

AAMU Homecoming Events, p.8

FREE



Knowing Times & Seasons, p. 6

Friday
October 1, 2021
Vol. 8, No. 4
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Ruby Ford

"Patriotism is a kind of religion; it is the egg from which wars are hatched." - Guy de Maupassant

IMS Holds Celebration and Awards Conference

The Interfaith Mission Service (IMS) held its virtual Annual Celebration and Awards Conference, hosted by Trinity United Methodist Church, on Thursday, September 30, at 6 p.m.

The conference theme was "Shaping the Future Together." Following the 1960s decade of turmoil, 12 congregations formed a grassroots cooperative and named it the Interfaith Mission Service, an ecumenical, interfaith organization whose goal would be to work hand-in-hand to care for the vulnerable

in the community and to promote racial equity and social justice.

Among the awardees are: Rabbi Jeffrey L. Ballon Interfaith Award - Global Ties Alabama (Jacqui Shipe); Marilyn Mabry Memorial Racial Harmony Award - The Religious Society of Friends (Judy Guerry); Charles L. Ray, Jr., Memorial Social Justice Award - NAACP Huntsville (Youlanda Caudel); IMS Community Service Award - Madison County Commission; Pandemic Leadership Award - Huntsville Hospital System.



Body of A&M, ISU Student Found

The body of an Illinois State graduate student and Alabama A&M University alumnus missing since late August was identified Thursday, September 23.

Jelani Day, 25, was last seen August 24 on the ISU campus, and was reported missing the next day. His car was found August 26 in the city of Peru, Ill., approximately 60 miles north, and a body was pulled from the Illinois River on September 4.

Using DNA testing and dental identification, the LaSalle County coroner identified that body as Day.

"There are no words to clearly communicate our devastation," his family said in a statement to Chicago ABC affiliate WLS.

Day's former professors at AAMU are planning a tribute in his memory.

HudsonAlpha, Drake Bring Genomic Health Options to College Employees

Faculty and staff at Drake State Community & Technical College in Huntsville, Ala. are being given greater insight into their future disease risk thanks to a new collaboration with the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology and the HudsonAlpha Health Alliance.

The voluntary program, offered as an employee wellness benefit and accessible through the Community Health Action Center on the Oakwood University Campus, will give Drake State employees access to genetic screening that can help identify disease risk as well as medication response to certain drugs.

"HudsonAlpha's Health Alliance program opens up new wellness options previously inaccessible by most of our employees," said Dr. Patricia Sims, Drake State president. "We hope by providing this insight about their health risks our employees can



Pictured (l-r) are: HudsonAlpha Business Development Director Jessica Merritt; Drake State Dean of Instruction, Dr. Carolyn Henderson; HudsonAlpha Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion representative, Dr. Darrell Ezell; and HudsonAlpha Genetic Counselor Kelly East.

make more informed health care decisions."

While most diseases are not caused by a specific change in a person's DNA, there are some genes in which changes are known to cause a significantly increased risk of disease.

This genomic screening test will look for known changes in a set of genes that are associated with an "actionable" disease. Drake State faculty and staff can also learn how specific areas of their DNA might predict whether certain medications will be effective or if they are likely

to cause adverse drug reactions. Often medications will prove effective for one person, while simultaneously ineffective for another person.

"The information we learn from genomic testing can provide insights into early disease risk detection and intervention, help us make better health decisions, and even target health therapies that lead to better health outcomes," said Dr. Darrell Ezell, director of diversity, equity and inclusion for HudsonAlpha.

