self-awareness into Microsoft’s leadership culture, making emotional intelligence as important as technical expertise.

In other words, Nadella didn’t just lead at Microsoft. He led *within* Microsoft.

You may not run a global tech company. But if you lead *anything* — a team, a project, a family — you have a choice:

Keep leading on autopilot until the warning lights become crises.

Or stop, notice, and respond when your leadership dashboard says something’s ‘off.’

Nadella proved that when you prioritize **who** over **what**, the **what** takes care of itself. Microsoft’s valuation more than tripled under his leadership — and the culture became more collaborative, innovative, and resilient.

### The Ultimate Mirror Moment?

Before we can lead others well, we must let God lead us — starting from the inside out.

So, here’s your challenge for this week: Where in your leadership are you feeling ‘off’?

Will you ignore it until it becomes a crisis, or will you **Target** it, **Own** it, and **Proceed** before it grows?

Because the first step to transforming your organization... is transforming yourself.

#Leadership #EgoHolismRecovering #SilverMettleLeader #SelfAwareness #SatyaNadella #TOPModel #EmotionalIntelligence



Tim Allston  
Leadership Player-Coach and Four-time Amazon Best-Selling Author  
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Self-awareness isn’t just a personal virtue. It’s your most practical leadership tool. It’s what helps you notice when something’s off before it becomes a crisis. It’s what gives you the clarity to make courageous decisions and the integrity to act on them.

Once you begin tuning in, you’ll see what’s been there all along—what feels right, what needs to shift, and what you’ve outgrown. You can’t unsee it, and that’s a good thing.

# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## Against Your Will ...

Life will hand you some interesting circumstances. Some will be daring, full of fun, and adventurous. Some will be challenging, full of fear of the unknown, and a hard pill to swallow. In these instances what do you do?

What do you do when it’s the latter of the two experiences? Do you fold?

Do you agonize? Do you weep? Do you close yourself off and retreat? Do you get angry and rattle off how unfair life can be? What’s your go-to in times of frustration and challenges?

I’m sure everyone has different coping mechanisms when dealing with the unexpected and unfavorable dealings they

get from the deck of “life cards”. However, these are the times where you have to take a moment; be bold! Move past the discomfort, and discover there are other options for you to choose from. There are positive options you can opt to take. What are those, you say? There is the option of strengthening your resilience. There is the option of pacing

yourself until you get through the storm. There is the option of growth and stretching your skills. There is the option of grasping the understanding that you are not the only one who is, or who has, come across this situation; understanding there is a way out!

So. It’s up to you. When things happen, against your will, will you fold ... or be bold?

Ask yourself the question. You’ve got fight in you! When the fight seems weak, there is always faith! Make the right choice.

Lace Up! Let’s Go! God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; *open it.*



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The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**August 20**

Market at the Garden  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5-7 p.m.

Huntsville Levity Live  
2012 Memorial Parkway SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 261-3374

**August 22-23**

Chris Hardwick  
Comedian

**August 31**

Huntsville Museum of Art  
Reopening & Community  
Free Day  
12 noon

**September 1**

Kjimpact Foundation 2nd  
Annual Charity Golf Tour-  
nament  
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail  
8 a.m.

**September 5**

Louis Crews Coach's Break-  
fast  
Ernest Knight Center  
Featuring guest speaker:  
AAMU Head Coach  
Sam Shade  
Tickets: \$75/Tables: \$1,000  
(8 per round)  
8 a.m.

