

The Valley Weekly

"Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence."

- Carl Sagan

FREE

Washington in a Minute - Page 9

Volume 4, No. 19

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, January 19, 2018

Locals Attend Bicentennial Concert

The University of Alabama at Birmingham was host to a concert featuring the Blind Boys of Alabama on Sunday, January 14.

Organized as part of Alabama Bicentennial Celebration, AAMU graduate Dr. Henry

Panion, who is a member of the State's Bicentennial Commission and Professor of Music at UAB, conducted the orchestra and directed a combined choir of almost 300 students from Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Miles College, Stillman

College, Birmingham Southern College, Talladega College, Tuskegee University and UAB.

The Blind Boys have been performing for almost 74 years all over the world and maintain a schedule of over 200 concerts annually.



Huston, Birmingham Mayor
Randall Woodfin



Congresswoman Terri
Sewell



Huntsvillian's Darryl and Lannie Sharp, Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Booker and granddaughter with Bill Huston



Dr. Henry Panion
(c) with Darryl
Sharp and Bill
Huston

City-Wide King Events Honors Legends

The Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Education Foundation presented Unity Awards to John Stallworth and Julian Butler.

Stallworth, a retired businessman and former Pittsburgh Steeler, was not able to attend; however, Atty. Julian Butler received the honor at the Von Braun Center's North Hall on Monday, January 15, during the Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast.

Both Stallworth and Butler were honored for their commitment to unity in Huntsville.

Later in the evening, 92-year-old Rosetta James was honored during a festive event sponsored by the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship for her equality and justice work in the local community.

The annual Emancipation Proclamation Service was held at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church, where Dr. Wayne Snodgrass is Pastor. Dr. Mitchell Walker is president of GHIMF. Rev. Tellis J. Chatman, pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church of Detroit, Mich., was guest speaker.



Butler



Stallworth



James



King

The Valley Weekly
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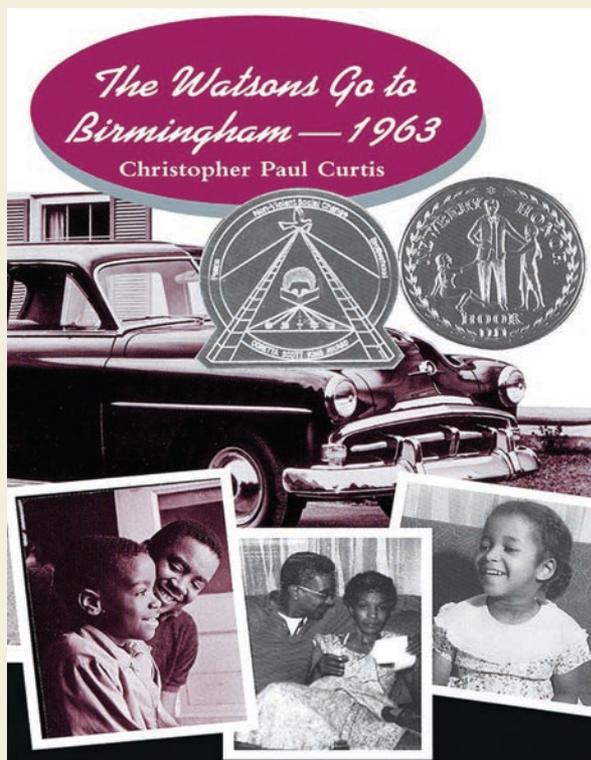
'Watsons Go to Birmingham' Coming to Valley

Fantasy Playhouse will present the much-acclaimed "The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963" for 10 showings scheduled during Black History Month (Feb. 16-25) in the VBC Playhouse.

Meet the Watsons of Flint, Michigan: Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, big brother Byron and 10-year-old Kenny.

When Byron can't seem to stay out of trouble, the family piles into the "Brown Bomber" and drives south to visit no-nonsense Grandma Sands and toward a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights movement and Alabama history.

Based on the novel that won the Newbery and Coretta Scott King Honor Book awards and told with humor from



a child's perspective, this play celebrates the power and love of family, even in the midst of hate and tragedy.

Adapted by Reginald André Jackson from the book by Christopher Paul Curtis (above).

