

The Valley Weekly

"Tomorrow exists even though I may not exist in it."
- Jamaica Kincaid

FREE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Volume 4, No. 24

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, February 23, 2018

Local Named BEYA at Washington Event

On Saturday, February 10, Jacqueline Flakes Martin received the 2018 Johnnie Wilson Legacy Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) in Washington D.C.

The award ceremony was part of the annual Black Engineer of the Year Award STEM Conference festivities.

This is a national award named in honor of African American four-star General (Ret.) Johnnie Wilson, a living legend who is known for his landmark career ac-

complishments in leading the Army's worldwide logistics operations.

The award was presented by John James, executive director of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, DC., (l) and Ret. General Johnnie Wilson (right).



Martin is a senior engineer at the Missile Defense Agency and serves as the Hardware-in-the-Loop Lab Operations Lead and Agency STEM Ambassador.

Chamber Bestows Highest Award:

The Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce awarded Liz Hurley and Dave Hargrove the 2018 Distinguished Service Award on February 13, 2018, at the 82nd Annual Membership Meeting. The husband and wife team was each presented with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award, establishing history as the first time a married couple has received the highest individual honor given by the local Chamber.

NAAACC Celebrating 25 Years

The year 2018 represents a true milestone for the North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce.

NAAACC celebrates 25 years of service to businesses in the Tennessee Valley. In addition to its traditional offerings, the organization will focus on strengthening its core and building the NAAACC legacy for the future.

NAAACC will host a Women Business Owners Forum in the April, and it announced a website makeover contest during Black History Month.

NAAACC's quarterly training sessions will be available for viewing on-line or at the training site starting in March.

NAAACC also established a Mentoring Team Program focused on member businesses less than four years old, as well as a Legacy Fund for long-term sustainability and NAAACC building acquisition.



Striving for Greatness

Rolling Hills Elementary School (RHES) recently held its Annual Spelling Bee. Dr. Jerry Wilson, director of operations for Huntsville City Schools, served as pronouncer for the event, while Katrina Davis, Morris GATE teacher; Elizabeth Smith, RHES PTA president; and Rosalyn Mathis, US AMRDEC SED, computer engineer, served as judges for the event.

Twenty-five students in grades 3-6 participated and were excited about the possibility of representing RHES as the Spelling Bee Champion. Students had previously participated in classroom Spelling Bees and spent several months studying words and their definitions. Jordan Stallworth, a 5th grader, proved to be the Champion Bee on the road to GREATNESS with the winning word "severely". Catlin Harvey, also a 5th grader, is the second-place winner. Jordan represented RHES in the county-wide Spelling Bee February 6 at Randolph School's Garth Road Campus in the Thurber Arts Center.

The Valley Weekly
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Valley Mourns Death of Long-time AAMU Educator and Administrator



The Tennessee Valley and areas far beyond are mourning the February 19, 2018, death of one of the region's most gifted educators and administrators in higher education.

In the course of her nearly 40-year affiliation with historic Alabama A&M University, trustees voted and elected Dr. Virginia Caples as the individual to take the helm of leadership as interim president for the University in 1995 and again in 2005.

Dr. Caples was a native of Doddsville, Miss., located in the Mississippi delta. The Alcorn State University graduate provided tireless service to Alabama A&M University for almost four decades in various capacities as interim president, provost and vice president for academic affairs, associate dean, Distinguished University Professor and 1890 administrator.

In these capacities, she provided effective leadership in areas such as strate-

gic planning, academic program development and evaluation, faculty performance, institutional effectiveness, technology integration, meeting accreditation requirements, and student learning outcomes.

She was the lead facilitator for the University's strategic planning and SACS accreditation efforts in 1984, 1994, 2004, and 2014. Further, she was one of the principal individuals involved in the implementation of Knight, Sims, et al v. State of Alabama Higher Education Desegregation

Lawsuit for Alabama A&M University.

AAMU established the Virginia Caples Lifelong Learning Institute (VCLLI) in honor of Dr. Caples. With the opening of the VCLLI, AAMU joined the ranks of its sister Institution, Hampton University, to become only the second Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and the first 1890 land grant institution, in the nation to address learning and advanced quality of life for the older adult population.

Dr. Caples was a mem-

ber of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links Incorporated.

She was a member of the Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where she was a Sunday school teacher and chair of the Diaconate. She was married to Hundley Batts, Sr., and together they owned and operated "Your Community Station" WEUP 103.1 FM.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Feb. 24, 12 noon, at First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville.

