

Is AAMU the First HBCU with Its Own Beer?, p. 8

Commissioner Announces Walk-in Clinic, p. 5

FREE

Friday

May 14, 2021

Vol. 7, No. 36

ValleyWeeklyllc.com



Soror 'Fannie,' p. 7

“Art hurts. Art urges voyages - and it is easier to stay at home.”

- Gwendolyn Brooks

The Valley Weekly
POSITIVE-INSPIRATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL



HPAC Pays Worthwhile Tribute to Personnel at Rolling Hills

The Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, Inc., of Alabama A&M University sponsored lunch for more than 40 teachers and other personnel at Rolling Hills Elementary School, located at 2901 Hill Top Terrace, in northwest Huntsville, on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Because of COVID-19 protocols, representation from the chapter was limited to members of its executive board.

“There are many times that our teachers and other school personnel do not get the recognition they deserve, especially considering how often they go far beyond the

call of service,” noted Atty. Michael Walker, chapter president and 1987 AAMU political science graduate. The Ozark, Ala., native and retired law enforcement officer said the gesture was “just the chapter’s way of expressing gratitude” and assuring all school personnel that their contributions are appreciated.

Principal Kellen Conaway, an AAMU secondary education graduate from Daphne, Ala., thanked the members of the executive board and the chapter for their support of the school and the teachers. Professional meal service

was provided and setup by Aramark Food Service based on the AAMU campus.

The 60-member chapter sponsors numerous activities for its membership, the University and the larger community, including a popular annual leadership banquet each June.

Above Caption (l-r): Michael Walker, HPAC Chapter President; Elizabeth (Liz) Smith, President, Rolling Hills Elementary School PTA; Kellen Conaway, Principal, Rolling Hills Elementary School; Natis Rambus, Assistant Principal Rolling Hills Elementary School; Dr. Dorothy Downing, HPAC Chaplain; Vanessa Williams, HPAC Treasurer; and Marvin Williams, HPAC Vice President.

Children’s Book Focuses on AME Church

Noted children’s literature author, Beverly Cleary, said, “If you don’t see the book you want on the shelf, write it.” Barbara Johnson was looking for a children’s book that narrated the history of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in language children could understand. She did not find that book, so she wrote it.

Sassy Discovers the AME Church details the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in a story narrative that children can read and understand for themselves.

Sassy seeks information about the AME church from her “Big Momma,” who has been an AME all her life. She and Big Momma begin the journey of learning everything there is about AME history in preparation for Children’s Church. Along the way, Sassy learns why everyone is so proud to be AME.

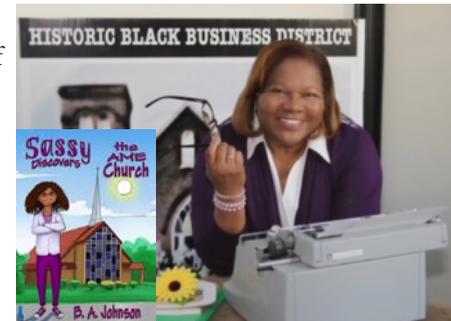
Sassy, her brother Franklin, and their friends encounter issues kids deal with daily, such as bullying, inclusion, death, grief, and

forgiveness. They, along with other AME members, must deal with the deaths of nine members of the Emanuel AME Church in

deaths at Emanuel AME Church. Sassy and her friends share their feelings for the first time.

Barbara Johnson is a retired educator and a lifelong member of historic, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in Huntsville, Alabama. She writes under the pen name, B. A. Johnson.

Sassy Discovers the AME Church is published by The Fresh



Charleston, South Carolina. No other story has been written from the children’s perspective regarding the

Ink Group. Books may be purchased online at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, and BooksAMillion.

