

The Valley Weekly

That Justice is a blind goddess
Is a thing to which we black are wise:
Her bandage hides two festering sores
That once perhaps were eyes.

- Langston Hughes

FREE

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www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, February 3, 2017

Council Steers Aggressive Agenda

The Huntsville City Council passed a progressive agenda on Thursday, January 26.

Boy Scout Troop #70 led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Williams Elementary School's principal and physical education coach were recognized by Mayor Battle for their participation in the Mayor's 100-mile Healthy Huntsville Walk.

Also recognized was the Huntsville High School Boy's Swim Team, the Alabama High School Athletic Association's State Champions for 2016.

Individual recognitions for individual swim and dive team members were awarded to students from St. John Paul II Catholic High School.

Members of the Huntsville City Schools Board of Education were recognized in observance of January as



School Board Appreciation Month.

A resolution was approved authorizing an electric rate increase

for Huntsville Utilities residential, general service commercial and industrial customers, along with outdoor lighting customers.

DLC Grad Joins HR Board

An engineer with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, Joint Attack Munition Systems Project Office, will be recently appointed to a key board.

Dr. Everett K. Roper was appointed to the Madison County Department of Human Resources Board on January 26 by the Huntsville City Council.

Roper serves at Redstone Arsenal for AMRDEC as an assistant product manager/launcher and test set principal engineer.

He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in electrical engineering, computer science and systems engineering from the



University of Alabama in Huntsville. He also earned an MBA degree from the University of North Alabama.

Roper, a graduate of Chort II of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium, will conclude his board service in August 2019.

State's Largest Anime Event Held

A cosplayer poses with an attendee (left) at Kami-Con Season 9, the largest anime, comic, cosplay, gaming and pop culture convention in Alabama.

Held at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex, the three-day activity celebrates Japanese culture, geek culture, anime & manga, cosplay, tabletop and video gaming, comics, TV shows, movies, and more. Kami-Con is also a uniquely interactive convention in that it features events which allow congoers to affect the outcome of its story. The convention took place in Birmingham, Ala., from Jan. 27-29.

Photo by Reggie D. Allen

Tennessee Valley Mourns Death of Local Activist

The Tennessee Valley is mourning the recent death of one of its most revered local activist.

Earl Humphrey was born in 1927 in the Moores Mills community. According to his obituary, he and his siblings walked to Farmers Capital, a well-known institution that was

co-founded by his parents, who donated the land on which the school was built.

Today, that school is Lynn Fanning Elementary School. Humphrey was a 'quite storm' who was known to share his point of view fervently when asked.

He took classes via the agricultural extension pro-

grams at Alabama A&M University and Auburn University because his parents were among the leading farmers in Madison County.

In fact, his parents, Garth and Bertha Walker Humphrey,



inspired his civil rights activism. He transported A&M students to downtown Huntsville to integrate public facilities in 1962.

Humphrey took his civic duties seriously and was part

of a long, mass campaign waged by local African-Americans to force racial integration.

He was an active member of Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church for 75 years, having served as a trustee and as a member of the Usher Board.

According to his pastor, Rev. Keith E. Ellison, Humphrey wanted 'all jobs done well.' He was an esteemed retiree of the University of Alabama's Department of Computer Services, according to Mrs. Joyce Looger a former co-worker.

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Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

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Oakwood University Post Office

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Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

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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

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Your Washington Recap

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

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. The House will kick off a series of disapproval resolutions under the little-used 1996 Congressional Review Act (enacted as part of the "Contract With America") to cancel regulations finalized during the Obama Administration, including:

- o A rule requiring oil and gas operations on public lands to detect and plug methane leaks, as well as cut the practice of venting and flaring excess methane;

- o A rule requiring coal mine permit seekers to prove that they will not negatively affect streams and rivers outside their permit area;
- o A rule requiring a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) entry for any Social Security recipient that needs a third party to manage his finances;

- o A rule requiring government contractors to provide workers each pay period with information on actual wages earned; and

- o A rule requiring energy companies to report payments made to the U.S. and foreign governments for the development of oil, gas and mineral rights.

Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), the House and Senate may nullify regulations finalized in the last 6 months under an expedited review process that requires only a simple majority vote (and the President's signature). The CRA has only been used once to cancel a November 2000 OSHA rule

on ergonomic standards.

The Senate is expected to approve more Trump Cabinet nominees this week, including Commerce Secretary-designee Wilbur Ross and Transportation Secretary-nominee Elaine Chao.

However, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), the top Democrat on the Senate HELP Committee, called for a delay of the committee vote on Betsy DeVos' nomination for Education Secretary scheduled Tuesday morning. Senator Murray said that Democrats have not yet received answers from Ms. DeVos to the more than 800 written follow-up questions they submitted following her confirmation hearing earlier this month. Senator Murray also stated she is waiting for the nominee to provide unspecified "missing information" about the financial paperwork she submitted to the committee.

