

The Valley Weekly

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."

- Audre Lorde

FREE

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Friday, March 16, 2018

BSA Announces Whitney M. Young Awards

The Boy Scouts of America is sponsoring the Annual Whitney M. Young Awards Banquet Friday, March 16, at 6 p.m. at The Jackson Center, located at 6001 Moquin Drive in Cummings Research Park.

The banquet is a major program of the Boy Scouts of America ScoutReach Program, and it is designed primarily to recognize prominent scouting sup-

porters and community leaders in the Northern Area of the Greater Alabama Council.

The ScoutReach mission is to recruit strong adult leaders and to develop solid relationships with chartered organizations in urban and rural communities nationwide to ensure that all youth have the opportunity to join the scouting program.

Several citizens of Madison and adjacent counties will be recognized at the Banquet.

This year's guest speaker is Bobby Humphrey, motivational speaker and clinician.

Humphrey is a native of Birmingham, Ala. He is an All American and All PRO running back of one of the great University of Alabama football teams.



He is a well known and sought after motivational speaker. During his tenure at the University, he set many records. He was later named to the Alabama All Century and Team of the Decade.

Humphrey was drafted by the Denver Broncos during the first round of the supplemental draft. Through his efforts, along with others, his team played in the 1989-1990 Super Bowl. He has been able to reach out to youth groups around the region and the South, where he spreads the message of positive goal setting.

The banquet is open to the public. Tickets for the event may be obtained and/or reserved at the Boy Scouts Goodloe Service Center, 2211 Drake Avenue SW, Huntsville, AL 35805.

For additional information, contact Curtis Hunt, Talakto District Executive, at (256) 883-7071.

CNN Political Analyst to Address "The Orangeburg Massacre" at A&M

Activist, lawyer and CNN political analyst Bakari Sellers will discuss "The Orangeburg Massacre" Tuesday, March 20, at Alabama A&M University's Ernest L. Knight Reception Center at 12:30 p.m. Atty. Sellers' talk is part of AAMU's popular Beyond Normal Lecture Series.

The 33-year-old was born on September 18 and is the son of Gwendolyn Sellers and civil rights activist and professor Cleveland Sellers. He grew up in Bamberg County, South Carolina, and was educated at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, a public high school in Orangeburg, S.C.

In 2005, Sellers earned a bachelor's degree in African-American studies from Morehouse College. In 2008, he earned a juris doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He has worked for Congressman James Clyburn and former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin.



Law Enforcement Officer Appointed to Late Commissioner's Seat

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey has appointed a Huntsville law enforcement officer to fill the seat vacated by the death of Commissioner Bob Harrison.

Captain JesHenry F. Malone serves as commander for the City of Huntsville's West Police Precinct and is a resident of the North Huntsville community.

"I am truly humbled and honored that Governor Ivey has selected me to serve the remainder of the unexpired term as Madison County Commissioner for District 6, following the untimely passing of my

friend and neighbor, Bob Harrison," Malone said.

The Monroeville, Ala., native was the first African-American promoted to the rank of Captain within the Huntsville Police Department (HPD) when he was elevated in 2012. Before his tenure began with HPD in 1997, Captain Malone served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve for 11 years and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant as Section Chief for Tactical Wirelines Communications.

He attained his bachelor's degree in public safety administration from Ath-



ens State University and an M.S. degree in personnel administration from Alabama A&M University.

Malone is married to Tabitha L. Malone, and they are the proud parents of two sons and one daughter.

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Let's Keep Our Promise to Those Who Need Us Most

by Rep. Anthony Daniels, Jr.



Fifteen years ago, Alabama made a promise. Upon ending Wyatt vs. Stickney, the landmark legal decision that led to improved standards for mental health care here and across the nation, we promised to never again neglect support for mental health services.

However, in the years since, we have not only fallen far short of that promise, we have shown a brazen willingness to head down the same path – a path characterized as inadequate, inaccessible, and sometimes downright inhumane treatment for those suffering from mental illness.

In many ways, we are already well on our way.

Several Alabama state agencies, including our Department of Corrections, have recently been or are currently embroiled in lawsuits regarding their statutory failures to support or maintain sufficient mental

health services.

So, how did we end up back on this path – one that originally led to more than three decades of federal oversight of our mental health system? And what can we do to get on the right track?

First, as leaders and lawmakers, we must understand that mental health is multifaceted and interwoven with a number of other issues including correctional mental health, substance abuse and addiction, services for residents with intellectual disabilities, and treatment for those recovering from trauma, including our veterans. Mental health significantly impacts our budget and touches nearly every corner of our communities from schools to hospitals to local law enforcement and the courts.

