

Your Valley Way to Autumn Renovations - p. 8

FREE



Champions Pray! - p. 5

Friday
September 29, 2023
Vol. 10, No. 4
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



GLORIA B: Try a Little Tenderness - p. 5



PRESTON: Perception Is Everything! - p. 3



Mr. Charles Briggins, Sr.

“... I have been fully reformed of His omnipotence. It is truly a love supreme.” - John Coltrane

Tuskegeans to Share Weekend's Spotlight

Of course, Alabama A&M University Bulldog fans will be out in full force for Homecoming this weekend, given the full slate of activities that launched last Sunday.

The Valley Weekly published the complete

listing of Alabama A&M's **Homecoming Events** in its September 15 edition.

However, that Normalite enthusiasm, while a generous portion, is still only part of the story.

Sources on The Hill have credited the Tuskegee

University Golden Tigers with the purchase of an unprecedented number of tailgating spaces.

The Bulldogs will take on their Old School SIAC rival at 2 p.m. at Louis Crews Stadium.



Burritt “Haunted Mansion Dinner” Sold Out

Sorry, but tickets have been snatched for the ‘SPOOKTACULAR’ dinner at Burritt on the Mountain on October 13, 19 and 26, 6-8 p.m. The sit-down dinner at Dr. Burritt’s mansion will include Ghostly White and Bone-Dry Red Wine. Guests will visit the Fortune

Teller for a few haunting surprises. Beware ... will the lurking Human Statue come to life? Strange noises, ghostly visits, all part of the experience!

Appetizers: Jack O Lantern Empanadas and Jalapeno Popper Mummies. Dinner: Ghoulish Chicken Breast

Stuffed with Asparagus and Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Haunted Black Rice, Roasted Sweet Potato Pumpkins, Mushroom Skulls, Spider Corn Bread Muffin with Whipped Butter.

For upcoming Burritt events, visit burrittonthemountain.com.

The Hill to Sponsor 5th Annual Alabama Honey Bee Festival

Alabama A&M University’s College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences and Small Farms Research Center (SFRC), in collaboration with Alchemy Plants and Farms, LLC., will co-host the 5th Alabama Honey Bee Festival. The event will take place at AAMU’s Winfred Thomas



Agricultural Research Station in Hazel Green, Alabama, on Sunday, October 1, from 1-5 p.m.

The Honey Bee Festival

will include vendors selling honey bee products - perishable and non-perishable items, food trucks, free family activities, and educational programs.

All are welcome and participation is free. To register: <https://www.signupgenius.com/>



Drake, HU Partner on Fuel-Water Program

Drake State is proud to announce its collaboration with Huntsville Utilities (HU) to introduce the Gas and Water Operation Certification Scholarship Program. This innovative four-week program aims to provide alternative pathways to entering the workforce and enrich the pool of potential candidates for gas and water operation careers at Huntsville Utilities and other prospective local employers.

The Gas and Water Operation Certification Program will equip students with the essential skills and knowledge required for

successful careers in the gas and water operations sector. The curriculum covers various topics, including Class B CDL training, basic welding, OSHA 10,

first-aid, CPR, leadership, basic computer training, and basic mathematics. “We are thrilled to collaborate with Huntsville Utilities

See *DRAKE-HU*, Page 7

Huntsville Feminist Chorus Event Set

“I Will Be Glad” is the theme of the Huntsville Feminist Chorus’s annual concert in the auditorium of the Huntsville Madison County Public Library in downtown Huntsville, 915 Monroe St.

The concert will be held on Sunday, October 15, at 2 p.m. and is open to the public.