2. This week, President Trump is expected to announce his choice to fill the late Justice Antonin Scalia's seat on the Supreme Court. The choices reportedly include Judge William Pryor of Alabama, Judge Neil Gorsuch of Colorado and Judge Thomas Hardiman of Pennsylvania. On Saturday, Mr. Trump signed an executive order banning administration officials from lobbying for 5 years after leaving government service with a permanent ban on lobbying on behalf of a foreign government.

3. Today, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) will introduce 2 bills in response to President Trump's immigration executive order on Friday

that imposed a 90-day ban on all nationals from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia entering the U.S. and a 120-day halt on all refugees and an indefinite pause on admitting Syrian refugees. The first bill immediately would rescind the President's executive order and the second would limit executive authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act. On Monday, House and Senate Democrats, led by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), held a press conference outside the Supreme Court demanding that the President withdraw the executive order.

4. Last Tuesday, President Trump issued an executive order to streamline and expedite high priority infrastructure projects, including projects to improve the U.S. electric grid and telecommunications systems and repair and upgrade critical port facilities, airports, pipelines, bridges, and highways. The order also requires the White House Council on Environmental Quality to compile a list of high priority projects from requests made by states and federal departments. Also on Tuesday, the President issued another executive order which will require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct outreach

to stakeholders and submit a report to the President setting forth a plan to streamline permitting processes for domestic manufacturing and to reduce regulatory burdens affecting domestic manufacturers.

5. President Trump was a no-show at Saturday night's Alfalfa Dinner at the Capital Hilton - a gathering of D.C.'s elite (and some non-D.C. elite like Bill Gates, Warren Buffet and Jeff Bezos). Filling in for the President was VP Mike Pence, who joked that the Administration was going to build a wall between the White House and the press, paid for by the New York Times. Also in attendance were Ivanka Trump and husband, Jared Kushner; White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer; White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, and White House Counselor Kellyanne Conway.

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City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Meetings
City Council regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. City Council work sessions also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

It has been my experience that there are two types of people in life-

the ones that get what they want and the ones that don't. You see, everything in your life changes when you make the decision to pursue whatever God



has gifted you to do.

There are so many talented people that never accomplish the goals that they have set for themselves in life. Now the reason for this, I believe, is that they never realize the obstacles that will occur.

Because our success doesn't come in a straight

line, there will be some detours along the way. There will be failures along the way. But remember: failure can be the most powerful tool that we use when we are on our way to spiritual, emotional, physical and financial freedom.

Proverbs 3:6 asys, submit to God in all your ways and He will make your path straight.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

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From the Editor

Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Celebrates 109 Years with Tea

Ahhh ... a Diamond Honored!

Members of the Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority celebrated its 109th Founders' Day with a tea on January 28th at The Ledges. A special tribute was paid to esteem member Evangeline Spillman for 75 years of membership and service. Spillman is the first Diamond member of the local chapter. How many of us know someone who has been a member of something for 75 years? Congratulations, Soror Spillman, for your many contributions of service to all of mankind.

According to the national website, college ladies were confined to what co-ed Ethel Hedgeman called "a small circumscribed life" in the segregated and male-dominated milieu that characterized the early 1900s. A student at Howard University, Hedgeman dreamed of creating a support network for women with like minds to come together for mutual uplift, and to coalesce their talents and strengths for the benefit of others. In 1908, her vision crystallized as Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first Negro Greek-letter sorority. Five years later (1913), lead incorporator Nellie Quander ensured Alpha Kappa Alpha's perpetuity through incorporation in the District of Columbia.

Together with eight other coeds at the mecca for Negro education, Hedgeman crafted a design that not only fostered interaction, stimulation, and ethical growth among members; but also provided hope for the masses. From the core group of nine at Howard, AKA has grown into a force of more than 290,000 collegiate members and alumnae, constituting 997 chapters in 42 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Germany, Liberia, South Korea, Japan, Canada, South Africa and the Middle East.

Because they believed that Negro college women represented "the highest—more education, more enlightenment, and more of almost everything that the great mass of Negroes never had" — Hedgeman and her cohorts worked to honor what she called "an everlasting debt to raise them (Negroes) up and to make them better." For more than a century, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sisterhood has fulfilled that obligation by becoming an indomitable force for good in their communities, state, nation, and the world.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha program today still reflects the communal consciousness steeped in the AKA tradition and embodied in AKA's credo, "To be supreme in service to all mankind." Cultural awareness and social advocacy marked Alpha Kappa Alpha's infancy, but within one year (1914) of acquiring corporate status, AKA had also made its mark on education, establishing a scholarship award. The programming was a prelude to the thousands of pioneering and enduring initiatives that eventually defined the Alpha Kappa Alpha brand.