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Psalm 1:1 says: *Blessed (happy) is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.*

Question: Do you want to be happy in 2018? You know, in the 1920's an author by the name of William Lyon Phelps published a book entitled "Happiness." In this book, he talks about people who wished to either become happy or



remain happy.

Now, the writer of Psalm 1 does not attempt to define happiness; he illustrates it. He shows us that happiness is not in our circumstances; it is in ourselves. In other words, it's not what's going on around us; it's what's going on

inside of us. And, more importantly, it is the condition of our spiritual health and the degree of intimacy with God.

I've seen many older people look physically un-healthy, but spiritually in great shape. And, it was because of this spiritual intimacy with God that made them extremely happy.

So, if we want to be happy in 2018, we need to develop a more spiritual intimacy with God.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship
The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Emancipation Proclamation Service

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church

Monday, January 15, 2018

Guest Speaker: Rev. Tellis J. Chatman, Detroit, Mich.

GHIMF Honoree: Mrs. Rosetta James



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The Valley Weekly

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Scenes from the Delta Theta Lambda Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast

Monday, January 15, 2018 - Von Braun Center - Huntsville, Ala.

Photos and Story by Reggie D. Allen

At 24, Chef Jeff Henderson was blessed with an indictment.

While many might recognize the 54-year-old from his syndicated television show "Flip My Food with Chef Jeff", where he turns, or, "flips" traditionally unhealthy dishes into savory low-calorie delights, most don't know that his past is far from squeaky clean.

In his keynote address at the 33rd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast, the celebrity chef spoke about how a stint in prison put him on the straight and narrow and launched his culinary career. Initially making upwards of \$35,000 a week, Henderson excelled as one of the top drug dealers in Los Angeles. However, his life turned upside down when he was linked to a large quantity of cocaine, which resulted in a ten-year jail sentence.

"...And during this moment, I had an epiphany," Henderson said. "I never saw the coming of the Lord. I definitely never been to the mountain top. But God spoke something into me."

Earning his prison GED, the chef used his time behind bars to educate himself, finding solace in the works of Frederick Douglas and Dr. Carter G. Woodson and watching a bevy of news programs, such as "60 Minutes".

A natural hustler, the "Flip My Food" star went on to explain how landing dish duty quickly turned into a bountiful catering business. Utilizing commissary ramen seasoning packets and Dorito crumbs, Henderson transformed bland canned goods into flavorful masterpieces.

"What others saw as punishment, I saw an opportunity," Henderson said. "As a natural entrepreneur on the streets, we call ourselves hustlers. Anybody in business, anybody that works in the corporate world is a hustler. The word hustler just got a bad rap over the years."

Recalling his upbringing, Henderson urged the crowd to reconsider the American Dream, stating that even his early intentions were good. In a small anecdote, the Las Vegas chef remembers his grandfather, who used to clean local laundry mats, and how he would steal the quarters from the machines. Though it was a small, harmless crime, Henderson said it was one of his first recollections of theft.

"None of us were born criminals," Henderson said. "None of us were born prostitutes and killers and gangbangers and jackers and robbers. The birth of our criminal came through an experience."

Henderson ended his speech with a challenge: educate the incarcerated.

Initially directing his challenge toward the members of Alpha Phi Alpha, the former Food Network star urged that at least five people take the time to outreach to those that are behind bars. He then extended the same challenge to the women, stating "many of those women gave birth to little boys and little girls who are in the community right now, without guidance from the mother or the father."

This year's MLK Unity Award recipients were Julian D. Butler of Sirote and Permutt and former NFL Hall of Former John Stallworth. Due to prior commitments in Pennsylvania, Stallworth was unable to attend and Kim Lewis, the CEO of ProjectXYZ, accepted the award on his behalf.

The Unity breakfast also honored the late Commissioner Robert "Bob" Harrison, who passed last October after succumbing to a battle with cancer. Harrison's wife, Izora, was present to receive a plaque in memoriam to the well-respected life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



Huntsville Happenings: Valley Site of New Joint Toyota-Mazda Plant



by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

The TVA-certified megasite in Huntsville-Limestone County will be the future home for a new automotive manufacturing plant as part of a coveted \$1.6 billion investment between Toyota Motor Corporation and Mazda Motor Corporation.

