

# Drake State, edX Target Tech Pipeline - p. 8

**FREE**



## After the Storm - p. 3

Friday  
August 25, 2023  
Vol. 9, No. 51  
ValleyWeeklly.com

GLORIA B: 'Do What's Right ...' - p. 5

TIM ALLSTON: Covid's Re-rise - p. 5

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



Mrs. Grace Love

"My soul has grown deep like the rivers." - Langston Hughes

## Louis Crews Classic Kicks Off with Coach's Breakfast Sept. 7

The Hon. Martha Lynn Sherrod, chair of the Louis Crews Classic, has announced to the Bulldog and North Alabama communities the upcoming celebration of the Annual Louis Crews Classic, beginning with the Coach's Breakfast on Thursday, September 7, 2023. The event will be held in the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center at Alabama A&M University.

The Louis Crews Classic is named for the coach widely credited as Alabama

A&M's winningest head football coach. Coach Crews, an Alabama

native and 1941 graduate of A&M College, was a member of the first four-year A&M graduating class.

The Hill Project is the signature event for the Louis Crews Classic. The entire 9th grade academy from Lee High School will visit the campus on Friday, Septem-



ber 8, for a day of motivational and college preparation activities.

The current AAMU student body will participate in a Day Party and Pep Rally, also on Friday, September 8.

The Annual Louis Crews Classic football game will be played Saturday, September 9, in the 21,000-seat Louis Crews Stadium against the Lane College Dragons from

Jackson, Tennessee. Game Day Grand Marshalls will include former Crews assistant coaches Gene Bright, Brawnski Towns and Curtis Harris. Very Special Guests will be former Crews Play-

ers. Tickets and reserved tables are available for the Coach's breakfast, and game day and season tickets are available through the AAMU Athletic Ticket Office at AAMUsporttickets.com or call (256) 372-5880.

## Veteran, Active Volunteer Receives 'Quilt of Valor' Honor

Dr. Harry Hobbs, vice president-employee engagement for Huntsville Utilities, was presented a 'Quilt of Valor' for his distinguished military service during combat operations.

Hobbs received the honor during a Saturday, August 19, breakfast ceremony at Faith Lutheran Church in Madison, Ala.

The Quilt of Valor® Foundation (QOVF) recognizes the service and sacrifice of those who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces to protect freedoms.

In 2003, Cath-



erine Roberts, the QOVF Founder, created the concepts that underpin the QOVF mission statement: "To cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."



## Commissioner Edwards Hosts White House VIPs on Broadband

Huntsville/Madison County - Commissioner Violet Edwards (right) hosted White House dignitaries in a recent roundtable discussion on broadband access. Mitch Landrieu, senior advisor to President Biden and White House Infrastructure Coordinator, and Alan Davidson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, joined Edwards and community members to discuss internet availability and affordability obstacles.

Alabama will receive \$1.4 billion to expand access to broadband as part of the



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

program launched by the Biden-Harris administration. Sharing their experience during the discussion in the education field were Dr. Patricia Sims, president of Drake State; Dr. Clarence Sutton, superintendent of

Huntsville City Schools; and Kayla Jefferson, a teacher in Madison County.

Small business owner Dr. William "Todd" Powers represented east Madison County. Sheryl Scales shared issues in rural Limestone County, while Rev. Wesley Thompson spoke on issues in The Shoals.

## AAMU Reports Largest Freshman Class in Its History

Alabama A&M University welcomed a record-breaking freshman class Saturday during the annual Freshman Convocation and Torch Lighting Ceremony.

The Class of 2027 is the largest in AAMU history with over 2,000 first-time students starting classes last week. Students from 35 states and seven countries

have entered the University as freshmen, officials say.

"We're excited to welcome this class to Alabama A&M University," said President

See **FRESHMEN**, p. 6

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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# Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here is what's happening in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, this week:

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 took a break from his week-long vacation in Lake Tahoe to travel to Maui to tour the recent fire destruction there. He will remain in Lake Tahoe until Saturday.