The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Washington in One Minute, Page 2
Preston Brown's Champion Game Plan, Page 3
Valley Deaths, Page 3
Valley Events, Page 3
tim allston: Perspectives, Page 5
Rev. Michael Rice: Called 2 Preach, Page 6
"Jahni" Moore's PowerShots, Page 7
Spotlight on Our Elders, Page 7

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Washington in One Minute



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

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate are in session this week. Per a letter sent to all House Democrats on Saturday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) convened her caucus Monday at 5:30 p.m. to discuss votes this week on 3 main items: (1) the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure bill; (2) the \$3.5 trillion Budget Reconciliation bill (known as the “Build Back Better Act”) marked up by the House Budget Committee on Saturday, and the continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government operating when the new federal fiscal year starts on October 1. In her letter, she declared “the next few days will be a time of intensity.” “We sent a CR to the Senate and are awaiting their action to avoid a shutdown.” “We must pass the infrastructure bill to avoid the expiration of the surface transportation funding on September 30.” “And we must stay on schedule to pass the reconciliation bill so that we can Build Back Better.”

A subsequent letter from the Speaker, released on Sunday night, confirmed that the vote on the infrastructure bill will occur on Thursday.

On Monday at 5:30 p.m., the Senate was scheduled to vote on a 60-votes-required motion to proceed to the House-passed continuing resolution that keeps the government open through Friday, Dec. 3., 2021. Senate Republicans have said they will oppose consideration of the CR because it contains language to suspend

the debt limit.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Wednesday, President Biden traveled to Chicago to highlight the importance of COVID vaccine requirements for businesses. Last week, the President directly lobbied Members of Congress on his infrastructure and reconciliation bills, hosting a series of meetings with Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and nearly two dozen lawmakers from the House and Senate in preparation for key votes on his main agenda items this week.

3. **SENATE AFGHANISTAN HEARING.** On Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee at a partially-closed hearing on the conclusion of military operations in Afghanistan and the plans for future counterterrorism operations. Also testifying will be Joint Chiefs Chair Mark Milley and General Kenneth McKenzie, the Commander of U.S. Central Command.

4. **FIRST SUBPOENAS BY JANUARY 6 SELECT COMMITTEE.** Last Thursday, the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol issued subpoenas to four current and former top aides to President Trump, including his most recent chief of staff Mark Meadows; former Pentagon official Kash Patel; former top White House adviser Steve Bannon; and former White House Deputy Chief

of Staff & Director of Social Media Dan Scavino. The four were commanded to produce relevant documents by Oct. 7 and appear for depositions the following week. Politico is reporting that the committee is reaching out to persons who have been charged with storming the Capitol on Jan. 6, but it is unclear how many, if any, of those charged will agree to speak with House investigators. Approximately 60 of the 600-plus rioters charged with storming the Capitol have pleaded guilty to participating in the riot.

5. **WOMEN AND THE DRAFT.** Last Thursday, the full House passed the \$768 billion National Defense Authorization Act in a bipartisan 316-113 vote, which authorized \$25 billion more for the Pentagon’s budget than President Biden requested. It will also for the first time require women to register for the Selective Service in the event of a military

draft (the Senate bill, which is expected to be taken up by the full Senate in October, has a similar requirement). The bill also establishes a 12-member bipartisan commission, proposed by Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), to review the U.S.’s entire 20-year Afghanistan occupation and creates special victims prosecutors in the military removing the decision to prosecute sexual assault and related crimes from the regular chain of command.

6. **EDUCATION.** Last Friday, twenty-two state attorneys general, led by California Attorney General Rob Bonta, sent a letter to the Education Department urging the agency to fix the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, which promises educators forgiveness for their student loans in exchange for eligible work as public servants. The AGs argued that the state of the program — nearly all applicants for loan forgiveness are ultimately denied — “compromis-

es our states’ ability to recruit and retain” teachers, nurses, public interest attorneys, social workers, first responders and other professionals. The letter stated that “Without loan forgiveness, many individuals cannot repay their significant student loan debt while caring for themselves and their families on public service salaries.” The attorneys general believes the inaccessibility of PSLF is particularly harmful given that many states are already experiencing severe shortages in critical public service fields, such as education and medicine.

