

Preston Brown: *Getting Your Passion Back* - p. 3

FREE

A&M Homecoming Scenes! - p. 6



Friday
October 7, 2022
Vol. 9, No. 5
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Kathy Sieja

"... if I had known you, I would have left my love at home." - Sonia Sanchez

AAMU Names General Counsel

Alabama A&M University President Daniel K. Wims has announced the selection of an individual to fill the key position of General Counsel.



Atty. Rochelle A. Conley is a 2000

honor graduate of Alabama A&M University, where she earned the B.S. in history and political science. She received the Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2006 from the University of Alabama School of Law.

Since 2014, Atty. Conley has served as an attorney for the Deputy Attorney General, Alabama Secretary of State, Huntsville, Ala. This position entailed the representation of the Madison County Department of Human Resources in child welfare cases within the Circuit and District Courts of Alabama and in administrative proceedings. Atty. Conley was also responsible for researching and analyzing statutes, case law and other governing documents for successful representation in Court proceedings and to sustain appellate review. Moreover, she provided professional training to employees on due process rights, evidentiary standards and Court proceedings.

Prior to her 15 years of practice as an attorney and

counselor at law, Atty. Conley was an agency decision writer for the Investigative Services Office of the U.S. Postal Service in Huntsville, Ala.; a law clerk/paralegal for a Dallas-based

law firm; and a law extern in the Civil Court Division of the 10th Circuit Court District, Jefferson County (Ala.).

Atty. Conley has been a member of the Alabama State Bar since 2007. She is a member of the Huntsville/Madison County Bar Association; the Alabama Lawyers Association; Rocket City Bar Association; the Huntsville Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; the Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; Von Braun Lions Club, International; the AAMU Huntsville Madison County Alumni Chapter, and several other organizations.

As General Counsel, Atty. Conley will serve as the chief legal officer of the University and will be responsible for all legal matters. She will aid in advancing the vision and goals of AAMU by providing legal service and counsel to University constituents within the course and scope of their employment.



RJF Partners with Books-A-Million

Books-A-Million has partnered with the Rosetta James Foundation to donate books and toys to local schools and non-profits. The company has moved from the N. Parkway/University Dr. location to 2900 S. Parkway, next to ALDI grocery store at the Drake Avenue exit.

Jason Lacey is the manager at this location, and he has partnered with the Rosetta James Foundation for several past book signings, most notably with American journalist Wil Haygood, author of "The Butler: A Witness to History," which served as the basis for the 2013 movie, The Butler.

Donations were made to Highland, Challenger and Rolling Hills elementary schools; The Fellowship of Faith Preschool; and Beacon Hill Youth Church.

Talented TVW Artist Among WMA Prize Winners

Gifted *The Valley Weekly* artist/contributor John "Jahni" Moore is among the artists named to receive awards for work included in the juried exhibition sponsored by the Wiregrass Museum of Art (WMA).

The museum's exhibition, "B22: Wiregrass Biennial," was on exhibition in Dothan, Ala., for last summer quarter, from July 21-September 24.

The Alabama Award and 2nd place

People's Choice Award will go to John "Jahni" Moore (Huntsville, Ala.)

for "Belladonna of the South". Moore's work focuses on painting, drawing, murals, and assemblage; he has exhibited work widely across the Southeast U.S., and internationally.

"First, to be accepted into the Wiregrass Biennial was an honor. To win awards took it to the



joy level, especially since it's my own home state.

I intend for my work to say Alabama with a voice that cannot be ignored, to speak intentionally with an unmistakably southern voice rooted in the hand-hewn wells of this nation's

outgrowth, replete with the grit and gallantry. To go beyond the space of walls and take agency toward a shift in thinking," responded an elated Moore. "As my work is about revival, resolution, and resurrection, it is my intent for the viewer to be struck with an enlightening sense of remembrance and responsibility as it relates to their position in their personal worlds and how that role affects the world at large. Again, I am thankful to the Wiregrass Museum of Art for their vision and for granting me the platform to present my plied craft."



The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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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 adjourned last week and will have no recorded votes until Monday, November 14. The Senate, however, will convene for 1 day on Tuesday, October 11, to start debate on the "must pass" FY2023 Defense Authorization bill.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Friday, President Biden signed a continuing resolution to keep the federal government open on a temporary basis through Dec. 16, 2022, (hours before the government would have shut down at midnight because Congress has passed none of the 12 annual FY2023 appropriations bills).