3. FIRST GOP DEBATE. According to fivethirtyeight.com, as of last Friday, August 18, five (5) GOP presidential candidates (DeSantis, Ramaswamy, Haley, Scott & Burgum) had fully qualified for the first GOP presidential debate that was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, August 23, at 9 p.m. EDT in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which means they have met the polling (at least 1% in 3 nat'l polls), donor (40,000 donors with at least 200 in 20 states), and RNC pledge (to support the eventual GOP candidate) requirements.

Reportedly, former President Trump has decided to skip the debate and will instead sit for an interview with former FoxNews personality Tucker Carlson.

Pence and Christie have met the donor and polling requirements but have not yet signed the pledge.

In related news, Mr. Trump and his 18 co-defendants are expected to surrender to local officials at the Fulton County jail in Atlanta, Georgia, by Friday to be arraigned per the 100-page indictment issued last week for their efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

4. HIGHER EDUCATION. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee has announced that it has delayed plans to vote on bipartisan legislation to expand Pell Grants to short-term programs, but future consideration is unclear given other urgent priorities waiting for Congress after the August recess.

The Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students (JOBS Act of 2023 - S. 161), introduced by Sens. Tim

Kaine (D-VA) and Mike Braun (R-IN), would allow students to use Pell Grants to cover the costs of eligible job training programs at community or technical colleges — but not for-profit institutions — that are as short as eight weeks long, versus the current 15-week minimum.

The JOBS, Act would add language to section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 requiring the Education Department to establish a program to award federal Pell Grants to students in eligible job training programs (Secs. 1-2).

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**AUGUST 25 - BLAIR UNDERWOOD** - Blair Erwin Underwood is an American actor. He from 1987 to 1994 starred as attorney Jonathan Rollins in the NBC legal drama series L.A. Law. Underwood has appeared in a number of films during his career, including Just Cause (1995), Set It Off (1996), Deep Impact (1998), Rules of Engagement (2000), Something New (2006), Madea's Family Reunion (2006), and Juanita (2019). Underwood has received two Golden Globe Award nominations, five NAACP Image Awards, one Daytime Emmy Award and one Grammy Award.

- [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com)

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### NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MRS. ANNIA L. HOLLOWAY (b. 1946) was held Sunday, August 20, at Little Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church (198 Brownsferry Road-Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Derrick Hill officiating.

Memorial service for MS. ADRIANA MCCANTS (b. 1992) was held Saturday, August 19, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. CHRISTOPHER JOVAN DRAPER (b. 1984) was held Saturday, August 19, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

### ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MS. GLORIA JEAN LESLIE (b. 1947) was held Saturday, August 19, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Reverend Dr. Edward L. Anderson officiating.

Funeral service for MR. DAVID LEE JONES (b. 1966) was held Saturday, August 19, at the Convergence Worship Center (6300 Stringfield Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Sylvia Moore officiating.

Funeral service for MS. KIM SCOTT GREEN (b. 1961) was held Friday, August 18, at the First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Don Darius Butler officiating.

Funeral service for MR. GEORGE ANTHONY ROBINSON (b. 1960) was held Friday, August 18, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Dennis Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MR. FRED SLOSS, JR. (b. 1937) was held Thursday, August 17, at the Round Island Creek Mission Center (13829 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens, Ala.) with Pastor Douglas Wade Sloss officiating.

### SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. BOBBY FLETCHER was held Saturday, August 19, at Little Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church (884 Indian Creek Road, Huntsville, Ala.)

Funeral service for MR. KEITH HOLLEY (b. 1986) was held Monday, August 14, at the Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



## AFTER THE STORM

Mark 4:39 says, "Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and was completely calm."

No one really crosses over to the promise that God has for his or her life without going through some kind of storm. No one really grows or matures spiritually without some kind of conflict.

It seems that the closest you get to your breakthrough, the more the devil tries to throw your way. It may come in the form of a tragedy. It may come in the form of discouragement, especially if you feel like you have done everything that you can do.

In Mark 4:35, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go

to the other side." If Jesus says for us to go, we should have the blessed assurance that we are going to make it.

For us believers, it's not when we make it, but why we made it. Why we made it makes us important.

It's the size of our storms that makes us important. The size of your storm can be directly related to the size of the assignment that God has planned for your life.

