

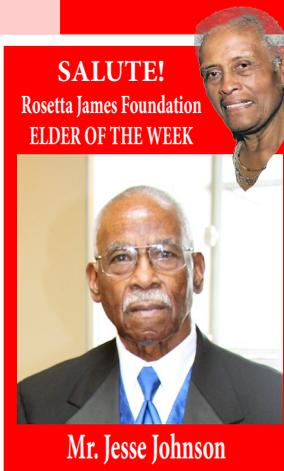
# A&M Scientists Monitor Tremor, p. 8

**FREE**



## Drake Prez on State Board, p. 5

Friday  
January 21, 2022  
Vol. 8, No. 20  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



**SALUTE!**  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK

Mr. Jesse Johnson

*"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." – T. S. Eliot*

## Girls Inc. Celebrates 50th

Girls Inc. of Huntsville is celebrating the "Year of the Girl" in recognition of its founding 50 years ago.

The organization launched a campaign to serve an additional 3,000 girls by 2027. Mayor Battle called Girls Inc. an invaluable community partner in expanding the lives of young women in the community through education and leadership.

Founded in December of 1972, Girls Inc. of Huntsville has been serving girls in Madison County for some 50 years. The after-school program is currently located in the Dr. Rich-



ard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center and serves girls K-8th grade. Its programming focuses around areas such as STEM, economic

and financial literacy, leadership, and healthy living. There are partnerships with local engineering firms, as well as with volunteer organizations who create and facilitate "amazing" experiences for the girls.

Led by Stephanie Malone (above, podium), Girls Inc. of Huntsville is dedicated to assuring high-impact services for a growing number of girls and expansion of its advocacy efforts. It sets bold goals and a clear strategic direction in partnership with local businesses, organizations and community members.

## 'Father of Environmental Justice' an A&M BHM Speaker

A man long dubbed "The Father of Environmental Justice" will be the keynote speaker for one of Alabama A&M University's (AAMU) many Black History Month programs.

Noted educator, administrator and activist

Robert Bullard will speak on the topic, "Black History Is American History," on Friday, February 25, at 10 a.m. via Zoom at 10 a.m.



Dr. Bullard is an Alabamian and graduate of AAMU who has become a legend in the

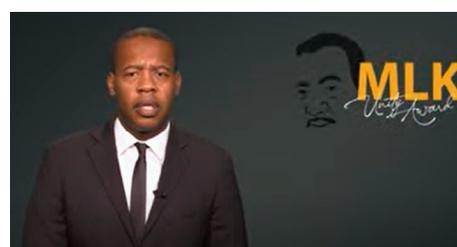
field of environmental justice over the course of his extensive tenure at Texas Southern University.

Dr. Bullard's presentation is sponsored by the Department of Community and Regional Planning, in conjunction with the Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences.

## Alphas Hold 37th MLK Breakfast Virtually, Give Honors

The Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., held its 37th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast and Celebration virtually on Monday, January 17.

During the 90-minute program, the 2022 MLK Unity Award was presented to the Hon. Anthony Daniel, minor-



ity leader of the Alabama House of Representatives, for his servant leadership. The Hon.

Mac McCutcheon, Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, also received the Unity Award for his diligent and dedicated work with the youth of Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama.

The Valley Weekly

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

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

# Washington in One Minute



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

**1. ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate are in session this week. The Senate canceled its scheduled recess this week to take up a House-passed package that includes the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act — the first of which expands access to the ballot and shields election officials; the second restores key sections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced on Friday that if GOP Senators block passage of the bill, he will hold a vote to change the Senate's filibuster rule, which would require all Democrats voting "aye" to pass.

**2. THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Wednesday afternoon, President Biden held a press conference at the White House to mark his one year in office. On Friday, he will give a speech at the

Capital Hilton at the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 90th Annual Winter Meeting in D.C. On Wednesday, the Biden Administration's new COVID-19 test ordering site went live and allows Americans to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests per household — which will be shipped out 7-12 days after they have been ordered. The site is: [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov).

