

A&M SFRC Gets \$8.5M USDA-FSA Grant - p. 7

FREE

A Life Alignment - p. 3

Friday
September 8, 2023
Vol. 10, No. 1
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



**Ancestral Communion:
We Never Walk Alone
(Closing Reception)**
Thursday, September 7
UAH Wilson Hall Gallery
5-6:30 p.m.

GLORIA B: 'On BOLDNESS ...' - p. 5

TIM ALLSTON: REMEMBRANCE - p. 5



"I can't play a slave." - Dorothy Dandridge

Drake State Partners with TVA on EV Chargers

Drake State Community and Technical College has announced a "ground-breaking partnership" with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) that could mark a major step toward energy sustainability.

As part of this partnership, TVA has donated two Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers to Drake State to help students learn how to repair and maintain electric vehicles in its auto-



motive services program. Officials call the partnership "a milestone" toward embracing the energy system of the future. By combining the expertise and resources of both institutions, the partners

aim to create a model for sustainable practices that inspires other educational institutions and businesses in the Tennessee Valley and beyond.

By incorporating electric vehicle charging stations on campus, Drake State is meeting the demands of an evolving automotive landscape and contributing to the growth of the EV charging infrastructure in North Alabama.

Ordinance Strengthens 'Texting While Driving' Law

An amended ordinance introduced at the August 24 City Council meeting seeks to strengthen Huntsville's existing law that restricts the use of wireless communication devices while driving.

If approved, the ordinance would prohibit drivers from doing any of the following while operating a vehicle:

- Using a wireless telecommunications device to write, send, read or otherwise engage in any text-based communication;
- Watching, recording or

capturing a photo or video;

- Engaging in voice-based communication while using a handheld wireless telecommunications device; or
 - Physically holding or otherwise supporting a wireless telecommunications device with any part of their body.
- The updated ordinance, sponsored by District 2 Council Member David Little, would also enable law enforcement to treat a handheld wireless communication device violation as a primary offense.

"Driving safely requires your full attention," he said. "Any nondriving activity you participate in while on the road increases your chances of having an accident. This ordinance is a commonsense measure that would ensure a driver's attention on the roadway to keep everyone safe."

The City Council will vote on the amended ordinance during its next regular meeting Thursday, September 14.

If approved and adopted, the ordinance will take effect January 1, 2024.

AAMU Resumes Nobel Lecture Series

*23rd Putcha Venkateswarlu
Memorial Lecture set for
September 15*

What are the ultimate limits of lithium batteries and how can they lead to a cleaner fossil-fuel free society? Nobel Laureate Dr. M. Stanley Whittingham will be guest lecturer at the 23rd Putcha Venkateswarlu Annual Memorial Lecture set for September 15.

M. Stanley Whittingham is a SUNY distinguished professor of chemistry and materials science and engineering at Binghamton University and the 2019 Chemistry Nobel Laureate. He received his BA and D. Phil degrees in chemistry from Oxford University, where he is an honorary Fellow of New College.

He has been active in Li-batteries since 1971 when he won the Young Author Award of the Electrochemical Society for his work on beta-alumina. Presently his research addresses pushing lithium batteries to their limits.

For 22 years, the Alabama A&M University



Whittingham

Department of Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics has hosted the Nobel Laureate Lecture Series. Of special interest to faculty, staff, students, and the scientific community of Huntsville/Madison, this event attracts hundreds each year.

The lecture will take

place in Dawson Auditorium of the Cooperative Extension Building at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 15 with a reception to follow at 5:00 p.m. in the Clyde Foster Multipurpose Room of the College of Business and Public Affairs.

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 Senate reconvened Tuesday, while the House is out until next week. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) released a letter on Friday outlining his

priorities for the fall, leading off with FY2024 appropriations (and the necessity of avoiding a government shutdown), followed by the defense authorization bill, the FAA reauthorization bill, allowing banks to process cannabis-related transactions, rail safety, and artificial intelligence. Reportedly, the