The Valley Weekly

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**The Valley Weekly
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Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$150
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Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

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

1. **CONGRESS.** The House and Senate were out Monday in observance of Yom Kippur and reconvened on Tuesday. The House and Senate have not made any headway on the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills or a temporary spending measure to keep the federal government open when then current fiscal year ends at midnight this Saturday (Sept. 30). With a government shutdown appearing likely, on Friday the White House Office of Management and Budget issued contingency plans for each federal agency to follow in the event of a lapse in appropriations. On Saturday, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) held a conference call with all GOP House Members to press them to accept a 45-day continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open through mid-November. As discussions continue, the House has scheduled floor votes this week on 4 appropriations

bills (Ag, Homeland Security, DoD, and State) to appease certain GOP members who are objecting to voting on a CR. On Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., the Senate was scheduled to vote to bring up its own continuing resolution (which would have required 60 votes), which according to The Hill newspaper would keep the government open for a few weeks but not contain any Ukraine or disaster funding.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Monday, President Biden hosted a second summit with leaders of the 18-member Pacific Islands Forum at the White House (in a continuing effort to counter China's growing influence in the region). On Tuesday, the President traveled to Detroit, MI, to join striking auto workers on the picket line and then he continued on to California where he met with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and attended campaign events. He then traveled to Phoenix, AZ, where he made remarks

on Thursday in honor of the late Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). At an event in the White House Rose Garden last Friday, the President announced that Vice President Kamala Harris will lead the new White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

3. **SUPREME COURT.** Next Monday (Oct. 2), the Supreme Court will convene its 2023-24 term and among its cases next week will hear a major case as to whether the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, created in response to the 2008 financial crisis, is constitutional (or at least the manner it receives funding directly from the Federal Reserve, which collects fees from member banks).

4. **HOUSE IMPEACHMENT HEARING.** On Thursday at 10 a.m. EDT, the House Oversight Committee, led by Chair James Comer (R-KY), held its first hearing on whether the House should issue impeachment articles against President Biden.

5. **SECRETARY MAYORKAS AT THE BORDER.** Last Saturday, Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas met with Honduran President Xiomara Castro in McAllen, TX, 3 days after the Biden Administration announced that it would

grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to 472,000 Venezuelans who arrived in the U.S. before August 1, 2023, thereby providing eligibility for work permits in renewable increments of up to 18 months. This is in addition to 242,000 Venezuelans who were granted TPS in 2021-22. According to ABC News, at least 7.3 million Venezuelans – a quarter of the population – have left the country.

6. **TRANSPORTATION.** Last Friday, U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary Pete Buttigieg joined former

Secretary Anthony Foxx to launch the Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity, which brings together top leaders to offer advice and recommendations to help expand access, ensure community input into transportation decisions, support historically underserved and overburdened communities, and increase economic opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW

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

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT ("SMITTY") SMITH (b. 1935) will be Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with The Reverend Carolyn Landry, Officiant and The Reverend Earla Lockhart, Eulogist.



Funeral service for MR. LEROY APPLEWHITE (b. 1951) was held Sunday, September 24, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Chaplain J. Douglas Simons officiating.

Funeral service for MS. PHILEZIA E. ALLEN (b. 1976) was held Saturday, September 23, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW

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

Funeral service for MRS. MANDY JEAN MARTIN ANDREWS (b. 1939) will be 10 a.m., Friday, September 29, at the Oakwood Seventh-day Adventist Church (5500 Adventist Boulevard NW, Huntsville, Ala.).



Funeral service for MRS. ANNIE LOU McCauley (b. 1948) was held Tuesday, September 26, at the Saint John African Methodist Episcopal (229 Church Street NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Claudewell Campbell officiating.

Funeral service for MS. BENBERNETTA HENTZ CHARLES (b. 1940) was held Monday, September 25, at the First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Don Darius Butler officiating.

Funeral service for MS. IRENE RENEE JOLLY (b. 1939) was held Saturday, September 23, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Reverend Carolyn Landry officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW

Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693 - www.serenityfuneralhm.com

Funeral service for PRINCESS ZARIANNA CAIN (b. 2023) was held Saturday, September 23, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for Mr. JAMES CATTAGE (b. 1950) was held Sunday, September 17, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Ditching the Exercises that NEVER Work

Before you waste another minute, dollar, or ounce of energy, know that the best way to obtain your fitness goals is the old-fashioned way: cardio, resistance, diet, repeat. So, what exercises DON'T you need to waste your time doing? Here are five of them ...