The Valley Weekly

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Washington in One Minute



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

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate are back in session this week. The House considered 24 bills this week, including legislation to provide further protections for pregnant workers and a bill to ban debt collectors from contacting a consumer by email or text message without the consumer's consent. The Senate turned to more votes on Biden Administration nominees. The House Oversight Committee held a hearing on the January 6 riot, "the Capitol Insurrection: Unexplained Delays and Unanswered Questions," featuring former top Trump administration officials, including former Acting SECDEF Christopher Miller and former Acting AG Jeffery Rosen. Also appearing as a witness was DC Police Chief Robert Contee. The Senate Rules Committee was expected to vote on Tuesday on a comprehensive bill (S. 1/H.R. 1, "For the People Act") to expand voter access/registration and mandate independent redistricting

commissions, which passed the House 220-210 on March 3. On Wednesday, the Senate Commerce Committee voted on bipartisan legislation (S. 1260, "Endless Frontier Act") to enhance American competitiveness with China and other countries by investing in American innovation, creating good-paying American manufacturing and high-tech jobs, and strengthening America's research and development capabilities.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** On Tuesday, President Biden hosted a virtual meeting with the nation's governors on the COVID vaccination program. On Wednesday, the President met with House Speaker Pelosi, House GOP Leader McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, and Senate GOP Leader McConnell at the White House to discuss his infrastructure plan. On Thursday, he continued these discussion on infrastructure with key GOP Senators, including EPW Cmt Ranking Senator Moore (WV), Banking Cmt Ranking Senator Toomey (PA), Finance

Cmt Ranking Senator Crapo (ID), and Commerce Cmt Ranking Senator Wicker (MS). Sens. Blunt (MO) and Barrasso (WY) attended representing the Senate GOP leadership team.

3. **GHOST GUNS/POLICE REFORM.** Last Friday, the Justice Department proposed a rule that would expand the definition of a firearm and help close a loophole that has allowed people to buy so-called ghost guns, which are firearms that are easily assembled from kits but are not regulated by federal gun laws. In related news, the Wall Street Journal reports that Democratic and Republican congressional staff are working together to draft language for police reform legislation that would limit the transfer of military equipment to local police departments, ban police use of chokeholds except in life-threatening situations, and set federal standards for so-called no-knock warrants. The effort for a bipartisan agreement is being led by Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) and Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), who are targeting May 25, the one year anniversary of George Floyd's death, as a deadline to get an agreement.

4. **JOBS DATA.** On Friday, the Department of Labor reported that the United States added only 266,000 jobs in April, far off the mark of the 1 million job gain economists has predicted and far fewer than the 916,000 jobs added in March. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce immediately called

on the Biden Administration to end the \$300 weekly federal supplemental unemployment benefit and stated its analysis shows that the \$300 benefit has resulted in approximately 1 in 4 recipients taking home more in unemployment than they earned working. Last week, Arkansas, Montana, and South Carolina announced that they would end the federal benefit.

5. **STATE AND LOCAL RELIEF FUND.** This week, the Treasury Department is expected to release guidance for states, counties, cities, and tribal governments on the use of the \$350 billion provided by the American Rescue Plan Act to respond to the COVID-19

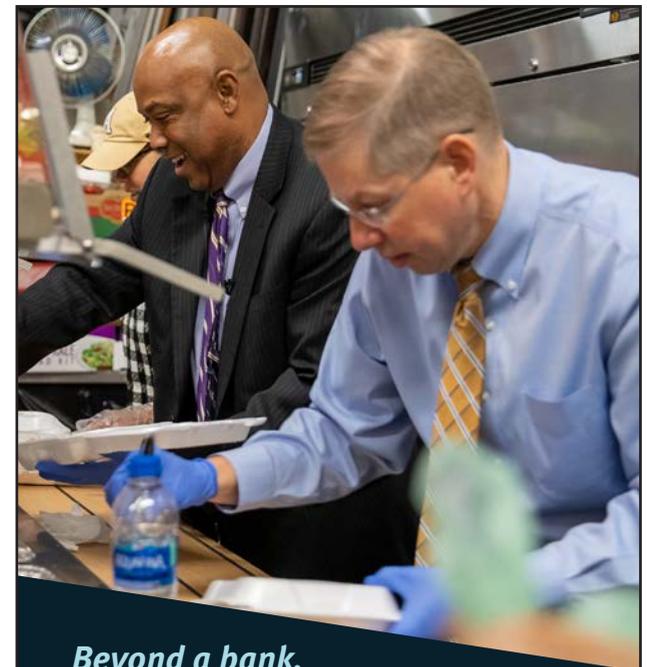
public health emergency.

