

The Valley Weekly

"The truth is... everything counts. Everything. Everything we do and everything we say. Everything helps or hurts; everything adds to or takes away from someone else."

- Countee Cullen

FREE

Volume 3, No. 20

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, January 27, 2017

Sharpton to Speak at OUC

A noted activist will be the special guest at the Oakwood University Church (OUC) on Saturday, January 28, at 11 a.m.

The Oakwood University Church and the Breath of Life Television Ministry will welcome activist and radio/TV host Rev. Al Sharpton to the Oakwood University Church, located at 5500 Adventist Boulevard, NW, in Huntsville, Ala., to kick off its Black History Month celebration.

Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church, will present a challenging message emphasizing unity through diversity, coupled with a special response from Rev. Sharpton.

Sharpton is an internationally renowned civil

rights leader, activist, and founder and president of National Action Network (NAN). He has dedicated his life to the fight for justice and equality.

For decades, he has turned the power of dissent and protest into tangible legislation impacting the lives of ordinary people.

As President Barack Obama himself once stated, Rev. Sharpton is a "voice for the voiceless" and a "champion for the downtrodden."

The Oakwood University Church has a membership of over 2,500, and also ministers to the nearly 2,000 students who attend Oakwood University.

Dr. Byrd has been the church's senior pastor since 2012. The



Breath of Life Television Ministry was founded in 1974. Dr. Byrd became its third Speaker/Director in 2010. While many of its broadcasts originate from the Oakwood University Church, Dr. Byrd is in high demand as a speaker and preaches to audiences around the world.

For more information, call (256) 837-1255, or send an e-mail to pgoodridge@oucsda.org.

New TVA Board Chair Elected

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) board of directors unanimously elected V. Lynn Evans of Memphis, Tennessee, board chair.

Evans is the first African-American to serve as chair in TVA's 83-year history. She is also the first female and first Memphian to chair the board.

"I am honored that my fellow board members have confidence in my abilities to serve as chair," Evans said, a graduate of Jackson State University. "TVA has made great strides in the past four years to improve its financial and operational performance. I look forward to our continuous efforts to set strategic priorities and drive for strong results, which benefit all of the people of the Tennessee Valley."



10th Annual Go Red Luncheon Set

The Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, proudly announces its Tenth Annual Go Red Luncheon.

The luncheon is the sorority's traditional heart health awareness event to be held at the Marriott Hotel, 5 Transquility Base, Huntsville, Ala., on Saturday, February 4, 2017, at 12 noon.

The luncheon speaker is Dr. W. Quinton Foster, Huntsville cardiologist, who will explore the theme: "Real Women, Real Stories - Taking a Stand Against Heart Disease". The attire for the event is a red dress or suit for ladies, and a red tie for gentlemen.

For information, call (256) 852-0881 or (773) 510-7844.



Drake Staffer Receives Coveted Award

Richard Collie recently received the Chancellor's Award at J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College.

The Chancellor's Award is given annually to employees who have the



highest standards of professional performance and service among college professionals in the two-year system.

Collie currently serves at Drake State as the director of student sup-

port services in the Office of Student Services.

Collie also is a graduate of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium - Cohort V.

Drake State offers flexible and affordable university-transfer and technical degrees and certificates.

Alabama 2017 Site of Master Gardeners

The Alabama Master Gardeners Association (AMGA) will hold its 27th annual state conference at The Jackson Center in Huntsville, Ala., May 1-3, 2017.

The 2017 conference is hosted by the Master Gardeners of North Alabama with assistance from Limestone, Morgan and Marshall County Master Gardeners. The conference is expected to draw more than 400 gardeners from across the Southeast.

The conference program is already filling up with exciting lectures and demonstrations.

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Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

The Hamm Consulting Group



Your Washington Recap

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

1. The House and Senate will be in session this week, briefly, until the GOP Members of the House and Senate convene in Philadelphia starting on Wednesday for a 3-day Joint Retreat to focus on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and tax reform that will feature special guests British Prime Minister Theresa May and President Trump, both of whom will travel to the retreat on Thursday.