1) Sit-ups/crunches. Doing hundreds of daily sit-ups is actually extinguishing the oxygen from your muscles, suffocating them as opposed to strengthening them. Instead do 3 sets of 15 10-second crunches, moving like molasses, or simply hold Plank pose for 1 minute every day. BUT even that won't guarantee a 6-pack. You have to burn off the fat that sits on top first.

2) Tricep Kickbacks. The angle of your arm prevents you from lifting enough weight to really challenge your triceps. Try dips and extensions.

3) Stretching Without Warming Up. Warm-up first! Before you run, jump, or do anything strenuous, get your blood flowing for a few minutes by walking or marching in place.

4) Hand Weights While Walking. Think again. Holding weights actually slow momentum, decreasing your speed and therefore your cardio output and calorie burn, putting you at risk for injury due to the repetitive weighted movement and force on your elbows. You can still tone and beef up your muscles while walking by just using the weight of your arms.

5) "This Area Right Here" Moves. You can't burn fat from a specific area of the body. Fat burns off evenly from the entire body with a combination of cardio, diet, and consuming fewer calories than you burn. You can, however, spot train. In other words, you can hone in on a specific muscle group and you will see a definite difference in how tone that section gets, even under fat.

- BlackDoctor.org

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Perception Is Everything

First Samuel 17:45 says that David said to Goliath, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled."

It's been said that "perception is everything." The way we see things will affect the way that we react to them. For example, what do you do when you are faced with a situation that appears to be too much for you to handle? If we believe in the power of God, we should know that there is no problem too big for God.

When we look at this scripture, we can read for ourselves that Goliath was a giant problem that someone had to deal with. According to the text, Goliath had been defiling the entire Israelite army for forty days. The worst thing

of all was that they put up with it. No one was willing to challenge Goliath until David came along. David didn't look at Goliath the same way that these soldiers looked at him. David had a different perspective of the situation and he realized that the battle was in God's hands, not in the hands of a shepherd with a rock and a slingshot. I believe that this message is for all of us. When we are facing difficult times, we need to know where our help comes from. So many times, we allow the devil to expose our weaknesses in such a way that we are unaware of the strength that we have.

Our strength comes from the wisdom that we get from God and when we realize this strength, it changes our outlook on

life.

I heard someone say that "everyone else looked at Goliath and said

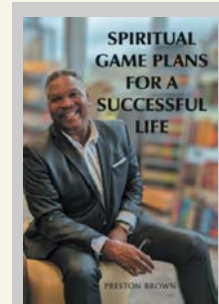
he's too big to kill," but David looked at Goliath and said "he's too big to miss." That's why perception is everything, because it will change the way you live.

May God grant you spiritual success in finding where your strength comes from.

Question: Have you ever faced a problem

that was more than you could handle? What did you do?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books, *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life* at amazon.com, Westbow Books or, if you have a PayPal account, email me at prestonbrown81@gmail.com, and I will send you an autographed copy.



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A New Generation Of Service

The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

September 28

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

September 30

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

Sweet & Salty YouthFem Forum (Free)

Madison Public Library
142 Plaza Boulevard
Madison, Ala.
10:45 a.m.

Bulldog Football vs. Tuskegee Golden Tigers
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
2 p.m.

Unique Live Band
Furniture Factory Bar & Grill at Providence Village
8 p.m.

October 1

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

Homicide Survivors Candlelight Vigil

Host: Family Services Center
Big Spring Park
5-7 p.m.

October 6

Art Party for Singles
The Hawt Spot Beauty and Art (\$35)
Bailey Cove Road SE
Huntsville, Ala.
7-9 p.m.