6. **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.** The Department of Education has launched a Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices Clearinghouse. The website highlights innovative practices for reopening K-12 and postsecondary institutions and includes examples of how colleges and other schools have safely reopened in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

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HUNTSVILLE AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Public Meeting Notice

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board meets on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 4:00 pm. ALL meetings will be held on the 1st floor of COH City Hall located at 308 Fountain Circle unless otherwise noted on the Huntsville-Area MPO website at www.huntsvillempo.org. To read the plans up for review at this meeting visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/plans-and-reports/> For all other information on these meetings visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for *THE REVEREND MARCELL JOHNSON* (b. 1948) was held Saturday, May 8, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with *The Reverend Tiwirai Kufarimai* officiating.

Graveside service for *MR. LAWRENCE E. DAVIS, III* (b. 1954) was held Saturday, May 8, at Northside Cemetery with *Pastor Theodis Acklin* officiating.

Graveside service for *MR. LEMUEL GRAY* (b. 1964) was held Saturday, May 8, at Valley View Memorial Gardens.

Graveside service for *MRS. DOROTHY A. FORD* (b. 1944) was held Friday, May 7, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with the *Reverend Larry Smith* officiating.

Funeral service for *MR. BRIAN DEMARIO CANNON* (b. 1974) was held Wednesday, May 5, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with *Elder Dennis Green* officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for *MRS. CEDAREE CRUTCHER LOCKHART* (b. 1948) was held Wednesday, May 12, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with *Reverend Ernest Williams* officiating.

Graveside service for *MR. ISAIAH DESHAWN HAYDEN* (b. 1996) was held Tuesday, May 11, at Tuesday, May 11, at New Grove Baptist Church Cemetery (3870 County Road 49 Kennedy, AL 35574) with *Reverend Willie L. Hinton* officiating.

Graveside service for *MR. ERIC TYLER SLEDGE* (b. 1994) was held Saturday, May 8, at Thatch-Mann Cemetery (1801 West Hobbs Street Athens, Ala.) with *Reverend Robert Yarbrough, Jr.* officiating.

Funeral service for *MR. CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" LAMAR COLE* (b. 1973) was held Friday, May 7, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with *Dr. Carlton P. Byrd* officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral Service for *MRS. PATRICIA ANN GRAY* (b. 1963), *MR. NATHAN DEAN* (b. 1942), *MS. SHELIA HOWARD* (b. 1967) and *MR. CHRISTOPHER FRYER* (b. 1999) will be announced at a later date.

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

THAT'S WHAT MOTHERS DO

Matthew 20:20-21 says, "Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and kneeling down, asked a favor of him. She said, 'Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.'"

When we read this scripture, you can't help but agree that this is a bold request from a mother. But before we get upset with her

request we have to understand and realize that this is what mothers do. They want the very best for their children. They also have high expectations for their children, as well.

As we honor Mother's Day I can't help but acknowledge just some of the things that mothers do. The first thing they do is give affirmation. In other words, a mother supplies emotional support and encouragement. Not taking anything away from fathers, but a good mother tends to "be there" emotion-

ally for their children. That's what mother's do. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, if you did something wrong, it was always comforting to hear from your mother those inspiring words, "It's going to be alright." Because mother's provide affirmation. That's what they do.

Mothers also help provide spiritual development, as well. I can remember when I watched my mother pray. Not only did it give me a sense of love and pride, it also developed a "Faith Heritage" in me, which means that it was something that was passed



down to me. Now, I can keep passing it down to my children and my children's children. You see, there is an amazing "ripple effect" that happens when a mother gets involved with her children. Good mothers bring us joy that will last a lifetime, because that's what mothers do.

So let us celebrate all the wonderful mothers that have been in our lives Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and stay safe.

Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, *A Champion Game Plan For Life*, at amazon.com

"Myths are public dreams; dreams are private myths."

- Joseph Campbell

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Commissioner Edwards Announces COVID-19 Vaccination Walk-in Clinic

District 6 continues its COVID-19 Community Initiative with the announcement of a walk-in vaccination clinic on Friday, May 14, 2021, at the Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center. The clinic is a partnership between the District Six office and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Both the Moderna vaccine and the Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be available to anyone 18 years of age and older. Residents can take whichever vaccination they wish. Shots will be given from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and no appointment is needed. "We are intentional with our outreach and education. Clinics like this are important because we are removing barriers. You keep forgetting to make an appointment - that's fine, you can walk on in. You still have questions about safety - we have



experts waiting to answer them. We will even have a Spanish translator on hand to make sure everyone's concerns are addressed, and all parts of our community receive care," said Violet Edwards, commissioner of District 6.

Commissioner Edwards spearheads the District 6 COVID-19 Community Initiative, which focuses on three central tenants: safety, education, and CO-

VID-19 relief. This clinic, sponsored by Alabama New South Coalition, is the most recent commitment to render aid during the pandemic.

"The decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice. So, whether it is to protect your family or you are ready to go on vacation, taking the shot puts us one step closer to getting life back to normal," said Edwards.

ANSC Holds Strategic Planning Retreat

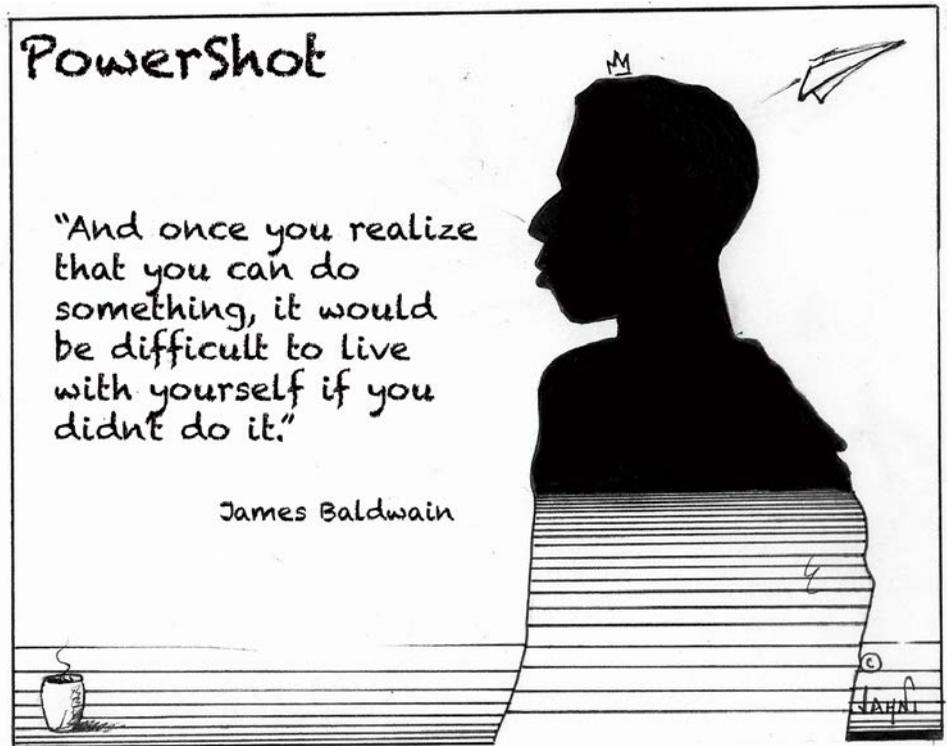
The Huntsville Madison County Chapter of the Alabama New South Coalition (ANSC) held a Strategic Planning Retreat on April 25 in the Madison County Commission District 6 training room.

Michelle Watkins, president of the local ANSC (right), hosted the event to permit members an opportunity to plan forward for the local chapter. ANSC was founded in 1986, has no political party affiliation, and it is open to persons of all races and who are

interested in working on a vision for a "New South."