On Monday, the President and First Lady visited Puerto Rico to view the damage caused by Hurricane Fiona and, on Wednesday, they were in Florida to view the

aftermath of Hurricane Ian.

On Thursday, the President attended two major fundraisers in New York City (at the home of former 21st Century Fox CEO James Murdoch) and in Red Bank Borough, NJ (at the home of NJ Gov. Phil Murphy). According to Politico, the President has headlined 11 receptions this year raising \$19.6 million for the Democratic Party.

3. **SUPREME COURT.** The Supreme Court began its 2022-23 term Monday with its newest member, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, and started with an Idaho case to determine what constitutes "waters of the United States," (Sackett v. EPA).

On Tuesday, the court heard arguments in an Alabama case on the Voting Rights Act and whether the legislature is required to create a 2nd Black majority district (Merrill v. Milligan). Notable cases this term include whether universities may use race in evaluating

applications (Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard); whether a Colorado web designer citing a religious freedom exemption may refuse to do business with a same sex couple (303 Creative LLC v. Elenis); and whether state legislatures should have sole authority in setting the rules for federal elections, including drawing up congressional districts, free from judicial oversight (Moore v. Harper).

4. **JAN. 6 COMMITTEE HEARING.** Last Wednesday's hearing on the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, the Committee's 9th hearing, was canceled due to Hurricane Ian. Committee Chair Bennie Thompson (D-MS) said that the committee will reschedule the hearing for a date to be determined before the Nov. 8th election.

In related news, the committee conducted an interview last Thursday with conservative activist Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

5. **STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS.** On September 29th, the Education Department announced it would no longer allow borrowers who have federal student loans that are owned by private entities to qualify for the Biden administration's student loan forgiveness program. The administration had previously

said those borrowers would have a path to receive up to \$10,000 or \$20,000 of loan forgiveness.

The policy change comes as the Biden administration faces potential legal challenges from the student loan industry and Republican-led states to the loan forgiveness program, which Republicans have railed against as an illegal use of executive power that is too costly for taxpayers.

More than 4 million borrowers still have these commercially held loans. Borrowers who took steps to receive their loan forgive-

ness would receive it, but not after Sept. 29. Many progressives who rallied behind the president when the student debt plan was first announced were not alerted to the change.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral service for MR. JACQUES SMITH (b. 1992) will be held Saturday, October 8, at 1:00 p.m. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. ALONZO HEULETT (b. 1963) will be Saturday, October 8, at 11 a.m. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Al Holden officiating.

Funeral service for MR. FREDDRICK BATTLES (b. 1958) was held Monday, October 3, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAMES EDDIE PENDLETON (b. 1941) was held Sunday, October 2, at Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Nicholas Gladys officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service announcement forthcoming for DR. CONSTANCE JORDAN WILSON (b. 1951).

Funeral service for MRS. VICTORIA JANET JOINER CRAWFORD (b. 1948) was held Wednesday, October 5, at Lakeside United Methodist Church (3738 Meridian Street North, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Waymond Smith officiating.

Funeral service for MR. BRYANT EDWIN BURDEN-KNOX, II was held Sunday, October 2, the New Life Seventh-Day Adventist Church 3912 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Nelson B. Stokes officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CLEM WILLIAMS was held Saturday, October 1, at Syler Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church (904 Oakwood Avenue Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Herbert Cartwright officiating.

Funeral service for MOTHER ALBERTA M. JONES (b. 1922) was held Saturday, September 24, at Union Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (3126 Nevel Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Edward Anderson officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MS. BETTY JONES (b. 1958) will be held Saturday, October 8, at Serenity Funeral Home at 2:30 p.m. Masks are recommended.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

“GETTING YOUR PASSION BACK”

In Psalms 51:10, David writes: “Create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit in me.”

Do you still have passion for what God has called you to do? No matter what your position is in life, you need *passion*. If you have a real passion for something, you will continue to do it, no matter what your circumstance may be. When you have passion for what you are doing, you will discover your

“why”. In other words, why am I doing what I’m doing?