Toyota and Mazda ended a five-month national competition over their site selection for the joint venture at a news conference last week in Montgomery. Toyota President Akio Toyoda and Mazda President and CEO Masamichi Kogai joined Governor

Kay Ivey, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Limestone County Commission Chair Mark Yarbrough in announcing plans for this monumental project.

The two companies will build their automotive manufacturing facility on 2,400 acres in the western portion of Huntsville, near I-565 and I-65. The plant will have the capacity to produce 300,000 cars annually and employ about 4,000 workers. Production will be evenly split into two lines for each company to produce Mazda's crossover model and the Toyota

Corolla. Operations are expected to begin in 2021.

"With this announcement, our world changes overnight," said Mayor Battle. "Toyota and Mazda, two of the world's most innovative automakers, have created a legacy project that will provide jobs for decades to come for Huntsville and Alabama. It vaults Alabama to the top as an industry leader in producing the next generation of cars that will power our nation."

For Toyota, this joint-venture plant will be its 11th U.S. manufacturing facility, which includes the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama engine operation in North Huntsville.

"Our investment to establish a new vehicle assembly plant with Mazda builds on the very success we have enjoyed in Alabama where we produce engines for the North American market," Toyoda said. "Starting from 2021, I'm confident that we

run a highly competitive plant, by bringing together the expertise of Toyota and Mazda as well as the excellent Alabama workforce..."

For Mazda, the facility comes on line in a significant year that will mark the start of the company's second century of operation and second half-century of sales in the U.S.

"Mazda makes cars with a clear vision of how we want to inspire people, contribute to society and help preserve the beauty of the earth," Kogai said. "By making such cars here in Alabama, we hope that over time our plant will come to occupy a special place in the hearts of our employees and the local community. By making this plant a vibrant part of that community, we hope to work, learn and grow together with the people of Alabama and Huntsville."

When Toyota and Mazda first announced their alliance in August 2017,

the company cited the agreement as a milestone in the journey to further strengthen and accelerate the partnership in a sustainable way.

Specifically, the companies agreed to: 1) establish a joint venture that produces vehicles in the United States, 2) jointly develop technologies for electric vehicles, 3) jointly develop connected-car technology, 4) collaborate on advanced safety technologies and 5) expand complementary products.

The decision between two major competitors to bring their remarkable alliance to Huntsville isn't a surprise to a city that prides itself on "making things go."

"Huntsville made its mark on innovation and technology, and when you look at the Toyota-Mazda vision, it matches our community," said Mayor Battle. "They are looking 10, 20, 40 years ahead in future mobility - into hydrogen

cells, electric vehicles and autonomous driving vehicles. With Toyota-Mazda developing this expertise in our Rocket City, it makes us one of the most highly technical areas in the world."

Recruiters say Huntsville hit all of the right checkboxes for an industry of this magnitude - strong workforce, excellent education, good infrastructure and high quality of life. Huntsville leaders also point to the shovel-ready TVA megasite as another enticement for a regional workforce production megaproject.

"Many factors are involved in a decision of this magnitude, and it starts with workforce. You can have the best project site, but if you don't have the workforce, you don't have anything. Fortunately for Huntsville, we have it all," said Shane Davis, Urban Development Director for the City of Huntsville.

"Shift" Conference Will Push Self-Transformation

Sometimes, the only thing standing in the way of total self-transformation is a little guidance. A conference set for mid-February is designed to direct individuals to the help they need for both healing and growth.

The power of good information rang true one day when Dr. Patricia Haley happened upon a woman stricken with



breast cancer. The woman's talent was her livelihood, so severe illness meant that she was unable to support herself.

"The woman lost everything," recalled Haley, a native of Jacksonville, Fla., who admits that she, too,

experienced many problems in her own life.

Haley said she told the woman about services offered through United Way and her to contact the offices for assistance. Haley then began to wonder whether there were others out there who were in desperate need of help but had no idea about where to find it.

Through Patricia Haley Foundation, Haley is sponsoring a city-wide conference, "The Shift: From Broken to Healed," on Monday,

February 19, in the Clyde Foster Auditorium on the Alabama A&M University campus from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The conference will feature health screenings and representatives from various non-profit and community organizations. At 6 p.m., a banquet will be held at the DesignLab on Meridian Street (former Lincoln Mill area), with inspiration from Pastor Carlton Byrd of Oakwood University Church and the Gospel Choir.