On June 19, ANSC will be engaged with two Juneteenth events, one at the former Cahaba Shrine (which is now the National Speleological Society at the intersection of Pulaski Pike and Winchester Road) from 2-10 p.m.

The second event will be held at Stoner Field off Bragg, from 12-8 p.m. ANSC will hold voter registration and membership drives at both locations.



"The shame is in not improving when you have the opportunity."

- Bebe Moore Campbell

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BUSINESSES

disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

gov

(800) 659-2955

COVID-19-RELATED

UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department of Labor

(866) 234-5382

labor.alabama.gov

MADISON COUNTY

HEALTH

DEPARTMENT

(256) 539-3711

LATEST

COVID-19

INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public

Health

www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention

cdc.gov

TAKEOUT/DELIVERY

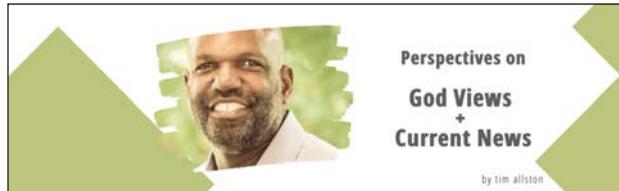
RESTAURANTS

<https://hsvchamber.org/>

restaurant-deliveries-

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Voter Suppression and the Alluring “Cookie Jar”

“There are way too many of the Israelites for us to handle. We’ve got to do something: Let’s devise a plan to contain them, . . .”

- Exodus 1:7, 8.

Egypt’s pharaoh devised enslavement intended to suppress the growing Israelite population. The plan failed and led ultimately to Israelites’ explosive growth and subsequent liberation.

Just as Egyptians failed to suppress Israelite growth, current state legislatures will fail to suppress but actually grow voter turnout, . . .

. . . According to American sociologist Robert K. Merton . . . and your childhood cookie jar.

Merton popularized the “law of unintended consequences.” It says that outcomes of purposeful actions that are not intended or foreseen do often happen.

The Egyptians’ attempt to suppress Israel’s population with enslavement actually increased their numbers; the hardship forced the enslaved closer together.

Similarly many state legislatures, angered by increased young people and people of color voting in the 2020 presidential elections, are seeking to “enslave” this growth by suppressing their voting rights. Perhaps these legislators forgot about their own childhood experiences with the family’s cookie jar.

Remember the Alluring “Cookie Jar”

Many of us remember parents’ orders: “Help yourself to anything in the kitchen, but don’t go in the cookie jar.” Subsequently, our focus became the cookie jar.

Why? Because just being told that there was something that we could not have only increased our interest and desire for it.



Remembering 2012, . . .

In 2012, three north Huntsville (AL) voting precincts were compressed (translation: suppressed) into one. Many of us viewed this as a red-state attempt to discourage our presidential re-election votes. It didn’t work.

Although polls closed officially at 7 p.m., the now-longer voting line resulted in the last registrant voting at 9 p.m.

We were not going to be suppressed or denied our cookie jar!

Why these GOP-filled legislatures don’t remember their childhood cookie jar experiences baffles me.

Philippians 4:8 advises, “If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.”

tim allston is the author of U.S. Politics The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders, which will be available on April 29th. Pre-order now on Amazon.

Organizers Plan for Annual Vision Banquet

The annual Huntsville Bible College fundraising event known as the Vision Banquet will be held virtually. This year’s celebration will honor the 35th Anniversary of Huntsville Bible College (HBC) and the 28th Annual Vision Banquet. Due to COVID restrictions, the Vision Banquet will be held virtually on Friday, June 4, at 7 p.m. via Facebook Huntsville Bible College; YouTube – Huntsville Bible College; or on the Huntsville Bible College website at www.hbc1.edu.

The funds from this event will be used to provide scholarships for students and to pay for operation costs of the Huntsville Bible College. This is the

largest fund-raising activity of the year for the Huntsville Bible College.