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- Emily Dickinson

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

“DO YOU TRUST GOD?” trust in Him.”
 You see, Job 13:15 says, “*Though he slay me, yet will I trust Him.*” You know, there is no doubt that we are living in a time where the devil is trying to destroy our faith, so we have to be strong right now. It’s time to draw strength from the word of God, like we find with Job. Because Job knew that no matter what we go through, it all comes down to the same question,” Do you trust God?” You see, Job understood that it was a matter of trust and if we trust in God, then it doesn’t really matter. Job understood that when things don’t make sense and when he doesn’t understand God’s ways, he says, “I will still




faith in Him. You see, not only did Job trust in God, he also had faith in God, because faith and trust go hand in hand. So, let us be strong in our faith and continue to trust in the sovereignty of God and remember when faith begins anxiety ends ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters! Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, A Champion Game Plan For Life, at amazon.com.



September 30
 Kenny G
 Concert Hall
 Von Braun Center

October 1
 Daniel Tosh
 Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
 Von Braun Center
 7:30 p.m.

October 2
 Rocket City Octane Auto Show
 South Hall
 Von Braun Center
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

October 9
 Bulldog Football
 AAMU vs. Jackson State
 Louis Crews Stadium
 2 p.m.

October 12
 Boz Scaggs
 Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
 Von Braun Center
 7:30 p.m.

October 14
 Three Dog Night
 Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
 Von Braun Center
 7:30 p.m.

October 15
 Victor Wooten/Wooten Brothers Band
 Mars Music Hall
 Von Braun Center - 8 p.m.

October 16
 Bulldog Football
 AAMU vs. Florida A&M
 Louis Crews Stadium
 1 p.m.

October 17
 Chicago
 Mark C. Smith Concert Hall



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Graveside service for MS. BRENDA SULLIVAN (b. 1949) was held Saturday, September 25, at Big Cove Cemetery.

Graveside service for MS. JOHNNIE MAE ACKLIN (b. 1956) was held Saturday, September 25, at Valley View Memorial Gardens with Pastor Theodis Acklin officiating.

Public Viewing for TSGT GEORGE SANDERS BLAIR USAF RETIRED (b. 1931) was held Saturday, September 25, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MRS. BETTY EARSKINE was held Thursday, September 23, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Dennis Reed officiating.

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

Memorial service for ELDER CHARLES BINFORD will be 12:00 noon, Sunday, October 3, at the Oakwood Seventh-day Adventist Church (7000 Adventist Boulevard NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JACOBY ZACHARIAS PARKS, SR. (b. 1992) was held Tuesday, September 28, at the King’s Memorial United Methodist Church (702 McCartney Street NW, Decatur, Ala.) with Pastor Roderick Stallworth officiating.

Graveside service for MR. KELVIN G. MCCAULLEY (b. 1961) was held Sunday, September 26, at St. Ruth Cemetery (Grimwood Road, Hazel Green, Ala.) with Elder Jerry Crutcher officiating.

Graveside service for ELDER HARRISON BURRUSS (b. 1951) was held Saturday, September 25, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Elder Dr. Mylon Burwell officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. ANNIE SMITH ROUNTREE (b. 1931) was held Friday, September 24, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend George W. Lindsey, Jr. officiating.

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

Funeral service for MR. WILLIE LEE LEWIS, II (b.1960) was held Sunday, September 26, at Serenity Funeral Home.


Funeral service for MRS. JANNIFER BINFORD TURNER (b. 1962) was held Friday, September 24, at Booker Cemetery in Harvest, Ala.

