

# Reconnecting Estranged Families - p. 4

**FREE**

## WTARS Thriving! - p. 6

Friday  
September 9, 2022  
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ValleyWeeklyllc.com

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



Elder John E. Branch



*"In times of war, the law falls silent." - Cicero*

## President Biden Appoints Drake's Sims to NAIC

President Biden has announced the appointment of Dr. Patricia G. Sims, president of Drake State Community & Technical College, to the President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC).



appointment and is the only Alabama representative.

Dr. Sims has been president of Drake State, a Historically Black Community College, since 2018. Under her leadership, Drake State has seen a significant increase in state

and federal funding, has increased strategic partnerships, and expanded its program offerings.

"It's an honor to be asked to serve on this much-needed council," said Sims. "Our work at Drake State is always about improving the lives of individuals for the betterment of our community. We address workforce needs in key areas of technology and healthcare that play a role in cyber security and disaster preparedness."



## Grammy Artists Lovett, Wooten Workshop Panelists

Grammy-award winning artists Ben Lovett (above) and Kelvin Wooten will serve as panelists at a Career & Artist Development Workshop set for Wednesday, September 28, at 6 p.m. at the Lee High School Theater, Huntsville, Ala.

Wooten (below) has worked with artists like H.E.R. and Eric Clapton, while Lovett is a member of Mumford & Sons and the CEO of tvG hospitality, which operates Orion Amphitheater at Apollo Park.



## Interfaith Mission Service Fundraiser Scheduled



Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road SW, Huntsville, Ala., from 6-7:30 p.m.

Attendees have an opportunity to attend in-person or online (REGISTER: <http://www.interfaithmissionservice.org/2022-ACAC>).

The scheduled keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Joan Harrell, director of

inclusive excellence, Auburn University College of Liberal Arts.

The Interfaith Mission Service will hold its 2022 Annual Celebration and Awards Conference on September 20 at



## Roger Howard Joining Monte Sano Art Festival

Imagine waking up one day and without warning, discovering that you have a hidden talent that you were not aware of.

Imagine picking up a pencil, and within a short span of time, drawing as if you had been taking lessons for years.

Then, imagine picking up a paint brush and painting astounding works of art that not

only astound friends and family, but astounds you as well! Then imagine all of these artistic abilities happening within the short span of 4 years! Is this too good to be true?

No!

Enter the magnificent world of Roger Howard (R. Howard) also known as "Golden Hand."

The phenomenal art of Roger Howard will be shown at the Monte



Sano Art Festival September 10-11.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Roger, who as a boy had no knowledge of, interest in, desire for painting or drawing, one day picked up a pencil and entered a totally new world. Experience the world of "Golden Hand."

- Janice A. Jamar



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**The Valley Weekly**

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Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$50
Classified	1 col.x1 inch (4 col. in. minimum=\$24)	\$50/Flat Fee
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## Washington in One Minute



Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The Senate reconvened Tuesday after a month-long recess. The House remains in recess until next week, although some House committees will meet this week. The Senate is expected to focus on approving federal judge nominations this week. Next week, the House is expected to begin work on a stopgap spending measure – in lieu of the unenacted 12 annual appropriations bills – which will keep the federal government operating through mid-December 2022 when the new federal fiscal year starts on October 1.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Tuesday, President Biden hosted an event at the White House celebrating the passage of the \$740 billion Inflation Reduction Act, which he signed on August 16 when Congress was in recess. On Wednesday, the President and First Lady welcomed

former President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama to the White House for the unveiling of the Obamas' official portraits. On Friday, the President will travel to New Albany, OH (near Columbus) to deliver remarks at the site where Intel Corporation is building 2 microchip manufacturing facilities in a deal valued at \$20 billion. On Thursday, Vice President Harris will travel to Houston, Texas, to deliver remarks at the National Baptist Convention and will also attend an event touting passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. On Friday, she will tour the Johnson Space Center in Houston and chair a meeting of the National Space Council.

3. **WHITE HOUSE CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE.** Last Friday, the White House announced that former Clinton and Obama Administrations official John Podesta is joining the White House staff to serve as the Inflation Reduction Act "czar" to oversee the spending of \$370 billion in new clean energy tax

incentives and other green programs. Also announced was the promotion of Ali Zaidi to serve as National Climate Adviser, where he is now the Deputy Adviser to Gina McCarthy who is leaving her post on Sept. 16.