Now, even the best can lose their passion, if they don’t practice the purpose that God has for their lives. For example, when King David ran to the battle lines to defeat the mighty Goliath, he had passion and a purpose that fueled his desire to complete the difficult task at hand. But then, consider a decade later, when he was in the “palace”, he had lost his purpose and passion. Remember the bible tells us in 2 Samuel 11: “When kings normally

go off to war, David stayed home.” And, while he was at home, he got in trouble with Bathsheba. You see, the moment we become distracted, the devil will enter into our lives and do what he does, which is to kill, steal and destroy our lives (John 10:10). So, after going through all of that drama with Bathsheba, David needed his passion back.

When David wrote the 51st psalm, he was confessing to God that he had a pure passion when he first started, but now he had allowed certain things to come into his life to distract him and had taken his passion away. Have you ever had something like



this happen to you?

That’s why we all need to realize that we may have to walk away from some things to get our passion back and rediscover the purpose that God has for our lives ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

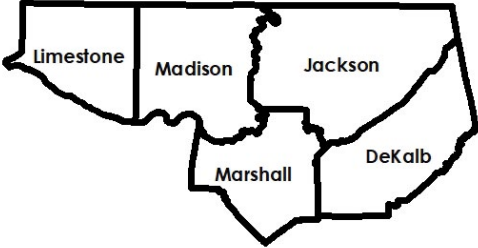
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 - You are in the 24-month Medicare waiting period.
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“People don’t beg other people to restore their history;
they do it themselves.”

- John Henrik Clarke

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru October 31

Huntsville Botanical Garden
"Festifall"
9 a.m.-6 p.m.

October 7

Poinsettia Paint Class
Twisted Tree Vintage Market
7670 Old Madison Pike
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Food Truck vs. Trailer
Rallies
Big Spring Park
5 p.m.

Maddie & Tae
Mars Music Hall
Von Braun Center
Downtown Huntsville
8 p.m.

October 8

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

Las Vegas Night
Omega Center
181 Import Circle NW
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

October 8-9

Collectors & Shooters Gun Show
Von Braun Center

Church Picnic
St. Charles Anglican Church
Food and fun!
Monte Sano Mountain
(256) 534-3662
12 noon

October 11
Girls with Guitars Presented by Rock N Roll Sushi
Mars Music Hall
7 p.m.

October 14

Friday Night Art Walk
Presented by Progress Bank
Downtown Huntsville
5-8 p.m.

October 15

Walk for Freedom
Come and Say No To Human Trafficking!
Fundraiser can be found here if you would like to donate towards the Walk!
Jones Farm Park
8 a.m.

"Selecting Trees for Your Home Landscape|In-person Class Series" (Large Trees)
Huntsville Botanical Gardens
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
\$35 per class

"My Name Is Not Mom"
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
Von Braun Center
7 p.m.

"The Judds: The Final Tour
Featuring Wynonna"
Propst Arena
7:30 p.m.

October 19-21

Regional High School Volleyball
South Hall
Von Braun Center

October 20

Haunted Mansion Dinner
Burritt on the Mountain
6-8 p.m.

October 21

Food Truck & Trailer Rallies
Downtown Huntsville
5-9 p.m.

October 22

Volley-BOO Beach Tournament

John Hunt Park
12-7 p.m.

Robyn's Garden Present R&B Soul Night Featuring Nina Marie
200 Oakwood Avenue NE Suite A
Huntsville, Ala.
8 p.m.

October 26

Wernher Von Braun Memorial Dinner
Host: Space Club
South Hall 2
Von Braun Center
www.spaceclubhsv.org

October 28

Downtown Night Market
Downtown Huntsville
7-10 p.m.

October 29

3rd Annual Trunk or Treat (Costume Contest for Kids!)
Hazel Green Ball Park
5-9 p.m.

November 5

Marvelous Event's Food Drive
Benefit: The North Alabama Food Bank
Richard Showers Center
4600 Blue Spring Road
Huntsville, Ala.
10 a.m.-12 noon

Concert
ZZ Top
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
8 p.m.

November 12

2022 Gingerbread Marketplace
4925 Moores Mill Road NE
Huntsville, Ala.
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

November 19

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

Participation Urged for Healthy Huntsville Initiative

Healthy Huntsville focuses on the core concepts of nutrition and exercise to encourage our residents to embrace healthy lifestyles. What are some of Healthy Huntsville's signature events that can encourage you and your family to be active?