We are important because of what lies ahead of us on the other side of the storm. My question is this: what assignment has God given you after your storm? After your storm, you will have a testimony that can

change lives, save lives, and provide the spiritual healing that people may need.

There is no need to be afraid when we are in a storm; we just need to remember the one who can calm the storms of life.

May God grant you spiritual success after your storm.

*Question:* What assignment did God give you after your storm?

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, 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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"Try to  
be a  
rainbow in  
someone's  
cloud."

- Maya Angelou

## Friends of Rescue's "The Howling 20s"

The Friends of Rescue will hold "The Howling 20s," a special benefit gala, on Saturday, August 26, at Campus No. 805 at 6 p.m.

"The Howling 20s" isn't simply a benefit gala for the homeless and at-risk animals in North Alabama, according to event organizers. Rather, it is a "life-altering" event.

When persons purchase a sponsorship or admission to this event they are not just getting



an invitation to attend, but they are providing the funding to save a life!

The price associated with sponsorship or admission is a donation that will allow them to walk alongside an adult animal or a litter of puppies or kittens as they embark on

the journey of a lifetime.

Please join the Friends of Rescue on Saturday, August 26, 2023, as the organization "howls the night away" with food, foster pets, 20s-style speakeasy

fun, and friends, making forever possible for more animals in the future!

Tickets/sponsorships range from \$50 to \$10,000. For additional information, visit [forgala2023.Eventbrite.com](http://forgala2023.Eventbrite.com).

The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; 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 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 3**

Jazz in the Park  
Big Spring Park East  
5 p.m. - Erisa Nicole  
6 p.m. - Tr3ple Threat  
7:30 p.m. - Jessy J

**September 7**

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

**September 8-9**

10th Annual Women in Jazz

Festival  
Bob Harrison Senior Wellness  
& Advocacy Center  
6156 Pulaski Pike  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6 p.m. (Kickoff)

**September 9**

Daughter of Zion Inaugural  
Women's Conference  
Westin Hotel  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
info@dzministries.com

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

**September 10**

Jazz in the Park  
Big Spring Park East  
5 p.m. - Noelette Leader-  
Hutton

6 p.m. - Chandra Currelley  
7:30 p.m. - Brian Simpson

**September 15**

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

**September 16-17**

Monte Sano Arts Festival  
5105 Nolen Avenue SE  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
artshuntsville.org

**September 17**

"CulturA Festiva"  
Hispanic Culture Month  
Celebration  
The Orion Amphitheatre  
12-6 p.m.

Jazz in the Park  
Big Spring Park East  
5 p.m. - Calhoun Community  
College Show Band

6 p.m. - BK Jackson  
7:30 p.m. - Alex Bugnon

**September 20**

Interfaith Mission Service  
2023 Annual Celebration and  
Awards Conference  
Trinity United Methodist  
Church - Wesley Hall  
607 Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6-7:30 p.m.

**September 21**

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

**September 24**

Jazz in the Park  
Big Spring Park East  
5 p.m. - Angela Bryant  
Brown  
6 p.m. - Marqueal Jordan  
7:30 p.m. - Ben Tankard

**September 28**

Homecoming Golf Tourna-  
ment  
Alabama A&M University  
Alumni Association, Inc.  
Huntsville Country Club  
7 a.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.