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*



Once again there was another school shooting this past week in Parkland, Fla. Once again, no one knows why the shooter decided to kill innocent people. Once again there will be flowers and memorials set in place where people's loved ones have died. And, once again the families will try to seek closure as to why this all happened. In 2 Corinthians 1, Paul wants to tell us the truth. The fact of the matter is life can be painful. When Jesus died upon the cross, it was painful. We all see

that sin has made it's ugly mark on society, and it's repercussions are felt in a major way. But guess what? We are not alone. Job was a righteous man and yet he still had to endure pain and suffering. The apostle Paul was no stranger to pain either and yet through it all he says, *I still want to give God praise. You see, if we ever want to provide comfort to others, there are some things we need to understand and realize. First, God sends us a comforter. Paul says with the affliction he provides a comforter and his name is Jesus. In times like these only Jesus can provide the comfort that*

we need to heal. Secondly, we need to realize that God is sovereign. So no matter what happens in our lives God is still in control, even though there will be mistakes and failures from other people. God is working them out in our lives for our good. And, finally, when providing comfort for others, we need to understand that God will change the condition of your circumstance. For example, God did not simply just deliver the Hebrew boys from the fiery furnace; He joined them in the furnace. Because the fire was still hot, but the fire was not normal because Jesus, the comforter, joined them in it. So, if God has not taken you out of something, let him join you in it, so that the condition of your situation will change for the better Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Geneva S. Wright

Mrs. Geneva Scales Wright dedicated her life to educating children, whether in the spiritual or academic arena.

The fourth of eight

siblings, she was born and educated in Sumter County High School in 1954. Her credentials for teaching were awarded by Alabama A&M College (1959) and Alabama

A&M University (1964), where she received the bachelor's and master's degrees. The venues of her 39 years of teaching experience span from Sumter

County to Marshall County, and from Madison County to Huntsville City school systems. The longest tenure in her teaching career was with the Huntsville City Schools at

Lincoln Elementary, where she continued to substitute almost weekly. "I sub only at Lincoln," was her reply to those seeking her service at other schools.

At Fellowship Presbyterian Church USA, she served as a tutor and director of the Fellowship After School Study and Tutorial (FASST) program that focused on students in grades 1-5 from Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Elementary School assessments. Wright recruited students for her Edmonton Heights Summer Camp, which she founded and directed.



The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ahhh, February ... Valentines, Mass Murders, Movies and More!

Last Wednesday was Valentine's Day. I hope you enjoyed the time with family, friends and Sweethearts! Most of us don't get to enjoy chocolates as much as we like because of the modern day concern about elevated glucose levels. Years ago, we only *heard* about people with diabetes, few of whom we actually *knew*. The few we knew who had 'sugar' issues didn't take insulin and medicines for it. They managed their diets without a lot of hoopla. If you offered them food outside of their diets, they politely said "no thanks," and life moved forward. When we return to the farm-raised boxes of nutritional foods that the U.S.

Department of Agriculture is talking about providing our citizens who need subsidies, this is supposed to make us healthier. Yep, correct. Try ordering a medium, veggie pizza, and you will discover quickly that you will pay about \$3 more for that healthier choice. It's hard to imagine some things if you have not lived them. The commodities we got when I was growing up included blocks of salty cheese and canned meat, really thick peanut butter, full grain cornmeal, powdered milk, rice and beans. Before we begin to think about how to prepare it, we need to first figure out where the farmers are who are going to plant, harvest, package and deliver these healthy foods to the warehouse for distribution. It will take little time to discover that large families are, for the most part, a thing of the past. I certainly hope the engineers and food scientists are designing and developing harvesting equipment and preservatives without salt and sugar to get this stuff to us. Stay tuned for the rest of that conversation.

It's time for us to do something about everyday access to assault weapons. I believe in the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution; however, the men (and youths) who are mowing down our children and innocent citizens would not be able to do it at the same rate if they did not have access to these weapons. I grew up around guns. We still own guns; however, we have no need for an AK-15 and neither does a 19-year-old. Further, men *and* women have mental illnesses. So, why are the men doing all of this killing? There are ways to regulate it; however, we want to "pause and pray," pass the buck, and place blame rather than take reasonable actions to stop the senseless killings. Looks like the high school students in Florida have more sense than the rest of the general population. Can't wait for them to lead the change they are professing. Many of them will be voting in the next election. Go figure and go in peace!

