

# What's New for Alabama A&M University? - p. 7

**FREE**



## Edmonton Heights Marker Unveiling - p. 8

Friday  
November 10, 2023  
Vol. 10, No. 10  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

GLORIA B: "SMALL STEPS TO BIG" - p. 5

# The Valley Weekly

PRESTON: WHY PRAYER MATTERS - p. 3

**SALUTE!**

Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Judy Link

"There are no warlike people--just warlike leaders." - Ralph Bunche

## County Leads Operation Green Light

As Halloween decorations come down, a green glow decorates porches across Madison County.

Operation Green Light cranks up to full beam as the nation prepares for Veterans Day. Operation Green Light is a nationwide effort encouraging the community to support military veterans by simply changing the exterior light bulb of their home to a green bulb. The Madison County Commission and the non-profit Still Serving Veterans have partnered for two years to get the message out, and this year, the Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated joins the effort.



"Utilizing a small, green light bulb to illuminate our communities is a wonderful way to magnify appreciation, thanks, and recognition of our veterans who made many sacrifices for us," said chapter president Tonya Wood. The sorority was called on by Commissioner Violet Edwards, who spearheaded the illumination of all the county facilities in her district.

"We want our men and women to know they do not stand alone. There are resources available in our community from education to counseling," said Commissioner Edwards, shown above gifting green bulb to Marine Veteran Rev. Robert Shankin.



## New Art Installed at Shurney Center

A new art installation at the Dr. Robert Shurney Legacy Center on Sparkman Drive features a scene of rest and relaxation, thanks to the work of a talented local artist.

The art, titled Sweet Dreams, is the creation of local artist Dariá Hammond. Completed in September, Hammond's work depicts a relaxed figure comprised of soft color forms. Arts Huntsville, as the public art agency for the City of Huntsville, commissioned the work to celebrate the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library's Blast Music program.

"Each entry was so beautiful and each offered a unique perspective, which is why it was a difficult job to choose among them!" said selection panel member and Blast Music Program Manager Annie Phillips. "Dariá's Sweet Dreams piece was perfect in harmoniously combining the criteria of music, community, and a connection to space."

District 1 City Council representative Devyn Keith, a longtime advocate of the arts, championed the addition. The Shurney Center has become a community hub in North Huntsville.

## Officials Listen to Hispanic Concerns

Huntsville's Hispanic and Latino residents recently shared their thoughts on issues ranging from employment to community policing during a recent town hall at McDonnell Elementary School.

The evening event featured a panel discussion with City leaders on topics specific to the growing Hispanic and Latino com-

munities. Led by Kenny Anderson, Director of the City's Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, the panel featured Mayor Tommy Battle, District 4 Council Member Bill Kling, Huntsville Police Capt. Chris Riley and Carlos Javier Torres, Programs and Community Partnerships Director for the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (HICA).

The Valley Weekly

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## Huntsville Utilities Begins New Certification Program at Drake State



Huntsville Utilities has launched its' four-week pilot Gas & Water Certification program with four students (Nov. 6) at Drake State via District 6 Classroom facilities.

Dr. Levi Mayer, assistant

dean of instruction, began the program with welcoming comments, and Lucreacia W. Points, director of EEO/DE&I, shared how the program was created.

The pilot program will enroll only six students at

this time.

Drake will conduct classroom courses and Huntsville Utilities' Triana facility will be the site for hands-on training. Another session starts in spring 2024 for up to 10 students.

Interested?

Apply at:  
<https://drakestate.edu/drake-state-and-huntsville-utilities-join-forces-to-fuel-gas-and-water-operation-scholarship-program/>

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## The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly  
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 are in session this week. The House will spend the week getting through two FY2024 appropriations bills: (1) Transportation/HUD and Financial Services/Gen Gov't. Last week, the House GOP leadership abruptly pulled the Transportation/HUD bill due to objections from Northeast Republicans over the \$1 billion to provide funds for Ukraine and

Israel (the House narrowly passed a bill last week that contains \$14.3 billion for Israel only) and also may turn to a resolution to change Senate rules to overcome a hold Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) has imposed on hundreds of military officer promotions since February protesting the Pentagon's policy offering time off and travel reimbursement to service members seeking abortions or fertility care (although Sen. Tuberville has allowed a handful of top leaders to be confirmed) ... Senate Republicans are convening a special meeting this week to

discuss resolving what has become an intra-party debate on the subject.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. Last Monday, President Biden issued his much-anticipated executive order to govern the development of artificial intelligence in accordance with 8 guiding principles. Last Friday, the President and First Lady traveled to Lewiston, Maine, to pay respects to the victims of a mass shooting that killed 18 people. The President met with Amtrak workers in New Castle, DE, and delivered remarks on the economy. This weekend, the President will travel to San Francisco for the 5-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' summit, which will include a private meeting between President Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

3. SUPREME COURT. On Tuesday, the Court heard oral arguments in a major gun-rights case challenging the constitutionality of a federal

ban on the possession of guns by individuals who are subject to domestic violence restraining orders (U.S. v. Rahimi).

4. GOP DEBATE. On Wednesday at 8 p.m. EST, GOP presidential candidates held their 3rd debate in Miami, FL. NBC News hosted the debate and with reportedly 5 candidates on the stage: Chris Christie, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy and Tim Scott. Former President Trump is not expected to attend, but was in a New York City courtroom Monday taking the stand in his civil fraud trial.

5. OCTOBER JOBS REPORT. Last Friday, the Labor Department announced that the U.S. economy added 150,000 jobs in October, which was below the expected 170,000 jobs predicted by economists. The unemployment rate rose to 3.9% from the previous month's 3.8%. Manufacturing jobs declined by 35,000 last month, largely due to the UAW

strike against the Big 3 U.S. automakers. Last Wednesday, the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee held the federal funds interest rate steady at 5.4%, its highest level in 22 years.

6. HIGHER EDUCATION. Last Thursday, the House of Representatives voted 396-23 to approve a resolution condemning the support of terrorist organizations and antisemitism on college campuses. The resolution (H.Res. 798) is the latest response by Congress to the rise in pro-Palestinian student demonstrations on campuses related to the Israel-Hamas conflict that started in early October. Last week, the Senate passed a similar resolution, S.Res. 418 by voice vote.

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OU Prez, Board Respond to  
Alums and Supporters

In "An Important Message from Oakwood University" recently posted on the institution's website, OU trustees sought to address financial and other concerns from stakeholders.

"After reviewing the financial records of the University, the Board found that certain assertions were based on misunderstandings," noted Board Chair Alexander Bryant. "The Board focused on the University's financial challenges during their Executive Session, which are being addressed in various ways and will be announced once the audit for this year is completed. The Board recognizes that faith-based education institutions face particular financial challenges, and Oakwood University is no



exception. Despite these challenges, discussions with our Auditors and OU financial staff have underscored that the leveraged debt of the University does not threaten its solvency."

The message goes on to provide updates on an array of areas ranging from recruitment and renovations to technology and increased communications.

Bryant and OU President and Board Secretary Leslie N. Pollard asked OU supporters to "recommit" to its mission.

To read the message from the trustees in its entirety, please click [OU LETTER](#).

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## 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.

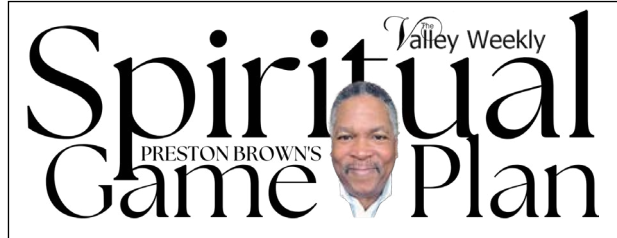
Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

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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.



## Why Prayer Matters

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

One of the things that I have come to realize is prayer changes things. If we look at one of the characteristics of Jesus, we see that He was consistent when it came to prayer. We also need to be consistent when it comes to our prayer lives because there will be disappointments and trials in our lives.

How we deal with the trials that come is very important. I believe that there are only two outcomes that we can expect. Either we survive or we are victorious. In other words, some people who have made it through hardships and

disappointments may survive, but they come out tattered and torn. They come out of the situation perhaps bitter, angry, and frustrated. However, they survived. On the other hand, there are people who come out of their circumstances victorious. They have an attitude of triumph about them. They have evidence of God's goodness in their lives. Now why is this? I believe the reason for this enthusiastic optimism has everything to do with their prayer lives. Prayer changes things. When we pray, it gives us a different perspective about our circumstances. When we pray, we bring God into our situation and everything changes. Praying forces us to live by faith. It also forces us to surrender our pride and self-sufficiency that so many of us have.



Prayer is the only way that we can keep the lines of communication open with God.

May God grant you spiritual success in your prayer life.

Question: What is the condition of your prayer life? Is it good, average, or poor? Why?

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](http://amazon.com), [Westbow Books](http://WestbowBooks.com) or if you have a PayPal account, email me at [preston-brown81@gmail.com](mailto:preston-brown81@gmail.com), and I will send you an autographed copy.

## Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Meetings

**The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** will meet **Monday, November 13, 2023** at 5:00 pm in the 1st Floor Urban Development Conference Room at 320 Fountain Cir. SW. **The Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board** meets on **Wednesday, November 15, 2023** at 4:00 pm in the 1st Floor Council Chambers of Huntsville City Hall, 308 Fountain Cir. SW. To review items on the agenda for these meetings, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>. For more information on the MPO, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/>

## THE VALLEY WEEKLY VALLEY DEATHS



### NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189 - [www.nelmsmemorial.net](http://www.nelmsmemorial.net)

*Funeral services will be announced later for MR. URIAH JAMES ROBERT HUMPHREY (b. 1995), MR. JAMES NEWTON and MR. HARRY B. HURTADO.*

*Funeral service for MS. KONDRA NICOLE GRAYS (b. 1979) was Sunday, November 5, in the Nelms Chapel.*

*Funeral service for MR. HOWARD TOWNSEND (b. 1938) was Saturday, November 4, at Hope Community Church with Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin, Eulogist.*

*Graveside service for ELDER ALVIN M. KIBBLE (b. 1947) was held Sunday, October 29, at Oakwood Memorial Gardens.*

### ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481 - [www.royalfh.com](http://www.royalfh.com)

*Funeral service for MS. JOCELYN E. RICHARDSON (b. 1944) will be 11 a.m., Friday, November 10, at the Oakwood Seventh-day Adventist Church (5500 Adventist Boulevard NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Norman Miles officiating.*

*Funeral service for MS. LULA BEATRICE LEE (b. 1946) was Saturday, November 4, at the Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church (62060 Saint Luke Church Road, Latham, Ala.) with Reverend Donald Taylor, Sr., officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. JOE ERSKINE, SR. (b. 1951) was Friday, November 3, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Minister Donald Walton officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. GAVIN DORAN LESLIE (b. 1969) was Monday, October 30, at the Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (2403 Oakwood Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Debra McGlathery-Holden officiating.*

### SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693 - [www.serenityfuneralhm.com](http://www.serenityfuneralhm.com)

*Funeral service for MR. TOBY THOMAS (b. 1973) was Saturday, November 4, at Little Indian Creek P.B. Church, 884 Indian Creek Road, Huntsville, Ala.*

*Funeral service for MR. RAYMOND CHUNN (b. 1966) was Saturday, November 4, at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.*

The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

## November 10

Veterans Salute Concert  
FREE  
Huntsville Master Chorale  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
607 Airport Road  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7 p.m.

## November 12

123rd Harvest Celebration  
Lakeside United Methodist Church  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Clarence Sutton, Superintendent, Huntsville City Schools  
3738 Meridian Street NE  
Huntsville, Ala.  
11 a.m.

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.alysstephens.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

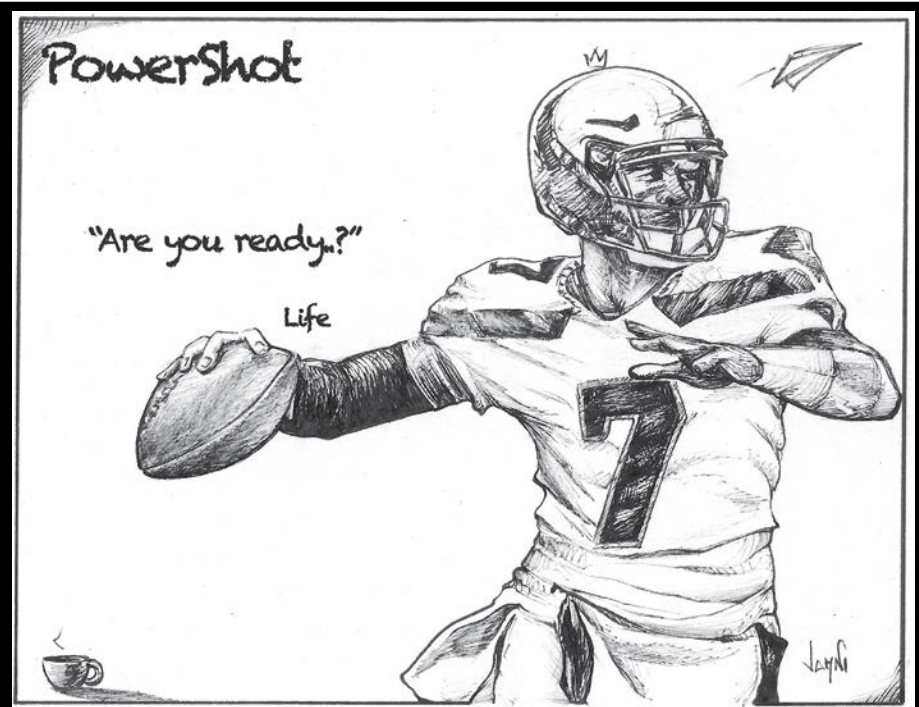
Bulldog Football vs. Mississippi Valley State  
Louis Crews Stadium  
Alabama A&M University  
Huntsville, Ala.  
1 p.m.

## January 26

Concert  
American Spiritual Ensemble  
Host:  
Huntsville Chamber Music Guild

## March 9

Concert  
Lawrence Brownlee  
Host:  
Huntsville Chamber Music Guild



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"The public is not to see where power lies, how it shapes policy, and for what ends. Rather, people are to hate and fear one another."

- Noam Chomsky

## “Small Steps to Big ...”

# Milennia loment

by  
Gloria B. Caldwell

Five (5) days out of the week I get up to workout at 4 am. Some days tired, but I move past being tired and do it anyway. When working out, I set a mirror in front of me. I do this so I can motivate myself. When I feel fatigued, or the pain hits, I say to myself, “Build Gloria, Build!” I think, brick by brick, layer by layer...small to big! I notice the definition in my body, and I say, “I’ve come too far to let go of what I have accomplished.” Even if I take a 5-second break,

I get right back at it. I don’t quit! Sometimes I slow down, but I don’t quit! The moments I feel tapped out, I don’t say “Forget this” and quit. I realize it takes small moves to get something big!!

Nothing in life comes all at once, and if it does, most of the time “we” end up losing it, because we don’t understand the process and



how to keep it! In these small steps to big, you are building the foundation

you need to keep what you have created. You’re learning yourself, your strengths, and your weaknesses. You capitalize on the strengths and work on those weaknesses, to be able to do it better the next time! Soon, you have mastered those weaknesses or figured out how to work around them. It’s all part of the process of small to big!

Small thoughts, coupled together, make big ideas! Small steps, in the same direction, cover big territory!

Take a moment to think about what you’re trying to do. Start today, one small step at a time!

Photo: Saintjones/Adobe AI

**NOVEMBER 10 - TRACY MORGAN** - Tracy Jamal Morgan is an American actor and comedian best known for his seven seasons as a cast member on Saturday Night Live (1996–2003) and 30 Rock (2006–2013). He was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2009 for his work on 30 Rock. He has appeared in numerous films as an actor and voice actor. Morgan joined the cast of the comedy series Saturday Night Live in 1996 (he was chosen over Stephen Colbert in the final two round by Lorne Michaels) and performed as a regular until 2003. He returned to host on March 14, 2009 and reprised his roles as Brian Fellow and Astronaut Jones.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



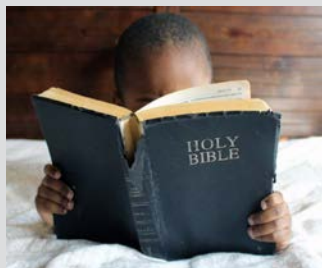
## ON THIS DAY



On November 10, 1898, white supremacists murdered African Americans in Wilmington, N.C., and deposed the elected Reconstruction era government in a coup d’etat.

- Zinn Education Project

## This Sunday's Lectionary



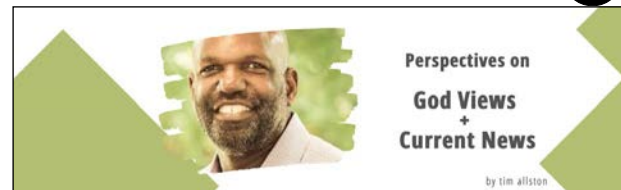
Sunday, November 12, 2023  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday  
after Pentecost

(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16  
Psalm 70  
Second Lesson:  
Amos 5:18-24  
GOSPEL:  
Matthew 25:1-13

“Everything I do, I choose very, very carefully, because if I don’t like it, I can’t make you like it.”

- Carmen McRae



## Oakwood Adventist Academy’s “basketball music” featured in the new *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus* audiobook!

When you think of Huntsville, Alabama’s Oakwood Adventist Academy and its musical legacy, most think of its Grammy Award-winning alumni Mervyn Warren and current Take 6 members Mark and Joey Kibble and David Thomas.

This time, however, the OAA music features sounds from the warm-up drills and layup lines

of the 2023 1A Northeast Regional Champions and state runner-up finalist OAA boys basketball team.

In February 2022, the state tournament officials forced the OAA Mustangs to forfeit its tournament contest due to the team’s observance of the Biblical 24-hour seventh-day Saturday-Sabbath. OAA filed a religious discrimination lawsuit against the tournament as-



sociation which, through mediation, adopted a new rule to accommodate such religious requests, <https://bit.ly/3SyQJ47>. The Mustangs advanced into last season’s 2023 championship game before bowing out.

“This team of teenagers committed to both basketball and the Bible provided such a fitting complement for my latest book *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus* - just released this October,” explained author-narrator Tim Allston. This new print/digital/audiobook illustrates how winning NBA championship dynasties followed the servant leadership model of Jesus Christ.

Whereas many audiobooks feature a musical under-bed to complement the narration, Allston used instead the sounds of OAA’s warm-up drills as the “music” for the six-hour audiobook.

To reinforce the theme of *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus*, “The squeaking sneakers, instructions from the sideline coaches, and the out-of-breath pantings from these players became a fitful musical under-bed.”

This free audiobook is available for the purchase of either the print or digital versions of *Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus* - and is exclusively available at [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com).



Tim Allston, Leadership Coach and Three-time Amazon Best-selling Author, Leading from the Middle (256) 212-0949 - [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com)  
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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Mrs. Judy Link

Mrs. Judy Link is a native of Maryland, but she traveled to Hawaii to meet and marry her husband of 42 years. They met on the beach in Waikiki and were married ten weeks later. Since her husband was a military officer, she got to travel a lot. She moved her household 26 times in 30 years as an Army wife. After three tours at Redstone Arsenal, there was no doubt that Sweet Home Alabama would be her permanent home when Jim retired from the Army in 2000.

Mrs. Link has always tried to make every place she lived better than she found it. Therefore, she has been very active in the Huntsville community and has given her time and talent to many charitable and civic activities. She has served on many boards and joined numerous organizations. Among these are the Burritt Museum, Early Works Foundation, School Foundation, Alabama Science Center (now SCI-QUEST), United Cerebral Palsy, where she served as president, as well as the American Red Cross, the Arts Council and the Arthritis Foundation Advisory Council.

She has served on the Board of Therapy Partners and as a member of the Tiffany Circle, a group of

women who advance the American Red Cross mission through an investment of time, talent and treasure. Mrs. Link has also been a member of the Huntsville Literary Association, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild, the Huntsville Hospital Millennium Society and Rotary Ann (president).

She is a graduate of Leadership Huntsville Focus Group #8. She was the Quality of Life day chair for Leadership Huntsville Masters Program, and she has a 14-year involvement with the Greater Huntsville Human Society. She is a past co-chair of the Annual Dog Ball and is currently the Dog Ball Arrangements Chair. She is an associate member of the Botanical Garden Guild.

When Medal of Honor recipients visited Huntsville, she arranged a tour of the city and arranged a luncheon for them. She has served as a Panoply volunteer and sponsored the VIP hospitality tent. As a member of the Symphony Guild,



she has worked as a docent in Huntsville City Schools. She also served on various Arts Council committees, which prepare students for the Young People's Concert.

Mrs. Link has received much recognition while serving at Redstone Arsenal and in Germany. In addition, she was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for Huntsville and Madison County in 1989; the Path of Honor at the Senior Center in 2008; the Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award in 2005; and numerous American Red Cross recognitions over the years.

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



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**A New Generation Of Service**

# AAMU Trustees Holds Regularly Scheduled Session in the Magic City

*During its regular Board Meeting October 26, 2023, the Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees paved the way for several new partnerships and programs to enhance recruitment and expand opportunities for students. The Board received University-wide updates from President Daniel K. Wims and Cabinet leadership and entertained several key initiatives during Magic City Classic week meetings.*

“As we look toward the 150th anniversary of this University, we’re growing in a way that we’ve not seen in our recent history,” said Dr. Daniel K. Wims, president of Alabama A&M University (below). “We



places we’ve never been, we’re going to have to do things we’ve never done,” said Trustee Watts.

“This University is on an upward trajectory. In order to go new places, we’re going to have to do the things that are uncomfortable.

Much of the work we will do together has never been done before. That’s going to be uncomfortable. Some people see problems. I see opportunities for increased growth and development.”

Watts says the mission toward becoming an R2 institution and continuing to increase enrollment will take a commitment from everyone in the AAMU community. “I want to share my commitment to this administration, to this Board, and to the direction this University is headed,” he said.

Board members echoed Trustee Watts’ position that a unified approach is crucial to continued success. Trustee Dr. Elizabeth B. Richardson says new efforts to engage the community are already paying dividends for the University.

“As one of the newest Trustees, I am so grateful for how this administration has really intention-



ally engaged in outreach and building meaningful partnerships with our city and county government,” said Trustee Richardson (above). “I’m excited now when I meet officials and can express the wonderful work this administration is doing to support not only our students, but really for the community. I’ve been able to witness, in a very short period of time that, among this cabinet, there is an admiration for the President and his leadership.”



The Board also approved several new partnerships geared toward bolstering recruitment for graduate programs. New three-year MOUs with Albany State University, Benedict College, Fort Valley State University, Lane College, Lemoyne-Owen College, Mississippi Valley State University, Paine College, Philander Smith College, and Tougaloo College will facilitate the admission of qualified graduates into AAMU School of Graduate Studies.

Trustees also commented on the successes surrounding 2023 Homecoming activities including record-breaking attendance, record-breaking fundraising, enhanced gameday experience, and more.

“I was blown away at Homecoming,” said Trustee Ralph Williams. “Many of my classmates have called it the best one ever. I’ve

been around this State to every HBCU. We have best in class people, no matter the title. I have high expectations, but this staff has far exceeded them. The alumni are really proud, and we’re a tough crowd.”

Dr. Charles McClelland, the sixth Commissioner of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, addressed the Board

concerning his work to position the University and conference for success. McClelland expressed his belief that AAMU has strongly positioned itself for the future of the Magic City Classic and other

events. “All of the other classics are predicated upon ticket sales,” he said. “This Classic is not. That is extremely important. It’s a guarantee that you have a significant payout.”

In addition, President Wims introduced Shannon Frank Reeves, Sr. – newly appointed Vice President of Government Affairs and External Relations.



The Board also approved the naming of the AAMU Event Center game clock table in recognition of the late Erskine Lorenza Valrie (above) – a devoted alumnus and supporter of Alabama A&M Athletics.

“In order for us to go

# Edmonton Heights Historic District Marker Unveiling

Edmonton Heights Community - Huntsville, Alabama  
 Sunday, November 5, 2023  
 (Photos by J. Saintjones - Many More Photos [HERE](#))



Katie Stamps



Joseph A. Lee



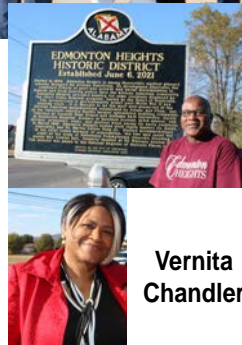
Karen Brown,  
 Debra Hill,  
 Bety Dixie,  
 Carolyn  
 Jackson, Laura  
 Clift and Laura  
 McCaulley.



Laura McCaulley



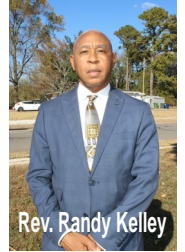
Caroline Swope



Vernita  
 Chandler



Mayor Tommy Battle



Rev. Randy Kelley



Com. Violet Edwards & Jo Miley



Bone & Juanita Sales Lee



Frances Akridge

## Sweet Trails Alabama Wants Input after State Tour

Sweet Trails Alabama, alongside the Singing River Trail and Jacksonville State University, recently concluded a five-day, 11-stop statewide Swing Around the State Tour aiming to identify trail projects while collecting valuable info from communities.

The initiative is key in building a network of outdoor trails in Alabama, connecting communities and creating a better quality of life for residents. Hundreds of Alabamians from diverse communities came together during the tour to support the idea of a statewide trail route.

“The initial five-day tour provided us with a wealth of insights that we will use to craft the trail route plan,”

said John Kvach, Executive Director of the Singing River Trail. “With the support of our communities, we can create a trail network that connects every corner of Alabama. We are encouraging the people of Alabama to dream big!”

State Senator Andrew Jones, District 10, was a key sponsor of SB298, which established the Sweet Trails Alabama Project Fund. Senator Jones joined the tour and spoke about how this initiative will strengthen community bonds and create more opportunities throughout Alabama.

The tour, with stops in Huntsville, Florence, Tuscaloosa, Selma, Atmore, Mobile, Orange Beach, Dothan, Montgomery, Birmingham,

and Jacksonville, was made possible by a \$25,000 donation from the Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils. These Alabama RC&D Councils are made up of volunteers who identify the unmet needs in their communities and create solutions across Alabama.

Sweet Trails Alabama is inviting the public to shape the future of this project. By filling out a survey online, residents can provide their preferences to help guide the planning and development of the trail network.

Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey. For more information, visit [www.sweettrailsalabama.org](http://www.sweettrailsalabama.org).



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