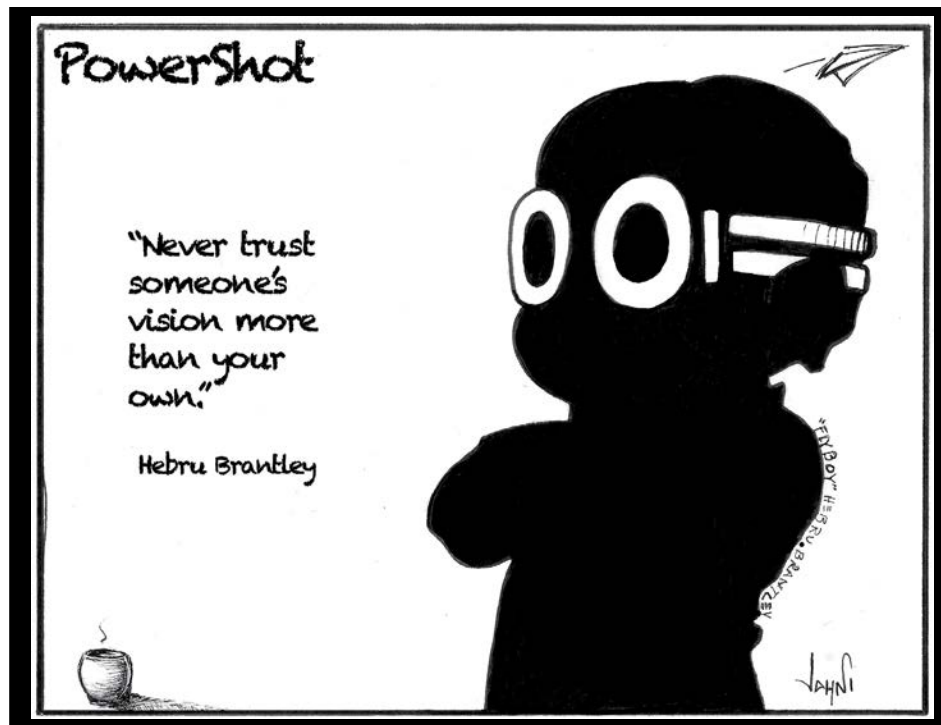
**October 1**

3rd Annual 'No More Dirty'  
Good Music & Arts Fest  
Big Spring Park East  
200 Church Street  
Huntsville, Ala.  
3-8 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



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*"If a man is not faithful to his own individuality,  
he cannot be loyal to anything."*

- Claude McKay

## Do What's Right ...



# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell



Even when you don't want to, do what's right!

I know it is hard.

When people are blatantly pushing your buttons. But here's the thing, think of how rational you are when you are simply an onlooker, and you see someone trying to get another person's "goat."

You know how that is. You have no emotion involved, and you say to them, "Don't pay attention to that or them; they are

acting silly!"

That also applies to you. Anything allowed can bring you into a part of your "character" you want to keep suppressed. The portion you have "grown past."

Oh yes, we all have it in us.

The sweetest person can curse you out. You may not have heard it. It may be in their head, but trust me, we all can do and say harmful things; we are human. So,

with that, we all have to practice self-control!

There's that phrase ... "self-control." You are responsible for you. You have to make yourself do right.

There are laws put into place, we know this, rules to follow, but you can choose to follow them. YOU alone control your actions and responses. You're accountable. You cannot blame anyone else.

So, do what's right!

Make yourself proud. It is a beautiful feeling when you think back on it days later—the maturity and strength in making the correct decision. You may not feel it at the time, but trust me; the reward comes in the restraint.

Listen to the voice of God! Position yourself to hear him. Control yourself.

You've got this!

Make today phenomenal, you have the ability

to do so!

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.

## ON THIS DAY



On August 26, 2015, 104-year-old civil rights activist Amelia Boynton Robinson, an organizer of the Selma March of 1965, died in Montgomery, Ala.

- britannica.com

**"It is difficult to free fools from the chains they revere."**

- Voltaire

## This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

Second Lesson:

Romans 12:1-8

GOSPEL:

Matthew 16:13-20



### COVID-19's Re-rise: God's Dress Rehearsal?

*"Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh."* -Matthew 24:44

COVID-19, our uninvited guest, is returning both state- and nation-wide, <https://bit.ly/45fjEbS>. So, let's now be better prepared for this 2023 "dress rehearsal" from God.

In both 2017 and 2019, Trump officials practiced but disregarded earlier pandemic dress rehearsals, <https://nyti.ms/3OEFLpR>. As a result, they seemed baffled by the 2020-2021 pandemic and thereby chose to "blame-game" others to mask their lack of preparation.

Since then, the Biden administration has produced 230 million fully-vaccinated Americans - 70% of the population - and 270 million (81%) with just one dose.

If these instances mirror our knowledge of similar end-time warnings in the Bible's Book of Revelation, then thank a loving God for allowing us this dress rehearsal.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF A DRESS REHEARSAL

Dress rehearsals feature a completely costumed and staged trial performance or practice exercise for an upcoming three-act presentation.