People need to know

that there are resources out there to help them with those things that are breaking them, notes Haley. There are programs to assist with medical, housing and several other issues.

Patricia Haley Ministries is a two-year-old 501c charity that works with cancer patients, offering encouragement and assisting with the provision of needed medicine. While she has been a resident of Huntsville for some 26 years, she has been active in ministry for 15 years.

Her devotion to her organization stems from the severe troubles and mental anguish she witnessed her mother experience as a result of a tumultuous childhood.

Haley believes that guidance and proper information can have a life-changing impact on individuals.

For more information about the conference and the organization, visit www.PatriciaHaleyMinistry.org or call (256) 683-7287.

- J. Saintjones

Why Boomers Should Go Nuts

(BPT) For the roughly 75 million Americans in the baby boom generation, a healthy diet and lifestyle are the best weapons against age-related diseases.

Dr. Mike Roussell, a nutrition consultant, says nuts, like pistachios, fight the onset of disease in 10 ways.

1. Heart health: People who eat nuts have a lower risk of heart attack.

2. Anti-inflammatory: Excessive inflammation causes several age-related conditions.

3. Weight loss: Pistachios promote weight maintenance.

4. Digestion: Fiber in nuts

helps with digestion.

5. Blood glucose level: Nuts are a diabetes superfood.

6. Skin health and appearance: Pistachios contain antioxidants that work to protect from damaging UV light.

7. Eyesight: Pistachios contain lutein, a nutrient that helps improve eye health.

8. Memory: Fatty acids and antioxidants in nuts can help support brain health.

9. Sleep: Nuts are rich in minerals like magnesium that may aid sleep.

10. Energy: Pistachios have been shown to promote energy.

Website Notes Haitian Tuskegee Airmen

According to the website Kreyolicious.com, Haitians were recruited by the United States to fight in World War II,

The first three (Raymond Cassagnol, Alix Pasquet and Philippe Celestin) left Port-au-Prince for Tuskegee in 1943, forced to ride in segregated transportation only on American soil.

-Kreyolicious.com

FIT Huntsville: Still Strong after 40 Years

Serving the Redstone Arsenal since 1976 and graduating over 3,000 students, Florida Tech is ready to help Valley residents achieve the next career level with its two locations in the Huntsville area. Whether on Redstone Arsenal (located in Toftoy Hall, 3495 Patton Road) or conveniently located across from Bridge Street Town Center in Progress Center (6767 Old Madison Pike, Building 7 Suite 720), FIT Huntsville offers specialized master's degrees to military personnel, civilians and contractors on- and off-base.

Degree programs offered by the Tier 1 institution include a Doctor of Business Administration

(DBA), as well as 20 specialized Master of Science degrees in acquisition and contract management, computer information systems, engineering management, human resources management, logistics management, operations management, project management and systems management. FIT Huntsville also offers an MBA degree.

The majority of the students enrolled in graduate programs are people who work on Redstone Arsenal or at one of the many government defense or aerospace firms in the local area. Students come from diverse backgrounds, including active or retired military, or military reserve



personnel. About one quarter of the students are DOD civilians, and some are not directly affiliated with either the defense or aerospace communities.

For more information, visit <http://web2.fit.edu/huntsville/>, call (256) 971-9353 or contact Harry L. Hobbbs, DBA, Site Director, FIT Huntsville, at hobbsh@fit.edu.

AAMU Starts Student Career Closet

AAMU's Career Development Services has established a 'career closet' to help students dress for success.

Donations (tax deductible) ensure employers do not disregard students for lack of professional attire. Moreover, the career closet accepts new and gently worn professional garments and is requesting the following:

Women's Apparel:

- Business Suits
- Separates: Skirts, Blazers, Dresses, and Slacks
- Tops: Dress Blouses and Button Up Shirts
- Shoes and Accessories: Pumps (1-3" heels), Belts, Jewelry, Hosiery (new)

Men's Apparel:

- Business Suits
- Separates: Suit Jackets and Dress Pants
- Tops: Long Sleeve Dress Shirts

- Shoes and Accessories: Dress Shoes, Ties, Belts, and Dress/Trouser Socks

CDS hopes to officially open the expanded Career Closet on February 12, 2018. Please direct in-person and mailed donations to: Alabama A&M University, Career Development Services Center, 101 Patton Building, Normal, AL 35762. Call (256) 372-5690 for details.