Before Members leave for Philadelphia, the House will take up an omnibus anti-abortion bill

The Senate will return to the nomination of Rep. Mike Pompeo to be CIA Director. The Senate was also expected to approve Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State Monday. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee late Friday evening announced it would postpone a planned vote this week on Betsy DeVos, as Democrats argue they haven't had enough time to examine the complicated financial holdings of President Donald Trump's nominee for Education secretary.

2. President Trump started his first 100 days on Friday by signing an executive order empowering all federal agencies to waive provisions or delay the implementation of Affordable Care Act provisions which create a burden on states, patients or health-care stakeholders. He signed another executive order which canceled a recent 0.25 percentage point premium rate cut for Federal Housing Administration-backed loans.

The President will travel to Philadelphia on Thursday to meet with Congressional Republicans at their annual policy retreat and on Friday will have his first meeting with a foreign head of government at a meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May.

3. President Trump announced he had scheduled meetings with the leaders of Canada and Mexico to begin renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

4. The Nielsen Company announced that 31 million viewers watched TV coverage of President Trump's inauguration on Friday, which is third to President Reagan's 41.8 million viewers in 1981 and President Obama's 37.8 million viewers in 2009.

5. The D.C. Metrorail system announced that Saturday's March for Women on the National Mall was the 2nd busiest day in its history with 1,001,613 trips, second only to the 1.1 million trips taken in January 2009 on President Obama's Inauguration Day.

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"WE KNOW THE PEOPLE,
PLACES, AND POLITICS"

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

We should all be careful how we live, because life is about having a direction and setting your mind toward that direction, and "going" for it. It's about getting rid of a "I wish I had" attitude and pursuing what God has called you to do. We all need to learn how to be an "own purpose"



person. That simply means living your life on purpose. It's about setting goals for your life and getting up every morning with that goal on your mind. So often we do the same thing every day without any real purpose. But it's time that we all understand why we do what we do. You see, if we wait until we *feel* like doing the right

thing, then we will miss our opportunity and the destiny that God has for our lives. Sometimes, you have to talk yourself into it. It's time to talk yourself into looking for that job that you want. It's time to talk yourself into getting out of debt. It's time to talk yourself into staying in that relationship and working things out. It's time to get a new direction for your life ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

The Board of the Rosetta James Foundation

Proudly Salutes
the

2017 RJF "Honoring Our Elders"



Save the Date!

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Five O'Clock in the Evening
The Jackson Center
Huntsville, Alabama

www.rosettajamesfoundation.org

Please Call Linda Burruss at (256) 536-9717
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The Valley Weekly

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Ahhh ... Talented Students!

I had the opportunity to meet Juvawn Parker, a poet and student at UAH, during their annual MLK Celebration. Parker was one of the presenters on the program. We are pleased to share the talent of local students in TVW. I hope you enjoy his poem "Visions" as much as we enjoyed it earlier this month.

- Dorothy W. Huston, Editor-in-Chief

Vision

by Juvawn Parker

Beams of light first pass through the cornea, hits the fluids, until it makes its way to the iris and the lens

When the lights get to the lens, the lens bend the lights in order to form a clear image

The lens then proceeds to focus the light allowing sight

The light rays cross before they hit the retina making the image on the back of the eye upside down

This upside down image is then transferred to the brain through electronic signals

The brain flips the image and then takes it from there

We call this phenomena sight

Some label it as vision

The picture I will create does not require sight for you to see it
Honestly, I would rather you close your eyes and envision this instead

A brown child is raised in a disorderly home

With no green paper to afford nice things the brown child owns mostly white t-shirts

The brown child lives in a dark neighborhood that enjoys taking the lives of other brown children with black bullets

When the black bullets hits brown children, sidewalks are painted red

Red sidewalks indicate that brown skin becomes blue as air is forcibly removed from the brown child's lungs

Clear tears fall from the eyes of other brown children as they witness a fallen brown child

Days keep passing

Lack of green paper prevents the dark neighborhoods that houses small brown children from ever building big nice schools