October 7

Rocket City Scottish Festival and Highland Games
Sharon Johnston Park
9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Huntsville Children's Business Fair (Free)
The Event Center at Roto-Rooter
Eventbrite.com
1435 Paramount Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
1-5 p.m.

Maxwell Concert
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala.
7:30 p.m.

October 13

The Rocket City Blues Festival
Featuring: King George, Calvin Richardson, Pokey Bear, Willie Clayton and J-Wonn
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall/Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
8 p.m.

October 20

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

October 28

Anita Baker Concert
The BJCC
Tickets: Via Ticketmaster
Birmingham, Ala.
8 p.m.

November 4

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

November 12

A Gospel Symphony Celebration
(Featuring Donald Lawrence)
Special Guests:
Vox Fortura, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Conductor 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.alyststephens.org/events/gospel-celebration/>

November 17-19

Preacher Lawson "America's Got Talent" Stand Up Live
Huntsville 2012 Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 261-3374

November 18

Bulldog Football vs. Mississippi Valley State
Louis Crews Stadium
Alabama A&M University
1 p.m.

**PowerShot**

"Dream more than others think practical. Expect more than others think possible. Care more than others think wise."

Howard Schultz



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If I were a bird, I would fly about the Earth seeking the successive autumns.

- George Eliot

“Compassion ...”

Millennial Moment The Valley Weekly
by Gloria B. Caldwell

Compassion ...

What does it take to extend a little grace to someone else? A little compassion and understanding?

Sometimes, things get a little tricky. You know how that feels, right? Every now and then, a person hits a bump ... you do, too. Think about those moments

when you are in a funk. Or moments where it feels like things are caving in on you. What about the moments when it rains, and it's pouring? It would help if you had a moment to regroup without being called weak, lackluster, or incapable. Well, think about those times and be mindful that it happens to all of us.

Extend a little grace. Offer up some compassion.

Compassion can pull someone up. Isn't that what we are put here for? Each one reaches one. We pull each other through to accomplish our goals and realize our purpose.

Helping someone get out of a trying time also teaches you about yourself. It allows you to tap into your self-awareness.

Reflect.

It is a reminder that you overcame something. It is a beautiful thing.

Compassion helps with improved happiness, good mental health, and a more robust immune system. It



Psalm 103:13 says: *The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.*

Aren't we striving to be more like Him?

Well, if you aren't a believer, are you conscious enough to understand that this is necessary?

is said that it also reduces anxiety, stress, and depression.

So, you win from being compassionate.

Extend a bit more compassion ... It will do you good.



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-

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Perspectives on God Views + Current News
by tim allston

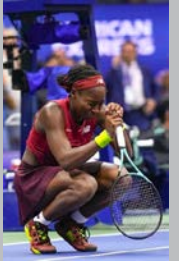
U.S. Open Champ Coco Gauff: Champions Pray (Part 1 of 2)

“And that from a child, thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation.” - 2 Timothy 3:15

As soon as Coco Gauff won the U.S. Open on September 11, she dropped to her knees in prayer, 19-Year-Old Coco Gauff Kneels in Prayer After Winning US Open.

“I don't pray for results. I just ask that I get the strength to give it my all. Whatever happens, happens.”

This marked another example of sports champions whose public prayers surround their winnings.



Champions acknowledge their Champion

Before his boxing matches, for example, Muhammad Ali would routinely bow his head, raise his open palms eastward, and pray publicly to his God Allah.

Champions will often publicly acknowledge their God as their champion, despite detractors.

When commentators labeled Gauff's victory kneeling as “a moment to soak it all in,” Super Bowl LXI Champion Coach Tony Dungy corrected them that she was actually praying, cited evangelist Franklin Graham on Facebook.

“Coco isn't ashamed to talk about her Christian faith, and I hope she will inspire many other young athletes.”

Wikipedia reports that since eight years old, Gauff and her father pray before every match for her and her opponent's safety.