January 19 - JOHN H. JOHNSON - The late publisher of "Ebony Magazine" and "Jet" was born in Arkansas City, Ark. Johnson was the first African American to appear on the Forbes 400 Richest List.
- BlackinTime.info

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Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MRS. DORIS C. BYRD (b. 1958) was held Sunday, January 14, at Acklin Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with the Reverend Adolphus Elliott as eulogist.

Funeral service for MRS. SAMANTHA R. WATKINS (b. 1973) was Thursday, January 11, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MRS. GENOA B. HAYGOOD (b. 1947) was held Wednesday, January 3, at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses (2820 Winchester Road NW).

Funeral service for MR. JEFF HUMPHREY (b. 1939) was held Thursday, January 4, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church (292 Cemetery Rd, New Market, AL 35761) with Reverend Cornelious Adams officiating.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MRS. GLORIA TOWNSEND (b. 1942) was held Saturday, January 13, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Henry Brown officiating and Pastor Adolphus Elliott as eulogist.

Funeral service for MR. GEORGE W. MOORE (b. 1941) was held Saturday, January 13, at the Little Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church with Dr. Jerry L. Crutcher officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. IRENE BRAZELTON WATKINS was held Saturday, January 13, at the Acklin Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with Pastor Joe Kelley officiating.

Funeral service for MR. GARY LATORY HAYES (b. 1993) was held Friday, January 12, at the St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church with Rev. Maurice Wright, II officiating.

Funeral service for MR. GEORGE WARNER FLETCHER was held Friday, January 12, at the Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Damon T. Betts officiating.

Funeral service for MR. GREGORY SUGGS was held Friday, January 12, at the Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ in Christ with Dr. Reginald L. Roberts officiating.

NSBE Announces Awards

The North Alabama Professionals Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NAL NSBE Professionals) is hosting its 25th Annual Scholarship Banquet on Thursday, March 8.

Applications can also be downloaded from the website at <http://www.nsbeprofessionals.com>.

Space Camp (6th to 8th grade) - The scholarship covers a week-long program at the US Space Camp/Academy, including meals, educational materials, housing accommodations, and paraphernalia.

Briggs Scholarship (12th grade) - This chapter of NSBE Professionals encourages and advises youth in their pursuit of careers in engineering and the applied sciences.

High School STEM Essay (9th to 12th grade) - This contest is a time-honored tradition of the NAL NSBE Professionals, which gives an opportunity to advance the importance of the writ-

ten word. The contest has dual purposes - to motivate today's youth toward journalistic development and to increase awareness and the value of technology-related service to your community.

Creative Minds Poster Contest (5th grade) - NAL NSBE Professionals is providing the opportunity for young students to participate in a poster contest where the winners will receive a "Summer Science Fun Pack".

Two-Year Junior College/Community College (12th grade) - The North Alabama Professionals Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NAL NSBE Professionals) invites high school seniors to participate in our 2017-2018 Jr. College/ Community College / Trade School Scholarship.

Contact Melissa Jackson at (256) 468-8867; Dr. Ebonee Walker, (256) 924-2504; or nsbenorthalabama@gmail.com.

Extension Sets VIP Open House

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit will hold an open house for Volunteer in Urban Programs (VIP) Thursday, January 25, 12-2 p.m. in the Dawson Building on the campus of Alabama A&M University.

The VIP Open House will enable AAMU faculty, students, staff and other guests to learn more about Urban Extension volunteer programming efforts.

"It will be a great opportunity for students and other visitors to sign up as a volunteer and to learn how they can make a difference by giving back to their communities," stated Youth

Development and Volunteerism Specialist Kimberly Neloms.

VIP was designed to recruit, enroll and train volunteers to help with the implementation of Urban Extension programs and other initiatives across the state. The VIP Open House is part of a grant-funded initiative by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

For more, contact VIP Project Assistant Shanetria Brown at (256) 372-4942 or skb0050@aces.edu or Kimberly Neloms at (256) 372-4585 or burgeki@aces.edu.

Called 2 Preach

by Pastor/Founder Michael D. Rice
Grace Gethsemane Mission Church

Are We Blessing?