#### THEREFORE, WHAT THREE ACTS MUST WE FOLLOW?

1. Script-reading is over, as Bible will soon be outlawed; therefore, all lines must be memorized verbatim - no ad libs, as in "... leaning to your own understanding;" (Proverbs 3:5a)

2. The main character Jesus is located in each of the 31,102 Bible-script verses. Find, study, and share him liberally; and



3. Appreciate and maximize this final act's most effective tool, the "pregnant pause": a presenter's preceding words - accentuated by inserting a timed silence - to build up suspense for what is to come.

In his Celebration of Discipline, author Richard Foster wrote, "In contemporary society, our Adversary majors in three things: noise, hurry, and crowds. If he can keep us engaged in 'muchness' and 'manyness,' he will rest satisfied."

Ironically, that 2020 coronavirus pandemic produced quieter public places, slowed-down lifestyles, and outlawed crowds.

Therefore, we need to avail ourselves of a possible returning pregnant pause to re-connect with our households, cherish this downtime and affirm the increased alone God-time - before the curtain rises for earth's final act.

Tim Allston, Leadership Coach and Three-time Amazon Best-selling Author, Leading from the Middle  
(256) 212-0949 - [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com)  
<https://www.timallston.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.

## Rocket City Mom's Learning Expo Sunday

Rocket City Mom is hosting its Annual Learning Expo at the Orion Amphitheater on Sunday, August 27, from 1-6 p.m.



The free community event will include promo bags for the first 500 families; performances on the main stage; some 50 vendors; food trucks; face painting; and bounce houses. This activity also will feature vendors providing information about

schools, camps, tutors, athletics, homeschooling, and so much more.

The performance schedule is comprised of spots by Fantasy Playhouse, 1:30 p.m.; Element Dance Company, 2 p.m.; Rocket City Dance Company, 2:30 p.m.; Independent

Musical Productions, 3 p.m.; Adonai School of Ballet, 3:30 p.m.; Huntsville Community Drumline, 4 p.m.; Elyon's School of Dance & Performing

Arts; and many more.

For additional information and performance opportunities, contact info@rocketcitymom.com or visit rocketcitymom.com/learningexpo. Net proceeds will be contributed to the HEALS Clinics.

## FRESHMEN, *Continued from Page 1*

Daniel K. Wims. "With their individual strengths, backgrounds, and aspirations, these students are already making their mark on the AAMU story. We're committed to preparing them for success in their careers and in life. Students and families are choosing Alabama A&M in record numbers because of that commitment and the return on investment realized by those who come from The Hill."

Freshmen were welcomed to campus at Saturday's Convocation and Torch Lighting Ceremony featuring keynote speaker Eboni Major. As classes began Thursday, Director of Admissions Dwayne Green said the arrival of the largest class in AAMU history was the realization of intentional work to recruit students far and near.



"For some time, we have used the mantra Start Here, Go Anywhere," said Green. "We have witnessed a cohort of students from diverse backgrounds who have heard that message loud and clear. They believe in the promise that our University can prepare them for life, and we're going to keep that promise to them through graduation day in 2027."

Earlier this year, AAMU received a record number (15,000) of applications, reflecting a 30 percent increase compared to the previous

recruitment cycle. The University also saw an uptick in transfer applications (up 16 percent).

"This moment of history is just a starting point," said Vice President of Student Affairs Braque Talley. "Our admissions staff, alumni, and entire University community have rallied behind this accomplishment. That's added motivation for our entire team to go out and make history again." The application for Fall 2024 admissions is already open at [www.aamu.edu/apply](http://www.aamu.edu/apply).

## Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2023

**September 2**  
@Vanderbilt University  
FirstBank Stadium  
Nashville, Tenn. - 6 p.m.

**September 9 (Crews Classic)**  
Lane College  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Huntsville, Ala. - 6 p.m.

**September 16**  
@Southern University  
A.W. Mumford Stadium  
Baton Rouge, La. - 6 p.m.

**September 21 (Thursday)**  
UAPB  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Huntsville, Ala. - 6:30 p.m.

**September 30 (Homecoming)**  
Tuskegee University  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Huntsville, Ala. - 2 p.m.