**3. THE SUPREME COURT.** On Wednesday, the Supreme Court heard arguments in *Federal Election Commission v. Ted Cruz for Senate*, where it considered whether a law that prevents candidates for federal office from using more than \$250,000 in campaign funds raised after an election to repay their personal loans to a campaign violates the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment. Last Thursday, the Court issued 2 unsigned orders, the first of which blocked implementation of the Biden Administration's

vaccine-or-test mandate for employers with 100 or more workers, while litigation over its legality continues in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, saying that the Administration had exceeded its authority. The 2nd order allowed the vaccine mandate for health care workers at facilities that participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs to go forward.

**4. FISCAL YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS.** Last Thursday, the 2 Chairs and 2 Ranking GOP Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee held a so-called "Four Corners" meeting to discuss the status of the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bills. Currently, none of the 12 annual Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bills have been enacted and the federal government is operating under a continuing resolution that is funding programs at Fiscal Year 2021 levels through Feb. 18, 2022. After the meeting, House and Senate Chairs Leahy and DeLauro issued a statement that they would "look forward to further conversations in the coming days, with the shared goal of finishing [their] work by the February 18 government funding deadline."

**5. DC VACCINE RULE.** Last Saturday (Jan. 15), a new rule went into effect in Washington, D.C., that requires

all persons 12 years and old entering indoor public spaces to show proof of having had at least 1 COVID vaccination shot. DC also requires masks for indoor spaces.

**6. WILLIE O'REE GOLD MEDAL:** This week the House will consider S.492, the Willie O'Ree Congressional Gold Medal Act, under suspension. The Senate passed legislation would award a Congressional Gold Medal to Hockey Hall of Fame member Willie O'Ree in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey,

inclusion, and recreational opportunity. Mr. O'Ree was known as the "Jackie Robinson of Hockey" and made his NHL debut for the Boston Bruins on January 18, 1958. He played Professional hockey for 22 years, despite being blind in one eye.

Ron Hamm

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com). Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

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# This Sunday's Lesson

(Track 2)

Sunday, January 23, 2022



Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS



## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Memorial service for MS. DEBORAH OMEGA HAY-GOOD (b. 1957) will be Friday, January 21, at 1 p.m. at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. STEVE V. MCCAULEY (b. 1947) was held Saturday, January 15, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Billy Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. PIERRETTE ALFREDE HAMEL (b. 1920) was held Friday, January 14, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. ANTHONY LYNN JONES (b. 1965) was held Monday, January 10, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. NATHANIEL JOHNSON (b. 1950) will be 10 a.m., Monday, January 24, at the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church (2562 Bob Wade Lane, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. THELMA DIANE FLANAGAN (b. 1965) was held Sunday, January 16, at the Saint Andrews Primitive Baptist Church (1393 Swancott Road, Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Marcus Motton officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MAE JEFFERSON CORDULE (b. 1926) was held 12 noon, Saturday, January 15, at the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church (2350 Wall Triana Highway, Madison, Ala.) with Elder Mylon Burwell officiating.

Graveside service for MSG (Ret.) JOHNNY L. "Pat" GARNER (b. 1932) was held Monday, January 10, in the Huntsville Memory Gardens (6810 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.

## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT LEWIS HAYES (b. 1950) was held Thursday, January 13, at Serenity Funeral Home, 2205 University Drive, Huntsville, Ala.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

## IS GOD FIRST?

Matthew 6:33 says, *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you, as well.*

One of the things we need to realize is that God demands to be first in our lives. And, when we put Him first, it establishes His importance in our lives. If God is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord at all when it comes to our lives. For example, if your job and your money is first in your life, then your job and your money is Lord of your life.

Now "Lord" is trans-

lated as *Adonai*, which is equivalent to ruler or master. So, if these things are ruling over your lives, then you have entered a dangerous place that is not God's will for your life.

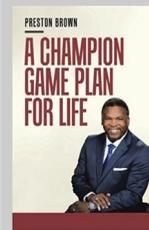
Anytime our will becomes greater than God's will for our lives, it will eventually end in separation from God. That's why it is important that we seek Him first so things don't get out of hand.