The Psalmist declares that the blessed person is the one who MEDITATES on God's word consistently. In other words, he or she chews slowly so that they can INGEST and DIGEST. Eating too fast can cause INDIGESTION, and when that happens with the word of God, people end up BURPING out moral platitudes and prejudices rather than BLESSING. When the goal of reading is only having head KNOWLEDGE of the word, used to be judgmental, one ends up BURPING in the faces of others with words that tear down rather than BLESSING them with words that build up. In the current climate in our nation, it is the opinion of this writer that there is too much BURPING going on and, unfortunately, it's coming from many of those who claim to love "God and country." While there is a plethora of opinions being spoken, the word of God, read properly, gives us a distinguishing demarcation that sepa-



rates the righteous from the unrighteous. After the conduct and convictions of the righteous are laid out in clear and clarifying words in Psalm 1, the line of demarcation declares, "the ungodly are NOT SO. This should let those who claim moral superiority know that regardless of their own opinion of themselves, God has only one standard of righteousness and this righteousness shows in caring conduct not caustic condemnation. "For the LORD knows the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly SHALL perish." Are we burping or blessing?

HPAC Plans for Summer Leadership Awards Banquet

The Seventeenth Annual Leadership Awards Banquet will be held Saturday, June 2, 2018, on the campus of Alabama A&M University in the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center.

The nomination forms are required for each category, and AAMU

alumni are urged to submit nominations by Monday, February 5, 2018, to HPAC Leadership Awards Banquet Chairpersons via e-mail to Marvin Williams at marvwill49@gmail.com or to Vanessa Williams at vanaka1956@gmail.com.

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House of Hope and Restoration

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James Smith - AllState Insurance

Lakeside United Methodist Church

Lucky's Supermarket

Marshall England - State Farm Agent

Martinson & Beason, PC

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

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The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

Thru February 26
 "De-Stress Chair Yoga"
 Holmes Street
 United Methodist Church
 5:30 p.m.

January 19
 The 11th Annual Evening of
 Dance
 Merrimack Hall Performing
 Arts Center

January 26
 "Tallulah, Darling: The Life
 and Times of Huntsville's
 Wicked Star"
 Huntsville/Madison County
 Main Public Library
 2 p.m. (Free)

January 31-February 2
 (January 31 Event)
 4th Black Male Summit
 "Reclaiming Our Black Males"
 Clyde Foster Auditorium
 Alabama A&M University
 6 p.m.

February 9-11
 Mike Epps
 Stand Up Live Huntsville

February 15
 Black History Month Buffet
 Luncheon

Sponsored by UAH Office of
 Diversity and Multicultural
 Affairs
 301 Shelby Center/UAH
 11 a.m.

Tickets \$12 | Available at UAH
 Student Services Building
 Room 218 | Limited seating
 Call (256) 824-2332

February 16
 Epsilon Gamma Omega
 Chapter of Alpha Kappa
 Alpha Sorority's
 Debutante Presentation and
 Ball
 Von Braun Center

March 8
 National Society of Black
 Engineers
 25th Scholarship Awards
 Holiday Inn Madison Square

March 17
 Spelman College Glee Club in
 Concert
 Sponsored by the National
 Alumnae Association of
 Spelman College Huntsville
 Chapter
 Academy for Academic and
 Arts | 5pm
 More info at <http://www.huntsvillenaasc.org>



DLC Accepting Applications

Applications are being accepted for Cohort IX of the Diveristy Leadership Colloquium until February 27.

Classes will begin March 6 and end April 24, running 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Graduation will be held on May 1.

Applications are available online at www.diverstyleadershipcolloquium.com. Questions should be emailed to Mrs. Georgia Valrie at gvalrie1971@gmail.com or call (256) 656-4698.

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The 12th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration

2018



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Save the Date!