Our daughter came home last Friday and took Bill and me to the movie to see "Black Panther." I didn't grow up with comic books, so I wasn't aware of the history. It was not what I expected because my expectations were uninformed. It was an inspiring movie about culture, class, intellect, history, success, love and a number of different emotions. Katie had ordered up three of those fancy seats, that reclined. We ordered popcorn, pumped the salty buttery liquid stuff on it, and relaxed for the show. I didn't know that super heroes are so violent. I took my usual unplanned nap and woke up to a ending of triumph and exhilaration. We read that the movie had broken a weekend record at box offices by Sunday. If you have not seen it already, I highly recommend it. Minus the fighting, which is necessary to execute the storyline, there is much to enjoy in "Black Panther."

My sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, presented 53 young ladies to us on Friday evening at the 60th Debutante Presentation and Ball. Photojournalist Reggie Allen gave us a preview this week. However, we expect to share the fabulous ladies enmasse with you *next* week. Make sure and look for them in TVW next week. More to come about this wonderful experience provided to the ladies and an event enjoyed by all who planned, participated and attended. Thank you, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, for your dedication to our next generation of women. It's always a magical, once-in-a-life-time experience.

Finally, congratulations to Liz Hurley and Dave Hargrove on your honor last week of the Distinguished Service Award for 2018 by the Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Your contributions to this community are unmatched! By now, I hope Liz has begun to write that book that I have been encouraging her to write for at least the past decade. You have overcome much and given even more. Huntsville is a better place because of your service.

Life is moving fast. James tells us that "Faith without works is dead." I have a lot of faithful, Christian friends. Keep the faith and let's get to work. The next generation is depending on us. Without an action plan, any path will get us there. I would rather plan. How about you?

Until next week ...



Dorothy



ABOARD! On Friday, February 23, 2018, trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni join President Andrew and First Lady Abbiegail Hugine on a return from the 6th Annual Presidential Scholarship Recognition and Promotional Bus Tour. The AAMU enthusiasts departed campus on February 18, traveling the state in AAMU's Bulldog Transit System (BTS) bus, equipped with Wi-Fi, televisions, electrical sockets and restrooms. Last year (above), the University visited 47 high schools, awarded 867 scholarships and set a record for the dollar amount of scholarships awarded. The total four-year value of awards offered was \$16,573,904.

Zetas Schedule Spring 'Hatitude' Luncheon

Delta Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is sponsoring a Blue Revue Hatitude Luncheon--"Back to the Roots"--on Saturday, April 14, from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at The Jackson Center, 6001 Moquin Drive, Huntsville, Ala.

The Blue Revue is Delta Omega Zeta Chapter's annual scholarship fundraiser. Scholarship is one of Zeta Phi Beta's founding principles. Each year scholarships are awarded to local high school seniors in the Huntsville-Madison

County community for their academic excellence, leadership and community services.

Delta Omega Zeta also supports Elder Care and Children Initiatives, and it has adopted the Mid-South Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association as one of its Elder Care projects.

The Children Initiative is a national partnership with the March of Dimes and collaboration with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Zeta Phi Beta and the March of Dimes have shared a 44-year-old



partnership. Tickets can be purchased from any Delta Omega Zeta member for \$45 or persons can contact (256) 653-4223.

2nd Year of FAITH Initiative Scholarships Announced

In 2012, the Session of Fellowship Presbyterian Church, initiated formation of the FAITH Initiative as a mission extension of the church.

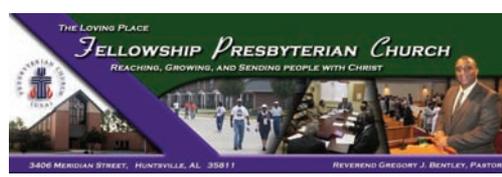
After due process, the Internal Revenue Service accorded nonprofit status to the organization. FAITH Initiative, Incorporated, announces two \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded in April 2018.

The Bobby Bodiford Memorial Scholarship and the Dr. Constance Dees Memorial Scholarship honor these two educators and late members of Fellowship Presbyterian Church

(FPC).

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.

The awards will be formally presented at the organization's fundraising event in April 2018. Information on the annual fundraiser will be announced in March.

Scholarship applications may be obtained from FAITH Initiative organization at faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com or call 256-714-9399.