Lack of nice schools reduces the already low odds that the little brown children will read

Parents, or guardians, or really whoever is old enough to be in charge of these little brown children

Do not believe in telling little white lies

As a consequence, little brown children grow up quick, and childhood confidence is thrown out of the window

So please ... stop

The little brown children already know that never, ever, will an overweight man dressed in a large red coat crawl down their old gray chimney and leave gifts wrapped in sheets of yellow and indigo under a large green tree ... to be honest, they consider themselves lucky to have a tree

They are aware that a lack of green paper will probably prevent them from seeing a woman with wings if they were to ever stuff a lost tooth under the pillows

You do not have to tell them the truth behind the lies

They know why their guardian cries

Why the lights sometimes do not work

Why they must sometimes replace healthy meals with restless sleep

These little brown children grow fast

I know this because sometimes they are even trialed as adults

These little brown children

That lives in dark neighborhoods

That take the lives of other brown children with black bullets

Will rarely see nice schools

Due to a lack of green paper

Their throats are dry, so excuse them if they cannot swallow the white lies

And instead wallow in reality

But hey...things could be worse

At least they do not have to read some corny joke like orange you glad I did not say banana ... right?

Right because then again that would require little brown children to read when around this time most start to prefer the streets

In dark environments little brown children to black things for green money in order to help guardian's clear eyes leaving white lies in their wake

They see flashing lights and blue uniforms on a daily basis

They hear time and time again the chant that seems almost ancestral in nature

Hands

The little brown children pray that they don't shoot

But sometimes big blue uniforms are terrified of little brown children, so sweat drips

Fingers slip, trigger hits, black bullets love painting in red the names of our little brown children on the concrete

The cycle continues

I blame a lot of things for this

These colors merge together on a palette and in life when combined creates a very violent...I mean violet... I mean violent situation and here you are explaining to me that you don't see color

In fact as far as you are concerned I could consider you color-blind

This makes me sad

Your lack of colors leaves you blind

So now you know nothing of the full picture

This means you are filled with more hurt than help

This means you fail to see the vision

The phenomena that allows us to see

I remember stories told of a doctor

People called this man King

According to the stories he saw a lot

Little white children playing with little brown children

A lot of what he saw has come true

But that does not mean we stop seeing

Because if we do

What hopes remain for the little brown children



Juvawn Parker is a junior computer science major at UAH

Fortune Editor Speaks in Huntsville

“Voices of Our Times” Series

Venue: Huntsville Museum of Art

Saturday, January 21, 2016

An assistant managing editor for Fortune magazine recently discussed her book, “The End of the Suburbs: Where the American Dream Is Moving” during a Voices of Our Times series

of sponsored event at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Another book on AirBNB is scheduled for publication soon.

Leigh Gallagher addressed her Chamber audi-

ence on Saturday, January 21. An assistant managing editor at Fortune magazine, where she edits feature stories on a variety of subjects, Gallagher oversees Fortune franchises, including the

magazine’s 40 Under 40 rankings and hosts Fortune Live, Fortune’s weekly half-hour business news show airing Thursdays at 11 a.m.

She co-chairs the Fortune Most Powerful

Women and Most Powerful Women Next Gen Summits and speaks regularly at Fortune and other business and economics conferences. She is a seasoned business news commenta-

tor, appearing regularly on MSNBC’s Morning Joe, CBS This Morning, Face the Nation, CNBC’s Squawk Box, public radio’s Marketplace and a variety of other outlets.



Students Donate "Bee Hotels" to AAMU Farm

Every year, several students in schools all across the country compete in the First Lego League Robotics Competition. As part of the competition, students not only build and program a robot, they also identify a problem and develop a solution.

The students of Horizon Elementary's (Madison, Ala.) Wall-E's Lego Alliance Team focused on the problem that the pollinators are declining in the U.S. The team reached out to Alabama A&M University for additional education and assistance.

As a part of their solution to the growing problem facing pollinators, the team built about 50 bee hotels for solitary bees and donated them to Alabama A&M University.