The definition of being first is "preceding all others in time and in order of importance." That's why God demands to be first, because He has blessed us

so much. So always remember that when we have total obedience, it will produce total reward. Also, whatever we decide to seek first will always determine the quality of our lives.

Matthew 6:21 reminds us that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Those that place God first also have a heart that wants to please Him ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com or preston-brown-ministries.



THE VALLEY WEEKLY  
**VALLEY EVENTS**  
HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

### January 21

Dog Days at the Garden  
Huntsville Botanical Garden - 9 a.m.

Rocket Awards  
U.S. Space and Rocket Center  
1 Tranquility Base  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5-8 p.m.

### January 22

Birding at Burritt on the Mountain - 10:30 a.m.

"Steel Magnolias"  
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
Von Braun Center

### January 29

Walk for Freedom  
Budding Hope Ministries  
Lewter's Hardware - 2 p.m.

### "Cats"

Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
Von Braun Center  
8 p.m.

### January 30

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

### February 2

"Simon and Garfunkel Story"  
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
Von Braun Center  
7:30 p.m.

### February 27

"Celtic Woman - Postcards from Ireland"  
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.



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## Oakwood Latino Adventist Church Welcomes New and Returning Latino Students



January 8, 2022, was a remarkable Sabbath at Oakwood University! New and returning students, parents, families, friends, and Latino members of the Huntsville community gathered at the Moseley Complex to welcome new Latino students at Oakwood.

During the welcome, Dr. Pollard delivered a powerful speech in Spanish that assured everyone that there is no place for the Latino community better than Oakwood University.

What began as the His-

panic ministry on campus, Oakwood Latino Association, is now an official church of the South Central Conference (SCC): the Oakwood Latino Adventist (OLA) Church.

Elder Dorian Melo, assistant ministerial director of SCC, Enoc Balbuena, locally hired pastor of the OLA Church, Dr. Manuel Moral, professor in the School of Religion at Oakwood and president of the OLA Board, and Elder Isaac Ibarra, special assistant to the president of Oakwood for Diversity and Inclusion

and cofounder of OLA, are working together side-by-side with Oakwood University's President, Dr. Leslie Pollard.

Elder Benjamin Jones, president of SCC, wants to make sure that the newly-established church (OLA) becomes what Dr. Pollard expressed in his remarks, "a cultural oasis."

The celebration concluded with a delicious banquet at the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center at Oakwood University.

## Church College Scholarships Available

*FAITH Initiative, Incorporated, a 501c3 nonprofit established by Fellowship Presbyterian Church USA, announces the annual scholarships to be awarded Spring 2022.*

The scholarships are open to deserving students from the Tennessee Valley who have been accepted to an accredited university or technical school and who demonstrate the potential to become a productive member of the community.

Recipients are not required to be enrolled or accepted in an institution of higher learning in Alabama to receive the scholarships.

Applications and requirements have been mailed to

area high school counselors and local churches. However, your assistance is requested in getting this announcement to high school seniors. Students selected from the Tennessee Valley will be informed by letter, and the formal announcement will be made at the Annual Event of the organization scheduled for Spring 2022.

Successful applicants are expected to participate. Scholarship applications may be obtained from the FAITH Initiative organization at [faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com](mailto:faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com); website for Fellowship Presbyterian Church at [fpchuntsville.org](http://fpchuntsville.org); or call 256-714-9399. Applications must be received not later than March 8, 2022.

The Henderson and Anthony Family Scholarship for Choral Performance is established to provide



a scholarship of \$500 per semester (\$1,000 per year) to two sophomore, junior, or senior singers (per semester) enrolled in a college or university music program or singing in the choir. (This comprises two \$1,000 scholarships.)

The scholarship pays the students to sing in the Fellowship Presbyterian Church's major choir as a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass.

Interested college students may contact FAITH Initiative organization at [faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com](mailto:faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com); or call (256) 714-9399 for more information.