Scale Back Alabama (SBA) is a free, statewide wellness program for adults, ages 18 or older, who live in Alabama or work for an Alabama based organization. It is designed to encourage Alabamians to get healthy and have fun while doing it.

Nutrition classes taught by registered dietitian nutritionists in partnership with Huntsville Hospital Wellness Centers

The Mayor's Bike Ride in May promotes Bike Safety Month and encourage citizens to try out cycling.



Fitness in the Park takes place every Saturday at 9 a.m. in May and June in Big Spring Park and features a different type of one-hour fitness class for free.

Walking events in the fall promote the low-impact and accessible form of exercise.

Dancing for Diversity is a dance fitness event that promotes different forms of dancing and cultures in the fall.

Maintain, Don't Gain provides tips, tricks and

motivation to maintain your weight from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve.

These events and more are available to you and your family! To stay up-to-date on the latest Healthy Huntsville happenings, go to the Healthy Huntsville calendar and follow Healthy Huntsville on Facebook.

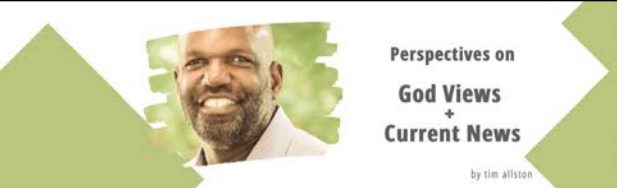
For more information, contact Healthy Huntsville Coordinator Kevin Ready in the Parks & Recreation Department.

PowerShot

"When you're good at something, you'll tell everyone. When you're great at something, they'll tell you."

Walter Payton





2022’s Mid-term Elections, Voter Suppression, and the Alluring “Cookie Jar”

“There are way too many of the Israelites for us to handle. We’ve got to do something: Let’s devise a plan to contain them, . . .” - Exodus 1:7,8

Ancient Egypt’s pharaoh devised enslavement intended to suppress the growing Israelite population. The plan failed and led ultimately to the Israelites’ explosive growth and subsequent liberation. Just as Egyptian overlords failed to suppress Israelite growth, current state legislatures will fail to suppress but will actually grow voter turnout, According to American sociologist Robert K. Merton . . . and your childhood’s cookie jar.

The Law of Unintended Consequences

Merton popularized the “law of unintended consequences”: outcomes of purposeful actions that are not intended or foreseen do often happen. For example:

The Egyptian Empire’s attempt to suppress the Children of Israel’s population with 400 years of enslavement actually increased the latter’s numbers; the hardship forced the enslaved closer together;

Angered by increased young people’s and people of color’s voting in the 2020 presidential elections, many state legislatures are still seeking unsuccessfully to “enslave” this growth by suppressing their voting rights; and The Supreme Court’s June decision overturning Roe v. Wade and women’s control over their own reproductive rights is resulting in their unprecedented voter registrations aimed at November’s mid-term elections. Perhaps these legislators forgot about their own childhood experiences with the family’s cookie jar.

Remember the Alluring “Cookie Jar”

Many of us remember our parents’ orders: “Help yourself to anything in the kitchen, but don’t go in the cookie jar.” Subsequently, our focus became the cookie jar. Why? Because just being told that there was something that we could not have only increased our interest and desire for it.

Remembering 2012, . . .

In 2012, three north Huntsville (AL) voting precincts were compressed (translation: suppressed) into one. Many of us viewed this as a red-state attempt to discourage our presidential re-election votes. It didn’t work. Although polls closed officially at 7 p.m., the now-longer voting line resulted in the last registrant voting at 9 p.m. We are not going to be suppressed or denied our cookie jar! Why these GOP-filled legislatures don’t remember their childhood cookie jar experiences baffles me. Philippians 4:8 advises, “If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.”



Huntsville City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council’s regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

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.


Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2022

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

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Scenes from Alabama A&M University's Homecoming Week 2022

September 25 - October 1, 2022





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

Mrs. Kathy Sieja

The second of two children, Kathy Sieja was born in Panama City, Fla., on October 7, 1946. Her father was in the Air Force for the first 20 years of her life, so she lived in several different cities in the United States, as well as abroad, graduating from high school in Anchorage, Alaska. After attending the University of Alaska and Florida State University, she graduated from the University of West Florida in Pensacola with bachelor's and master's degrees in social work and counseling psychology, respectively.