4. **EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL.** Last Friday, the Biden Administration sent a request to Congress for \$47 billion in emergency spending, including \$22.4 billion for Covid-19 vaccines and testing; \$13.7 billion for military and economic assistance to Ukraine; \$6.5 billion to respond to recent natural disaster declarations (including the Kentucky floods of late July); and \$4.5 billion for monkeypox vaccines.

5. **AUGUST JOBS REPORT.** On Friday, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the labor market added 315,000 jobs in August, hitting a 20-month streak of job creation (although down from a revised 526,000 jobs added in July). The number of people seeking jobs increased by 0.3% last month, increasing the unemployment rate up slightly to 3.7% (from July's 3.5%). Average hourly wages continued their upward trend (although at a reduced pace), increasing by 0.3% last month.

6. **APPRENTICESHIPS.** On September 1st, the Biden-Harris Administration

announced the launch of the Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative, a national network of more than 200 employers and industry organizations, labor organizations, educators, workforce intermediaries, and community-based organizations who are committed to strengthening and diversifying Registered Apprenticeship. The Apprenticeship Ambassadors have existing Registered Apprenticeship programs in over 40 in-demand industries and have committed to expand and diversify these programs over the next year by collectively: developing

460 new Registered Apprenticeship programs across their 40 industries, hiring over 10,000 new apprentices, and holding 5,000 outreach, promotional, and training events to help other business, labor, and education leaders launch similar programs. Healthcare and cybersecurity were highlighted as sectors of interest.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



**NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**  
2501 Carmichael Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Funeral services for MRS. ZENA LOVE HILL (b. 1933) and MRS. ELLEN MARTIN (B. 1954) will be announced later.

Graveside service for MR. ROBERT EARL PATTON will be Saturday, September 10, at 11 a.m. at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Elder Jeremiah Chester officiating.

Funeral service for MS. LETHA SMARTT (b. 1955) was held Sunday, September 4, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Hernandez Ford officiating.

Inurnment service for MR. ELIGAH SPRAGINS (b. 1931) [Family and Close Friends] was held Thursday, September 1, at Number 4 Hall Cemetery, 3100 Stringfield Road, Huntsville, Ala.

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME**  
4315 Oakwood Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Graveside service for MS. VALERIE JEWELL BRYANT (b. 1968) will be 11 a.m., Saturday, September 10, in the Gates of Heaven Cemetery (2106 Starling Road, Dothan, Ala.) with Reverend Robert Jones officiating. Public viewing at Royal Wednesday, September 7.

Committal service for MR. WILLIE FRANK CORNER (b. 1956) was held Wednesday, September 7, at Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, AL 35811).

Funeral service for MISS JANICE BERTRICE ARM-STRONG (b. 2000) was held Tuesday, September 6, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Elder Bobby Diggs, Sr. officiating.

Funeral service for MR. FREDDIE “PEE WEE” MCDONALD (b. 1949) was held Saturday, September 3, at the First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Rd., NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Don Darius Butler officiating.

Graveside service for MOTHER FRANCES SMITH STEWART (b. 1927) was held Friday, September 2, in the Valley View Memorial Gardens (139 Meridianville Bottom Road, Meridianville, Ala.) with Pastor Jaymes Mooney officiating.

**SERENITY FUNERAL HOME**  
2505 University Drive NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for REV. WILLIAM ROBINSON (b. 1945) was held Wednesday, September 7, at Serenity Funeral Home.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

**THE VICTORY THAT COMES WITH PRAYER**

Luke 11:10 says, “For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

You know, one of the things that I have come to realize is that prayer changes things.

If we look at one of the characteristics of Jesus, we see that He was consistent when it came to prayer. We also need to be consistent when it comes to our prayer life, as well. There

will be disappointments and trials in our lives. Now, how we deal with the trials that come is very important.

I believe that there are only two outcomes that we can expect. Either we survive or we are victorious. In other words, some people who have made it through hardships and disappointments may survive, but they come out “tattered and torn”. They come out of the situation perhaps bitter, angry and frustrated. But they survived.

But on the other hand, there are people who come out of their circumstances

victorious. They have an attitude of triumph about them, because they have evidence of God’s goodness in their lives.

Now why is this?

I believe the reason for this enthusiastic optimism has everything to do with their prayer life. Because prayer changes things, when we pray, it gives us all a different perspective about our circumstance. When we pray, we bring God into our situation and everything changes.