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The 60th Debutante Presentation and Ball

The Members of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Honor 53 Debutantes - Theme: "Exquisite Diamonds Poised, Polished and Unconquerable"

Friday, February 16, 2018 (Photos by Reggie D. Allen)



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Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

NBA's 2018 Hall of Famers? Bible's Hall of Fame "Starting Five"

by tim allston

February 16-18 was the NBA's 67th All-Star Game/Weekend. Along with the slam-dunk, three-point and All-Star contests, spotlight will also shine on the NBA's 2018 Hall of Fame prospects: Jason Kidd, Steve Nash, Ray Allen, Chauncey Billups and Grant Hill are the five mentioned most for induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Some 2000 years ago, the Bible announced its own "Hall of Fame of Faith" in the Book of Hebrews, chapter 11. In basketball language, let's recap the Bible's starting five:

1. Wearing (verse) #4, at point guard representing the Martyrs for God franchise, is Abel. He took one for the team, as his brother Cain committed the first offensive foul by killing him;

2. Wearing (verse) #5, the shooting guard is Enoch. He was not only un-defeated, but his hang-time and vertical leap allowed him to rise to heaven and never return to earth!

3. Representing diversity and gender-inclusion, at small forward wearing (verse) #11 is Sarah - eligible for the Old-Timers Game, but known more for both her cross-over

dribble (from disbelief and laughing at God, to belief and celebration with birth of son Isaac), as well as for her alley-oop pass to . . .

4. Wearing (verse) #8, the power forward her husband Abraham - 'cause Abraham is recorded as having made the first three-pointer: Father of Judaism; Father of Christianity; and Father of Islam! And

5. At center, wearing (verse) #7 is Noah - he not only built the first arena; preserved and restored the human league; but, in basketball jargon, the reason that Abraham knew from where to shoot his three pointer, was because Noah created the arc (a.k.a the Ark)!

Q: Who's on *your* Hall of Fame of Faith starting lineup? Your parents? Grandmother? Local faith leader? Boy or Girl Scout troop leader?

Did you even make your own lineup? Why or why not?

Let's discuss it on my Facebook page, <https://goo.gl/TTYQpA>. tim allston is the author of the free book, 7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Somebody Else," available now at www.getegohelpnow.org.

Dem Caucus Sets 2018 Agenda

The House Democratic Caucus will focus on:

- Supporting Schools and Prioritizing Early Childhood Education
- Investing in Educators
- Rebuilding Workforce
- Ensuring open, Transparent Government and Ending Corruption
- Ensuring Access to Healthcare for all Alabamians
- Supporting Mental Health
- Prioritizing Prison Reform, Reducing Recidivism

• Fighting Addiction

Over the coming weeks House Democratic members will introduce legislation in support of these main tenets.

"This agenda represents something we, as Democrats believe in and that we believe serves all Alabamians and will lead us to a better future for our state," said Anthony Daniels, House Democratic Minority Leader.

The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

February 22

UAH Graduate Business Programs Open House Breakfast
The Jackson Center
Cummings Research Park
7:30-9 a.m.

February 24

Alabama Democratic Conference Annual Membership Meeting
Ernest L. Knight Center
Alabama A&M University 8 a.m.



February 16-17

Midwest Invitational Black Rodeo
AAMU Agribition Center
4925 Moores Mill Road
Huntsville, Ala., 4:30 p.m.

February 18-23

6th Annual Presidential Scholarship Recognition and Promotional Bus Tour

Alabama A&M University

March 4

Annual Women's Day Celebration
Fellowship Presbyterian

Church

Speaker: Dr. Cynthia Warrick, president of Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 10 a.m.



WINNER: Selected among five outstanding youth, **Levon Fletcher** from James A. Lane Club was named Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama. The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle. A special thank you to our judges: Mrs. Julie Broadway, Dr. Dorothy Davidson, Mr. Bill Johnston and Mr. Delvin Sullivan.

Called 2 Preach

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

Deliverance, Destruction and a Divine Destiny

One of the lessons that this stained story is tailored to teach is the tragedy of settling for the plain when God has chosen the mountains as the place of destiny (Genesis 19:17). I called it *stained* because it reveals the stain of humanity's proclivity to settle for less than God's best. It is no accident that the word plain, is singular, and the word mountains, is plural.

It was divinely designed that way to teach that one can choose the singular

blessing of a plain as his/her destiny, or one can choose the abundant one of the mountains.

Lot's choice was the one of far too many, especially among the people of God. He asked for a city that was convenient, God's permissive will, instead of choosing the mountains--God's perfect will.

As a result, Lot got what he asked for: the city called Zoar (ZOE AR), which



means smallness. Lot and his family were delivered, and they did escape destruction, but they did not experience the blessedness of the divine destiny

chosen for them by God.

Verse 20b of Genesis 19, records that Lot's plea and pledge was, "Please let me escape there

(is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." What a tragedy! My father taught me that a lot (no pun intended), can be learned by simply observing. Observing Lot's life and choices lets us know that it is always best to choose Omniscience over the ordinary.



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