Sieja and her husband Dan were married over 45 years ago in Pensacola, where he flew FAs with the Navy. The family spent several years living in Virginia, Maryland, Japan, and Texas, while she was primarily a stay-at-home mom for their three delightful children—Julie, Tim and Andy. During those years, she was active in several community organizations, including church, military wives groups, children's school activities, and other outreach associations.

It was while living in Japan that she first began working outside the home,

and she continued part-time employment until Dan retired from the Navy in 1989, and they moved to Huntsville, where they have lived ever since. All of their children moved away after high school for college and the beginning of their adult lives. She and Dan were ecstatic when all three families decided to move back to Huntsville, and they now are the very proud grandparents of seven grandchildren, ranging in age from 5 to 16.

Most of her career was as a clinical counselor, and she was a partner of The Hearth Psychology and Counseling Center in Huntsville for 20 of those years. She became active in a number of community programs, including Beginning Experience, where she was able to use her counseling skills to help others. During her career, she did public speaking, led groups, and taught classes on topics such as grief, marriage, and stress reduction.

At St. Mark's Lutheran Church, she is a Worship Assistant, leader of an Adult Sunday School Class, the Women's organization



with local and state leadership positions, and she has served on the Church Council as well as many committees. She led the Quilting Guild that makes quilts for Lutheran World Relief, which sends hundreds of thousands of them to Third World countries every year.

Since retirement, she travels often and in her spare time, she teaches and takes classes at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH and at Learning Quest. She also plays bridge, attends a prayer group, reads, cross stitches, and gets her exercise by walking and taking yoga and tai chi classes.

Her favorite and most rewarding time is spent with her children and grandchildren, who offer her the greatest blessings of her life.

"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.



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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, October 9
Eighteenth Sunday
After Pentecost

(Track 2 - Year C)
2Kings 5:1-3,7-15c
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19
Psalm 111



2505 University Dr. NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35816
(256) 539-9693

A New Generation Of Service

Medicinal Marijuana Advocate and CEO Has Local Ties

Meet the CEO of Native Black Farm

He may be a familiar face.

Alabama A&M University alum Antoine Mordican has been on newscasts across Alabama, advocating the benefits of hemp.

Mordican is the Alabama state director of Minorities for Medical Marijuana, a nonprofit based in Orlando, Fla., that focuses on advocacy and education in support of minorities who have a vested interest in cannabis public policy, business, and healthcare.

It's an important role for Mordican, CEO of Native Black Farm, a licensed hemp cultivation farm in Bessemer. "I am also the

CEO of Native Black Cultivation, which is aspiring to become the first black licensed medical cannabis cultivator in the state of Alabama."

Mordican said his family realized the medical benefits of hemp during his aunt's battle with breast cancer. He said medical marijuana extended his aunt's life for another decade after she was first diagnosed. "At the time, my mom was opposed to marijuana, but changed her mind after her own breast



cancer diagnosis. With the help of medical marijuana, she was able to beat breast cancer."

Mordican is from Chicago and came South to attend AAMU, earning his electrical engineering degree in 2014, and his MBA in project management at

Columbia Southern University in 2018.

After he graduated from AAMU, Mordican entered the corporate world as a distribution engineer for

Alabama Power Company. During that time, Mordican developed a green thumb, which led to a curiosity about growing hemp.

"Through research and measured and managed experiments, I developed a signature method to grow premium cannabis using hydroponics," he said. Today, Mordican claims

his Native Black Farm is Birmingham's source for the best organic, sustainable hemp.

Mordican remains committed to raising awareness for the medicinal uses of hemp. When he's not working, Mordican spends time at home with his wife of six years and their three children.

For more:

<https://www.nativeblackfarm.com/>

<https://minorities4medicalmarijuana.org/about>

<https://www.wsfa.com/2022/08/11/alabama-medical-cannabis-commission-adopts-updated-guidelines>

by Debra Daniel

OCTOBER 7 - TONI BRAXTON

- Braxton attracted the attention of producers Antonio "L.A." Reid and Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, later recording a series of songs for them before being signed to their Arista-distributed imprint, LaFace Records. Her self-titled debut studio album (1993) reached number one on the Billboard 200 chart in the United States, selling 10 million copies worldwide and seeing the international success of the singles "Another Sad Love Song" and "Breathe Again". -BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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