When we pray, it forces us to live by faith. It also forces us to surrender the pride and self-sufficiency that so many of us have.

Prayer is the only way



that we can keep the lines of communication open with God. ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

Remember, a copy of my book, A Champion Game Plan for Life, is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Huntsville City 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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**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.



**SEPTEMBER 9 - OTIS REDDING** - Often considered “The King of Soul.” Otis Redding, who had performed with the Pinetoppers, among others, is remembered for his track (Sittin’ on) The Dock of the Bay, released after his death in a plane crash. It became the first posthumous Billboard R&B and Hot 100-topping record. He also won two posthumous Grammys. - [TheFamousPeople.com](http://TheFamousPeople.com)

**Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2022**

Sept. 1	at UAB	B’ham	7PM
Sept. 10	at Troy	Vet	6PM
Sept. 17	vs. AUSTIN PEAY		2PM
Sept. 24	at FAMU		5PM
Oct. 1	HOMEcoming (vs. Bethune-Cookman)		2PM
Oct. 8	vs. Grambling		1PM
Oct. 16	at UAPB (St. Louis) River City Classic		3PM
Oct. 29	vs. Alabama State Magic City Classic		2:30PM
Nov. 3	at MVSU		6:30PM
Nov. 12	vs. Jackson State Gulf Coast Challenge Mobile, Ala.		TBA
Nov. 19	vs. Texas Southern		1PM
Dec. 3	SWAC Championship		

**“We can destroy ourselves by cynicism and disillusion, just as effectively as by bombs.”**

- Kenneth Clark



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**September 9-10**

9th Annual Alabama  
Women in Jazz Festival  
(Bring Lawn Chairs!)

www.valleyartsandenter-  
tainment.org

Bob Harrison Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5-9 p.m.

**September 10**

Yellowhammer Oktoberfest  
Yellowhammer Brewing  
1-8 p.m.

**September 10-11**

Monte Sano Art Festival  
Monte Sano State Park  
Public  
Huntsville, Ala.  
9 a.n.-4 p.m.

**September 11**

Jazz in the Park-Huntsville  
The Orion Amphitheater  
*Jazz in the Park with Matthew  
Whitaker and special guests Jeff  
Ryan and The Alabama Institute  
for the Deaf and Blind, hosted by  
Jonathan Slocumb*  
5-9 p.m. (Public)

**September 17**

Football vs. Austin Peay  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Alabama A&M University  
Huntsville, Ala.  
2 p.m.

**September 25**

Southern Soul Music  
Festival  
Mark C Smith Concert  
Hall  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
4 p.m.

**September 29**

Amy Grant

Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

**October 1**

Rocket City Octane Auto  
Show 2022  
South Hall  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bulldog Football vs.  
Bethune-Cookman Uni-  
versity  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Alabama A&M University  
Huntsville, Ala.  
2 p.m.