The theme for this year is “Celebrating Lifetime Sponsors.” The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Reginald Calvert of the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

HBC is a fully accredited college with strong academic programs and offers the following degrees: Certificate, Associates of Arts, Bachelor of Arts, Master of Ministry, and Doctor of Ministry.

To support the banquet this year persons may consider: Sponsorships, advertisement purchases,

and donations which can be made from now through May 31, 2021.

Persons may make their donations via Visa/MasterCard/Debit by phone at (256) 469-7536 or by mail: HBC – 906 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35811. Persons may also make donations via CashApp at \$HBC1986; PayPal – HBC1986, or online at www.hbc1.edu.

For more information, contact the College at (256) 469-7536. Get involved and become a part of this great 28th Annual Vision banquet anniversary celebration. Help spread the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



EXPLORE History

May 15, 2021 • 10am-4pm

Tell Their Story: Remembering the Scottsboro Boys

A Collaboration of Burritt on the Mountain, Francis Tate with CEOTA, John Allison and the Morgan County Archives, and The Scottsboro Boys Museum Scottsboro, AL

Join us on Saturday, as we hear the stories of the Scottsboro Boys, community members, lawyers, the sheriff, and the judge who heard their cases in Decatur. We will also celebrate the people who have worked to ensure that we remember their stories.

BURRITONTHEMOUNTAIN.COM

CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

The Speaker of the House

Joshua 24:15;

Genesis 3:17; 35:18

The position known as *Speaker of the House* in our governmental system carries with it the responsibility

of leading the members of the House of Representatives politically and in parliamentary functions.

That is how it works in our government, but



Joshua and Jacob teach us in these passages that it is the God-given role of men to be *the speaker of the*

house. That is not dictatorship, it is responsibility. It is in the beginning book of the Bible where we witness both the powerlessness of silence and the power of speaking. Because Adam remained silent during Eve's encounter with the enemy, he ended up allowing her to be deceived and she disobeyed God and

so did he. Even though he sought to make an excuse, God told him that it was his silence that caused that tragedy that threw all of mankind into the tailspin of sin.

Joshua on the other hand told his family, "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." After Jacob's wrestling match with God, he came away with a new understanding of God and himself as a man. Therefore, instead of allowing his son's name to be associated with "sorrow," (Benoni), he "spoke up" and changed his name to Benjamin which means,



"son of my right hand." The "right hand" is symbolic of authority and strength and honor. That was Benjamin's legacy because his father was *the speaker of the house*.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru May 23

"Encounters"

Althea Murphy Price

Huntsville Museum of Art
hsvmuseum.org

Thru July 4

Exhibit

"Tell Their Story: Remembering the Scottsboro Boys"

Sponsors:

Burritt on the Mountain, Francis Tate with CEOTA, John Allison and the Morgan County Archives, and The Scottsboro Boys Museum Scottsboro, Ala. The Burritt Museum

May 13

Opening Reception

Huntsville Photographic Society 2021 Members' Showcase
5:30-7 p.m.

May 14

Oakwood Farmers Market
1 p.m.

May 15

Senior Center's Spring 2021

Craft & Vendor Marketplace
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

"The Scottsboro Boys Remembered"

Lecture Series and Exhibit Tours

Burritt on the Mountain and Rosenwald School
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

May 19

Dedication of Historic Markers Honoring Huntsville Women

Sponsor:

League of Women Voters of the Tennessee Valley YMCA Building
203 Greene Street
Huntsville, Ala.
1 p.m.

May 21

Hill Technical Solutions Charity Golf Tournament
Cherokee Ridge Country Club
charities@hilltechnicalso-

lutions.com

(256) 970-1258
7:30 a.m.

May 23

Sidetracks Music Hall
415 Church Street NW
Huntsville, Ala.
6-8 p.m.

May 27

Annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala (Virtual)
www.aamu.edu/blacktie
7 p.m.

June 4

Second Pomeroy Dedication

Sponsor:

City of Decatur, the Alabama Women's Suffrage Centennial Committee and the NCWHS
Decatur, Ala.
2 p.m.