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, October 3, 2021



Track 1	or	Track 2
Job 1:1; 2:1-10		Genesis 2:18-24
Psalms 26		Psalms 8
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12		Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16		Mark 10:2-16



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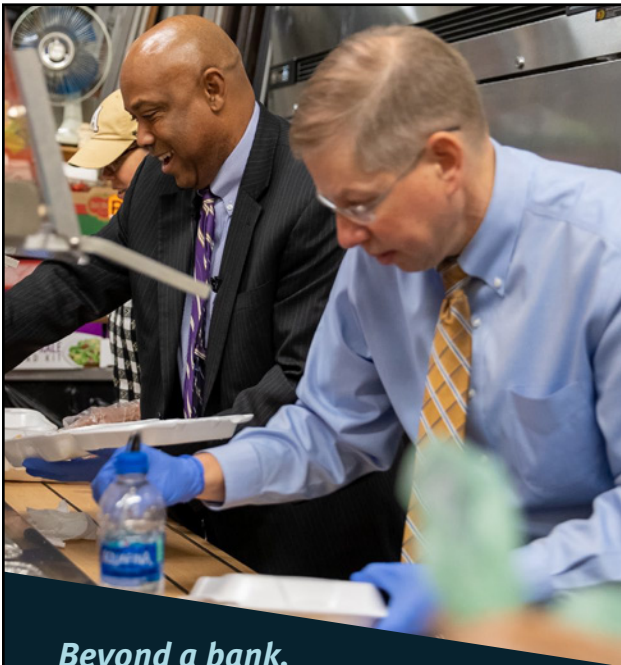
A New Generation Of Service

THE VALLEY WEEKLY
**ALL FOR
THE FAMILY**

by Margaret Jan Kelly, Ph.D.

Families are essentially the building block of a society. It is the family that produces, nurtures, guides, socializes (i.e., learning how to act appropriately), and protects citizens who become the population of a society. It is

where ethical and cultural values are formed. Hence, strong, healthy families lead to strong and healthy communities, which lead to a strong and healthy society. There is a quote that says, "You can choose your friends, but you



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Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

cannot choose the family in which you are born."

Since March 2019, the harsh realities ushered in by COVID-19, wreaked havoc on families, regardless to form, type or socioeconomic status. These painful realities have caused an alarming nine percent (9%) increase in DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. Domestic violence is an abusive behavior occurring in a family or a relationship. According to the World Health Organization, domestic violence is manifested in various forms:

- 1) Physical-61%. Beating, torturing or murder.
- 2) Sexual -11 %. Unwanted sexual intercourse (even in a marriage), harassment and demeaning sexual jokes.
- 3) Emotional/Verbal - 90%. Manipulation, threats, humiliation and intimidation, usually a pattern.
- 4) Economic - 24%. Obsessive control of finances, especially if a partner is unemployed or makes considerably less money.
- 5) Stalking/Digital -16%. Obsessive control of phone calls, sending text messages and using social media networking to bully, harass or intimidate the victim, and/or following the abuser.

Anyone can be a victim or perpetrator of abuse, however, women and children are more at risk, while the elderly and disabled individuals suffer negligence or neglect more often. Many times, the victim is trapped in the home with the abuser.

We all have a role in ending DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. Five things we can do: 1) **Listen and remain supportive.** Honor confidentiality; 2) **Emphasize his/her strengths;** 3) **Connect him/her to community resources and encourage him/her to seek help.** The National Domestic Violence hotline number is: 1-800-799-7233; 4) **Make a plan.** Help the victim identify ways to stay safe, whether

he/she is not ready to, or is fearful of leaving the abusive situation; and 5) **Take action!** Report and document the abuse to the proper authorities and contact or visit the victim regularly.

~Think About It~

If you are a victim of domestic violence, tell someone and seek help. If you are the abuser, seek help and STOP ABUSING your child, spouse, partner, co-worker, and/or

elderly family member or friend!

Sources:

Medico-Legal Journal 2020
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, February 2021.
National Domestic Violence Hotline
"Why Families Are Important to Society?" familyfocusblog.com, April 30, 2021.



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“Want-to-preneurs”: Get Ready for the “Roarin’ 2020s”! (Reprint from 6/25/21 TVW)

“Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning” - Psalm 30:5.

With proper awareness and then preparation temporary sorrows can become joy and happiness, declared the psalmist David.

Sounds like he must have been living right now or maybe a century ago during the Roarin’ 20s.