**October 4**

Concert  
Earth, Wind & Fire  
Orion Amphitheater  
www.axs.com

**October 8**

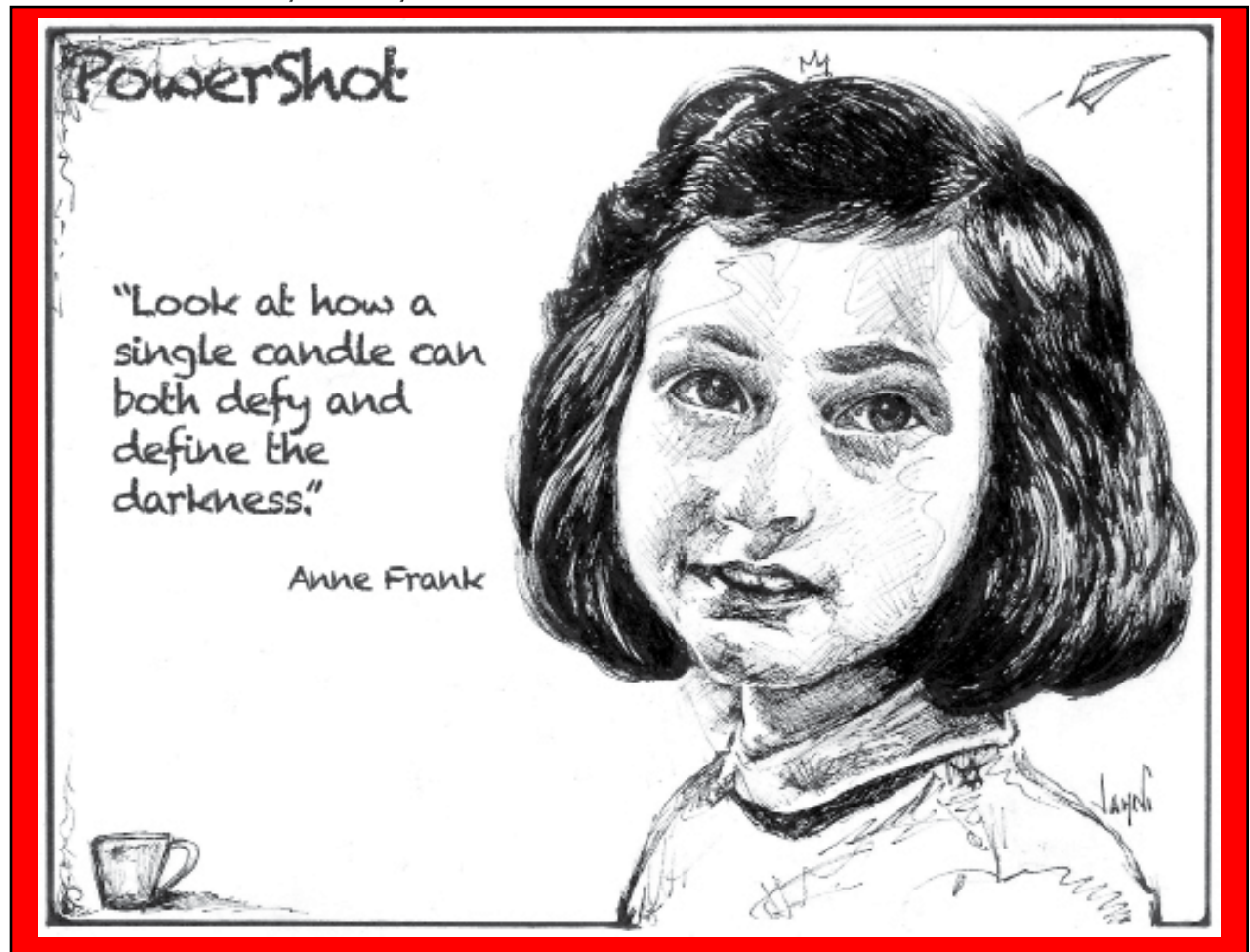
Bulldog Football vs. Gram-  
bling State University  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Alabama A&M University  
Huntsville, Ala.  
1 p.m.

**November 12**

Gulf Coast Challenge  
AAMU vs. Jackson State  
University  
Ladd-Peebles Stadium  
Mobile, Ala.

**November 19**

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



## THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY

### Reconnecting Estranged Families

*Family es-  
trangement is  
painful and iso-  
lating.*

It is a separation within a family often involving one or more members of the family choosing to withdraw from one another. It often happens with adult children and their parents, but estrangement between

parents also exists.

Approximately 27% of Americans are estranged from their own family. An estimated 40% of families have experienced estrangement at some point. This means that almost 70 million families have reported being estranged from a family member.

Estrangement could result from not talking to a parent because of a divorce, parent's disapproval of chil-

dren's partner or friends, disagreement with a family member's lifestyle, abuse, neglect, disabilities or feeling unwanted. Regardless to the reason, ending a relationship with a family member is tough.

The thought of reconnecting with an estranged family member can conjure up a variety of emotions, such as anger, fear, sadness and even happiness of the thought of being together again.

Before attempting to make amends, consider where **you** need to heal from when the event occurred.

\* Reflect on the source of the conflict. Recount the events that led to the estrangement. It's rarely one person's fault.

\* Ask for professional help.



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

\* Make use of tools available to you.

\* Avoid showing up unannounced.

**TO BE CONTINUED ...**

SOURCES:  
nytimes.com  
parentingforbrain.com  
psychologytoday.com





## REMEMBER: Trump is NOT the Enemy - just a Mirror!

*"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities against powers; against the rulers of the darkness of this world; against spiritual wickedness in high places." - Ephesians 6:12*

Donald Trump is the most influential person on the planet.

Virtually every news event - the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Supreme Court rulings, inflamed racial injustice, and upcoming midterm elections, for example - bears his negative and influential thumbprint.