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Senate is working on combining the FY2024 Agriculture and Military Construction appropriations bills with the \$40 billion emergency Disaster/Ukraine supplemental bill for floor action later this month. Punchbowl News reports that the House GOP Leadership is working on a stopgap spending resolution to keep the federal government open until mid-November.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. Last Friday, President Biden asked Congress to provide \$4 billion in emergency disaster aid, in addition to the \$12 billion he sought as part of the \$40 billion Disaster/Ukraine aid supplemental appropriations bill he sent to Congress in August. On Saturday, he traveled to Florida to tour damage from Hurricane Idalia. After spending the holiday weekend at his home in Rehoboth Beach, DE, he traveled to Philadelphia on Monday to attend the AFL-CIO Philadelphia Council's Tri-State Labor Day Parade and Festival. On Thursday, the President will travel to India for the G20 World Leaders Summit (consisting of 19 countries and the European Union) in New Delhi through Saturday and then will travel to Vietnam to meet with Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong in Hanoi. Vice President Harris is in Jakarta, Indonesia, this week attending the U.S.-ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit. On Sunday night, the White House announced that

First Lady Jill Biden had tested positive for Covid-19.

3. AUTO WORKERS STRIKE. Last Thursday, United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain announced that he had filed unfair labor practice charges against General Motors and Stellantis (maker of Jeep and Chrysler), accusing the two automakers (but not Ford) of refusing to bargain in good faith as negotiations continue with the Big 3 automakers in advance of a strike that could start as soon as September 15. On Aug. 25, UAW members authorized a strike with 97% of them voting yes. If a strike happens, the 150,000 UAW workers would receive \$500 per week in strike pay from the UAW's \$825 million strike fund.

4. GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE. Last Thursday, pursuant to the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives issued a proposed rulemaking that will require anyone who sells a firearm through mail order or at flea markets, gun shows, and online to register with the government to obtain a Federal Firearm License, conduct the necessary background checks, and record the sale of each firearm. Currently, sellers who claim that selling firearms is not their main source of income are not required to obtain a license. Exceptions to the new regulation would include hobbyists

selling firearms from their own collection and people selling firearms they inherited.

5. AUGUST JOBS REPORT. Last Friday, the Labor Department announced that the U.S. economy added 187,000 jobs in August, a bit above the predicted 170,000 jobs and showing that the economy remains resilient. The unemployment rate ticked up slightly to 3.8% from 3.5% as more Americans reentered the workforce. The same report also showed that wages were up 4.3%, outpacing inflation.

6. NO LABELS PARTY. The fledgling political party, known as the "No Labels Party," is reportedly working to define its nominating process for fielding a national presidential candidate in the 2024 election, culminating in a national party convention in April 2024. The Washington Post reported last Saturday that former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-MO) has formed Citizens to Save Our Republic to dissuade voters and potential candidates from supporting or joining the No Labels effort.

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Funeral service for MRS. KATHERINE W. HUDSON (b. 1928) will be Friday, September 8, (time to be announced) at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 315 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAMES WILLIE PETTUS, JR. (b. 1960) was held Saturday, September 2, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. JABORES M. KELLY (b. 1980) was held Saturday, September 2, at One-In-Christ Ministries (2131 Hwy 72E - Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Dennis Green officiating.

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Funeral service for MR. DEVIN TYLER MCDONALD (b. 2000) will be held at 12 noon, Thursday, September 7, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Robert Clark officiating.

Funeral service for MS. D'ASIA MONIQUE "MO" MORRIS will be 12 noon, Thursday, September 7, at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (315 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MS. MATILDA ORR WILSON (b. 1946) was held Sunday, September 3, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Reverend Gary Binford officiating.

Funeral service for MS. ANGEL NICOLE MARTIN (b. 2006) was held Saturday, September 2, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Reverend Walter Peevy officiating.

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www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral service will be held for MS. SEQUOIYA LAMAR (b. 2002) on Saturday, September 9, at Fellowship of Faith Church, 3703 Memorial Parkway NW, Huntsville, Ala., at 2 p.m.

Funeral service for MR. JABORIS CLAY (b. 1980) was held Sunday, September 3, at Saint Andrew Primitive Baptist Church, Madison, Ala.

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



A LIFE ALIGNMENT

Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight"

Question: Are you allowing God to pull you into the direction that He wants you to go, or are you allowing the distractions and worries of this world, pull you into a direction that you don't want to go in? Hopefully, God is pulling you in His direction. Now the way that God pulls you in His direction can only come from prayer, reading His word and fellowshiping with other believers. When we do these things we will develop habits that will lead us to the abundant life that God wants us to have.

