

A Generation's Financial Literacy Crisis - p. 6

FREE

A&M Homecoming! - p. 8

Friday
September 15, 2023
Vol. 10, No. 2
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Marsau & LaTisha Scott
Parade Marshals

GLORIA B: 'Your CHOICES ...' - p. 5



TIM ALLSTON: THE DEBATE! - p. 5



Mr. Allie Swann



"Pro and con are opposites; that fact is clearly seen. If progress means to move forward, then what does congress mean?" - Nipsey Russell

Parks & Recreation Launches Citywide Boot Camp

Citywide Boot Camp is back for its second season, making fitness both accessible and fun. Hosted by Huntsville Parks & Recreation, the free workouts kicked off at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, September 9, at Hays Farm as part of the free Fleet Feet Fall Fitness Festival. There are still plenty of sessions scheduled for the upcoming months.

"Parks & Recreation is proud to co-sponsor this festival that's all about good health for the entire family," Recreation Superintendent Dorianne Johnson said. "We hope everyone enjoys the games, activities, food trucks



and Citywide Boot Camp!"

To participate in Citywide Boot Camp, visit the Parks & Recreation tent at the event to sign in. Participants should be 13 years or older. Water and snacks will be provided. 2023 Citywide Boot Camp schedule:

Saturday, Sept. 9, 9:15-9:50 a.m., Hays Farm
Saturday, Oct. 7, 9-10 a.m., Big Spring Park East
Saturday, Nov. 4, 9-10 a.m., Butler Green Park
Saturday, Dec. 2, 9-10 a.m., Butler Green Park

For more information, follow Huntsville Parks & Recreation on Facebook and Instagram. - huntsvilleal.gov



MidCity Monster Mash Returns

The MidCity District will hold the 4th Annual MidCity Monster Mash beginning Friday, October 13, and running through Halloween at 5909 University Drive NW in Huntsville, Ala.

Organizers are boasting scary good food; Halloween-inspired cocktails; spooky characters roaming every weekend; and fun events every week! There

will also be BIG BANDS and LIVE music every weekend, in addition to costume contests with prizes and more!

Look out for more details especially designed for Valley guys and ghouls!

There is no cover charge to enter this pet friendly! Although a family friendly activity, check certain events for any restrictions.

ACES Names Tuskegeean New Associate Director

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) at Alabama A&M University has announced the appointment of Dr. Jennifer Wells-Marshall as the next Extension associate director. The appointment was effective September 1.

Dr. Marshall has spent more than 19 years in ACES working as a county and regional agent, an evaluation specialist, a state leader for program development

and evaluation, the interim assistant director of Human Sciences Extension, the executive director for the Family Child Care Partnership/Clinic, and as an associate professor at Auburn University.

Before accepting her current appointment, Dr. Marshall worked at Penn State University to develop Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) programming and outcomes

that align with the goals of CYFAR and the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Dr. Marshall holds a doctorate in educational psychology-evaluation and assessment from Auburn University, an M.S. degree in human development and family studies from Auburn, and a B.S. degree in psychology from Tuskegee University.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

- Washington in a Minute, Page 2
- Preston Brown's "Spiritual Game Plan," Page 3
- "Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 4
- Perspectives, Page 5
- Sunday Lectionary, Page 5
- Honoring Our Elders, Page 7
- AAMU Homecoming 2023, Page 8

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The Valley Weekly**Ad Rates Single Issue**

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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
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ACHE Enrollment Preliminaries: A&M Way UP, UAH Way Down

The FA2023 Preliminary Fall Enrollment report has been posted on the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE).

The state agency recently released data on the preliminary fall enrollments for two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education, comparing the fall enrollments of 2022 and 2023.

For the two major public

four-year institutions based in Huntsville, both ends of the spectrum were achieved. Historically black Alabama A&M University, founded in 1875, experienced a total enrollment increase (undergraduate and graduate students) of 10.8 percent over its 2022 fall enrollment of 6,007 students. AAMU's reported preliminary fall 2023 enrollment stands at 6,657, or an addition of 650 students, according to the ACHE data sheet. The stellar enrollment held despite

a 3.6 percent decline in graduate enrollment, which dropped to 773 students. In the last decade, A&M's graduate school enrollment peaked in 2014 and 2015 at 1,124 students. At cross-state rival Alabama State University, the school has posted the largest total enrollment decline (37 percent) between 2013-2022. ASU's enrollment back in 2013 was 6,075. In 2022, its enrollment had dropped to 3,828.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), established in 1950, enrolled a total of 9,237 undergraduate and graduate students in fall 2022. In fall 2023, however, the enrollment declined by 5.3 percent with the loss of nearly 500 students. The reported fall

2023 enrollment figure for UAH was 8,743.