Through the years, Alpha Kappa Alpha has used the Sisterhood as a grand lever to raise the status of African-Americans, particularly girls and women. AKA has enriched minds and encouraged life-long learning; provided aid for the poor, the sick, and underserved; initiated social action to advance human and civil rights; worked collaboratively with other groups to maximize outreach on progressive endeavors; and continually produced leaders to continue its credo of service. (<http://aka1908.com/about/history>).

Until next week ...

*Dorothy*

Local Deltas Hold Founder's Day Program

Saturday, January 28, 2017

The Huntsville Marriott

The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. celebrated their 104th Founder's Day at The Huntsville Marriott on January 28th. The theme was "Bridging the Gap to Build Better Tomorrow's Together." Delta member and 3-Star General Gwendolyn Bingham, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management at the Pentagon was keynoter; Mrs. Agnes Holley-Smith and Mrs. Leslie Lee were Chair and Co-Chair of the Celebration.



Huntsvillian to Compete in Gridiron Contest

Trey Flowers, a Rocket City native, will be making his way to Houston for the championship football game on February 5.

One of ten siblings, Robert "Trey" Flowers III comes from a family of athletes. His eldest brother, Rod Flowers, played professional basketball overseas and had a small stint with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Several of his other siblings would later go on to play collegiate-level sports at Alabama A&M and Middle Tennessee University, respectively.

Following his brother's

footsteps, the Huntsville native excelled in sports, lettering in basketball and football at Columbia High School. Originally committing to Georgia Tech, Flowers would later renege his decision, picking the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to secure spot on a team in the SEC.

A powerhouse in college, the then junior almost registered for the 2014 NFL draft, but later decided to finish his senior year and apply the next time around.

In 2015, the 23-year-old defensive lineman was drafted to the New England Patriots

as a fourth round pick. Flowers' road to the championship didn't come over night. After sustaining a shoulder injury, Flowers was only able to play one game before sitting out for the rest of his rookie season.

After a year on the bench, Flowers made a strong comeback in his sophomore season, leading in overall sacks. On January 22, the Patriots beat the Pittsburgh Steelers, 36-17, securing their spot in the championship game this weekend.

by Reggie D. Allen

Local Restaurant Taking on Romantic Theme

The Rocket City must have a special place in Waffle House's heart. Out of the 24 participating Alabama locations, Huntsville leads with five restaurants that will offer couples a cheaper alternative to a fancy meal on Feb. 14.

Now in its tenth year, the

popular 24/7 diner will change select locations in 16 states into romantic, dimly-lit bistros with tables adorned with red table cloths and flickering candles.

Patrons can enjoy their favorite meals but in an environment more suitable for the

romantic holiday. Select items like their signature Waffle will receive the Valentine's treatment.

This promotional requires patrons to reserve their spot in advance.

by Reggie D. Allen

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- PRESENTS -

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 Learn about the Prominent Supreme Court Justice THURGOOD MARSHALL
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 A Free Public Talk!
 Saturday, February 18, 2017
 The Fellowship of Faith Church Fellowship Hall
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Valley Deaths

Funeral service was held Sunday, January 29, for **Mrs. Laura Hereford** (b. 1940) at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Joe H. Cater officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Florence D. Edwards** (b. 1946) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Mr. DeVaughn J. Cornelius** (b. 1995) was held Saturday, January 28, at Triana Cumberland Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Beechel L. Grays officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Earl Humphrey** (b. 1927) was held Saturday, January 28, at Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with Pastor Keith Ellison officiating.

Funeral service was held Monday, January 23, for **Mr. Edward Charles Walton, Sr.**, (b. 1948) at St. Elizabeth Cumberland Presbyterian Church with Rev. Columbus Waddle officiating.

Funeral service for **Ms. Monica P. Bennett** (b. 1971) was held Saturday, January 21, at Fellowship Presbyterian Church with Pastor Gregory J. Bentley officiating.

-Nelms Memorial
Funeral Home

Decatur Arts Center Opens 2017 Exhibit

The Alabama Center for the Arts runs through February 23 its exhibition season with "Around the Bend, an Exhibition of Drawings and Paintings" by north Alabama artist Robert Cox.

Cox's work is inspired by the regional landscape of the Southeast. For more information, contact the Alabama Center for Arts at (256) 260-4299 or visit the website at www.alabamacentersforthearts.org



Gallery Hours:

M-TH: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. & Fri.-
8-12

Valley Scopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

TAURUS The moon is placing an inspiring emphasis on either your writing or language skills, which will allow you to have maximum impact concerning someone close to you.