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*"Stop letting people who do so little for you control so much of your mind, feelings, and emotions."*

– Will Smith

*"Normal is an illusion. What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly."*

– Morticia Addams

Perspectives on  
God Views  
+  
Current News

by tim allison

## Remembering Sidney Poitier's Starring Role: Silver-Mettle Leader



Before there was the first African-American to win an Oscar as the lead actor (Denzel Washington, 2002) there was the first African-American to win an Oscar in a supporting role (Sidney Poitier, 1964), who died on January 7 at age 94.

In addition to his acting trailblazing and civil rights activism, Poitier's legacy is also an example of silver-mettle leadership (SML).

Silver-mettle "leaders from the middle" are persons in number two positions that every organization must have to survive and thrive. Although they possess top leadership skills and experiences, often SMLs must step back and allow Time and Circumstances to elevate them.

With only a fourth-grade education, trouble reading three-syllable words, and a strong native Bahamian accent, 16-year old Poitier came to New York City as a dishwasher. He answered an "Actors Needed" ad from the American Negro Theater, was rejected, but took its janitorial job in exchange for further study. It paid off.

Although rejected a second time for showing "a lack of possibility," his fellow students petitioned the theater company to give Poitier a role in an upcoming play, as an understudy to a handsome and good actor who "could sing a little," he recalled.

When Lysistrata's opening night arrived and the lead actor could not make it, the prepared Poitier was elevated. And the rest became history, . . .

Oh, that handsome no-show lead actor became Poitier's longtime friend and civil rights co-activist, Harry Belafonte.

Do you aspire to Poitier-like greatness? Then, imitate his process and follow Jesus' words, "He that is greatest among you let him be your servant," Matthew 23:11.

# Drake President to Represent ACCS on State Board

Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives Mac McCutcheon has appointed Drake State President, Dr. Patricia Sims, to the Alabama Partnership for Children (APC) Board of Directors.

Sims, as President of an Alabama public two-year college, will represent all 24 schools within the Alabama Community College System.

"Dr. Sims has such a broad and deep career in education," said APC Executive Director Gail Piggott. "She is recognized as a community leader, exemplary administrative head, and someone who promotes building the workforce so that families can thrive."

Dr. Sims has dedicated her career to education at multiple levels including primary to 12th grade, community college, and university.

"Education is my life's work and I am honored to serve an organization that is committed to serving Alabama's families," said Sims. "The Alabama Community College System provides a unified system of institutions dedicated to delivering academic education, adult education, and workforce development. By providing an impact at an earlier stage, students in pre-kindergarten to high school will be able to gain the support and training needed to enter the workforce."

The Alabama Partnership for Children relies on community colleges for the early childhood programs that help develop highly skilled teachers for the early childhood sector. In-

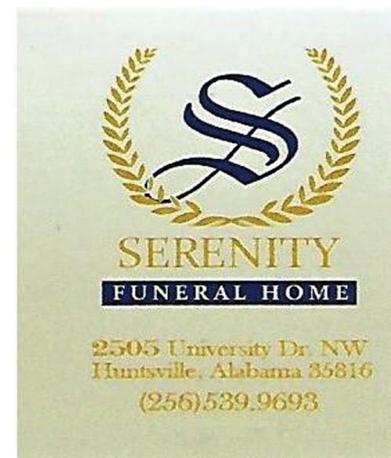
stitutions like Drake State also help build skills and competencies for families to improve their livelihoods and incomes.

"Dr. Sims' involvement with young people and her interest in their success dovetails perfectly with the vision statement of the Alabama Partnership

for Children that 'every Alabama child will have the opportunity to succeed in life,'" said APC Board Chairperson Trippy McGuire. "We welcome Dr. Sims as a new member of our board and look forward to her lending her expertise and enthusiasm to our organization."