Saturday, March 10, 2018

The Jackson Center

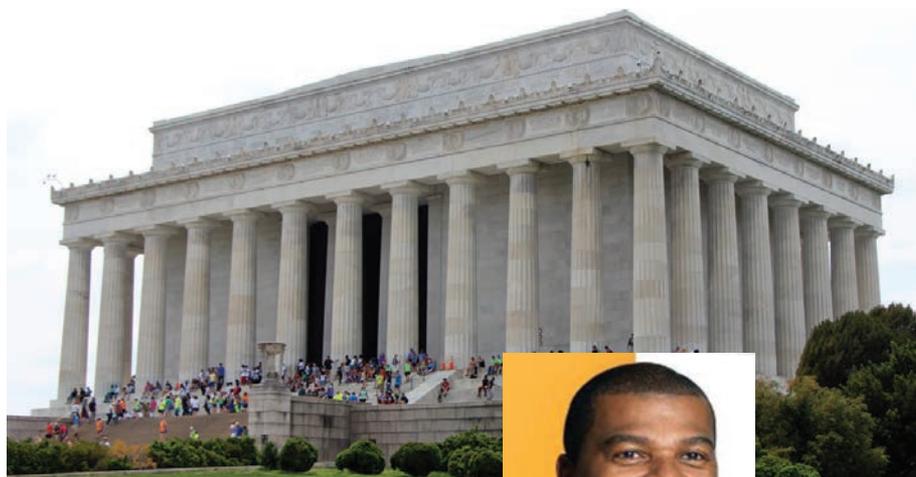
(Cummings Research Park) - Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.

5 p.m.

Tickets: \$50/Each

For additional information, call
Linda Burruss at (256) 536-9717

Washington in a Minute



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

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. In a nod to the 45th annual March for Life taking place in Washington on Friday, the House took up a bill this week that places criminal penalties on doctors that fail to provide proper care to infants born after a failed abortion. The House also added to the list of Dodd-Frank Act regulations it would like to eliminate in taking up a bill to exempt smaller banks and credit unions from a new rule requiring them to disclose their mortgage lending practices. The Senate debated a bill to reauthorize section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that allows the federal government to collect and analyze the electronic communications of foreigners located outside the U.S., which

passed the House last week. The big item to watch in Congress this week is Friday's deadline to pass an omnibus FY2018 appropriations bill to keep the federal government open. As part of the bill, a GOP proposal under discussion would raise the defense spending cap by \$72 billion in FY2018 and \$80 billion in FY2019, while increasing the domestic spending cap by \$45 billion in 2018 and \$50 billion in 2019. Congressional Democrats are demanding that a fix for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program be part of any deal, while the Trump Administration wants \$2.7 billion added for border security, including \$1.6 billion request for planning and construction of the Mexican border wall. On Tuesday, House Republicans met to determine if there were



votes to pass another short-term

extension to keep the government open through Feb. 16.

2. So-called DREAMers brought illegally into the U.S. as children are getting another shot to renew the quasi-legal status and work permits they've enjoyed since 2012 — at least for now. The Trump administration announced over the holiday weekend that it is complying with a federal court order to keep the program running. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services says the renewal process for recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status will resume, effective immediately, despite the administration's announcement in September that it was winding down the Obama-era initiative.

3. President Trump

spent the 3-day Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, where he was briefed on the false ballistic missile launch warning sent by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency that caused widespread panic in Hawaii for 38 minutes on Saturday. He had dinner with House Majority Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) on Sunday. The President confirmed last Thursday that

he canceled a planned trip to London in February to meet with British Prime Minister Theresa May and to cut the ribbon on the new \$1.2 billion U.S. Embassy, saying he did not support the embassy relocation project. On Wednesday, the President gave "awards" to the most corrupt and biased journalists in the mainstream news media, while The Washington Post reported that Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) was set to give a speech on the Senate floor the same day criticizing the President on his treatment of the press. On Thursday, President Trump travelled to suburban Pittsburgh to support PA state representative Rick Saccone's bid to replace ex-Rep. Tim Murphy, who resigned amid allegations that he asked his mistress to get an abortion. Saccone faces Democrat

Marine Corps veteran Conor Lamb in a special election on March 13 in a district won by President Trump by 20 points. On Friday, Vice President Pence will depart for his rescheduled trip to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel.

4. In an unusual action Tuesday, White House physician Dr. Ronny Jackson answered questions at the daily afternoon press briefing about President Trump's physical exam. Dr. Jackson announced on Friday that the President is in "excellent health" following his first physical exam as commander in chief.

5. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House Rules Committee convened a 2-day hearing on whether to reinstate the congressionally-directed project designations known as "earmarks." Earmarks were officially banned in 2011, but many Members of Congress, led by Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL), have been in favor of allowing members to sponsor project earmarks in limited circumstances — such as for projects under the purview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

6. On Wednesday, the Senate Banking Committee voted on the nomination of Jerome Powell to be the new Chair of the Federal Reserve.