We have both a moral and a legal responsibility to provide quality mental

health treatment options for Alabamians suffering from mental illness. Failure to meet that commitment with adequate funding levels and effective programs has only led to increased costs in emergency care and incarceration, not to mention the human cost in countless lives devastated.

To settle the Wyatt case, beginning in the mid-1980s, Alabama made significant investments in mental health programs and, like many states at that time, began moving from an institutional model to one centered on community-based services. We closed nearly all our state hospitals and drastically downsized the remaining three in favor of operating smaller, regional facilities. Advancements in modern medicine coupled with the reduction of state hospital beds resulted in saving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars a year. However,

these funds have not been reinvested in community-based mental health services and centers.

Instead, practically from the beginning, the shift to community-based services was not funded for long-term sustainability and success. Furthermore, since Wyatt was settled, the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) has been level-funded or cut every single year, including a \$35 million reduction in 2009.

Even this year, while we pat ourselves on the back for a \$13 million increase in the mental health budget, we do not tell you that those funds will likely be eaten up by two federal lawsuit settlements.

As a result, we have hospitals and centers that are at or over capacity, waiting lists of a month or more for those in need of critical services, programs that are severely understaffed by properly trained therapists, probate judges who have nowhere to place committed patients, and dangerous gaps in care

for some of our most vulnerable Alabamians. Meanwhile, ADHM struggles to cope with more and more unfunded mandates as its staff is forced to make Band-Aid fixes to keep programs marginally intact. In turn, our jails and prisons have become part of a de-facto mental health system – one that is bankrupting our state and it doesn't even work.

Our mental health system is stretched to the breaking point. And while it may suffer from some pre-existing conditions, the underlying cause is an ongoing unwillingness or inability to act by the state leaders and the legislature. Simply put, we cannot continue to let our mental health policy be dictated by litigation, judicial action, and federal intervention. We must be spurred to action by our constitutional, ethical, and fiscal duty to all Alabamians, not by a federal court order. The fact that we'd rather budget millions of dollars inevitable legal settlements, then put that

money into underfunded programs, is not only irresponsible, it's insanity.

No, our budget is not awash with discretionary funds. But there are steps we can take. First, let's thoroughly review state-funded mental health services to ensure that such appropriations are spent wisely, effectively, and efficiently. Let's look to shift our mental health care delivery system to one based on evidence- and outcome-based practices, not long-term incarceration. Let's examine creative and innovative solutions and economies to leverage additional state and federal dollars. And let's start a public dialogue that includes patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, social workers, and law enforcement professionals. Let's start talking about how we can ensure affordable and accessible first-rate mental health care to all Alabamians and let's do it now.

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Rev. Dr. John L. Herndon III

Born in Lincolnton, North Carolina, to Mr. John and Mrs. Elizabeth Herndon, Rev. Dr. John Loritts Herndon III received his postsecondary education training at Livingstone College in biology and chemistry; University of Texas, psychophysiology; St. Mary's University, law; Southern Illinois University, urban planning; and Columbia Theological Seminary, theology. During his professional career, he served as a research psychophysicologist, School of Aerospace Medicine, San Antonio, Tex.; research fellow, Polymer Chemistry, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.; administrator, NASA Technology Utilization, Washington, D.C.; mental health administrator, State

of Georgia; and pastor, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Ala.

While serving as the pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church for 24 years, he and the members of his congregation implemented numerous programs to provide a service to the community and youths, such as the FASST afterschool tutorial program for elementary school children at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.



Dedicated and committed to the General Assembly and the North Alabama Presbytery of the PC (USA), he served

in numerous capacities.

Servant Leader, Humanitarian, Counselor and Pastor/Teacher are just a few names that might summarize the work that Rev. Herndon has rendered in the community and

the world over. Rev. Herndon is listed among the most distinguished clergymen in the Huntsville-Madison County community.

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Romans 4:21 says, *(Abraham) being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.*

I believe that to receive God's promises for our lives requires us to be patient. Now, being patient means to be able to accept or tolerate delays, problems or suffering, without becoming annoyed or anxious.

If you remember the story of Abraham, the Bible tells us that he had waited long and endured patiently before receiving his first child, and yet he was still full of hope. One could also



say that Abraham had the certainty of hope, which means he knew beyond all doubt that God would do what he said he would do--even though the situation didn't look like there was anything to be hopeful for. So Abraham had two things working for him: he was patient and he was

hopeful.