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CALLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## Comfortable or Conformable

**Romans 8:28-29**

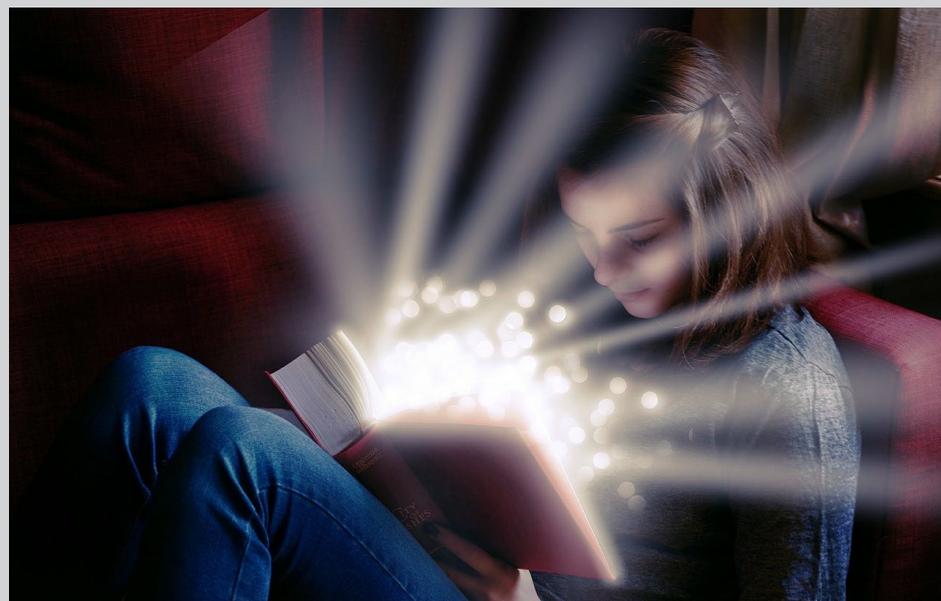
All of us like to be comfortable. That is why we are very intentional about our furniture, bedding, clothing and shoes. When either of those items is not “comfortable,” the experience is quite “uncomfortable.” The desire and design for comfort when it comes to those aforementioned items are understandable and logical. However when

it comes to God’s goal for His children, it is not to make us *comfortable*, but rather to make us *conformable*. The *how* and *why* are both under the purview of His providence. The Apostle Paul does give us some insight into what God uses in the process of making us conformable; **all things**. Romans 8:28 gets quoted quite often, especially when life seems to be spinning out of control. *All things*



*work together for good...*

The import of that verse is even better understood in the NLT translation, which reads, *And we know that God causes (my emphasis) all things to work together for the good of those who love God...*



While some of those “things” may not be *comfortable*, we can take *comfort* in knowing that God’s perfect stewardship of those things are designed

to make us *conformable to the image of His Son*. That is one of the dangers of that “profit driven” prosperity Gospel. It sends the false message that God is all

about making life *comfortable, cushy, and cushiony*. The truth of the matter; He is conforming us to the image of His Son. Praise God!



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Imagination will take you everywhere.”

– Albert Einstein

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**JANUARY 21 - ERIC HOLDER - Eric Himpton Holder Jr. is an American lawyer who served as the 82nd Attorney General of the United States from 2009 to 2015. Holder, serving in the administration of President Barack Obama, was the first African American to hold the position of U.S. Attorney General.**  
- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com





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

# Mr. Jesse Johnson, Jr.

Korean and Vietnam War veteran Jesse Johnson, Jr., of Tampa, Fla., devoted more than 30 years of civil service as a specialist in equipment for the HAWK Missile System; to the Maintenance Engineering Directorate, USAMICOM; as a logistics and program management specialist; and as an international program management specialist.

Even for a few years following his retirement in 1995, he continued to serve as a consultant for international program management at Sigma Tech, Inc., of

Huntsville, Ala.

His religious and community service is legion and encompasses contributions to the Lions Club, Blacks in Government, the Madison County Department of Human Resources, TARCOG Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature, First Church of God in Christ (COGIC), and Volunteers of America.

A sociology and economics graduate of Alabama A&M University, Johnson



still enjoys golf, chess, home construction projects and gardening.



"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@valley-weeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valley-weeklyllc.com).

## Rocket City Welcomes Brand New Development to Cummings

A mixed-use development will break ground in Cummings Research Park this spring, likely the first project in the park's east sector. It will feature office and retail space, as well as 251 apartment units, according to [al.com](http://al.com).

The development, at the corner of Bradford Drive and Wynn Drive, will be known as Arcadia.

It will be built on the former site of John Paul II Catholic High School.