You see, we have to learn

to stop any "patterns" in our lives that are causing us to gradually be pulled in the wrong direction. Like worrying about things that we have no control over or having the need to be entertained at all times. I believe that these distractions will cause you to get out of alignment with the purpose that God has for your life.

You see, when your car is out of alignment, it will pull it in a certain way, because it wasn't meant to be driven when it's out of alignment, so you have to get it corrected. The same can be said of our spiritual lives. When we allow difficult times to pull us away from the direction that God wants us to go, we need a life alignment, so

that God can pull us back into the direction that He wants us to go in. So, pay attention to



whatever new "life patterns" or habits that are causing you to stray away from the path that God wants you on.

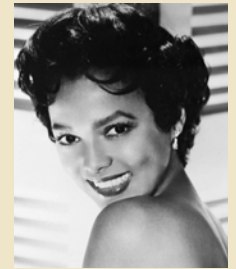
May God grant you spiritual success in making your path straight.

Question: What are some habits in your life that are causing you to not stay on the path that God wants for your life?

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.



ON THIS DAY



IMDb

Actress and singer Dorothy Dandridge died on this day in 1965. A film icon and pioneer in the movie industry, she was the first African-American film star to be nominated for an Academy Award for best actress.

- bet.com

"We are
all gifted.
That is
our inheritance."

- Ethel Waters

Two-Day Local Art Fest Enters Countdown

The annual Monte Sano Art Festival (5105 Nolen Avenue SE, Huntsville, Ala.) will be held on September 16-17, 2023.

The Fest will host about 100 local and regional artists who will be exhibiting their works in various categories, such as woodworking, metal work, glasswork, pottery, painting, fiber arts,



jewelry, photography, and others.

Also, enjoy music and delicious food from food

vendors. Hours: Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.artshuntsville.org.

WJAB
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www.wjab.org

"You don't paint what you see. You paint what you feel."

- Romare Bearden

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.

Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 261-3374
7 p.m.

September 7

Steve Brown
Comedian
Stand Up Live Huntsville
2012 Memorial Pkwy SW

September 8-9

10th Annual Women in
Jazz Festival
Bob Harrison Senior Well-
ness & Advocacy Center
6156 Pulaski Pike
Huntsville, Ala.
6 p.m. (Kickoff)

September 9

Daughter of Zion Inaugu-
ral 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
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*For every complex problem there is an answer
that is clear, simple and wrong.*

- H. L. Mencken

“Boldness ...”

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Boldness...

I remember being told, as a child, by another child or adult, “Ugh, you’re bold!” Said with frustra-

tion, as if I had done something wrong. As an adult, I feel I was always taught to steer away from boldness. Well, I am here to tell you: don’t suppress your child-like boldness. This stunts your dreams. Boldness is the willingness to take risks and act innovatively; with confidence or courage. It is the quality of having a strong, vivid, or clear appearance.

With that definition, I see leadership, fearless faith, walking in authority,

and sure-footedness. Why would you back off of that mentality? Why would you dumb yourself and your actions down to appease



those you have no boldness? Yeah, let’s not do that. Ask without boundaries; all you can be told is no! Move without restraint; it can only get you closer to your mark or expose what

it will take to do so. Plan like there is no limit; there isn’t. If God gave you the thought, there is a way to carry it out. Walk proudly, with confidence. You are somebody; you have a purpose; walk into it boldly! Decide on this today!

Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

Make today amazing; you have the ability to do so.

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it.

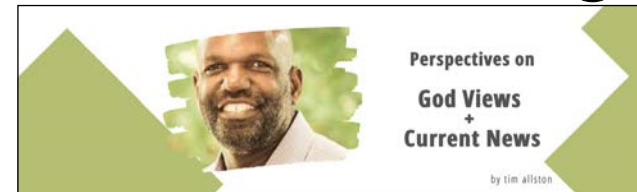
Huntsville Council Meetings



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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A 5-month Anniversary Remembrance: Farewell, Byron Phillips, our Swiss Army Knife!

“... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” - Revelation 2:10

Byron D. Phillips, 58, passed away Sunday, March 19, following back-to-back strokes that immobilized him afterward for 18 months.

He was a friend, mentor, and quite honestly, a Swiss Army knife!

Just like that all-purpose knife, Byron was skilled at virtually everything: formerly a chef, student missionary to Korea, martial artist, choir director, professional photographer, a Master Guide for Pathfinders, the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s equivalent of Boy and Girl Scouts, English teacher, and an accomplished voiceover artist and narrator.