Other Area Colleges

Athens State University increased its total enrollment by 2.1 percent to 2,955 with the addition of 62 new students over its fall 2022 submission.

The University of North Alabama's total enrollment increased by 2.1 percent to 9,968 total students. UNA has the largest graduate school in the region, with a total of 2,296 graduate students. That figure includes the ultra-modest increase of only 6 additional grad students.

Calhoun Community College's enrollment received a 4.2 percent increase (343) for a total of 8,501 students. Calhoun is the

state's second largest community college following Jefferson State (9,401) in Birmingham.

Drake State Community and Technical College's preliminary enrollment for fall 2023 was 922, a slight 1.9 percent decrease from the previous year. Among two-year colleges, the largest enrollment decline by percentage (-8.1 percent) was reported by the now 727-student Ingram State Technical College in Deatsville. Small, now 593-student Reid State Tech in Evergreen reported a 35.4 percent increase.

Of the 252,881 students who were enrolled in Alabama public colleges and universities in fall 2022, about 72 percent (182,362) were from Alabama.

by Jerome Saintjones



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189 - www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral services will be announced soon for MR. JOHN BLACKBURN (b. 1950); MR. CORYELL DERRICK (b. 1977); MS. PAMELA MILTON (b. 1963); and MR. LE-LAND EUGENE WISER (b. 1951).

Funeral service for MR. FRANK RICH, JR. (b. 1939) was held Saturday, September 9, at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church with The Reverend Ricky Sykes officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. IRENE M. THOMAS (b. 1922) was held Thursday, September 7, at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with The Reverend Dr. Mitchell M. Walker, Sr. officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW

Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481 - www.royalfh.com

Funeral services will be announced soon for DEACON NATHAN LANGFORD (b. 1952); MS. PARIS ARIEL COONROD (b. 1991); MR. JAIDEN RASHAD DeJARNETT (b. 2007); MS. SHANAE CANTRICE LAWS (b. 1978); and MR. ROBERT EARL BRAZELTON (b. 1954).

Memorial service for MRS. MARY L. WARD (b. 1932) will be 12:30 p.m., Saturday, September 16, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Minister Carrie Pugh officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CARL ANTHONY CARTHEN (b. 1961) was held Saturday, September 9, at the Pleasant Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (15439 Hastings Road, Athens, Ala.) with Pastor Marshall White officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW

Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693

www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Celebration of Life service for MR. JEFFERY "Jiffy" GARNER (b. 1972) will be held Sunday, September 17, at Syler Tabernacle at 2 p.m.

Celebration of Life service was held for MS. MARY LESLIE (b. 1944) on Sunday, September 10, at Mose Chapel P.B. Church, 372 Mose Chapel Road, Madison, Ala.

Celebration of Life service was held for MS. SEQUOIYA LAMAR (b. 2002) on Saturday, September 9, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

ON THIS DAY



On September 15, 1963, four Black girls were killed when a bomb went off during Sunday services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. (Three Ku Klux Klansmen were eventually convicted for their roles in the blast.)

- bet.com

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.

Spiritual Game Plan

ATMOSPHERE IS EVERYTHING

Psalms 71:8 says, "My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long."

There is a popular song by Byron Cage that goes, "The presence of the Lord is here, the presence of the Lord is here, I feel it in the atmosphere, the presence of the Lord is here!"

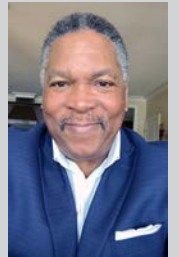
Did you know that atmosphere is everything in the life of a believer? In other words, what is the condition of the atmosphere that you live in? Is it peaceful or is it stressful? Is it full of love and joy or is it filled with anger, rage, and hostility? Is it filled with compassion or confusion? Atmosphere is everything. Whether on your job or at home, the condition of your environment can be the difference between a happy life or a stressful life filled with unmanageable difficulties and hardships.