As history often repeats itself, business aspirants (“want-to-preneurs”) need to prepare themselves for the “Roarin’ 20s,” 21st-century style. Here we will experience increased consumerism, entrepreneurship, and women’s political power reminiscent of the 1920s.



History on Our Side

1919 featured the worldwide pandemic, which killed 675,000 Americans. The Roarin’ 20s, however, followed with its advancements in automobiles, electricity, and culture such as the Harlem Renaissance and the Jazz Age.

Yet, that decade ended with the 1929 stock market crash and the beginning of the 1930’s Great Depression.

Currently, we are emerging slowly from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic which has claimed 600,000 Americans. Shuttered businesses forced millions to return home - either as unemployed or telecommuters.

Public health concerns, reopening schools, and a new-found freedom and related technologies for “home-work” are causing many to consider an often-closeted dream: entrepreneurship. “In 2020, there was an explosion in new business applications, reaching nearly 4.5 million by year’s end,” according to a February report by the Economic Innovation Group, a Washington DC think tank. There’s an increase of 24.3% from 2019 and was the highest on record - 51% higher than the average from 2010 to 2019, <https://nwswdy.li/3vwuNay>.

Ready to “Mine Your Own Business”?

If you are one of those with an itch for freedom, creativity, and a leap of faith, then this present decade’s made for you. History says that these “Roaring 2020s” will be your best chance to “mine your own business,” a phrase from Rich Dad Poor Dad author Robert Kiyosaki.

The U.S. Small Business Administration’s SCORE, the National Association for the Self-Employed, and your own public library system offer unlimited (free!) resources and training programs to help you act on your dream of becoming an entrepreneur.

Now is the perfect time to allow the weeping, sorrow, and pain of the 2020 pandemic crisis to now usher you into this Roarin’ 2020s prosperity - before a next Great Depression.

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labor.alabama.gov

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (256) 539-3711

LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health
www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov

TAKEOUT/ DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

<https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/>

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CALLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

The Chronos and the Kairos

Acts 1:6-7;
Ephesians 2:10; 5:16

These two Greek words are found in the book of Acts when Jesus said this to His disciples, "It is not for you to know *times or seasons*..." In some other places in God's word, both words are translated *time*, such as in Ephesians 5:16. Chronos is the most common of the two. This is "chronological" time that

we can track on watches, calendars, and clocks. The other represents a "definite portion" of time, sometimes referred to as 'due time.' This is the time when something definite occurs that cannot and will not occur at any other time.

Both Jesus and Paul offer very definite and definitive points about "time" (Kairos). The Passion Translation reads this way in Acts 1:7; *The Father is the one who sets*

the fixed dates and the times of their fulfillment. You are not permitted to know the timing of all that he has prepared by his own authority. That same translation reads in Ephesians, *Take full advantage of every day as you spend your life for his purposes.* Both Jesus and Paul taught that it is our responsibility as believers to live our

lives, not seeking to know the future, but rather to walk by faith and carry out the "good works" that were

assigned to us before we were even born. So many; too many "opportunities" (Kairos) are missed trying

to 'know the future' rather than trusting the One who holds it.



https://techanimglobe.org/



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

Mrs. Ruby Ford

Mrs. Ruby Ford was born in Fayetteville, Tenn., and raised in New Market, Ala. She was born to the late Alex and Ruby Adams, the eldest of 13 children. She received her elementary and secondary education in the Madison County School System. Ford enjoyed high school and participated in several school activities. While in high school, her teachers stressed striving for excellence and empowered her to do so.

She successfully completed course work at University of Alabama in Huntsville, Athens State University and Calhoun Community College. In 2005, she graduated magna cum laude from Alabama A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. She retired after serving 28 years at the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Parks Division. Most of her state service was with Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville, Ala. While at the state park, Ford managed all recordation procedures and bookkeeping processes. She also manages accounting for Mack Ford's Construction, Incorporated, which is a business owned

and operated by her husband for over 50 years.