I can imagine her prayer was similar to what my parents sent me years ago:

“Prayer is the answer to every problem in life. It puts us in tune with Divine wisdom which knows how to adjust everything perfectly.

“So often we do not pray in certain situations because from our standpoint the outlook is hopeless. But nothing is impossible with God.

“Nothing is so entangled that it cannot be remedied. No human relationship is so strained that God cannot bring about reconciliation and understanding.

“No one is so weak that he cannot be made strong; no one is so ill that he or she cannot be healed; and no mind is so dull that it cannot be made brilliant.

“Whatever we need, if we trust God, He will supply it. And if anything is causing you worry or anxiety, let us stop rehearsing the difficulty and turn to God for healing, love, and Power.”

Parents: have you prayed to and with your Champions today?

Part 2 will feature 18th-ranked University of Colorado football Coach “Prime Sanders”'s secret sauce!

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Physicists Receive \$1.2 Million NSF Grant

Dr. Rami Bommareddy (PI), and his team of Co-PIs: (l-r) Matthew Edwards, Padmaja Guggilla, Vernessa Edwards and Ashok Batra (not shown), have secured a prestigious NSF: CREST HBCU-RISE grant for an impressive sum of 1.2 million dollars for three years.

The National Science Foundation's Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology HBCU Research Infrastructure for Science and Engineering (NSF:CREST

HBCU-RISE) supports the expansion of research capabilities at minority-serving institutions, particularly historically Black colleges and universities through the establishment of centers that integrate education and research to successfully train doctoral students.

"This is a clear reflection of the exceptional quality of research being conducted right here within the hallowed halls of the Physics Department at AAMU," said Department

of Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics Department Chair, Dr. Padmaja Guggilla. "This grant promises to make significant strides in the field of ceramics and nanostructures, paving the way for specialized applications with far-reaching implications that can impact industries ranging from electronics to energy. This project provides funding for three doctoral students and six undergraduate students."

by Debra Daniel

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

- Desmond Tutu

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, October 1, 2023
Eighteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-8
Second Lesson:
Philippians 2:1-13
GOSPEL:
Matthew 21:23-32

Aum Foundation

Bollywood Night 2023

The Aum Foundation will host Bollywood Night 2023 on Saturday, October 14, at the Von Braun Center North Hall at 6-10 p.m.

Bollywood Night is Aum Foundation's annual gala dedicated to fun, dancing and philanthropy in support of the Pathway 2 Success. The Pathway 2 Success program has a mission of empowering under-resourced high school senior girls by giving them the knowledge, tools, and resources to break the cycles of generational poverty.

Attendance at this event helps Aum fulfill its mission. Each ticket includes: Buffet Dinner, Dance Party, Cash Bar, Business Networking with Huntsville's

Elite, and support of an amazing cause.

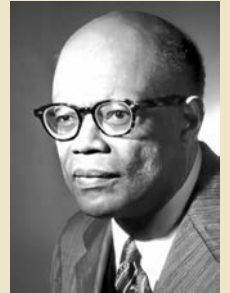
Attire is Black Tie or Bollywood Attire (Bollywood Attire not required). Tickets are available at the ticket link. Please visit www.aumfoundationusa.org.

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.

ON THIS DAY



On September 29, 1979, Sir William Arthur Lewis, professor of economics at Princeton University, became the first black to receive the Nobel Prize in Economics. Born in 1915 and a native of Saint Lucia, he studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

- newsone.com



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

Mr. Charles Briggins, Sr.

Charles E. Briggins, Sr., is a retired educator who enjoyed a productive career at Kentucky State University and in the Decatur and Huntsville City School Systems.

Briggins held positions ranging from classroom teacher to vocational coordinator and assistant principal of Lakeside High School in Decatur, Alabama. He earned his bachelor's and master's degree in trade and industrial education from Alabama A&M University.

After retirement, Briggins served as a weatherization coordinator for the

Huntsville/Madison and Limestone Counties Community Action Agency. He is a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church, where he has served as director of the male chorus. He still sings in the male chorus and other choirs.