We all go through difficulties and hardships in life. However, I believe the atmosphere we live in will dictate how we handle these difficulties.

So, how do we control the atmosphere that we live in? First, it all starts with allowing God with the love of Jesus to reside in your home. Now, the way we do this is by reading and knowing the word of God. Reading God's word daily will help us realize that God is not the author of confusion, He is the God of structure and peace.

Next, we need to pray for the Holy Spirit to rain down on our lives so we feel His presence in tense situations, so that we can have hearts that forgive, and hearts filled with love and compassion. The same kind of love, forgiveness and compassion that He has for us. Finally, we need to open up our mouths

and give God the praise that he is worthy of and declare His splendor all day long by thanking Him for all the wonderful things He has done in our lives!



When we do these things, we will create an atmosphere where we feel God's presence in our lives. Because Atmosphere is everything.

May God grant you spiritual success with creating a peaceful atmosphere for your life.

Question: What type of atmosphere (at home, at work, or with your relationships) have you created 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, e-mail me at prestonbrown81@gmail.com, and I will send you an autographed copy.



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A New Generation Of Service

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.

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. Ar-
kansas-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 Tour-
namment
Alabama A&M University
Alumni Association, Inc.
Huntsville Country Club
7 a.m.

September 30

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

Bulldog Football vs. Tuske-
gee
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
2 p.m.

“... Darkness
can exist by itself.
Light
cannot.”

- N. K. Jemisin

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 Festi-
val and Highland Games
Sharon Johnston Park
9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Maxwell

Concert
The Orion Amphitheater
7:30 p.m.

October 20

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

November 4

Bulldog Football vs. Flori-
da A&M
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
1 p.m.

November 12

A Gospel Symphony Cel-
ebration
(Featuring Donald Law-
rence)

Special Guests:
Vox Fortura, Alabama
Symphony Orchestra, Con-
ductor Dr. Henry Panion
III, Miles College Choir
and UAB Gospel Choir
Alys Robinson Stephens
Performing Arts Center
1200 10th Avenue South
Birmingham, Ala - 7 p.m.
(205) 975-ARTS
Tickets: <https://www.allysstephens.org/events/gospel-celebration/>

November 17-19

Preacher Lawson
“America’s Got Talent”
Stand Up Live Huntsville
2012 Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, Ala.

PowerShot

“... the harvest
you reap will
depend on the
seeds you plant.”

Rhonda Byrne



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*For every complex problem there is an answer
that is clear, simple and wrong.*

- H. L. Mencken

“Did You Choose It Away? ...”

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Did you choose it away? Have you been making decisions, slipping your morals, values, and time away from things that you know aren't good for you?

Did you let your mind beat you for what you know to be a good opportunity, focusing on superfluous things that don't matter?

Do you feel your progress slipping away? Or, do you understand you *choose* it away?

Be honest with yourself. Each decision begets a response, reaction, or cir-



Genl Almann

cumstance. These decisions ultimately belong to you.

We are given the gift of choice. You can make wise decisions, considering outcomes that will work best for you. You can decide to make decisions and take risks that may or may not pan out.

You can choose to opt

out of opportunities and do nothing.

My point here is that it's all your decision.

It would help if you took accountability for what you gain ... and lose.

Don't choose away the best livelihood you can provide yourself by being lazy, complacent, or afraid.

Choose abundant life through faith and proper action.

The choice is yours! Make the right decision. You can do it. I believe in you! Start believing in yourself.

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it!

IMS Annual Fundraiser Set

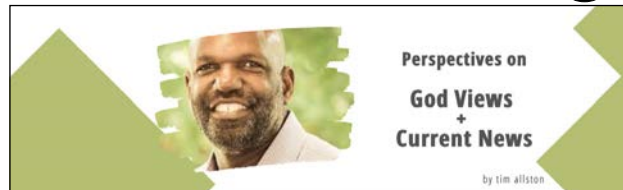
The Interfaith Mission Service (IMS) will hold its 2023

Annual Celebration and Awards Conference on September 20 at Trinity United Methodist Church - Wesley Hall, 607 Airport Road SW, Huntsville, Ala., from 6-7:30 p.m.

The theme of the evening is based on the inspirational sentiment of Dr. King, “The Fierce Urgency of Now.”