I wonder. Are we as optimistic as Abraham was when it comes to the promises of God? We all need to understand that God knows the exact time for us to have what he wants us to have. So when we "partner" with God, we need to learn how to be patient. Because the only thing that keeps us from receiving the promises of God is, we give up on the journey. So, we have to learn to stay full of hope until we reach our destination ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

From the Editor

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The Valley Weekly

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Ahhh, Elders!

In 1 Peter, we are instructed to submit to God, resist the devil; likewise, young people should submit to elders, and be clothed in humility. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (paraphrased). Last Saturday evening, the Board

of Directors of the Rosetta James Foundation honored 11 local citizens; seven elders and four pioneers. Our volunteer Board of Directors are paramount in making the annual Honoring Our Elders Celebration a success. A special "Thank You" to the members of our Board, including Linda Burruss, Dr. Annie Grace Robinson, Jerome Saintjones, Gary T. Whitley, Jr., and Ja'Lissa Williams for your dedication to honoring our elders with humility and grace.

A number of other community volunteers support our work from year-to-year. We appreciate you--Carla Clift, Calvin Drake, Robert Drake, Tabitha Malone, Michael Morns, Joshua Pearson, Cynthia Robinson, and Kynae Stewart. We had almost 500 guests, and you were instrumental in getting them registered and seated. The video and music were extra special.

The staff at The Jackson Center are extraordinary. They welcome our elders and welcome us annually with great pride and excellent service. We appreciate program participants who help to create an enjoyable evening for our elders, their families, friends and guests. Thanks, Elder Mary S. Brown, Dr. John Clay, Councilman Wil Culver, Pastor Troy Garner and Gen (Ret.) Jim Link. Together, with our sponsors, we were able to honor Elders Amy Lewis Draper, Effie Gaines, Jacquelyn Ifill, Dorothy Johnson, Bob Petty, Alice Sams and Rosa Walker; along with Pioneers Army Daniel, Loretta Spencer, Beulah Toney and Arthur Walker.

We awarded \$25k in scholarships to students who volunteer in the community, living up to the mission of our Foundation: *Honoring Active Elders who Serve, and Giving Back to the Community*. We awarded two-\$2,000 scholarships, two-\$1,500 scholarships and 18-\$1,000 scholarships to giving and caring students. Together, the students are giving back thousands of hours in volunteer and community service annually. Congratulations to each recipient and best wishes for rewarding careers as contributing citizens.

Times are changing to the extent that things we used to talk about are coming to pass so swiftly that we can see and experience them each day. As a youth, when I heard 'honor your parents and elders so you will live long,' I thought, *we have plenty of time to do that later in life*. I did not take it literally. Now-a-days, life is moving fast enough that we actually shake our heads as we experience and observe prophesy. Tomorrow is indeed not promised, and

we should take heed to Peter's instruction. I knew only one of my grandparents, my maternal grandmother. Both my parents died too soon. As the youngest of 13 children, my mother was a very mature woman when I was born. Therefore, I had nieces born before me. So, I cherish the time I spend with elders. I find uncommonly good wisdom and advice almost each time I spend time with them.

My desire is to leave a legacy for my children and the young men and women whose lives I touch--the genuine desire to love and respect elders. One day, I hope to grow old and with that, I pray God will put people in my path who understand that when we honor and respect others, we honor and respect ourselves.

Thanks to all who support us. With great admiration and humility, until next week ...



Dorothy

HBG Offering Brewing Class

Always wanted to learn more about brewing? Now's the perfect time and season, thanks to the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

Interested adults can register for a two-hour class taught by an area master on March 29 at 6 p.m. at the HBG Carriage House.

This class will be taught by local craft beer brewer Bradley "Robo" Robison. Robo is a 27-year-old Huntsville native who served in the United States Marines before becoming a beer brew master. He is currently the head brewer at Below The Radar Brewing Company in Huntsville.

Robison enjoys foraging for brewing ingredients



and has been a beer brewer in two states at three breweries.

He specializes in brewing Gruits, and he is creating one using plant material from Huntsville Botanical Garden just for attendees to sample and, of course, he will walk us through the process on Thursday, March 29!

Sign up today! The fee for HBC members is \$25 and \$35 for non-members. The class is appropriate for adults 21 and older.