But despite his vitriol and our "Trump-xhaustion," this twice-impeached one-term fugitive ex-president is not our main enemy, as the Apostle Paul noted in the above passage.

Here, Paul reminded the Ephesians that their true enemy was not human but Satan, the spiritual being.

For many, Trump is merely a Satan avatar - just like you. And me.

If anything, Trump is a six-year wide-screen TV, whose reflection mirrors our own shortcomings that we need to acknowledge and correct. Now.

### Homework: Take the "Trump-in-You" Challenge, . . .

True, we enjoy gang-tackling "45" for his thinly-veiled racism, sexism, and nativism.

Even as our criticism of him is justified, however, we also need to first ask ourselves for example:

1. We railed against Trump for discriminating and separating young children from their immigrant parents, . . . *but do your and my words and actions also break up families - starting with our own immediate households?*

2. We decry Trump's documented lies, . . . *but how often do you and I fail to be forthright and truthful?*

*How often do we offer incomplete information, when transparency is what's needed?*

*How often do we remain mum and withhold vital fill-in-the-blank facts - the withholding of which we employ as a tool for control? And*

3. Yes, we were angered by Trump's un-confessed and vilifying statements of racial, ethnic, gender and class discrimination, . . . *yet can you and I accept Jesus' challenge of John 8:1-12, to the men accusing the woman caught in adultery and demanding that she be stoned to death when he asked, "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, 'He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her'" John 8:7?*

### . . . And a God Do-over!

If like me, you're 0 for 5 with those in-your-face questions, let's look now and forever at our own mirror reflections; and then, apply God's do-over: daily Bible reading and prayer.

Trust me, it works best when applied daily, . . .

*tim allston is the author of the new printed/digital/audiobook, The U.S. COVID-19 CRISIS available now at <https://amzn.to/3RbyIKX> and [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com).*

## COVID-19 Assistance

### UNITED WAY COVID-19

Assistance Fund

Donate:

[www.uwmadison-county.org](http://www.uwmadison-county.org)

Get Assistance: Call 211

### SMALL BUSINESSES

[disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

(800) 659-2955

### COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department of Labor

(866) 234-5382

[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

### MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(256) 539-3711

### LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

### TAKEOUT/DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

<https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries/>

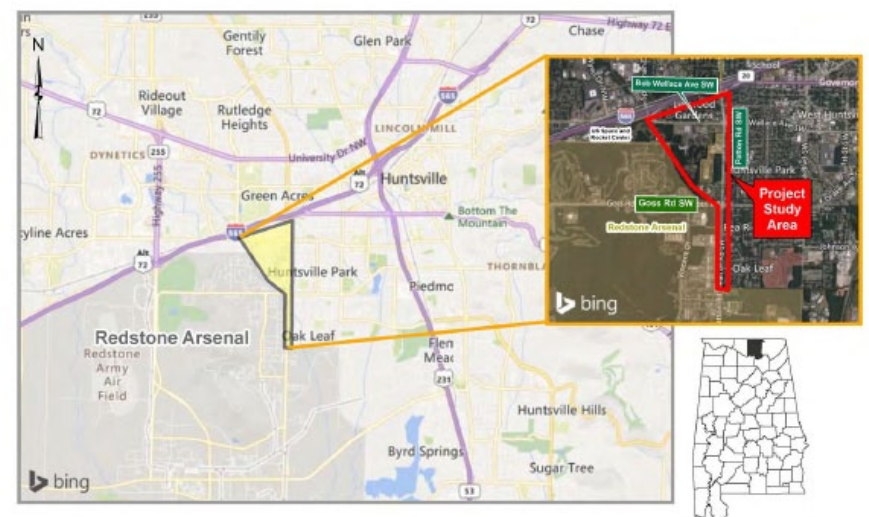
[take-out-food-service-providers/](http://take-out-food-service-providers/)

# Public Involvement Meeting



ALDOT Project No. RP-4519  
City of Huntsville Project No. 71-19-SP45  
Arsenal East Connector Project  
Madison County

(Not to Scale)  
Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, and 15, Township 4 South, Range 1 West



**Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

Morris School Auditorium

4801 Bob Wallace Ave SW

Huntsville, AL 35805

**4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

The Public Information Meeting will be held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process of the proposed project for the Arsenal East Connector project from I-565 to Redstone Arsenal Gate 10 (Patton Road Gate). Representatives from the City of Huntsville and the Alabama Department of Transportation will be available at displays to discuss the proposed project and answer any questions. Comment sheets will also be made available for those who would like to submit written statements. Written statements must be mailed (postmarked) or e-mailed on or before Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The purpose of the project is to reduce congestion and improve access to the U.S. Army's Redstone Arsenal from I-565. It is anticipated that the project would also improve traffic conditions along Bob Wallace Avenue and Patton Road and other area roads in Huntsville, Alabama.