LEO The moon, in Neptune, may have you in a place where your intuition is a guiding force, one that is beneficial now both to yourself and others who you touch in some capacity.

SAGITTARIUS Intellect emphasizing, Mercury, along with transforming Pluto, in your 2nd house of material possessions, are likely to produce a situation that makes you feel revived in some basic way.

AQUARIUS Your 12th house, of psychic phenomena, could become a highlighted topic of conversation at present, adding extra interest to an otherwise monotonous, work related stretch.

GEMINI There's no time, like the present to embrace the inner power that you possess when it comes to getting goals accomplished, be it around your home, yard, or general work place, because it is then that you'll be most likely to breathe a sigh of pure relief.

ARIES Neptune, in your 12th house of dreams and talents, may give rise to a chance to make the most of a particular talent--something that's certain to be encouraged by a compassionate hand.

CANCER The moon is in

the process of setting the tone for you to venture into a new outlook or personal direction, one in which new experiences await.

SCORPIO Neptune in your 5th house of children, hobbies and vacations, may be encouraging you to plan an agenda that's likely to promote advanced thinking, as well as offer an imminent, real-life exposure type of learning setting for whoever participates.

CAPRICORN It may become clear to you, exactly which of your skills can easily be utilized, as you move toward the realization of something that you find quite desirable.

LIBRA You may find that the wheels of your mind are spinning with intensity, as Mercury stimulates the cerebral, and Pluto emphasizes the inner power that you hold to choose to be positive, at your current crossroads.

PISCES Intellect inducing Mercury and Pluto with its aptitude for stressing hidden secrets are the current manifestations inside of your sign and your suitability at handling such issues is likely to offer structure that you can use.

VIRGO Someone may be apt to generate questions for you, which may give you the chance to answer, express your feelings, in a clarifying manner, and possibly reassure a partner; who might need it.

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Calendar of Events

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.

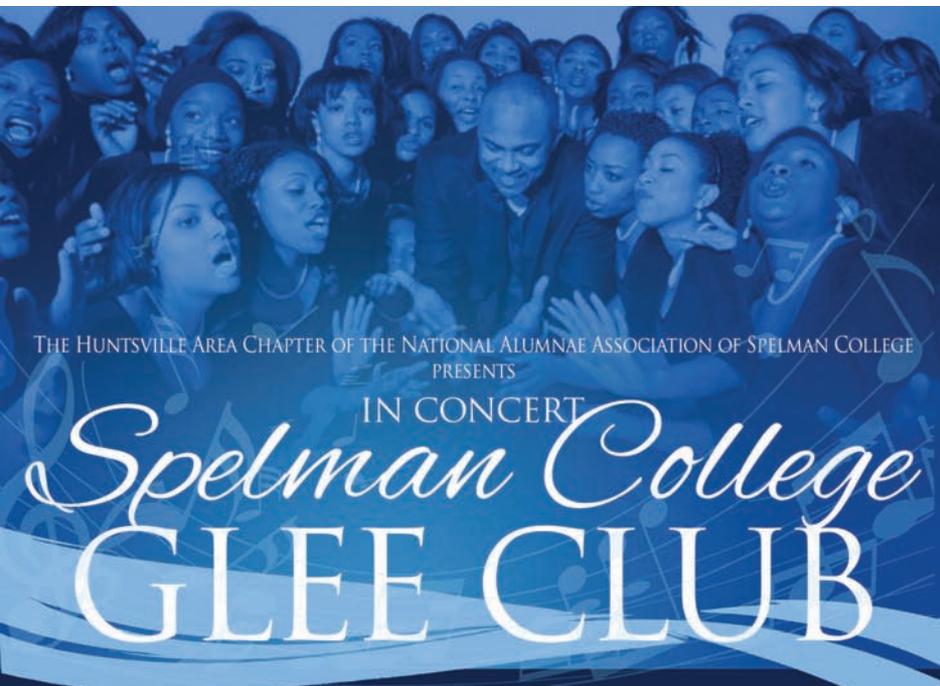
February 21
The CornerStone Initiative C4
Conference
The Jackson Center
6001 Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
8:30 a.m.

February 23
Art Exhibit
"Around the Bend: An Exhibi-
tion of Drawings and Paint-
ings 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.

March 12
Spelman College Glee Club
Sponsor: Huntsville Area
Chapter - Spelman College
Academy for Academics and
Arts - \$25
4800 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
5 p.m.



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On This Day - Friday, February 3 - **DENNIS EDWARDS** - Born in Fairfield, Ala., Edwards was a Grammy-award winning R&B singer who is best known for his work as the lead singer with the legendary Motown group The Temptations." - *BlackinTime.info*

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