Team members are Evan Pethel, Gibson Purser, Hayden Purser, Alex Overton, Harrison Taff, and Carter Sewell. The team was grateful to the University and Drs. Ernst Cebert and Anthony

Overton for all of their help. The team won the overall performance award at regional competitions and is advancing to the state competition in March.

Huntsvillian, A&M Grad Joins GEDI

The Government and Economic Development Institute (GEDI) at Auburn University has announced the appointment of Morgan Saintjones of Huntsville, Ala., to its team.

Saintjones has joined GEDI as a Training Program Specialist and will coordinate many of the training programs offered to municipalities and economic developers around the state of

Alabama. Saintjones received the Master of Public Administration degree from American University, and the B.A. degree from Alabama A&M University.

Most recently, she worked for Technology Management Training Group in Huntsville, Ala., helping historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) obtain grants, scholar-

ships, and research opportunities from the Department of Defense.

Previously, her career focused on improving literacy in Washington, D.C., where she worked with the non-profit Everybody Wins! D.C., coordinating a celebration for over 200 children and mentors at Black Entertainment Television (BET).

Saintjones also is a graduate of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium - Cohort VI.



A Good Read



by Jerome Saintjones

Lynn Sharon Schwartz's "The Trip to Halawa Valley"

A divorced couple attend the wedding of their prosperous son in Hawaii, staying at the former's place as the younger couple enjoys its wedding night at

another location.

Spending time alone together for the first time in four years, the mother and father of the groom get an opportunity to review their lives and the problems that negatively impacted their other three children.

Now that their adult children were either dead,

in a same-sex relationship or had joined a religious cult, the two began to ponder whether their lives would actually fare better together or apart. They attempt to explore the island, rekindle the flames during a physical rendezvous.

By story's end, the two make the long trip back to the mainland and silently split again.

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Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Ms. Monica P. Bennett** was held Saturday, January 21, at Fellowship Presbyterian Church.

Funeral service for **Mr. Phillip G. Brazelton** (b. 1966) was held Saturday, January 21, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **Mr. Robert T. Eggleston** (b. 1950) was held Saturday, January 21, at Morris Chapel PB Church with Rev. Herbert Cartwright, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Mildred J. Hampton** (b. 1930) was held January 15 at First Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Funeral service for **Mr. Leonard Montgomery** (b. 1956) was held January 14 at Mt. Zion MB Church in Guntersville, Ala.

Funeral service was held Saturday, January 14, for **Mr. Earl Phillips** (b. 1920) at First Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Wendell Holmes** (b. 1940) was held Friday, January 13, at Gurley Christian Methodist Church.

Funeral service for **Mr. Edward Walton** will be announced at a later date.

-Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

How to Prepare for Power Outages

During severe weather the risk of a power outage increases. There are several guidelines to ready homeowners for these times. Following these guidelines will make power outages a lot easier.

- Homeowners should always know where their flashlight and batteries are.
- Decide which room of the house is easiest to keep warm and close doors to the rooms.
- If you have a gas heater, keep it in good working order.
- If you have a generator, keep it in good working order. Have a supply of fuel on hand. Always keep generators outside.
- Check for easy access to your gas or charcoal grill if you have stored it for the season. Gas and charcoal grills are intended for outdoors use; do not use them indoors.



- Prevent frozen or broken pipes by insulating exposed pipes.
- Check insulation in attics, basements and crawl spaces.
- Make sure you can access your first aid kit and fire extinguisher.
- Restock food and water supplies, especially items that require no cooking or refrigeration.
- Keep your car's fuel tank full.

- Justin Miller
Alabama Cooperative
Extension System

Ringling Bros. Makes Last Stop in Alabama

After a four-day engagement in Birmingham, Ala., the Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey Circus said its final goodbye to the "Yellowhammer" state on January 22. Those fortunate to make it to the Legacy Area at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center saw the last of a once-thriving circus company.

Due to declining sales and high operating costs, the popular traveling circus announced this month that this would be its last hurrah. In 2015, the circus made headlines when it was announced that it would be phasing out the use of elephants in future performances after several decades of complaints of cruelty and abuse from animal rights organizations like PETA.