**October 7 (Gulf Coast Challenge)**  
Jackson State University  
Ladd-Peebles Stadium  
Mobile, Ala. - 4 p.m.

**October 14**  
@Grambling State  
Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium  
Grambling, La. - 3 p.m.

**October 28 (Magic City Classic)**  
Alabama State  
Legion Field

Birmingham, Ala. - 2:30 p.m.

**November 4**  
Florida A&M  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Huntsville, Ala. - 1 p.m.

**November 11**  
@Bethune-Cookman  
Daytona Stadium  
Daytona Beach, Fla. - 12 p.m.

**November 16 (Thursday)**  
Mississippi Valley State  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Huntsville, Ala. - 6 p.m.



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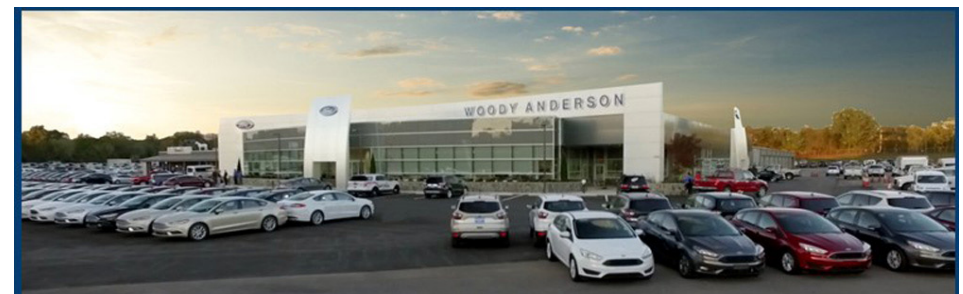
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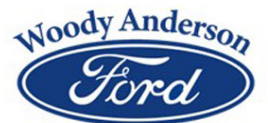


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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Mrs. Grace Love

Born on September 11, 1922, in Decatur, Alabama, Grace and her family moved to Huntsville when she was a child. From Huntsville, her father's work took them to Cincinnati, Ohio, and back to Huntsville by the age of 6 years old.

Her affiliations with community and civic activities date back to when she attended bible school at First Missionary Baptist Church, when its membership met on Steele Street. She was baptized in Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville, Alabama, because at that time the facility on Church Street did not have a pool on-site.

Honoree Grace Love enjoys active church involvement. She had been a regular at First Missionary Baptist Church for over 75 years. After attending Councill High School through the 11th grade, she was employed for more than 52 years as a domestic worker for various families, including some of Huntsville's most prominent residents – Woody Anderson, Martha Fleming, Judy Smith and the family of Atty. Jim Smith.

She assisted with the rearing of many of their children and grandchild-



dren. She loves to iron and today still irons the sheets and pillowcases for her beds. She is a homemaker extraordinaire!

For years, she would iron baskets of clothing, especially white shirts of men, curtains, linen and tablecloths. The proud mother and her late husband of 58 years, Mr. Herbert Jones, Sr., had seven sons and one daughter.

She is affiliated with the NAACP, the national AARP (for more than 30 years), the local AARP, First

Missionary Baptist Church Circle #3, and the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC).

Mrs. Love enjoys 21 precious grandchildren, 20 of which live in Huntsville and one in Yuma, Arizona. She enjoys talking about Christ and politics. She really loves to talk.

In addition, she likes to travel. She has travelled throughout the southeast including, Louisiana, Georgia, Texas and all over the state of Alabama.

## HPL Announces Vive le Livre

The Huntsville-Madison County Library Foundation invites the Tennessee Valley community to join the organization in the 37th annual Vive le Livre.

The Foundation's yearly gala celebrates books, authors, and all things Library!

Benefiting the 10 branches of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, Vive will be held on Wednesday, September 27, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Jackson Center, located in Cummings Research Park.

The evening will feature keynote speaker Christina Baker Kline, New York Times bestselling author of eight novels, including *The Exiles*, *Orphan Train*, and *A Piece of the World*.



Author Christina Baker Kline



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"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@valley-weeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valley-weeklyllc.com).



# edX, Drake State Launch Free Training Program to Boost Tech Pipeline

edX, a leading global online learning platform from 2U, Inc. (Nasdaq: TWOU), together with Drake State Technical and Community College, a historically black community college, and Jobs for the Future (JFF), recently announced the launch of a new Access Partnership to provide adult learners in the Huntsville, Alabama area with access to no cost, fully online boot camp programs in cybersecurity and data analytics.

Funded by Truist Foundation, the scholarships are designed to increase technical talent in the Huntsville region, specifically focusing on helping women, BIPOC, and lower-income professionals build stronger economic futures.

edX Access Partnerships is an award-winning social impact program that connects colleges and universities with local workforce agencies and funding partners to create affordable pathways for underserved adult learners to gain career-relevant technology skills.

The program is underpinned by edX's industry-leading boot camp curricula in key technology fields. With a focus on innovation and grassroots relationship building, these public-private partnerships have upskilled more than 3,000 learners in communities in the U.S. and U.K. at little to no cost to learners.

The program will initially be offered to 60 learners in the Huntsville area beginning in November, with 30 seats open in the cybersecurity boot camp and 30 in the data analyt-

ics boot camp. Learners who successfully complete the boot camp program will receive college credit that can be applied toward an associate's degree at Drake State. Over the next three years, the program is estimated to support more than 150 Huntsville area residents.

"Drake State has long been committed to offering flexible, affordable technical degrees and customized skills training to support and enhance the lives of our workforce and the health of our industries across North Alabama," said Dr. Patricia Sims, President of Drake State. "Our new Access Partnership with edX will help us continue to meet workforce demands by preparing highly-skilled workers to take on roles in Huntsville's unique blend of space and defense industries, biotechnology, healthcare, and high-tech manufacturing."

edX has convened over a dozen community partners, including United Way of Madison County and Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce, to offer a range of services, including child care services, technology support, transportation assistance, and facilitating connections with potential employer partners, all aimed at providing comprehensive support to learners.

"Supporting workforce development and career readiness are key components of United Way's goals for making education more accessible to all members of our community," said Daniel Kasambira, President and CEO of United

Way of Madison County. "By partnering with Drake State, edX, and our fellow community organizations,



we're activating collective strengths across sectors to meet learners wherever they are and ensure they are supported in every aspect of their educational journey."

Huntsville is one of the fastest-growing technology sectors in the U.S. – it's home to NASA's Marshall Space Center, Boeing, Science Applications International Corporation, and many small federal tech companies. According to Lightcast Labor Insights, there have been more than 2,000 job postings for cybersecurity skills and more than 2,500 job postings for data analysis skills in the Huntsville area over the last six months.

"edX is creating a sustainable workforce development model through our Access Partnerships. By bringing localized leaders in education and economic development together with key funding partners, we are delivering free or significantly reduced-cost, career-relevant education to underserved communities worldwide," said Anant Agarwal, Founder of edX and Chief Platform Officer

at 2U. "Working together with Drake State and other partners in the Huntsville community, we aim to

improve access to quality education and help diversify the tech talent pipeline as demand for cybersecurity and data analyst roles continue to grow."

Access Partnerships are

part of edX for Impact – a collective effort to help marginalized learners get the education they need in order to develop the skills to pursue rewarding careers. edX has active Access Partnerships with 19 academic institutions serving learners in Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin in the U.S.; Birmingham in the U.K.; and New Brunswick in Canada.

The partnerships are supported by more than 90 agencies and community partners, each carefully chosen to support their region's unique learner

populations.

As one of the world's largest developers of technology talent, edX has supported more than 75,000 boot camp graduates globally with the skills, knowledge, and career resources to achieve their goals.

According to a 2U-Gallup survey, boot camp graduates surveyed reported being nearly four times happier with their jobs after graduation from the boot camp, and over 86% reported achieving a positive outcome.

For more information and to apply for the program, visit [hwww.drake-state.edu/data-analytics-cybersecurity-boot-camps](http://hwww.drake-state.edu/data-analytics-cybersecurity-boot-camps).

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