Earlier this month, crews began demolition on the building that once housed the high school as well as other tenants.

The development will

include 12,000 square feet of office space and 7,000 square feet of retail space in addition to the apartment units.

- [huntsvilleal.gov](http://huntsvilleal.gov)

### PowerShot

"We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be?"

Marianne Williamson

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"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

- Aristotle

# Putting a Ring on It: A&M Scientists Monitor Tremor

Perhaps you have been thinking about a loved one or friend impacted by multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's disease. Then, knowing that a local and caring group of researchers is thinking about them, too, likely will brighten your day.

An industrious materials sciences group at Alabama A&M University is developing a biomedical sensor that will monitor the severity of hand tremor.

The group, led by Dr. Ashok K. Batra, has published its work in a recent journal, *Sensors & Transducers*.

In addition to AAMU, the impactful team has pulled in researchers from the International Clean Water Institute of Manassas, Va.; Riga Technical University in Latvia; and the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit,

Mich.

Batra and associates define tremor as "a small, rhythmic shaking movement that occurs in a back-and-forth pattern" that is common at some scale in everyone, although usually undetectable. Added factors, such as fatigue, stress, fear, anger—or even caffeine—

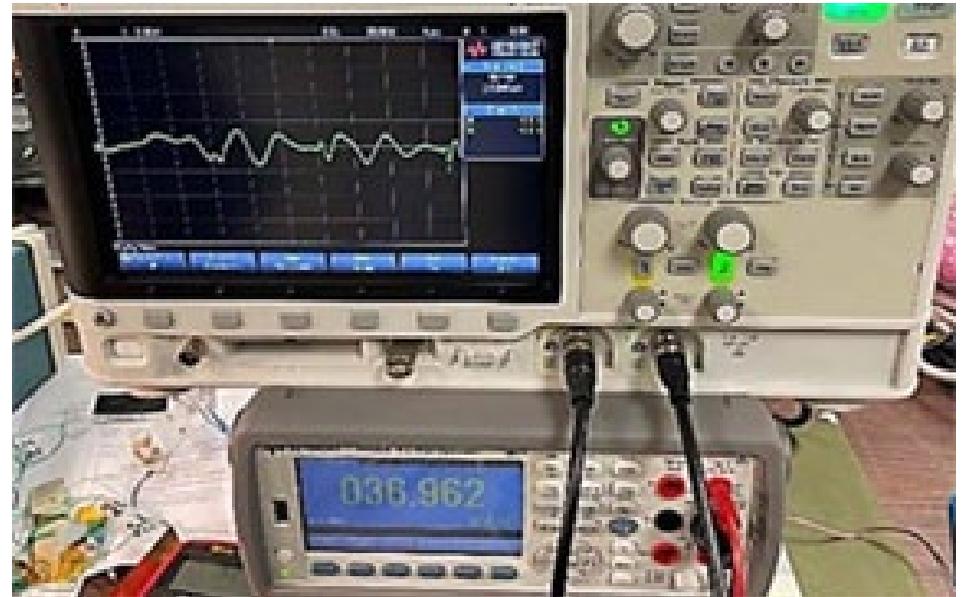


can make the tremor more obvious.

The team, however, focused on hand tremor most common among middle-aged and older persons.

The team developed a light-weight ring out of special material and tested it as a potential means of monitoring hand tremor.

The researchers are hopeful further clinical investigations can be useful in a home environment, opening the door for a home-monitoring system similar to ones used



to monitor blood pressure.

The article is published in Vol. 253, Issue 6, of *Sensors & Transducers*.

Captions: (Top left) Dr. A. K. Batra. (Left) Device

testing light-weight metal ring designed by AAMU

researchers.

by Jerome Saintjones

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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.

This is to give you a BIG SHOUT OUT for continuing an outstanding local Newspaper with photos large enough to tell who it is focused on. Thanks for all that you do for our community and the Tennessee Valley. Please give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Brother Saintjones, as well.

Warm Regards,  
Sister (Katie) Byrd

**ACCOLADES**  
from Our Readers

*"Some people die at 25  
and aren't buried until 75."*

– Benjamin Franklin

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