She is a faithful member of the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Larry Davidson, Jr., and is currently a member of the Deaconess Ministry and serves as Sunday School Teacher in the Adult Department. She has served formally in many capacities, such as president of the Deaconess Ministry and president of the Mud Creek North Alabama Missionary Baptist Association Deaconess Ministry. She enjoys being a workshop coordinator, seminar leader, event coordinator, as well as presenting at various speaking engagements. Very active in her community, Ford is a member of the Christian Cancer Support Group of North East Madison County, Alabama Democratic Conference, Alabama New South Coalition, and Habitat for Humanity of Madison County Women's Build Guild.

She has received several honors in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in her profession and



contributions to her community. In 1998, she received a Certificate of Appreciation from Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church for Educational Services rendered from 1997 to 1998. In 2005, she was honored as an Outstanding Employee from the State of Alabama, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In 2009, she received the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build Guild Award for dedicated service and unselfish contribution.

Ford enjoys reading and traveling. She and her husband are world travelers who have toured six of the seven continents in the world. She is married to Mack Ford and they are the proud parents of two children Vanessa and Michael.

"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.



PowerShot

"No matter how you choose to look at it, we need each other to get through this thing."

J. T. Moore

"No matter how we choose to look at it, we need each other to get through this thing."
J. T. Moore

PowerShot

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OCTOBER 1 - DONNY HATHAWAY - An American soul singer, keyboardist, songwriter, and arranger. He has been described as a "soul legend" by Rolling Stone. His most popular songs include "The Ghetto", "This Christmas", "Someday We'll All Be Free", and "Little Ghetto Boy". - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



Let's Get Back To Normal

ALABAMA A & M UNIVERSITY

HOMECOMING 2021



EVENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2ND 9PM TO 12AM ON QUAD

- KICKOFF PARTY WITH FIREWORKS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3RD 6PM TO 8PM AT STADIUM

- GOSPEL EXPLOSION - DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

- STUDENT MAROON AND WHITE MARKET - 12PM TO 2PM ON QUAD.
- AUX CORD WARS - 7PM TO 12AM ON QUAD

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

- BEYOND NORMAL LECTURE SERIES W/ERICA CAMPBELL
12PM TO 2PM IN KNIGHT BALL ROOM / RSVP REQUIRED
- SNEAKERCON BALL - 7PM TO 12AM IN WELLNESS CENTER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

- EVERY SUNNY WEDNESDAY - 12PM TO 2PM ON QUAD
- SILENT PARTY - 7PM TO 12AM ON QUAD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

- CARNIVAL - 3PM TO 6PM ON QUAD
- MASON WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AND WILLIAM HOOPER COUNCIL
STATUE UNVEILING - 11AM LOCATION ON THE BLOCK
- COMEDY SHOW - 7PM AT THE STADIUM
- ALUMNI PEP RALLY - 6PM AT STRAIGHT TO ALE

OCTOBER 2ND-9TH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

- PEP RALLY
- ALUMNI CLASS REUNION BRUNCH
(REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS ONLY)
- ALUMNI BLOCK PARTY
- ALUMNI DAY PARTY
- ALUMNI ALL WHITE PARTY
- NPHC YARD SHOW

9:30AM MORRISON PARKING LOT
10AM KNIGHT BALL ROOM

12PM TO 2PM THE BLOCK
3PM - UNTIL ON THE QUAD
8PM - UNTIL AT HUNTSVILLE COUNTRY CLUB
7PM AT THE STADIUM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

- PARADE
- ALUMNI BIG TENT TAILGATE
- ALUMNI CLASS REUNION TAILGATE
- FOOTBALL GAME
- CONCERT

8AM AT AAMU / MERIDIAN STREET
GRAND MARSHALLS: MR. MICHAEL AND MRS. CHALA FORD.
11AM AT THE STADIUM
12PM AT THE STADIUM
2PM AT THE STADIUM)
7PM - UNTIL AT THE VBC

WWW.AAMU.EDU/CAMPUS-LIFE/HOMECOMING/