The scheduled keynote speaker is Jacquelyn Gates Shipe, CEO of Global Ties Alabama.

For tickets, visit interfaithmissionservice.org.



Jesus Christ: THE ULTIMATE LEADER, or ... the ultimate follower?

See the Bible texts table below.

Glancing Back . . . to Go Forward

As summer draws to a close, let's glance back . . .

The “book-ends” of July 2019 and August 2023, for example, featured:

1. President Trump's July 14, 2019 rant that four freshman minority congresswomen “go back to where you came from”; and
2. The August 23rd GOP Debates - minus Mr. Trump, now burdened with four criminal probes and indictments.

Think about #1 . . .

If you and I were to “go back to where you came from” (the source of our values and beliefs, which transcends ethnicity), then we who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ - i.e., three of four Americans, and nearly one out of every three world citizens - would go back to Jesus Christ, “the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).

. . . and #2

#2, the Debates, ask us to follow leaders - or, are WE to lead these followers (candidates of public consent and the latest polling)?

Both #1 and #2 intersect, and raise a thought question:

Q1: Was Jesus Christ THE ULTIMATE LEADER or the ultimate follower?

A quick scan of Jesus' “resume” indicates:

ULTIMATE LEADER?	ultimate follower?
“King of Kings, Lord of Lords” (Deuteronomy 10:17, 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16)	“Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6); “Son of God” (26 references); “Son of Man” (37 references)
“I will make you fishers of men” (Luke 5:10); and “I will draw all men unto Me” (John 12:32)	Jesus' mother made Him perform reluctantly His first miracle (John 2:1-11)
“My sheep hear my voice, . . . and they follow me” - (John 10:27); and He established Christianity (Matthew 16:18)	“I can of Myself do nothing . . .” (John 5:30)
“All authority has been given to Me . . .” (Matt. 28:18)	Jesus' 1st 30 years were spent privately following His heavenly Father and earthly parents (Luke 2:52, 3:23)

Q2: Who wins this debate - LEADER or follower, or . . . ?

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

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, September 17, 2023
 Sixteenth Sunday
 after Pentecost

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:
 Genesis 50:15-21
 Psalm 103:[1-7], 8-13
 Second Lesson:
 Romans 14:1-12
 GOSPEL:
 Matthew 18:21-35

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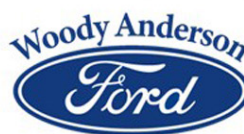
NAAACC Meetings

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.



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Empowering Future Generations to Deal with America's Financial Literacy Crisis

(BPT) - The World Economic Forum has recognized financial literacy as a fundamental skill and essential form of literacy for all students. It holds significant influence over various aspects such as financial resilience, responsible retail investments and financial empowerment. However, shockingly, financial literacy remains scarce. A staggering two-thirds of Americans are unable to pass a basic financial literacy test. Additionally, three-quarters of teenagers lack confidence in their understanding of personal finance, with over six in 10 lacking confidence in applying the financial knowledge they possess. This disparity becomes even more concerning when considering underrepresented youth from historically disadvantaged communities. In fact, data from the 2018 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) Financial Literacy Results published by the National Center For Education Statistics reveals that White and Asian 15-year-olds exhibit significantly higher financial literacy rates compared to their Black and Latino counterparts of the same age.

The financial literacy gap threatens to put millions of young people on the road to

high debt, low credit scores and the toxic stress that comes with money trouble. To navigate today's world, young people need a fundamental understanding of budgeting, credit, taxes and investing. This knowledge and the skills to apply it will empower future adults to make productive decisions about money and protect themselves against financial predation and fraud. To help provide and encourage this knowledge, Intuit partnered with the Suh Family Foundation to empower youth and communities for long-term success.

Equal access to high school financial literacy to empower millions

Schools teach students many of the skills they need to build successful lives, yet only a quarter of high schoolers have access through their school to a financial literacy course. In fact, financial literacy education is only guaranteed to 5% of students in schools where more than 75% are either Black or Latino or eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch. Just 22 states require financial literacy education in high school. We believe that equal access to these courses in all states would empower millions



more students to succeed in life and overcome generational wealth gaps and racial and socioeconomic inequalities, especially in low-income and disadvantaged communities with tighter resources. This lack of access perpetuates generational wealth gaps.