Briggins gallantly served his country and is a proud veteran of the United States Army. His community service, however, involves active membership in the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the R.E. Nelms Elks Lodge #977.

He is also the Grand



Deputy Inspector General State of Alabama and Worshipful Master of the Smith Grand Council of the Ancient and Scottish Rite Masons.



"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@valleyweeklyllc.com.



Recently, many individuals and families have experienced horrific hazards such as fatal automobile accidents, damage to or loss of homes due to natural disasters like fires, tornadoes, floods, theft and, critical illness and death of a loved one. Unfortunately, some did not have enough funds to pay for these life altering realities. Having insurance coverage provides a safety net that can protect families from these potentially devastating financial losses.

Each family member needs to have insurance coverage. The major types of insur-

ance are: life, health, long term disability and automobile insurance. Take time to review your insurance policies. Do you have sufficient coverage? Do you need additional coverage or to terminate a policy you no longer need?

Begin with life insurance. There are two major types: Term and Whole. Whole life insurance not only provides protection, but is also a way to save money which can grow and protect long-term wealth. It provides permanent coverage for a life-time (If premiums are paid), and the cost does not increase regardless to age,

health nor the state of the economy. You do not have to renew, reapply nor be concerned about outliving coverage. Beneficiaries typically do not have to pay tax on the death benefits. Term insurance is less expensive and provides protection for a critical period of life up to 10 or 20 years. There is no access to dividends nor cash build up. The premium increases after every period. Other types of insurance will be presented in future articles.

Sources:

Investopedia.com
etmoney.com
nerdwallet.com



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

Tickets for AAMU Homecoming Events Going Fast

Tickets for highly-anticipated 2023 Alabama A&M University Homecoming events were still available at the start of the week.

For a complete listing of homecoming activities, please visit www.aamu.edu/homecoming.

The site also included links to all ticketed events: The Gospel Explosion (held last Sunday), NPHC Step Show, Bulldog Football vs. Tuskegee (Saturday, September 30), the Homecoming Concert, and

Student Package tickets.

For Step Show tickets, visit the AAMU Athletics Tickets page and navigate down to the "Student Activities" section. Then, click "get tickets".

Tickets to the Homecoming Concert featuring Nardo Wick, Lola Brooke, and Supahbadd can be purchased via Ticketmaster.

Purchase Homecoming Game Tickets Here:

<https://aamusports.com/sports/2023/3/28/tickets>.

aspx

For information on all non-ticketed events, please visit www.aamu.edu/homecoming.

Tickets are also available for the Bulldog football game against Florida A&M on Saturday, November 4, at Louis Crews Stadium at 1 p.m., as well as the gridiron contest against Mississippi Valley State on Saturday, November 16, at 6 p.m.

All sales final and non-refundable.

Drake, HU to Join Forces on Scholarship

From DRAKE-HU, Page 1

ties on the Gas and Water Operation Certification Scholarship Program, offering alternative pathways to careers in this sector," said Dr. Patricia Sims, Drake president. "With HU's expertise, we're providing industry-relevant training, and their \$50,000 donation ensures students receive essential support. This partnership reflects our commitment to workforce development, education, and economic growth in our community."

HU is committed to enhancing the program by providing subject matter experts directly from their

workforce to conduct job-related training modules for all selected students. This collaboration ensures that students receive industry-relevant insights and hands-on training, setting them up for success in the field. As part of this partnership, HU is donating \$50,000 to fund scholarships that cover tuition, materials and supplies, facility fees, advertising, and student meals for program participants. In addition to financial support, Huntsville Utilities will provide crucial job training and mentorship to scholarship recipients. "Huntsville Utilities is

elated to have this new partnership with Drake State for this Gas & Water Operations program," said Wes Kelley, President and CEO of Huntsville Utilities. "Drake State is our local community and technical college, and they are producing graduates who we need to join our industry. This new partnership will not only benefit the students here at Drake but will also potentially benefit customers at Huntsville Utilities."