Huntsville City Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's 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. Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

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Called Preach

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

God, the Gift and the Goals

Both Old and New Testaments give empirical authenticity to the fact of God's Sovereignty. They also give efficient evidence to His notable and noticeable involvement in the lives of His people. Go figure. Who would trust a God who makes claims of care but remains absent? What is so impressive about the "God-ness" of God is His use of human agencies to combat the enemy's strategies against His kingdom. One was Jeremiah through whom God noted that He gives to His people, the gift of pastors who do things His

way, with the goal of feeding them with knowledge and understanding. I would like to take this time to recognize one of God's best gifts-- my pastor, Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, as he celebrates 43 years of able and scholarly shepherding of the flock at First Missionary Baptist Church. Indeed, he has, in my biased opinion, been faithful in meeting the goals of God in feeding this flock of God with the knowledge and understanding of God and His faithfulness and His worthiness of worship and praise. I thank God for the gift of Dr. Scruggs, who has



provided for me personally, an incarnate personality and pattern of what it means to have the title of *pastor*. Every Elisha needs an Elijah. Every Timothy needs a Paul. Such has Dr. Scruggs, or as he prefers, Pastor Scruggs, been for me--a masterful mentor; a faithful friend; an excellent example; a proficient pastor. *Thank you!*

The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

March 15

Info Session for UAH Adult Degree Completion Program *Degree is designed for working professionals. Online options available.*
UAHComplete.uah.edu or (256) 824-6673
5:30 p.m.

March 17

Spelman College Glee Club in Concert
Sponsored by the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College Huntsville Chapter
Academy for Academic and Arts
5 p.m.

March 19

AshaKiran's Annual Cultural Competency Conference 2018
UAH Campus, CTC
1600 Ben Graves Drive
Huntsville, Ala.

March 24

"Healing Workshop: Broken, Repaired and Usable"
Healing and Purpose after the Brokenness
Hampton Inn & Suites, 7010 Cabela Drive
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Valley Conservatory Jam Session

Featuring the Devere Pride Trio
5650 Sanderson Street, Ste. B

Huntsville, Ala.
5-8 p.m.

March 25

Gospel Choir Explosion
St. John AME Church Music & Christian Arts Ministry
Lee High School Auditorium
2500 Meridian Street
Huntsville, Ala., 5 p.m.

March 31

Kirk Franklin in Concert
Von Braun Center
7:30 p.m.

April 6

3rd Annual AAMU College of Business and Public Affairs Golf Tournament and Silent Auction
Huntsville Country Club
2601 Oakwood Avenue

April 9

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH Spring Term (Adults 50+) Daytime and evening courses.
Details: Osher.uah.edu/Catalog or (256) 824-6183

April 12

Info Session for UAH Adult Degree Completion Program *Degree is designed for working professionals. Online options available.*
UAHComplete.uah.edu or 256.824.6673 - 5:30 p.m.

April 14

Delta Omega Zeta Chapter

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Blue Revue Hatitude Luncheon "Back to the Roots"
The Jackson Center, 6001 Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

FREE DENTAL CLINIC

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- Sneed's Cleaners
- Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)
- Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



Cohort IX
Diversity Leadership Colloquium Begins
 March 6, 2018 - Offices of Sirote and Permitt - Huntsville, Alabama
Speakers: Atty. Julian Butler and Kimberly Lewis of Project XYZ



AAMU to Host "Serving the City as One" Day of Service April 14

Alabama A&M University will harness the collective energy of hundreds of freshmen, upperclassmen, and community volunteers for its Day of Service scheduled Saturday, April 14, 2018.

Activities will launch at 7 a.m. from The Quad and conclude around 3 p.m. In case of rain or inclement weather, volunteers will as-

semble in the T.M. Elmore Gymnasium or alternate location.

This year, AAMU is leading the massive effort, which began as a project first organized by area churches. In 2017, AAMU served as the first hub for north Huntsville.

On that Saturday morning, campus and community volunteers will gather for

a university-wide send-off. Campus buses will then drive them throughout the community to churches, agencies, and neighborhoods that requested help.

Previous projects have included:
 - Home Maintenance and Repair
 - Yard Work
 - AGENCY Opportunities: Hope Place, National

Children's Advocacy Center, 305 Eighth St., Manna House, Food Bank, Red Cross, CASA

- Packing Goody Baskets
- Lakewood and other school projects
- Neighborhood cleanups
- Letter Writing campaign to local Veteran's
- Voter registration drives

"This is a great way for students to experience

first-hand the impact just a few hours of their time can make," says Monica Clarke, coordinator of AAMU's Service and Volunteerism program (monica.clarke@aamu.edu). For more information, call (256) 372-4710.

To volunteer or receive additional information, visit <https://goo.gl/U62LYd>



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