**For more information on this meeting visit our website:**

**<http://www.huntsvillempo.org/>**

**To submit any comments via email:** [arsenal.east.alabama@volkert.com](mailto:arsenal.east.alabama@volkert.com)

**To submit comments via voicemail:** 256-203-3397

**Mail comments to:** Volkert Inc, Attn: Jason Goffinet, 200 Clinton Ave. W., Suite 1030, Huntsville, AL 35801



# A&M Research Station a Thriving Enterprise

by Jerome Saintjones

A volunteer's old truck can no longer dodge maintenance: the mechanic's coming today, a staffer explains. Outside, a tractor grunts and, within a minute, minimizes into the landscape. Inside, a Zoom meeting exceeds an hour. No worries. It's summertime, and this is the "other" campus.

The micro-buzz of an insect or two prevents a visitor from totaling immersing mind, body and spirit in the picturesque landscape, becoming one with the land. Indeed, just entering Alabama A&M University's Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station (WTARS), just a few miles from the campus proper in Hazel Green, Ala., offers a mixture of perspectives.

First, there's a vibe of the academic. In the main, flat-roof building, there are offices, along with classroom and meeting spaces that can be scaled for any sized group. There is a kitchen and space for agricultural demonstrations, along with the usual technology for presentations and meetings online. The virtual collaborations connect the Research Station with like-minded researchers and colleagues throughout the nation.

Then, leaving the central office building and veering southward leads one to the "everyday" routine of the Research Station. There are facilities and grounds for massive agricultural equipment; facilities and grounds for research projects, primarily involving an extensive variety of plants; count similar areas and equipment for animals; and an expansive, rolling, green slice of heaven, set among an ever-increasing vine of suburban sprawl.

Lastly, there is a sense that this wonderfully serene setting is just one face of a vast, hidden enterprise. Yes, there is an unmistakable corporate



presence, tucked within a large swarth of the perennial *Miscanthus* or within the thin dividing line of tracts of soybean. Dr. Ernst Cebert, manager of the facility, is responsible for keeping in perpetual suspension all the juggled pieces of research station operations, including old trucks.

"We have multiple projects with different universities," said Cebert, expertly maneuvering a Toyota Tacoma truck on unruly, bumpy Alabama soil. "We have hemp plants from Cornell, and we are researching how well they grow in the South," focusing mainly on climate, moisture and disease.

WTARS is a member, he said, of the multi-million-dollar Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI), based at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Almost on cue, just a few feet along some other grassy, truck-hewn path

are populations of *Miscanthus*, part of a collaboration with the University of Illinois and the local HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology.

AAMU scientists and others are conducting genetic research on the plant, which produces a lot of material convertible as a potential

health components of the DoE-funded project.

Another hemp-related project applies genetic research to the plant's use as a source of fiber for clothing, furniture and other products, said Cebert. Researchers for this project

and many others are especially interested in identifying methods that provide more yields per acre. This type of research is a mainstay for large multinational companies like Bayer CropScience, explained Dr. Cebert.

Now, a mere stone's throw from a plant with possibilities

address the culinary needs of the region's significant Asian population.

The Research Station is also home to a supply of Native American pawpaw trees (left), whose edible fruit are considered the largest produced by a tree indigenous to the United States. At WTARS, the trees share a small field with China's jujube tree.

"We are trying to weigh-in on regenerative agriculture," Cebert added, slowly driving pass large tracts of soybeans. "Our focus here is to return nutrients to the soil." Dr. Dedrick Davis, assistant professor and soil physicist, has been a useful resource in performing soil work at WTARS related to the sorghum plant. Sorghum is a popular cereal grain used for human consumption, animal feed, biofuel and alcoholic beverages. It is believed to have been introduced to the U.S. from its

native Africa via slave ships.

Underneath a small row of trees is a bee apiary operated by an independent organization; it amply gives and receives from its immediate natural surroundings.