Witnessing without Words

Even though he was inaudible for months, he shared his Christianity - even into the adjoining Huntsville Hospital room!

During one afternoon’s visit, the attending nurse felt compelled to share with me Byron’s influence. Thinking that I was family due to my frequent visits, she thanked us for playing the Christian music and programming of WJOU-FM radio from Oakwood University, Byron’s alma mater. “The person in the next room not only now tunes in to that station, but has also begun reading his Bible.”

Byron influenced my authorship, too. When he learned that I wanted to complement my print and digital book offerings with an audiobook, he immediately referred me to Alabama A&M University’s Communicative Sciences & Disorders lab.

There, assistant professor Ms. Esther Phillips-Emden helped me correct my “plosives” - difficulty in pronouncing certain consonants.

In tribute to this mentor, I offer “The Funeral Poem” by Summer Sandercoc.

“Not how did he die, but how did he live?”

Not what did he gain, but what did he give?

“These are the units of measure to determine the worth

Of a man as a man, regardless of his birth.

“Not what was his church, but what was his creed?”

And how he befriended those really in need

“Was he ever ready with words of good cheer

To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?

“Not what did the sketch in the newspapers say,

But how many were truly sorrowful when he passed away.”



Farewell, Byron. I plan to see you again in heaven, following Jesus’ second coming - but where precisely? In the kitchen? Choir loft? Photographers’ gallery?

Or, maybe in heaven’s studio, narrating God’s audiobook for eternity.

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

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.

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, September 10, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

Second Lesson:

Romans 13:8-14

GOSPEL:

Matthew 18:15-20

Autumn's on Its Way! Getting a Jump on the Valley's New Slate of Allergy Kingpins

(BPT) - You probably know what's coming: Along with changing leaves and dropping temps this fall will come the sniffles, stuffy nose and itchy eyes from allergies to certain plants like ragweed. Unfortunately, climate change has increased the intensity of symptoms and the length of time that many people cope with their autumn allergies.

If fall is a time when you're hit hard by allergies, you are better off acting now - instead of after you're already experiencing symptoms.

"Don't let the changing seasons catch you by surprise," says Kathleen May, M.D., president of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI). "Planning ahead can help make this year's fall allergy season a lot more manageable, no matter what's happening in the environment where you live."

Whether you've had allergies for years or you suspect that they may be the cause of your recent unpleasant symptoms, here are tips from ACAAI to help you prepare for

autumn allergies before they strike - so you can reduce itching, sneezing and wheezing and enjoy everything the season has to offer.

Stay in the know

Keep an eye on your local pollen and mold counts. When they are high, it's best to avoid spending too much time outdoors. Keep the AC running in your car and home to help filter out allergens (rather than leaving the windows open).

You can also protect yourself when you need to be outdoors on higher pollen count days by wearing an N95 mask to help filter out pollen, and wearing a hat and sunglasses to help keep pollen out of your eyes.

Don't wait to medicate

If you already take allergy medication each fall, make sure not to wait until after your symptoms start.

Instead, plan to begin taking your medication about two weeks before your symptoms usually begin for full effectiveness - and keep taking the medication two weeks after the first frost, as your symptoms may linger after



most of the pollen is gone.

Unsure exactly when to start taking your medication? Talk to your allergist for advice on a treatment plan that's proactive rather than reactive. Then take a simple step like adding a medication reminder to your calendar so you won't forget.

Adjust some household habits

Making a few minor changes to your household routine in the fall - or even year-round - can have an impact on your exposure to allergens while you're at home. Here are some recommendations:

* Change your HVAC filter every three months - and choose a high-quality filter such as those with a MERV rating of 11-13 for the best filtration of pollen and mold.
* Leave shoes at the door - and wash clothes immediately after spending time outdoors.

* Shower or bathe at night to avoid bringing allergens into your bed.

* Don't hang clothes or bedding outside to dry after washing.

See an allergist

Because the environ-

mental conditions that create allergens and your body's response to them can change over time, it's a good idea to see your allergist for an updated, personalized treatment plan that can best help you manage your symptoms, no matter the season.