More information is available at drakestate.edu/workforce-development.

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Finding Your *Very Valley* Way to Some Awesome Autumn Renovations

(BPT) - Fall is the perfect time to take on some home renovations, before the holidays hit and winter sets in. With just a few changes, you can make your home into a more functional space and create a warm, inviting atmosphere in which you and others will enjoy spending time for many seasons to come.

Let these four home renovation ideas inspire you to spruce up your space this autumn.

1. Make over the mudroom

If you have a mudroom, you know how helpful this space can be during the changing season. Over the course of fall and winter, a mudroom can help keep your house clean and organized by containing the mess of wet coats and dirty boots.

Upgrade your mudroom to make it more functional and easier to maintain. For example, you can incorporate storage solutions to store and organize your

boots, add a bench to sit on while you take your shoes off and install hooks to hang your coats.

2. Upgrade your flooring

One way to bring a whole new look to your home is by bringing in new flooring, which can serve as the foundation for all interior styles. And, while there are so many great flooring options to select from, many homeowners today are opting to seek out floors that not only look great but also can stand up to busy households and traffic.

A great option that brings fantastic, real-wood looks coupled with kid-and-pet-proof performance is LL Flooring's new ReNature by CoreLuxe. This floor is waterproof and resistant to dents, scratches, scuffs, and stains - plus it's made from 25% recycled materials, another perk for homeowners who prioritize aesthetics, functionality and responsible manufacturing. What's



more, with renovation season upon us, DIYers will love this easy-to-install flooring.

"ReNature by CoreLuxe is a perfect flooring solution that unites progressive manufacturing with design ingenuity, resulting in a product that's both resilient and stylish," said Jen Meska, Head of Merchandising at LL Flooring. "This flooring is manufactured with a commitment to material reuse, while providing a tough, resilient and waterproof solution for pros and homeowners."

The company also offers myriad stylish, quality

options in solid hardwood and Duravana hybrid resilient flooring, so you can choose the perfect flooring for your fall home renovation project.

3. Give your fireplace a facelift

As the weather cools down, it's time to light your

fireplace. But before you do, give your fireplace a makeover so you can transform your living room into a relaxing and welcoming space for your friends and family.

Some easy ways to give your fireplace a facelift include updating or replacing the mantel or replacing the current surround with new stone or tile. If you're feeling ambitious, add a built-in seating area nearby. This seating area makes it easier to enjoy the warmth and glow of the fireplace and acts as a focal point for fall gatherings.

4. Extend your entertaining space outdoors

Don't limit your entertaining to the indoors.

With a few additions, you can easily extend your living or dining room into your outdoor space.

Add a firepit or fire table to your deck or patio so you can have cozy conversations around the fire underneath the stars. Also, consider investing in comfortable outdoor furniture so you can dine outdoors or enjoy drinks surrounded by the fall foliage. These additions make it easy to maximize your time outdoors.

This fall, give your home a little time, love and care. Using these four tips, you'll be well on your way to turning your home into a space you'll love to spend time in this season and beyond.

There are notes *between* notes, you know.
- Sarah Vaughn

SEPTEMBER 29 - KEVIN DURANT - Kevin Wayne Durant is an American professional basketball player for the Golden State Warriors of the National Basketball Association (NBA). He played nine seasons in Oklahoma City before signing with Golden State in 2016, winning back-to-back championships in 2017 and 2018. In college, he won numerous year-end awards and became the first freshman to be named Naismith College Player of the Year. As a professional, he has won two NBA championships, an NBA Most Valuable Player Award, two Finals MVP Awards, the NBA All-Star Game Most Valuable Player Award, four NBA scoring titles, the NBA Rookie of the Year Award, and two Olympic gold medals. Durant has also been selected to eight All-NBA teams and nine NBA All-Star teams. - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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