Engagement is essential

Research shows that financial literacy education works, but more critically, it needs hands-on instruction that engages students with real-life experiences.

For example, consider the national financial literacy education partnership our organizations have launched. Students learn to manage finances in custom scenarios using real-world tools, including TurboTax and QuickBooks - seeing first-

hand how to finance a car, make a family budget, fill out tax forms, and navigate other essential aspects of adult finances. To maximize engagement, subjects are tailored to students' needs and interests.

Partnerships like this can provide high school teachers with training and curriculum and bring engaging workshops, resources and ongoing support to high schoolers. We are proud to have brought resources to some of the country's biggest, most underserved school districts.

Scaling Impact

Intuit is dedicated to helping Generation Z and all the coming generations thrive. After a successful joint program in Portland, Oregon, we expanded to the

Los Angeles Unified School District, Inglewood Unified School District and Compton Unified School District, East Side Union School District and Dallas Independent School District. To roll out and scale the programming, we work with nonprofit partners already active in local school districts. The big overarching goal is to prepare at least 5 million individuals for jobs and life after graduation by 2025.

There's also an opportunity to encourage students to bring what they've learned home and talk about personal finance. Intuit's recently conducted Prosperity Study Index found that people are less comfortable discussing financial topics than anything else - including politics and mental health. After navigating financial literacy

simulations at school, high schoolers can hold intelligent conversations with their parents and community about topics related to money, possibly for the first time. By providing financial literacy toolkits, schools can help equip families to hold constructive, ongoing dialogue around financial topics.

These regular discussions can help create a culture of financial literacy, both in individual families and in society at large. The more students, families and communities have the knowledge, skills and tools to use money wisely, the closer our country will be to putting the American Dream within reach of everyone.

We have the power to build a more prosperous future by providing high school financial literacy courses and ensuring that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to build successful, financially healthy lives.

By Intuit vice president of education and corporate responsibility, Dave Zasada, and Super Bowl Champion Ndamukong and wife Katya Suh, Suh Family Foundation co-founders



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

Mr. Allie Swann

A native Mississippian, Allie Swann was born in rural Macon, MS on a farm owned by his grandfather and father. He earned his bachelors degree from Mississippi State University in 1958 in Accounting and Economics.

The retired financial officer at NASA-Marshall Space Flight Center, Allie Swann followed up his 35-year stint with the agency with productive community involvement.

Swann proudly served in the United States Army for two years and later earned the Master of Administrative Science from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. While in the Army, he played a trombone in the prestigious Army Band.

He came to Huntsville to conduct an audit of Redstone Federal Credit Union as an auditor for the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions.

While here, some of his fraternity brothers from Mississippi State's Lambda Chi Alpha encouraged him to consider a move here, which he did. He has served as a volunteer

in numerous community organizations and agencies through the years. More recently, he has been a board member and treasurer of Interfaith Mission Services; an adjunct professor of accounting at the University of Alabama in Huntsville; and as a volunteer at Trinity United Methodist Church, First Stop, and the Burritt Museum.

Allie and his lovely wife, Linda, have five grown children, two sons and three daughters, all of which are Huntsville residents except one daughter in Nashville.

In addition, the Swanns have been blessed with 12 beautiful grandchildren. In addition to his commu-



nity service, Allie enjoys woodworking. He has made or will make each of his grandchildren a piece of furniture as his special gift to them.

Swann is an avid reader of history and political books. He has travelled all over the United States and to Europe, Canada and Mexico. According to him "he has had a great life. It's been wonderful." Actually, if he had to live it all over again, there are very, very, very few things he would change!

Community Park in N. Huntsville to Receive Upgrade



A community park in North Huntsville is getting some necessary improvements. James Crawford Park on Melody Road serves several neighborhoods near Alabama A&M University. A new playground was installed earlier this year. Now, the Huntsville City Council has authorized a contract for further refurbishments.

The \$598,711 agreement with Dunlap Contracting, Inc., approved during Thursday's meeting, will allow for the demolition of the existing outdoor

basketball court and the construction of a new one with specialty finishes.

"We knew the basketball court would eventually need to be replaced," said Parks and Recreation Director James Gossett. "It's time for an upgrade of the concrete playing surface. We're grateful to the administration for this new court that will serve the community for decades to come."

Another exciting addition is a lighted pavilion for the park. The contract also covers grading, hardscaping, and landscaping.

The park was named after James Crawford in 2001. Crawford, a member of the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame, played football at

Alabama A&M University for coach Louis Crews. He later became the first African American member of the Officials Association of the Alabama High School Athletic Association and spent decades officiating youth sports, in addition to serving as a community advocate and civic volunteer. - huntsvilleal.gov



SEPTEMBER 15 - NIPSEY RUSSELL - Julius

"Nipsey" Russell was an American comedian, poet, and dancer best known for his appearances as a panelist on game shows from the 1960s through the 1990s, including Match Game, Password, Hollywood Squares, To Tell the Truth, and Pyramid. His appearances were often distinguished by short, humorous poems he recited during the broadcast, which led to his nickname "the poet laureate of television". He had one of the leading roles in the film version of The Wiz as the Tin Man. He was a frequent guest on the Dean Martin Celebrity Roast series. His birthdate and age are unclear; according to one report his birth certificate was lost. At the time of his 2005 death, friends said he was 80, and that was the age reported in his obituaries. - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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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. 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.



Alabama A&M University Homecoming Week Celebration 2023

The full slate of exciting events has been announced for the celebration of Alabama A&M University's 2023 Homecoming **September 23-30**. This year's theme, "Bulldogs XXL Homecoming," sets the stage for a line-up that has something for all AAMU students, alumni, and fans.

Saturday, September 23

Activities begin Saturday, Sept. 23 with *Service is Sovereignty Day* which includes a *food drive* from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at House of Hope and Restoration, *Royal Cuts* (free haircuts for students) at the Ralph Lee Student Center Bulldog Den from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and *Baby Bulldogs Field Day* from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on The Quad. Later than evening, the *Kickoff Party* will take place on The Quad at 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 24

On Sunday, September 24, two-time Grammy nominated gospel legend Ricky Dillard will headline the *Homecoming Gospel Explosion* at 6:30 p.m. at the Event Center. Joining Dillard for the foot-stomping event will be the Union Chapel Impact Praise Team, Ricky Miller and The Shift, and the Alabama A&M University Gospel Choir.

Monday, September 25

Monday, the party continues with the *Life Under the Hill Pool Party* for students at 3:00 p.m. at the Wellness Center.

Tuesday, September 26

Homecoming Tuesday includes good eats, financial literacy, and themed celebrations. *Recipes from the Vault: Homecoming Edition* features

AAMU alumnus and two-time Food Network champion *Chef Cam Dangerfield* from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on the LRC Patio. Students will then have an opportunity to sharpen their financial literacy toolkits at the *Let's Get to the Money: It's Your Choice* lecture at 1:30 p.m. in the Knight Center Ballroom. Tuesday night concludes with the *Denim Rodeo* at 7:00 p.m. on The Quad.

Wednesday, September 27

Every Sunny Wednesday takes on a Homecoming feel on September 27 as Divine Nine AAMU Faculty/Staff present a *Yard Show* from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. on The Quad. Alumni are also invited to reconnect during the *Virtual Alumni Class Reunion* beginning at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday night, the

Bulldogs rip the runway at the *XXL Fashion Show* at 7:00 p.m. in the Event Center.

Thursday, September 28

On Thursday, September 28, the National Alumni Association *Golf Tournament* is slated for 8:00 a.m. at the Huntsville Country Club. At 11:00 a.m. the annual *William Hooper Councill Wreath Laying* will take place at the Memorial. From noon – 2:00 p.m. *Innovation Power Hour* hosted by Innovate Alabama at the Ralph Lee Student Center Bulldog Den will include digital labs, prizes, and more.

All Bulldog fans are invited to pack The Quad at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, September 28, for the *Homecoming Pep Rally* featuring the Marching Maroon and White, AAMU Cheer, AAMU Football, and more. The *Alumni Pep Rally*

at The Camp follows at 6:00 p.m. Students will end the day at the *XXL Wild N Out Battle* at 7:00 p.m. in Buchanan Hall Auditorium.