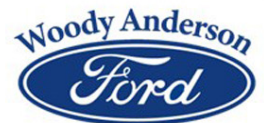
Allergists are specially trained to help diagnose and treat your specific allergy and/or asthma symptoms, using the latest testing and treatments to help you get back to enjoying your life.

If you are - or think you might be - one of the over 50 million Americans who suffer from allergies, you can find an allergist in your area by visiting ACAAI.org/find-an-allergist.



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

Mr. Albert Merrell Morris

Who says you can't mix business and family? Long-time local businessman and florist Albert Merrell Morris has served the Huntsville area for over 55 years. Straight out of college to his noble service in the Navy, Morris started working full-time at the business on Pulaski Pike, the first of four locations. His name was chosen for the retail store since "Albert" started with an "A". The business started with an initial investment of about \$3,000 from the late Thomas Vivian Morris a professor of botany and horticulture at AAMU and his late wife Ruth Daniels Morris. Thomas earned several tree patents while a professor at AAMU. The wholesale greenhouses started in 1965 with brother Roland Morris as manager. The talented native of rural Eufaula, Ala., and Alabama A&M University horticulture graduate, joined his brother, sister-in-law and his five-year-old daughter (who put stamps on the envelopes with the bills in them) in launching a signature floral service in the Tennessee Valley. Albert's Flowers began in 1958 and today is thought to be the longest running floral business in Huntsville, Ala. It never occurred to him that a business owned by blacks was unique or hard to run. He was always around prestigious people at AAMU,

where his parents worked. They were all doing important things; therefore, he just thought operating a business was part of being members of the community. And, today they supply florals and gifts all over the world. As a family-owned business, they are committed to offering only the finest floral arrangements and gifts, backed by service that is friendly, prompt and caring. They always go the extra mile. They began making funeral baskets, sorority corsages and wedding bouquets. Amid rockets at Redstone Arsenal and a neighboring predominantly black college, Thomas, Albert, Ruth and Tomasena Morris started what they knew would be a long-lasting family business. Almost everyone in the Morris extended family in Huntsville has at one time or another worked at the flower shop. Albert once said "I know what it takes to make business work." As the family's patriarch and business micro-manager, Morris is part Yuchi Indian. After his studies at AAMU, Morris lived and studied in Chicago at the Floral School of America, completing his course of study in 1957. Morris is married to the lovely Mrs. Floretta Morris. He has two daughters, Amoretta of Washington, D.C., and Margaret of San Francisco, Calif.



The family's farm had been owned for several generations by both his grandfather and father. Morris maintains an active affiliation with First Missionary Baptist Church, as well as Evening Star Lodge #6 and the MDA Professional Group. Friends still have to bail him out of jail annually for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Morris is the recipient of the Alabama Treasure Forest Award and earned the Spirit Award from the Huntsville Area Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College. He has received numerous honors from the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association. He enjoys giving and he always a step back and hesitates when someone offers to give to him. He has supported almost every organization and agency in this area with gifts of sponsorships and florals. As a landowner and horticulturist, Morris enjoys 'giving, giving and giving some more' and fishing.

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

SFRC Receives \$8.5M USDA-FSA Grant

The Alabama A&M University Small Farms Research Center (SFRC) has received \$8.5 million in grant funding from USDA/ Farm Service Agency (FSA) to lead outreach efforts to deliver education and technical assistance to underserved farmers of color in the Deep South (Alabama,

community-based organizations including, National Center for Appropriate Technology, National Crop Insurance Service, and

allows landowners and operators to retain access to their lands or seek new lands/expansion of existing operations," said Chembezi. "The project addresses core barriers to access land, credit/capital, and product markets, while also working to retain farmland by mitigating and preventing land loss."



Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee). The five-year project will provide the most effective training, education, technical assistance, and decision aids needed to improve producer skills, enhance farm profitability, and reduce the risk for underserved farmers of color.

The project's rationale is that preparing and supporting underserved farmers and facilitating their equitable access to land, capital, markets, and government programs, and empowering them with foundational business, farm, and risk management skills, along with common climate-smart production techniques and effective mentorship support, will help them make better financial and farm management decisions which will, in turn, improve their chances for long-term success in farming.

Dr. Duncan Chembezi serves as the principal investigator of the project and director of the five-state consortium comprising five 1890 and one 1862 land grant universities (Alabama A&M, Fort Valley, Alcorn, Tennessee State, Southern, and Auburn), and several

Alabama State Association of Cooperatives (a subsidiary of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund). Chembezi is a professor of agricultural and applied economics and director of AAMU-SFRC.