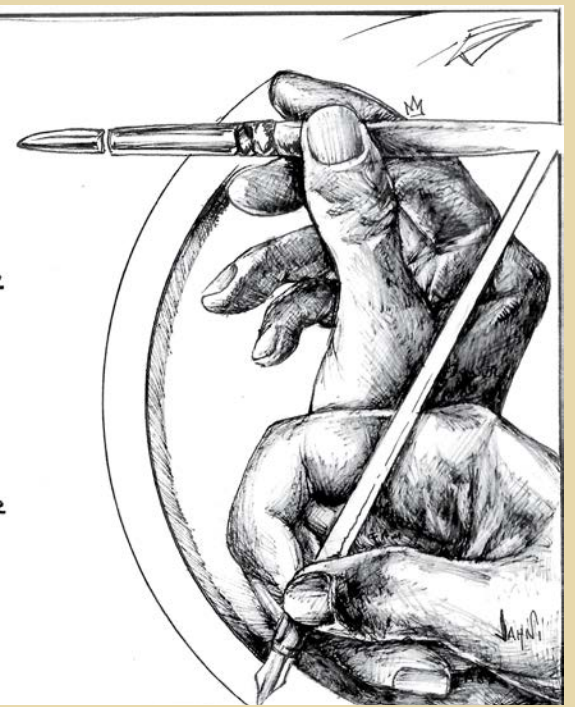
**September 5-6**

Louis Crews Classic Week-  
end  
Alabama A&M University

## PowerShot

"No matter what  
we have or where  
we are, it has  
vastly more  
potential to be  
of even greater  
effect."

J. T. Moore



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- William Wallace

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

## Mrs. Marie Ann Cothron

Marie Ann Waters-Cothron was born on January 1, 1951, New Year's Day, in Lloyd Noland Hospital located in Fairfield, Alabama, the oldest of three children born to Percy Lee and Willie Jewel Waters. As the oldest child, she set the proper example for her siblings in order to make her parents proud. She grew up in the small steel manufacturing town of Westfield, Alabama, where she attended elementary school. Eventually, all the families in the town had to move to other places because the steel plant expanded. Therefore, her family moved to Ensley, Alabama, where she attended Councill Elementary through the eighth grade.

From 1965-1969, she attended Western-Olin High School, now known as Jackson-Olin High School, where she was placed in the accelerated class because of her good grades. She remains thankful for teachers who challenged her academically. She will never forget the physical education teacher who taught her about better nutrition. Gradually, while doing all the exercises in her class and being more selective in what she ate, Marie began to lose weight. By the time she was a senior, she had lost fifty pounds, and her self esteem increased tremendously. Consequently, when she graduated, she was ranked number five out of 195 students, according to grade point averages.

She pursued further education by attending the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, along with five other students from her graduating class. When she arrived, she was in awe of the huge campus. During freshman orientation, she scored in the 90 percent range in Spanish on her placement exam, so she decided to declare it as her major. As a result of hard work, she was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society and received the Instituto Cultural Diploma De Honor from the Spanish government in Madrid, Spain, in 1972. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish with a minor in English in 1973. She later continued her studies and received the Master of Arts degree in 1981. Naturally, she is a huge Crimson Tide fan. ROLL TIDE!

Her first job was at Scottsboro High School as a Spanish teacher from 1971-1978. While in Scottsboro, she married Allen Ben Cothron on July 27, 1974, and later they were blessed with two wonderful sons, Anthony and Ashley Bryan. They then decided to move to Huntsville, Alabama, where she proceeded to her next job at J.O. Johnson High School from 1974-2011. At Johnson, she taught Spanish and one year of English, as well. She served as co-sponsor of the Spanish Club and the Spanish National Honor Society and was the Foreign Language Chairperson for two



years. On several occasions, she also received awards such as Teacher of the Month, Ninth Grade Academy Teacher of the Year, ROTC Teacher of the Year, The Friendliest Teacher, and The Master Teacher Apple Award. Working at Johnson was so special to her. There was a comradery that is difficult to find in many places, and she was thankful to be a part of it. During the 33 years at Johnson High, she also worked in the Alabama A&M University Upward Bound federal program on Saturdays and in the summer for 20 years. One additional teaching job was at Redstone Arsenal in the Department of the Army's educational program for one year. She is a member of the Blue Spring Road Church of Christ, where she actively participates in serving the Lord.

She has been blessed to travel to Paris, London, various parts of Mexico, Jamaica, Belize, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Honduras, and many parts of the United States.

"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).



## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC CITY OF HUNTSVILLE

The City of Huntsville's Community Development Department has completed its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2024. In accordance with regulations at 24 CFR Part 91, grantees are required to submit a CAPER within 90 days of the close of the program year. This report provides an assessment of expenditures and accomplishments through federal grant funds received from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) during the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. It measures the City's progress in carrying out its 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and its one-year 2024 Action Plan.

A draft copy of this report may be viewed online at <https://www.huntsvilleal.gov/residents/neighborhoods/community-development-public-notice-and-reports/>, at the Community Development Department Office, 305 Fountain Circle, 3rd Floor, and at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe Street.

A Public Hearing will be held on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.** at Huntsville City Hall, located at **305 Fountain Circle, in Room CD333.**

A virtual option to attend the public hearing is available by following this link: <https://bit.ly/Huntsville2024CAPER>

The City of Huntsville PY24 CAPER will be available for public review and comment for a period of no less than 15 days. The review and comment period begins on Saturday, September 6, 2025 and ends on Monday, September 22, 2025. Anyone interested in providing written comments may send them to the City of Huntsville Community Development Department, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804 or [comdev@huntsvilleal.gov](mailto:comdev@huntsvilleal.gov). The deadline for written comments will be Monday, September 22, 2025. For more information regarding this public notice or to request special accommodations, please call (256) 427-5400.

## AVISO AL PÚBLICO CIUDAD DE HUNTSVILLE

El Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Huntsville ha completado su Informe Consolidado Anual de Desempeño y Evaluación (CAPER) para el Año del Programa 2024. De acuerdo con las regulaciones en 24 CFR Parte 91, se requiere que los beneficiarios presenten un CAPER dentro de los 90 días posteriores al cierre del año del programa. Este informe proporciona una evaluación de los gastos y los logros alcanzados a través de los fondos de subvención federal recibidos del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE. UU. (HUD) durante el período del 1 de julio de 2024 al 30 de junio de 2025. Mide el progreso de la Ciudad en la ejecución de su Plan Consolidado 2020-2024 y su Plan de Acción de un año 2024.

Una copia preliminar de este informe puede consultarse en línea en <https://www.huntsvilleal.gov/residents/neighborhoods/community-development-public-notice-and-reports/>, en la oficina del Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario ubicada en 305 Fountain Circle, 3er piso, y en la Biblioteca Pública del Condado de Huntsville-Madison, 915 Monroe Street.

Se llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el 10 de septiembre de 2025 a las 5:30 p.m. en el Ayuntamiento de Huntsville, ubicado en 305 Fountain Circle, en la Sala de CD333.

Una opción virtual para asistir a la audiencia pública está disponible siguiendo este enlace: <https://bit.ly/Huntsville2024CAPER>

El CAPER PY24 de la Ciudad de Huntsville estará disponible para revisión pública y comentarios por un período de no menos de 15 días. El período de revisión y comentarios comienza el sábado 6 de septiembre de 2025 y termina el lunes 22 de septiembre de 2025. Cualquiera que esté interesado en proporcionar comentarios por escrito puede enviarlos al Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Huntsville, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804 o a [comdev@huntsvilleal.gov](mailto:comdev@huntsvilleal.gov). El último día para los comentarios por escrito será el lunes 22 de septiembre de 2025. Para obtener más información sobre este aviso público o para solicitar adaptaciones especiales, llame al (256) 427-5400.

# AAMU Mandela Fellow Builds Datasets for Smarter AI

Justice Mukaro is leading the charge to make artificial intelligence work for Africa. The Zimbabwean entrepreneur is the founder of Strateji, a company building Afro-centric datasets to train AI systems that reflect the continent's needs and values. This summer, he is participating in AAMU's

inaugural Leadership in Business Institute, part of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders – a U.S. State Department program for rising African business leaders.

"The world is fast adopting Artificial Intelligence across all



industries," says Mukaro. "Africa, on the other hand, is merely importing AI from other continents. Yet an AI is only as intelligent as the datasets upon which it was trained. At Strateji, our mission is to build African datasets and train AI that exists to serve our people and invent a better

African future."

For the past two years, Mukaro has led Strateji as its founder, overseeing innovation and mobilizing resources to bring the company's vision to life.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the Bin-

dura University of Science Education in Zimbabwe, as well as certifications in Data Analytics and Business Intelligence from Google. Before launching Strateji, he worked as a data annotator at Talent Africa in Zimbabwe.

## Councill Artwork Among the Featured During Celebration

Alabama A&M University's (AAMU) 150th Anniversary Committee is proud to present a special showcase of visual, musical, and literary works developed by the 150th Anniversary Arts & Culture Subcommittee.

Among the works for display is a powerful oil painting honoring Dr. William Hooper Councill, AAMU's visionary founder. This particular painting was commissioned by Janice Jamar (Class of 1979), an art collector and member of the 150th Anniversary Arts and Culture Subcommittee. Jamar provided the vision and direction, while **Onuoha Columbus**, a Nigerian-born artist based in Dubai, skillfully executed the work. The symbolic collage reflects the university's strength, heri-



tag, and global influence.

"The collaboration speaks to how legacy and art can transcend borders," said Jamar. "It was important to capture Dr. Councill's impact in a way that connects past, present, and future."

This painting will be shown alongside works from other artists, as part of a larger celebration of creative expression across multiple disciplines.

The Arts and Culture Subcommittee invites alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the university to attend the free viewing on Saturday, September 6, at The AAMU Event Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event is part of a wider celebration of Alabama A&M's 150 years of educational excellence and cultural impact. All are welcome to attend and experience this free collaborative tribute.

For questions regarding this particular painting, please contact Janice Jamar at jjamar2@yahoo.com



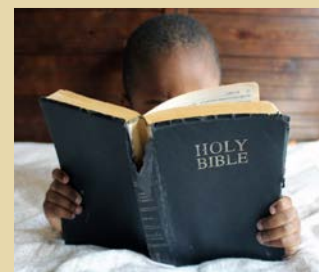
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## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, August 24, 2025  
Eleventh Sunday  
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6

Second Lesson:  
Hebrews 12:18-29  
GOSPEL:  
Luke 13:10-17

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# TU Alum Leads National Vet Med Organization

Tuskegee University proudly celebrates the election of Dr. Michael Q. Bailey '82 as president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), recognizing a career defined by excellence, innovation, and leadership. His appointment is a watershed moment for the veterinary profession and a powerful reflection of the leadership legacy cultivated by Tuskegee's College of Veterinary Medicine.

A board-certified veterinary radiologist, researcher, and innovator in telemedicine, Dr. Bailey brings a bold and future-forward vision to the AVMA, pledging to offer "robust, effective,

and diverse leadership that inspires innovation."

He is also a named inventor on multiple U.S. patents.

His election marks the second time a Tuskegee alumnus has held the AVMA presidency, following Dr. Ted Cohn '75, who served from 2013 to 2014.

"Tuskegee University is proud of the work Dr. Bailey has done and how he represents the university," said Dr. Mark A. Brown, President and CEO. "He is a perfect example of how Tuskegee trains students to solve the world's most complex problems. His success is our success and we expect to see exceptional leadership during

his tenure. Congratulations again!"

Dr. Bailey's elevation to one of the most influential roles in veterinary medicine exemplifies the bold vision Tuskegee has championed for more than a century—developing practitioners who not only treat animals but also shape policy, drive innovation, and expand access in a profession that

is constantly evolving. During his address at the 2025 AVMA Convention, Dr. Bailey called on the

profession to "shape our own story"—a sentiment that aligns with Tuskegee's narrative of self-determination, excellence, and impact.

During his keynote address at the 2025 AVMA

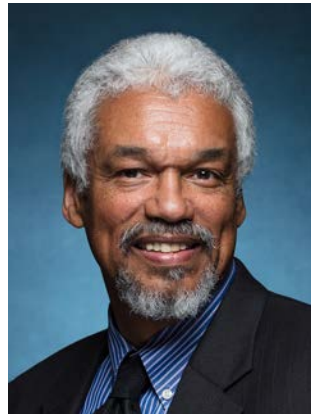
Convention, Dr. Bailey emphasized the need to raise the profession's profile.

"Veterinarians are vital to community health," Dr. Bailey said. "We need to raise awareness about the indispensable role we play, ensuring our contributions are recognized and appreciated within society. This lack of awareness diminishes the importance of our work and underscores the need for enhanced communication and advocacy, enabling us to demonstrate our value and impact effectively."

As the first veterinary

program at a historically Black college or university, Tuskegee University's College of Veterinary Medicine (established in 1945) remains unmatched in its legacy.

Since graduating its first class in 1949, the college has produced approximately 3,200 graduates and remains responsible for training more than 70% of the nation's African American veterinarians. This distinction is not just historical—it is foundational to the ongoing efforts to diversify and advance the field.



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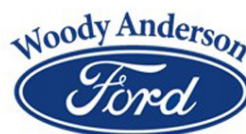
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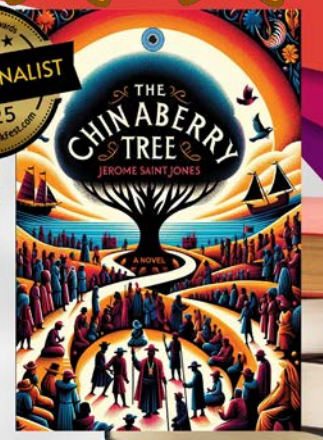
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# AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN...

## Impact of Simply Implementing a “Salt” Mandate

If the government greatly **reduced** salt and other additives in processed foods through regulation, it could have significant long-term effects on public health and health-care costs. Here's how:

### 1. Reduction in Chronic Diseases

#### Lower Hypertension Rates:

Excess salt is a major contributor to high blood pressure (hypertension), which affects about half of U.S. adults.

Cutting sodium intake could lead to fewer cases of stroke, heart attack, and kidney disease.

#### Fewer Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD):

Lower salt and fewer artificial additives could reduce risks of heart disease, which is the leading cause of death in the U.S.

#### Better Metabolic Health:



Additives like high fructose corn syrup and preservatives are linked to obesity and diabetes.

Cutting these could reduce Type 2 diabetes rates, leading to lower insulin dependence and fewer hospitalizations.

### 2. Decreased Healthcare Costs

Fewer chronic conditions would reduce hospital visits, prescription drug use, and long-term medical expenses.

The CDC estimates that 90% of U.S. health-care spending goes toward

chronic diseases—many of which are linked to diet.

Reducing sodium alone could save billions annually by preventing strokes and heart attacks.

### 3. Shift in Food Industry and Consumer Behavior

Processed food manufacturers would need to

reformulate products, which could lead to higher costs at first but healthier options long-term.

People might gradually adjust to lower salt levels, reducing dependency on high-sodium foods.

Increased demand for whole foods and fresh produce could push more people toward healthier eating habits.

### 4. Potential Downsides

Consumer Resistance: Some might object to

government intervention in food choices.

Taste Adjustments: Salt and additives enhance flavor and shelf life, so food reformulations could take time to be widely accepted.

Initial Business Pushback: The food industry might resist major changes, requiring strong public health advocacy.

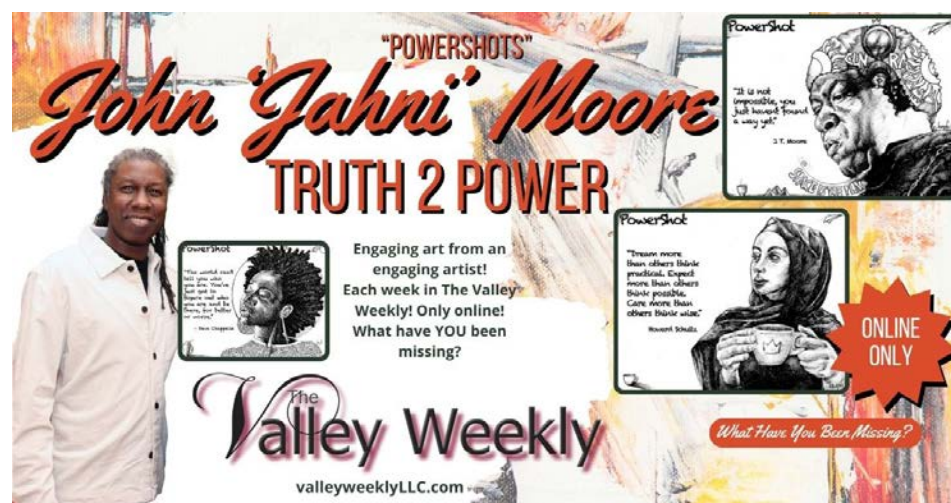
### At the End of the Day ...

A government-led reduction in salt and additives

could lead to healthier populations, lower rates

of chronic disease, and reduced health-care costs. While the transition could face resistance, the long-term benefits would likely outweigh the challenges, helping shift the U.S. toward a preventative health-care model rather than one focused on treating diet-related diseases.

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