To that point, Cebert interjects that WTARS' farm-raised fish, for instance, represents the interesting studies by Dr. Heather Howell. Her research aims to

find and adjust the intricate channel that shows a clear picture of a self-perpetuating agricultural cycle capable of producing all it needs to sustain itself through aquaponic methods.

Cebert further added that, with nearly 1,000 acres

stretched along both sides of a major highway, WTARS has been using specialized drones to monitor the progress of crops, among them sorghum. To place even more on the list of crops growing fervently on the land, add the ongoing state-funded research on black beans and pinto beans, crops traditionally grown in cold states, such as Michigan or North Dakota.

Other sections of the Research Station reveal allotted spaces for cows, sheep and goats, while agro-forestry research takes place primarily across the highway to the west.

A rundown of the sheer scope of the facility and its link to the College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences could claim an entire day. Even then, it would be easy to leave out some key component of research involving biomass; variety trials; herbs, spices and medicinal plants; soil health and climate; small ruminants; and forestry and agro-forestry.

No doubt, each of the Station's 972 acres (but who's counting) can recount the triumph and missteps of some research faculty member or hapless graduate student. Moreover, the Station is the preferred site for any number of outreach and community events sponsored by AAMU and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

As the insufferable heat of the last third of summer begins to dissipate, Cebert beams that the Research Station he lives and loves "is at its best this time of year."

He's right. It's still summertime. Life is abundant, the fields are exploding with growth, and the small staff has—somehow—made all this living easy.



biofuel source. They also hope to gather data related to questions about how it grows and how is it impacted by climate. Drs. Xianyan Kuang and Xinhua Xiao are currently involved in the assessment of phenotyping and the soil

for use as jet fuel grows another perennial—turmeric—native to Southeast Asia. The WTARS crop, more specifically, is from Vietnam, and Dr. Srinivasa Rao Mentreddy has devoted much research on the plant's adaptability to north Alabama and its ability to





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

## Elder John E. Branch

Brother John E. Branch graduated from Greene County (Ala.) Training School in 1964 as Valedictorian of his senior class.

He enrolled in Alabama A&M University (AAMU), where he earned the Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical drafting and design technology in 1968. He pursued further study at Alabama Christian College (Faulkner University) in biblical studies.

Upon his graduation from AAMU, Branch served briefly as a design draftsman for the Sperry Rand Corporation in Huntsville, Ala., where he designed PC boards, schematic diagrams and wiring harnesses for the instrument section of the Saturn V rocket.

From 1969-1972, he made topographical surveys and designed roadways, runways and drainage ponds for the U.S. Army, 160th Engineering Command, at Fort Bragg, N.C.

For nearly 40 years, Branch worked in Facility Engineering preparing design drawings for electrical modifications to NASA buildings and test stand structures. He continues to give back to his community extensively. He assisted the Girl Scouts



with electrical design modifications to their building on Sparkman Drive in Huntsville, Alabama.

In the 1980s, he taught technical drawing night classes for two years at AAMU. Moreover, he served on the board of AGAPE of North Alabama for two years and as speaker for the "Words of Life" religious program on WEUP AM for the past 18 years.

Minister Branch has served as Pulpit Minister of Northwest Church of

Christ since May 1978. He has coordinated visitation outreach ministry to homeless shelters; supported mission efforts to churches in Monrovia, Liberia; served on the policy and procedures committee for Huntsville City Schools; serves on the Advisory Board of the Robert "Bob" Harrison Advocacy & Wellness Center; and has facilitated and coordinated marriage retreats with his wife Gladys for nearly 30 years.

"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).



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## This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, September 11  
Fourteenth Sunday  
After Pentecost

(Track 2 - Year C)

Exodus 32:7-14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

Psalms 51:1-11



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A New Generation Of Service



## Harrison Center Site of Festival

The 9th Annual Alabama Women in Jazz Festival will be held Friday, September 9, and Saturday, September 10, at the Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness & Advocacy Center, 6146 Pulaski Pike. Kickoff is September 9 at 6 p.m.

Join jazz enthusiasts for



the Friday evening kickoff, which will include "a phe-

nominal performance and wine tasting event with jazz pianist, Nancy Pendergraph."

Among the acts are Phebe Jones, The Moore Twins, Sherry Reeves, Lynnece Henry and others. For more information, visit [valleyartsandentertainment.org](http://valleyartsandentertainment.org).



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