"Literature is replete with research-based evidence that regardless of geography, finding secure access to high-quality land is the greatest barrier faced by underserved minority farmers and aspiring farmers, and the number one reason farmers are leaving agriculture," said Chembezi. "There is a need to reverse these trends of land loss and lack of access to land among populations and communities of color."

The funding is authorized under Section 1006 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, as amended by Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022. The primary focus of this authority is to strengthen land access with additional opportunities to focus on capital access and market access for use in agriculture.

"The ability to access capital and viable markets

"This award is a testimony to the outstanding and effective delivery of outreach and technical assistance to underserved agricultural producers by the AAMU-SFRC team," said E'licia Chaverest, assistant director of the Center, and co-principal investigator of the project. "The competition for the funding was stiff; AAMU is one of only three land grant universities after University of Wisconsin and West Virginia University, and the only 1890 land grant institution to receive funding under this authority."

The Center is an outreach arm of the AAMU College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences. Chembezi also serves on the USDA Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers, first appointed by the former USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue in 2020 and re-appointed in 2022 by Secretary Tom Vilsack. Both Chembezi and Chaverest have previously and separately been appointed by the USDA Secretary to serve on the USDA Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.



Bulldogs Announce 2023 Game Themes for Season

The Alabama A&M University Athletics Department has announced the official game themes for the 2023 home games. Each game will feature a theme, a specific color, and other promotions to tie in at Louis Crews Stadium this upcoming season.

To purchase season

tickets and separate game tickets, please visit our link at: <https://aamusports.com/sports/2023/3/28/tickets.aspx>

Saturday, September 9th vs. Lane College (Louis Crews Classic) 6 PM

-Color (Maroon Out)

-Theme: "Get Out My Lane"

Thursday, September 21st vs. Arkansas- Pine Bluff - 6:30 PM

-Color (Maroon and White)

-Theme: "We Don't Bluff"

Saturday, September 30th

vs. Tuskegee- (Homecoming) 2 PM

-Color (White Out)

-Theme: "Watch This Dog Work"

Saturday, November 4th vs. Florida A&M (High School Senior and Veterans Day)

1 PM

-Color (Maroon and Fatigue)

-Theme: "I Am Bulldog Nation"

Thursday, November 16th vs. Mississippi Valley State 6 PM

-Color (Black Out)

-Theme: "Get Off My

Field"

For complete coverage of Alabama A&M Athletics, check out the official homepage at www.aamusports.com. Don't forget to follow us on social media on Instagram (@aamuathletics) and Twitter (@_aamuathletics).



SEPTEMBER 8 - RUBY BRIDGES - Ruby Nell Bridges Hall is an American civil rights activist. She was the first African-American child to desegregate the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis in 1960. She is the subject of a 1964 painting, *The Problem We All Live With*, by Norman Rockwell. In September 1995, Bridges and Robert Coles were awarded honorary degrees from Connecticut College and appeared together in public for the first time to accept the awards. Bridges' *Through My Eyes* won the Carter G. Woodson Book Award in 2000. On January 8, 2001, Bridges was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Bill Clinton.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



There is always something left to love. And if you haven't learned that, you ain't learned nothing.

- Lorraine Hansberry

Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2023

September 2 (L, 47-13)

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

September 30 (Homecoming)

Tuskegee University
Louis Crews Stadium
Huntsville, Ala. - 2 p.m.



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

September 9 (Crews Classic)

Lane College
Louis Crews Stadium
Huntsville, Ala. - 6 p.m.



October 7 (Gulf Coast Challenge)

Jackson State University
Ladd-Peebles Stadium
Mobile, Ala. - 4 p.m.

September 16

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

October 14

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

September 21 (Thursday)

UAPB
Louis Crews Stadium
Huntsville, Ala. - 6:30 p.m.



October 28 (Magic City Classic)

Alabama State
Legion Field

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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the Magic on
the Mountain!*

No matter what time of year you explore Burritt on the Mountain, there is something delightful and new to see. And no matter how young – or old – you are, there is something for you on the Mountain! If you've never visited, you're in for a treat. If it's been awhile, what are you waiting for? Come on up and let the Magic begin!

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OPEN: April–October: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday: noon - 5pm
November–March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm