

What We Can Learn from the Fast-Food Cashier - p. 8

FREE

Sparkman's Khloe Bradley Commits to A&M - p. 11

Friday
November 21, 2025
Vol. 12, No. 12
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK

Mr.s. Brenda Beale

"He who has a why to live can bear almost any how." - Friedrich Nietzsche

HPD Boosts Emergency Response with AEDs

Select Huntsville Police officers are now carrying new life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), providing a life-saving tool to respond to cardiac and other medical emergencies before paramedics arrive.

that person a real chance at survival."

The initiative is part of HPD's broader commitment to enhancing officer readiness and expanding emergency medical capabilities



across all patrol divisions. By equipping Field Training Officers with AEDs, HPD ensures these critical devices are in the hands of officers who are frequently in the field mentoring recruits and

responding to emergencies citywide.

HPD worked closely with Huntsville Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (HEMSI) to ensure proper training and coordination for the deployment of the new AEDs.

Church St. CPCA Hosting AAMU Christmas Musicale

The 94th Annual Christmas Musicale featuring the Alabama A&M University Choir and the Alabama A&M Brass Ensemble will be held Sunday, December 7, at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Downtown Huntsville, at 5:30 p.m.

The Choir is directed by Dr. Horace Carney (Eric Wilson, pianist), and the brass ensemble will be conducted by Carlton Wright.

The choir and ensemble appear under the auspices of the Department of Visual, Performing and Communication Arts of the College of Education, Human-

ities and Behavioral Sciences, along with the Office of Student Affairs.

Dr. Mitchell M. Walker, Sr., is pastor of Church Street CPCA, which was established in 1874

as the first Black Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the nation and one of the first established churches in Huntsville, Ala. The public is invited.

Cancer Charity to Host 2025 Cinderella Ball

The Patricia Haley Charity will host its 2025 "Mommy and Daddy, I Have Cancer: Let's Fight" Cinderella Ball on Saturday, December 6.

The annual event will be held at The Event Center at Roto-Rooter, located at 1435B Paramount Drive in Huntsville, Ala.

Following a

father/daughter and mother/son dance, other affair highlights include additional dancing, good food, professional photography and much more.

The Patricia Haley Charity is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving the community. It enhances the quality of life for cancer patients and people

with disabilities. It also provides financial assistance to families burdened with the staggering cost of cancer and disability, inspiring hope to those affected through early detection, education, resources and support services.

For additional information, call (844) 944-3198.

TARCOG Sponsoring Caregiver College

TARCOG will host the free Caregiver College 2025 on Friday, November 21, at the

Huntsville Marriott, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be Dr.

Herb Caldwell, founder of The Mama Joe Project, which focuses on essential support

for both elders and their caregivers. Register at www.tarcog.us or call (256) 830-0818.

The Valley Weekly

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Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the latest top issues and events in Washington, D.C.:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in session this week. Two notable bills are on the House floor: (1) to repeal a provision that Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) added to the stopgap spending measure last week, which would allow a group of GOP Senators (but not House Members) to collect \$500,000 per violation if their phone records are seized by former Special Counsel Jack Smith; and (2) the Massie/Khanna bill to require the Justice Department to release the files of deceased child abuser Jeffrey Epstein. A discharge petition, which last week obtained its 218th signature with the swearing-in of Rep. Adelita Grijalva (D-AZ), forced a vote on this bill. It was reportedly scheduled for a vote on Tuesday. The Senate may start floor votes this week on a five-bill appropriations package covering Defense, Labor-HHS-Educa-

tion, Commerce-Justice-Science, Interior-Environment, and Transportation-HUD.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

The President hosted a formal dinner at the White House for Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Tuesday night. Punchbowl News reports that the White House has invited Indiana state legislators for a meeting in D.C. after Indiana Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray announced that the Hoosier state will not redistrict this year. Last Friday, the President lifted U.S. tariffs on several agricultural goods that have experienced a significant increase in prices, including coffee and tea; tropical fruits and fruit juices; cocoa and spices; bananas, oranges, tomatoes; and beef.

On Saturday, the President issued a second pardon for J6 rioter Dan Wilson, who was serving time in federal prison for illegally possessing firearms. Wilson had been pardoned on Inaugura-

tion Day 2025 along with all other rioters but was one of the few Jan. 6 defendants still incarcerated for other federal crimes. Also on Saturday, the administration confirmed that a surge of immigration enforcement in Charlotte, NC, has begun, with federal agents seen making arrests at multiple locations.

Last Wednesday night, the President signed a temporary stopgap bill to reopen the federal government through Jan. 30, 2026—approved earlier that day by the House on a vote of 222-209, with 6 Ds voting yes and 2 Rs voting no.

3. SUPREME COURT.

Last Monday, the Supreme Court's order list revealed that the justices declined to hear Davis v. Ermold, on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, and agreed to hear Watson v. Republican National Committee, on whether federal law requires ballots to be received by election officials on or before Election Day to be counted.

4. CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING. Last Tuesday, the judge in Utah's redistricting case rejected the GOP-led Utah Legislature's map in favor of a new map that will create a

Democratic seat in Salt Lake City (Harris +24). Utah currently has four GOP House members. Last Thursday, the U.S. Justice Department joined a case challenging the new California map, approved by voters on Nov. 4, which was brought by the California Republican Party last week. On Friday, Indiana Senate Republicans announced they would not move forward with a plan to redraw the state's congressional maps. Democrats need to gain just three seats to take control of the House from the GOP.

5. HEADING FOR THE EXITS. When Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) resigns her seat this week to take up her new job as Governor of New Jersey, she will join 35 other House Members (21 Rs and 15 Ds) — nearly 10%

of the House — who have announced their retirement one year out from the 2026 mid-term elections. Most of them plan to run for other offices.

6. EDUCATION. The House Education and Workforce Committee is holding three important hearings this week: Tuesday's full committee session on "The Future of College: Harnessing Innovation to Improve Outcomes and Lower Costs" (Nov. 18, 10:15 AM) explored strategies to lower costs while enhancing student success; Wednesday's rescheduled "E-Verify: Ensuring Lawful Employment in America" hearing (Nov. 19, 10:15 AM) addressed employment verification issues affecting institutional hiring; and Wednesday's "From Classroom to Career:

Strengthening Skills Pathways Through CTE" hearing (Nov. 19, 2:00 PM) focuses on Career and Technical Education pathways vital for community college and K-12 partnerships. These hearings highlight ongoing congressional focus on workforce development, college affordability, and education-to-employment pipelines that could influence federal funding priorities.

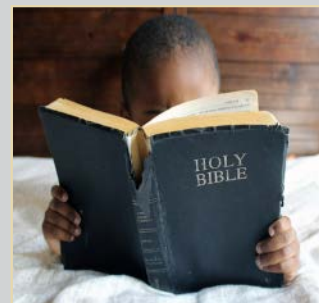
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WE KNOW THE PEOPLE,
PLACES, AND POLITICS

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, November 23, 2025
Twenty-Fourth Sunday
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year C)

First Lesson:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 46

Second Lesson:

Colossians 1:11-20

GOSPEL:

Luke 23:33-43

THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM
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The Valley Weekly
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Half Page	Horizontal	
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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

Foundation Urges Student Financial Literacy at A&M Event

This week, the Rosetta James Foundation presented an engaging and practical financial literacy workshop titled “Your Money, Your Future: A College Student’s Guide to Financial Success.” The session, held on November 12, 2025, was designed to help college students gain the knowledge and confidence to take control of their finances early in life.



Led by financial consultant and philanthropist Stephen Hendricks and me, the discussion centered on key principles every student should master—budgeting, debt management, saving, and investing. Students were encouraged

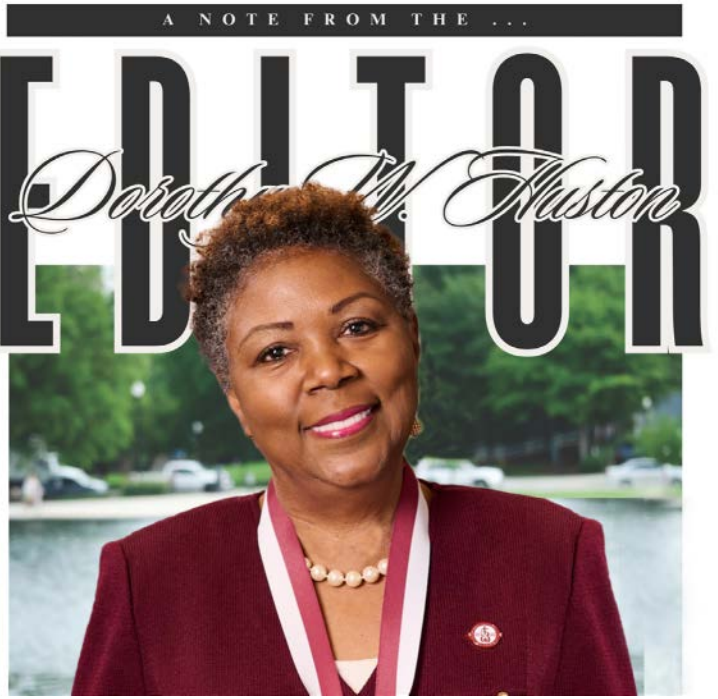
to construct realistic budgets, track spending, and understand the difference between needs and wants. These fundamental skills are essential for achieving both financial stability and independence.



We emphasized that financial success doesn’t happen overnight. It starts with mindful spending, using credit wisely, and saving consistently—even in small amounts. “Save, save more, and keep saving,” Hendricks reminded attendees, underscoring the importance of developing healthy money habits early.

The workshop also explored the realities of borrowing and credit. Students were cautioned that “credit can be your friend or your enemy,” depending on how it’s managed. Learning to invest, planning for the future, and making informed financial decisions were presented as crucial steps toward building long-term wealth.

Through the Rosetta James Foundation’s ongoing commitment to education and empowerment, we aim to equip the next generation with tools not just for academic success, but for lifelong financial well-being. After all, the choices students make today will shape their financial futures tomorrow. Until next week ...



Dorothy

First Photo: Dorothy W. Huston, Dr. Michael Johnson, Director of Student Health and Counseling Services; Stephen Hendricks; and AAMU students. **Second Photo:** Dr. Michael Johnson, Director of Student Health and Counseling Services; and Stephen and Rochelle Hendricks. **Third Photo:** Workshop attendees listening intently.

NOVEMBER 21 - MICHAEL STRAHAN - Michael Anthony Strahan is a former American football defensive end who spent his entire 15-year career with the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL). Strahan set a record for the most sacks in a season in 2001, and helped the Giants win Super Bowl XLII over the New England Patriots in his final season in 2007. After retiring from the NFL, Strahan became a media personality. Strahan was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2014. He is currently a football analyst on Fox NFL Sunday, and served as co-host on the syndicated daytime talk show Live! with Kelly and Michael with co-host Kelly Ripa from 2012 to 2016, where he was a two-time Daytime Emmy Award winner. In 2014, he became a regular contributor on ABC’s morning show Good Morning America, and in 2016 the network announced that Strahan would be leaving Live! to join GMA on a full-time basis.

- Blackcelebritybirthdays.org

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral services are incomplete and will be announced at a later date for **MR. JAYLAN TRAVON WATKINS** (b. 1999) and **MR. JUSTIN MARLO DAVIS** (b. 2000).

Celebration of Life for **MR. MICHAEL HUMPHREY** (b. 1955) will be held on Sunday, November 23, at 1 p.m. at New Life Seventh-Day Adventist Church with Pastor Nelson Stokes officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. RAYANTHA HORTON** (b. 1958) will be Saturday, November 22, at 12 noon at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **REV. CHARLES W. POWELL SR.** (b. 1946) will be Saturday, November 22, at 1 p.m. at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Oscar L. Montgomery, officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. JOHN F. RICE** (b. 1949) was Saturday, November 15, at Big Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Jeffrey Jefferson officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. WALTER CLIFFORD SOBRYAN** (b. 1944) was held Sunday, November 9, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Herbert Cartwright officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. ROXANN TIBBS BATTLE** (b. 1938) was Saturday, November 8, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Carlos D. Williams officiating and Reverend Earla Lockhart as eulogist.

Funeral service for **MRS. QUENTIN MITCHELL TAYLOR** (b. 1973) was Saturday, November 8, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Gilbert Mitchell officiating.

Memorial Celebration for **MRS. SANDRA N. SANDERS HARRIS** (b. 1953) was Saturday, November 8, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Debra McGlatherly Holden officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. POLLY CLAY** (b. 1939) was Friday, November 7, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Allen Sanders, Jr. officiating.

Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

"Know Your Why Before Your What"

In Philippians 3:14, Paul says, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

We all need a sense of progress to continue achieving our goals in life—whether it be our jobs, our education, our exercise at the gym, or even our ministry. It can be hard to show up again and again when something is not working. We all need to see some kind of progress.

Therefore, if progress is essential to our mental and spiritual growth, how do we make progress? Most of us would say that effort produces progress. For example, how do you expect to pass a test that you never study for? We need to apply effort to produce progress.

But remember—effort alone will not produce progress. We also need direction. We need to know if we are headed in the right direction. Whenever you find yourself feeling frustrated, stressed, and burned out, perhaps you have been pointing your efforts in the wrong

direction. I have found that the best way to point your efforts in the right direction is to discover your "why." When you begin to realize why you are doing what you are doing before you say, 'what am I doing with my life?', then you will remain headed in the right direction.

Prayer: Gracious Father, give us the faith to continue on our spiritual journey, even when it looks as though



we are not making any progress.

Question: Do you know why you make the choices that you make in your life?

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.

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Milennia loment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

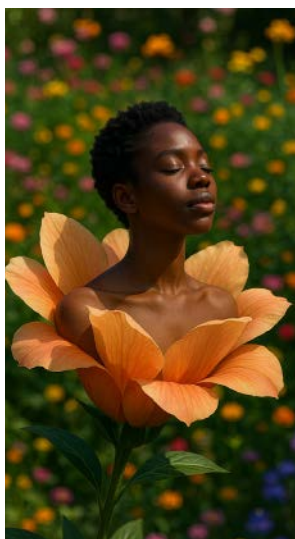
Becoming ...

Is what you're becoming, *becoming*?...

Take a moment to think about this. Every intentional action you take contributes significantly to who you are becoming. Yes, whether it's bad habits or good ones, laziness or discipline, procrastination or action, spontaneity or scheduled behavior—all of these play a role in your growth.

So, what are you going to do with that? How often have you sat down to truly reflect on it? Most people don't; they just go with the flow, accepting whatever outcome comes their way.

Yet, they wonder



why they can never hit their mark. The truth is, success requires strategy and structured behavior. It involves cultivating the habits necessary to become the person you need to be, enabling you to maintain your success.

Assess your life, your perspectives, and your outcomes. If they don't satisfy you, look for someone you admire and mimic their behaviors, even if you think you can't.

Remember: don't just try—do it. That discomfort comes from not being willing to become who you need to be.

Get with the program—God has a big plan for you!

Lace Up! Let's Go!

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; *open* it!

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The Silver-Mettle Leaders Who Make America Work

In recent weeks, America has witnessed a pattern that too often goes unnoticed: the extraordinary value of the *silver-mettle leaders* (SMLs) —those who lead from the middle, behind the scenes, and under the radar.

In October, MSNBC aired a two-hour documentary titled *The Dirty Work*, chronicling the life and leadership of Ambassador Andrew Young.

Behind King's Throne

While history rightfully focuses on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the documentary revealed what many insiders always knew: the civil rights movement did not run on charisma alone. It ran on the operational genius, strategic thinking, and relational wisdom of leaders like Andy Young — the quintessential SML.

Jeffrey Epstein's Whistleblower?

Then, in November, during national coverage of the Jeffrey Epstein case, another SML stepped forward from the shadows—this time on live television.

Lawrence O'Donnell, host of MSNBC's *The Last Word*, opened his November 12th broadcast with an uncharacteristic on-air tribute to his senior producer, Amy Shuster. Why? Because the major breakthrough in the Epstein email release — a congressional subpoena that opened a massive trove of documents — happened because **she** booked the right guest, connected the right dots, and set the right chain of events into motion.



A "Golden" Acknowledgment

O'Donnell made it plain: "I write the words I speak. But everything else... everything else is Amy."

Once again, the spotlight pointed to the middle — not the microphone. And once again, it revealed a truth that 90% of Americans know personally: **organizations work because silver-mettle leaders work.**



They are the planners, producers, assistants, deputies, coordinators, vice presidents, and chiefs-of-staff who "make the trains run on time."

From Andy Young to Amy Shuster, SMLs are the stabilizers and sustainers of progress. Yet they are often under-recognized, under-supported, and under-paid.

Our SML Salute - and Challenge Today

As we face national challenges — civic, cultural, and corporate — it's time we finally salute the leaders who hold our institutions together. The ones who rarely take the podium but always carry the load. The ones whose fingerprints are on every success story, even when their names aren't.

America rises when *silver-mettle leaders* rise.
And today, we salute them.

(Amy Shuster: credit to LinkedIn; Lawrence O'Donnell: credit to www.msnbc.com)



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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

November 21

TARCOG
Caregiver College 2025
Huntsville Marriott
5 Tranquility Base
Huntsville, Ala.
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"Jazzgiving with Friends"

Quarterly at Cavalry
Featuring Alex Banks &
Tommy Friend
Cavalry Hill Community
Center
2900 Fairbanks Street NW
Huntsville, Ala.
5:30-6:30 p.m.

November 22

Thanksgiving Dinner
Hopewell Missionary Bap-
tist Church
292 Cemetery Road
New Market, Ala.
(256) 379-3250
(Dine-in or to go)
11 a.m.

November 28-30

Marcus Wiley
Comedian
Huntsville Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.
huntsville@levitylive.com

December 7

Christmas with C.S. Lewis
Mars Music Hall
Von Braun Center
1 p.m.

December 9

Alabama A&M University
150th Anniversary Closing
Ceremony
Huntsville, Ala.

December 11

"Wheel of Fortune"
Mars Music Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
7:30 p.m.

December 13

Jeff Dunham
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
5 p.m.

January 16-17

Harry Potter and the Pris-
oner of Azkaban

Mark C. Smith Concert
Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

January 25

*Fantasia with Anthony
Hamilton*
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
8 p.m.

January 27-February 1

The Sound of Music
Mark C. Smith Concert
Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

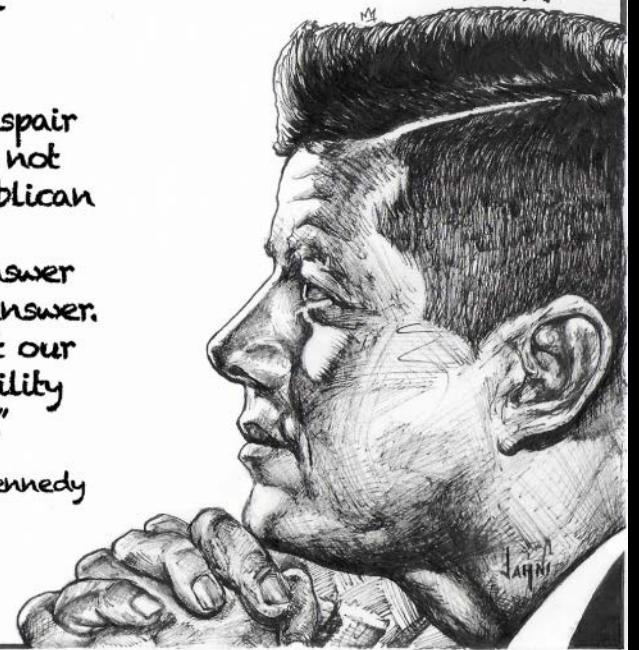
February 1

Harlem Globetrotters
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
3 p.m.

PowerShot

"Let us not despair
but act. Let us not
seek the Republican
answer or the
Democratic answer
but the right answer.
... Let us accept our
own responsibility
for the future."

John. F. Kennedy



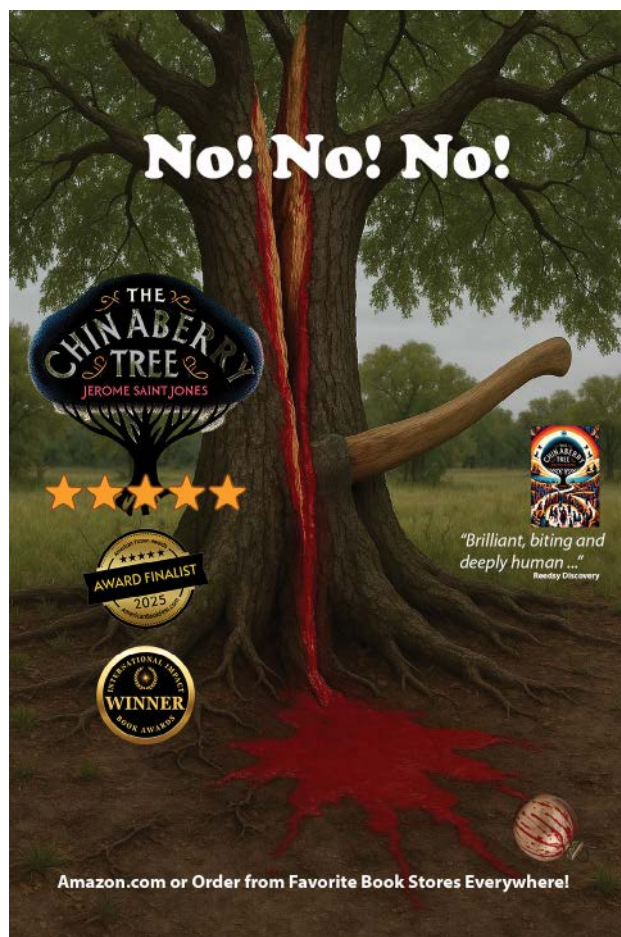
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greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.*

"To live is the rarest thing in the world.
Most people exist, that is all."

— Oscar Wilde



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

Mrs. Brenda Beale

Mrs. Brenda Beale is a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and the daughter of CSM (Ret.) George and Mary Harris. However, she spent most of her early childhood and adolescent years in Germany and various locations throughout the United States. Upon the family's return to state-side, a young Brenda made history when she became the first African American to attend East Gate Junior High School in Dale County, while her dad was stationed at Fort Rucker in Ozark, Alabama.

Her family eventually returned to Tuscaloosa and settled within the town's vibrant black community known fondly as Stillman Hill. Brenda, after much travel around the world, was still afforded the golden opportunity to graduate from the esteemed Druid High School. During her senior year at Druid, Brenda was crowned Miss Black Alabama in 1970 in a contest coordinated by the famed WENN Radio station in Birmingham.

Beale would then attend the historic Alabama A&M University, where she majored in family and consumer sciences. It is also the beloved institution where her loving husband

John W. first wooed her, even though the two lived less than a block away from each other back in Tuscaloosa. On "The Hill," Brenda developed her fiery Bulldog passion.

Brenda is a retired educator who started her career as an enthusiastic instructor at J.O. Johnson High School in Huntsville for three years before joining the educational team at Huntsville Middle School and retiring in 2004. Throughout the decades, she has amassed experience in leadership, communications, relationships, adaptability, teamwork, decision making, planning and problem solving, as well as public relations.

Mrs. Beale is a Diamond Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a member of the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter. Additionally, she has served as advisor to the Delta Delta (AAMU) and Omicron Gamma (University of Alabama in Huntsville) collegiate chapters. Brenda is a member of the Alpha Omega Chapter of Eta Phi Beta Business and Professional Sorority, Inc., as well as an active Kappa Silhouette (past local president, and national and regional parliamentarian) for more



than 45 years, providing continuous support to the organization and the men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Further, Beale has served as president of the Redstone Arsenal Officer and Civilian Women's Club; past board member of Crisis Services of North Alabama; and executive board and life member, Alabama A&M University Bulldog Club. She is also a member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, where she makes a joyful noise as a member of the Women's Choir and Unity Choir.

Brenda and her husband of 52 years, John W. Beale, Jr., have two adult children, Daryl and Latoya, and are the doting grandparents of four.

When Golf Tests the Measure of Character

by Howard Bankhead

These political times are serious — and often shaped by truth or lies. Those of us who take the game of golf seriously are facing a dilemma. The creators of this wonderful game coined the phrase "golf is a gentleman's sport."

I've always understood that to mean players should demonstrate honesty, respect, sportsmanship, and integrity — both on and off the course.

We also know that most people who play golf in America are white, and many tend to lean conservative in their political views. Unfortunately, we've seen some prominent figures in the golf community align themselves with a man who has repeatedly shown dishonesty and poor



character — former and current politicians.

There's an old saying: you can tell a person's character by the way they play golf. If someone cheats or lies on the course, chances are they carry that same behavior into their everyday life.

So here we are — what I

call "nut-cutting time."

This is a moment for every golfer, whether on the PGA Tour, the LIV Tour, or at the local course, to decide where they stand.

Will you stand with honesty, integrity, and the true spirit of the game? Or, will you stand with someone who cheats and lies — not just in golf, but in life?

NOTE: Howard Bankhead is a 2023 African American Golfers Hall of Fame inductee and a 2019 former AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer. In 2018, Mayor Tommy Battle of Huntsville, Alabama, proclaimed September 2 as Howard Bankhead Day. He was also the 2013 recipient of the Alabama State Council on the Arts Fellowship and, in 2012, received the Key to the City of Huntsville from Mayor Battle. In addition to his many achievements, Bankhead is a blog writer for the African American Golfer's Digest.

Huntsville Utilities Warns About Phishing Scams

Huntsville Utilities warns its customers about an increase in a specific type of scam, and how they can easily protect themselves.

This is a phishing scam that utilizes third-party payment services to steal private banking information from customers trying to pay utility bills. When customers search online to pay their utility bill, a number of fraudulent links sometimes emerge from that search that look legitimate. Instead of taking customers to the Huntsville Utilities website or HSVUTIL App, these fraudulent links take unsuspecting victims to payment services promising to pay bills for a small fee.

These sites require entering personal information, such as bank account numbers, debit/credit numbers,

etc. While these services may actually pay utility bills, we are seeing a rising number of cases where customer bank accounts are emptied, or fraudulent charges appear on credit card statements afterwards.

Similarly, scammers are building web pages with URLs similar to Huntsville Utilities' (our web domain is www.hsvutil.org). When customers go to these sites and click the link to pay their bill, they are directed to a third-party service requesting personal information. We're advising customers, when they see this, to STOP and contact Huntsville Utilities.

Remember: the only free, safe, and secure way to pay one's Huntsville Utilities bill online is to use the MY HU link on the homepage at www.hsvutil.org or by using

the HSVUTIL app.

Customers should never give personal banking information to a service that promises to pay their Huntsville Utilities bill. Doing so significantly increases the risk of identity theft and having bank accounts being compromised.

Wednesday (November 19) marked Utility Scam Awareness Day to remind customers how to protect themselves. Huntsville Utilities has produced a public service announcement on how to spot a utility scam, featuring Wes Kelley (President/CEO - Huntsville Utilities), Ray Hardin (General Manager/CEO - Decatur Utilities) and Mary McDuffa (Manager - Florence Utilities). There are 30-second and 15-second versions for both television and radio and are available on request.



"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.

AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN...

What We Can Learn from the Fast-Food Cashier

Pull up to the drive-thru at almost any fast-food restaurant along University Drive, Memorial Parkway or even Jordan Lane, and you'll likely notice something peculiar: the face at the window is almost always different.

You might come at the same time every morning, order the same ice or piping hot coffee, exchange the same greeting — yet the cashier is rarely the same person twice.

It's such a routine part of modern life in the Tennessee Valley and beyond that most people barely notice. But this quiet, constant turnover says something deeper about the overall American economy and its relationship to work.

At its core, the revolving window reflects a



system that treats labor as a disposable resource. Fast food is designed for efficiency, not continuity. The business model depends on cutting costs wherever possible, and that often begins with wages. The typical fast-food worker earns close to the minimum wage, juggles inconsistent hours, and faces limited prospects for advancement.

The result is predictable: as soon as something better comes along — or the exhaustion becomes too heavy — they leave. In many restaurants, the entire staff might be replaced within a single year.

Management, of course, has learned to adapt. Workers are cross-trained to jump from the fryer to the register to the drive-thru with little notice. Scheduling software, not a human manager, now decides who works when and where. This means even the dependable employees who stay are constantly shuffled like cards in a deck. To the customer, it looks like chaos; to the corporation, it looks like optimization.

But beneath the numbers and the algorithms lies a cultural loss — the erosion of familiarity in

everyday encounters. The fast-food window used to be a small site of community: a teenager saving for college, a retiree supplementing income, a friendly face who remembered your usual order. Now it's more often a fleeting transaction between strangers, each just passing through.

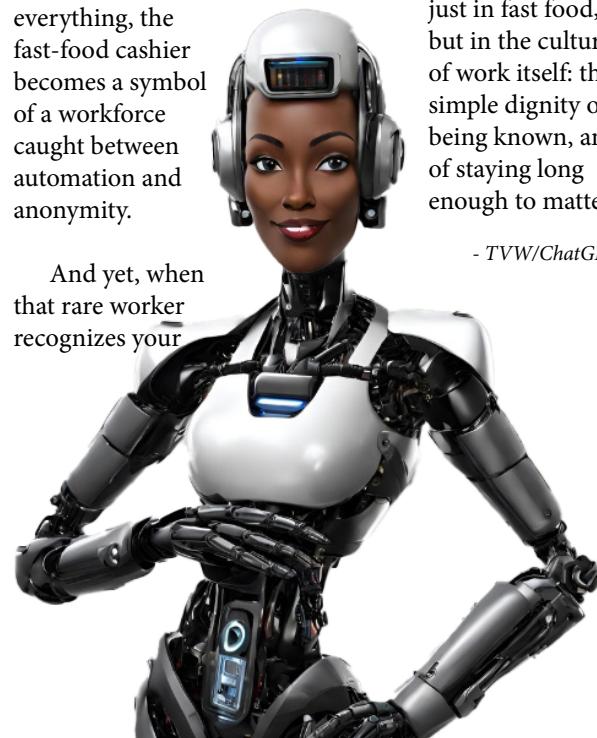
This endless turnover mirrors a larger truth about American labor: the idea that people can be endlessly replaced, that stability and identity at work no longer matter. In an age of gig jobs, self-checkout,

and on-demand everything, the fast-food cashier becomes a symbol of a workforce caught between automation and anonymity.

And yet, when that rare worker recognizes your

voice or hands you your coffee with a genuine smile, it reminds you what's missing — not just in fast food, but in the culture of work itself: the simple dignity of being known, and of staying long enough to matter.

- TVW/ChatGPT



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3rd Women of Worship Conference Lauds ‘Warrior Women’

Daughter of Zion Ministries, Inc. (DZM) presented the 3rd Women of Worship Conference (WOW). This year’s conference theme was “Warrior Women” based on 2 Corinthians 10:4, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

The morning guest speaker was Pastor Jennifer Davis of New Beginnings Christian Church. Her sermon title was “The Fight Is On” based on Exodus 17:8-16. Dr. Toni Savage was the keynote



speaker, focusing on the theme “Warrior Women” from Judges 17:6, 2:16, and 4:4-5.



The conference attendees expressed feelings of unity as they experienced an atmosphere of love and spiritual excellence. The

sisters in the faith left feeling renewed, inspired, empowered, and uplifted.

Daughter of Zion Ministries, Inc., a qualified IRS Section 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was founded by Dr. Toni Savage and is committed to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and making a difference in the community. For more information on the ministry, call DZM at (256) 797-3017.

Special thanks to Pastor Jennifer Davis, Brother Anthony Gibson, Sister Angela Henderson, Sister

Jackgueline Jefferson, Brother Brandon Pair, Pastor Katrina Smith, Sister Nikki Strickland, and *The Valley Weekly*.

The program’s devoted



volunteers included the following:

Stewardess Bertha Anderson

Deacon Razak Arunaogun
Sister Phyllis Barrett
Pastor Mark Burroughs

Pastor Ramona Burroughs
Minister Marie Corbett
Mother Betty Craighead
Sister Sherri

Drake
Minister Linda Earle
Minister Sonya Epps
Sister Brooke Erskine
Elder Dorothy Garrison

Sister Sandra Garrison
Sister Sheryl Garrison
Sister Cynthia Hatchett
Sister Agnes Holley-Smith
Sister Janice King
Sister Gayle Montgomery
Minister Vonda Morrisette
Sister Wanda Nall
Minister Nettie Pruitt
Sister Donna Robinson
Minister Leo Robinson
Sister Adrienne Savage
Minister Julian Savage
Minister Robert Scott
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Sister Elizabeth Weaver
Sister Kiana Wilson


- Daughter of Zion Ministries, Inc.



Huntsville Happenings

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Huntsville Opens New Crime Scene & Evidence Complex

The Huntsville Police Department (HPD) opened its new Crime Scene and Evidence Warehouse Complex at a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking a major milestone in the City's ongoing commitment to public safety and innovation.

The \$9.6 million facility at 616 Wheeler Ave. NW brings HPD's Crime Scene Investigators and Digital Forensics teams under one roof. The complex includes a 14,000-square-foot main building with labs and processing areas, and a 13,500-square-foot climate-controlled ware-

house for evidence and vehicle storage.

"This project has been years in the making, and it marks a major step forward in how we serve and protect our City," said HPD Chief Kirk Giles. "This complex is more than just a building – it's a game-changer for how we investigate and solve crimes."

Mayor Tommy Battle said the investment underscores Huntsville's commitment to innovation and community trust.

"Public safety is the foundation of a thriving City,"

said Mayor Battle. "This new complex strengthens that foundation by giving our police department the space and technology to meet that challenge and continue delivering the highest standard of public service."

HPD personnel will begin moving equipment and operations into the new building, preparing to fully utilize the facility to enhance investigative capabilities, streamline operations and maintain the highest standards of evidence integrity.

- *Huntsvilleal.gov*

A&M Club Expands Huntsville's 'Urban Forest'

Members of the Alabama A&M University Environmental Science Club helped make a lasting impact on the Rocket City's landscape during Mayor Tommy Battle's Annual Tree Planting Day. The event, held at Brahan Spring Park in Huntsville, Alabama, brought together hundreds of volunteers from civic groups, student organizations and local families to plant trees and strengthen Huntsville's growing urban forest.

The AAMU students joined a coalition of community partners, including members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. – Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Gamma Mu Chapter and Omicron Zeta Chapter – as well as participants in the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter and the 2025 Debutantes of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, who attended with their fathers. Their collective effort reflected the spirit of collaboration that defines both Alabama A&M and the City of Huntsville's approach to sustainability.

On Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to noon, volunteers of all ages rolled up their sleeves to plant 350 trees throughout Brahan Spring Park. The

city's Green Team provided guidance, gloves and tools, ensuring that each tree was properly placed and cared for. In addition to the park plantings, the city distributed 500 free tree seedlings to



residents eager to contribute to Huntsville's growing canopy at home.

The trees planted – including oaks, maples, bald cypress, river birch, yellow poplar, southern magnolia, redbud, dogwood and elm – represent a carefully selected mix of native and ornamental species. Each plays a vital role in supporting local ecosystems, improving air quality and reducing heat island effects in the city's urban areas.

The event also served as an opportunity for students to apply classroom lessons in a hands-on environment. Members of the Environmental Science Club, representing majors from environmental science and management to urban and regional planning and

political science, worked side by side with community volunteers, discussing the long-term environmental benefits of tree planting and conservation.

Elijah Nall, an environmental science major from Birmingham, Alabama, said the experience was both rewarding and eye-opening. "It's amazing to see so many people come together to do something good for the environment," he said. "Planting these trees

reminded me that small actions can make a lasting impact on our city."

For AAMU students, the event was not only about planting trees – it was about planting roots in their community. Many viewed the day as a meaningful expression of the University's land-grant mission to serve Alabama through research, teaching and public engagement.

Cristin Williams, an environmental science and environmental management major from Harvest, Alabama, added, "Events like this show how connected we all are to the community. Knowing that the trees we planted will grow and benefit future generations makes it all worthwhile."

- *Courtesy of AAMU MPR*

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Sparkman's Khloe Bradley Commits to Alabama A&M

Sparkman High School's Khloe Bradley has recently committed to a local historically Black college, continuing a family tradition.

The Sparkman standout has officially committed to continue her basketball career at Alabama A&M University, proudly carrying on a powerful family legacy rooted in Bulldog tradition, faith, and excellence.

At just 16 years old, the senior guard has already made a name for herself through her leadership, determination, and dedication on and off the court. Her commitment to Alabama A&M represents more than just an athletic decision — it's a continuation of a deep family heritage that spans generations.

Both of Khloe's parents, Dan and Hope Bradley, are proud alumni



of Alabama A&M. Her mother, a former women's basketball player, earned her degree in computer science there, while her father received his engineering degree from the university. The Bulldog legacy runs even deeper, with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins--all

having attended the historic HBCU.

In a heartfelt social media post, Khloe's mother shared her joy and pride in her daughter's decision:

"There's a special kind of joy in seeing your daughter choose to continue her basketball journey at an HBCU —

especially one as rich in history and culture as my Alabama A&M University. Her decision to carry on her legacy at AAMU means so much more than just choosing a university — this journey is deeply rooted in faith, heritage, and excellence. To see her walk boldly in the footsteps of those who paved the way before her is a blessing beyond words. Here's to continuing the legacy and building new traditions of her own."

Khloe now joins a program that not only values



athletic skill but also embraces the importance of education, culture, and family. Her journey embodies the spirit of Black excellence and the generational pride that defines Alabama A&M

University.

As Khloe prepares to write her own chapter in the family's AAMU story, one thing is certain — the legacy continues, and it's shining brighter than ever.

Tuskegee Sues AVMA

Tuskegee University, the only historically black veterinary school in the US, filed a federal lawsuit and an emergency motion attempting to block the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) from proceeding with a hearing to determine whether Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) will be stripped of its accreditation, according to DVM360.com.

A complaint and a time-sensitive motion for preliminary injunction were both filed, accusing the

AVMA and its Council on Education (COE) of violating due-process requirements and failing to follow their rules during an ongoing accreditation review. According to the filings, if Tuskegee were to lose its accreditation, it would jeopardize the university's ability to operate the program, cause long-term reputational harm, and eliminate access to federal student-aid funding.

"Tuskegee University respectfully requests that the court enjoin the AVMA from conducting an appeal hearing under procedures

that deny Tuskegee a fair opportunity to present evidence and witnesses," according to the motion.

Within the lawsuit, Tuskegee argues that the AVMA did not apply its standards consistently and conducted its review in a manner that did not follow the association's established procedures, thereby violating Tuskegee's right to a fair process. Through its emergency motion, Tuskegee provided 4 primary violations of procedural fairness in the AVMA's handling of the university's appeal, reported DVM360.





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