7. Last Friday, Kentucky became the first

state to receive federal approval for a requirement that people work in order to receive Medicaid under new guidance published last week by the Trump Administration. Under Kentucky's new rule, adults age 19 to 64 must complete 80 hours of "community engagement" per month to keep their Medicaid-provided healthcare, which includes working a job, going to school, taking a job-training course or volunteering.

8. Last Thursday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced that the Treasury Department will create an online calculator next month for taxpayers to use to insure that the amount of federal tax withheld from their paychecks is accurate. Treasury expects employers to update their pay systems by Feb. 15 to reflect new withholding tables based on the December-enacted tax law, but Secretary Mnuchin said that the new tables are based on outdated W-4 forms, so that it will fall to employees to check the online calculator to tell their employers to make corrections to ensure that employees are not substantially underpaying or overpaying their federal taxes.

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Space Center Holds Mad Scientist Event



The U.S. Space & Rocket Center Education Foundation's Saturn Circle will proudly present the "Mad Scientist Bash" on Saturday, January 20, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The Mad Scientist Bash is where geek is chic! This scientific nerdfest will include live music, themed cuisine and laboratory-inspired libations, and will sure to be "Mad Fun".

The Mad Scientist Bash will benefit STEM-based children's programs, scholarships for Space Camp and the newly-created U.S. Cyber Camp and children's exhibits at the USSRC.

Help engage today's children to meet tomorrow's challenges. The cost is \$85. For more information, visit www.rocketcenter.com.

34th International Symposium on Child Abuse Set

The 34th International Symposium on Child Abuse will be held March 19-22 at the Von Braun Center South Hall in Huntsville, Ala.

The Symposium is a premiere conference that offers training and several networking opportunities to professionals in the child maltreatment field, and it is one of the few conferences that addresses all aspects of child maltreatment including, but not limited to, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, exposure to violence, poly-victimization, exploitation, intervention, trafficking, and prevention.

The conference also facilitates more than 160 workshops with tracks that are designed specifically for administration, child



protective services, forensic interviewing, human trafficking/sexual exploitation, law enforcement, medical, mental health/treatment, prevention, prosecution/legal, secondary traumatic stress, victim advocacy and youth-serving organization.

Pre-conference sessions

are on Monday, March 19, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with check-in/registration at 8:30 a.m. Pre-conference sessions require an additional registration fee. Symposium check-in/registration opens Monday, March 19, 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, March 20, 7 a.m.-8:30 a.m. The Open-

ing Plenary Session begins on Tuesday, March 20, 8:30 a.m. Workshops sessions begin on Tuesday, March 20, 10:30 a.m. and conclude on Thursday, March 22, 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the National Children's Advocacy Center at (256) 533-KIDS.

Downtown Upgrades for 2018 Revealed

Huntsvillians can expect to see downtown evolve in 2018--new restaurants, shops and businesses. The new gateway entrance from Governor's Drive and Dr. Joseph Lowery Boulevard will finish up in the next six to eight weeks, providing another connection from Twickenham Square to Big Spring Park.

Officials say the City Centre will begin to blossom, likely with more new hotels and buildings under construction. Work will begin on the new Von Braun Center Music Hall, and construction on multi-modal paths for the Holmes Avenue town-to-

grown corridor to UAH and Cummings Research Park.

This also is the year that the future of the city in the next 25 years will be determined.

The Downtown Master Plan will begin to be implemented to move toward a new City Hall building to more efficiently serve the community; and the development of multi-use properties – retail, restaurants and residential – that will bring more people to downtown.

No deals have been struck or decisions made, but they're forthcoming. Downtown transformation isn't lost is ongoing.

- huntsvilleal.gov

Week of Christian Unity Service Set

The Week of Christian Unity Service will be celebrated on Sunday, January 21, at 4 p.m., at the Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church, 2115 Winchester Rd NW.

This service is jointly sponsored by the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship and the Southeast Clergy Cluster. Rev. Dr. Larry Davidson, Jr., pastor of the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, and Rev. Dr. David Freeman, pastor of the Weatherly Heights Baptist Church, will speak.

Do come join us as we celebrate the UNITY for which Christ Prayed!

Dr. Mitchell Walker Sr., (above) serves as GHIMF president.