Kenneth Feld, CEO of Feld Entertainment and owner of the circus, said the discontinued use of the popular pachyderms caused ticket sales to drop dramatically.

The 146-year-old traveling act made its last appearance in the Rocket City last

December at the Von Braun Center.

The final show will be Uniondale, N.Y., on May 21. Despite the report of declining prices, the announcement has created a surge in ticket sales. Tickets for the final performance are completely sold-out. Fans still adamant about attending the last show might want to act quickly. Various third-party sites have tickets for sale, but it comes at a drastically high price. According to Stubhub, a popular third-party ticket vendor, a ticket in the nose bleeds will be roughly over \$163 and a ticket in the lower section for the final performance in New York will set fans back \$ 2,000.

Dubbed "The Greatest Show on Earth", the popular circus company began as two separate acts between the titular Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. After the passing of Bailey, the circus' merged into the show we all know today in 1919.

by Reggie Allen



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Calendar of Events

February 2

Loomis Brothers
CIRCUS
Alabama A&M University
Agribition Center
Moore's Mill Road
4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

February 4

Huntsville Symphony
Orchestra
Concert Hall - Von Braun
Center
11 a.m.

February 9

Comedy Show featuring
J. Anthony Brown, Shuckey
Duckey, Jammin Jay
Lamont and Pierre
Hosted by Kool Bubba Ice
Von Braun Center
Concert Hall
7:30 p.m.

February 18

HBCU College Fair
Union Chapel MB Church
Family Life Center
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

February 21

The CornerStone Initiative
C4 Conference
The Jackson Center
6001 Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
8:30 a.m.

February 23

Art Exhibit
"Around the Bend: An
Exhibition of Drawings and
Paintings by Robert Cox"
Alabama Center for the
Arts
Decatur, Ala.
8 a.m.-5 p.m., M-TH
8 a.m.-12 noon, Friday

March 11

The Rosetta James Founda-
tion "Honoring Our Elders"
Celebration
The Jackson Center
Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
5 p.m.

Councilman Honored by Church

Former Council-
man Richard Showers
was recognized for his
decades worth of service
on the Huntsville City
Council on January 21
at the popular Seventh
Day Adventist Church.

Joined on stage by
his wife, Bettye Ann (be-
low), children, intermediate
family and friends, Showers
was praised for his generosity



and hard work by his Oak-
wood peers. One friend spoke
of how he would give his last
penny to those who needed it.



"He does have a servant's
heart," Mrs. Pearlie Stamper
(above, r) told the congrega-
tion. "I just thank God for
allowing me to be a witness.
And I want you to know that
he loves Oakwood. He loves
coming here.
Treat him good,
because he will
come back."

In his ac-
ceptance speech,
Showers said
that he always
considered the
privately-owned
institution a
second home
to him and his
family. Oakwood
University Presi-
dent Leslie N.
Pollard (above, r),



*Oakwood University Presi-
dent Leslie N. Pollard makes
presentation for Dr. Richard D.
Showers.*

former councilman, made the
presentation to Showers.

"I can go back to all the
presidents before Pollard and
we all had similar relation-
ships," Showers said.

Showers was elected to the
Huntsville City Council in
1988, representing District 1
for 28 years. A man of many
hats, the veteran councilman
serves on several boards and
committees, participates as a
Deacon at Union Chapel Mis-

sionary Baptist Church and
is a retired teacher from the
Huntsville School of Technol-
ogy.

*Story and Photos by
Reginald D. Allen*

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College(s) Attended _____

Highest Degree _____ Career Field _____

References

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Church Street-Ste. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at [www.
diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com); or e-mail [info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.
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**On This Day - Friday, January 27 - Blues signer Robert Calvin
"Bobby Blue" Bland** was born in Rosemark, Tenn. He is most well
known for a series of hit releases, including "Cry Cry Cry," "I Pity
The Fool," "Turn On Your Love Light" and "Ain't No Love In the
Heart of the City." - BlackinTime.info

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