Friday, September 29

XXL Friday begins with the *Class Reunion Scholarship Brunch* at 9:30 a.m. at the Knight Center Ballroom. The *Alumni Block Party* returns to The Block from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 pm. followed by the *XXL Alumni Day Party* featuring Stokley on The Quad from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The *Day Party* will also include musical performers Angela Monique, the PC Band, and the Jay Morris Group. Friday night, the *NPHC Step Show* comes to the Event Center at 7:30 p.m. The National Alumni Association will host its *Homecoming Affair* at the Huntsville Marriott and the Huntsville/Madison

Alumni Chapter will host its *Homecoming Party* at the Holiday Inn – both at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 30

Homecoming Saturday starts early with the *Homecoming Parade* down Meridian Street. This year's grand marshals include Representative Laura Hall and Marsau & LaTisha Scott.

Kickoff for the 2023 *Homecoming Game* between the Alabama A&M Bulldogs and Tuskegee is set for 2:00 p.m. followed by the *Homecoming Concert* featuring Nardo Wick, Lola Brooke, and Supah Bad at the Von Braun Civic Center at 7:00 p.m.

For more information and tickets, please visit <https://www.aamu.edu/campus-life/homecoming/>

*If you are silent about your pain,
they'll kill you and say you enjoyed it.*
- Zora Neale Hurston

Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2023

September 2 (L, 47-13)

@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

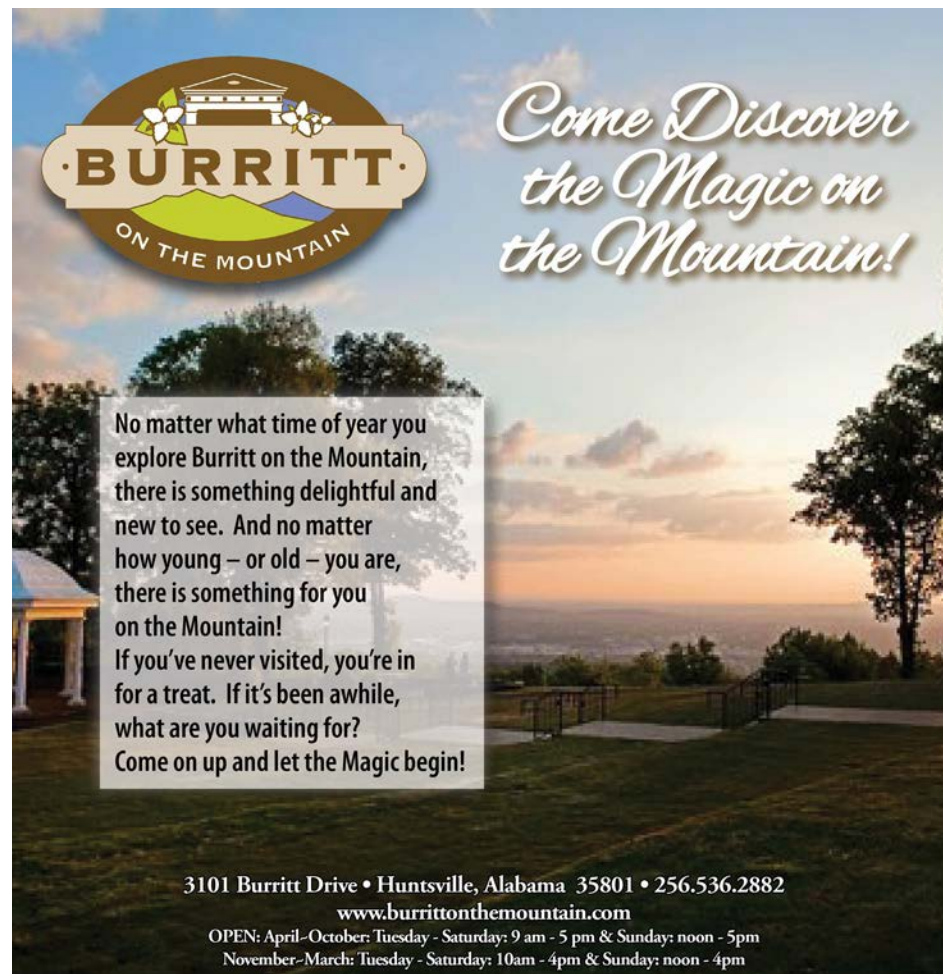
Florida A&M
Louis Crews Stadium
Huntsville, Ala. - 1 p.m.

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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