July 9

Reba McEntire Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
8 p.m.

MAY 14 - Born in Oakland, California, RAPHAEL SAADIQ is an American singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and record producer. He rose to fame as a member of the multiplatinum group Tony! Toni! Toné!

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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

Mrs. Fannie Pulley Thompson

Mrs. Fannie Pulley Thompson celebrated her 94th birthday on Tuesday, May 11. She is last living charter member of the Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is also slated to become a Diamond Member on May 18, 2021, according to Soror Mattie Thomas, who chronicled the life of Mrs. Thompson for an edition of *The Valley Weekly* last year and is the primary source for this piece.

On May 18, 1946, Thompson was inducted into the Alpha Psi Chapter at Tennessee State University. Three years later, on March 19, 1949, she joined nine other Alpha Kappa Alpha women in chartering Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter at Alabama A&M College (now University).

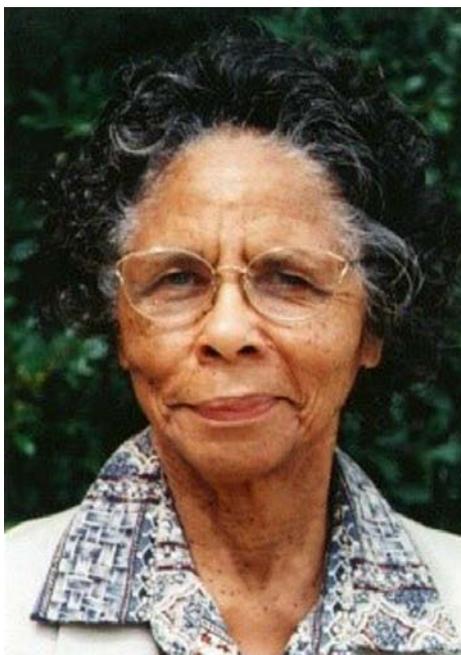
Now, 72 years later she is the only charter member still affiliated with the chapter, and she has never been inactive. She has consistently and extensively served the chapter and the organization at the local, regional and international levels of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Some chapter members likely recall when she was co-chair of the 41st South Eastern Regional Conference in 1973. She proved to be a hands-on leader. Not only did she provide planning oversight, but she also worked on the Housing Committee, typed letters, stuffed envelopes and doubled as chairman of the Registration Committee.

Then, as soon as the conference ended, she began her work as co-chair of the Debutante Presentation and Ball. Surely, other members recall her making arrangements for the champagne sip and breakfast that she and Dr. Abigail Hobson had added to the Debutante Presentation and Ball program two years earlier. In the early years of the program, she typed the debutante materials and duplicated them on a mimeograph machine.

Fannie usually served on six or seven committees per year. She also served as chapter president (1962-65), vice president/program chairman, parliamentarian, and recording secretary. At the peak of her Alpha Kappa Alpha service, she was a member of the National Reactivation Committee, regional conference parliamentarian and consultant, chairman of a regional evaluation committee and recipient of a regional Citizenship Award.

A diverse soror, Fannie knew Alpha Kappa Alpha policies and procedures,



as well as the needs and resources of her community. Combining that knowledge, she excelled in publicity. When the chapter planned such activities as the Herndon Spillman Recital or the Boys' Choir of Harlem, she sent announcements to every conceivable place and organization. She built relationships with newspaper editors and other media personnel. They attended the Debutante Presentation and Ball and brought their photographers. On the morning after the Presentation, they published beautiful pictures they had made and beautiful narratives that Thompson had meticulously written.

She was also honored as a "Living Legacy" by the alumni o William Hooper Council High School.

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.



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A New Generation Of Service

A&M Could Become First HBCU to Have Its Own Beer



Straight to Ale representative discusses process with AAMU students.

Alabama A&M University officials have announced an innovative collaboration with Huntsville-based brewery Straight to Ale to create a new American Lager.

The exciting initiative merges the brewing craftsmanship of Straight to Ale with the academic prowess of AAMU's food science and MBA programs.

The agreement allows AAMU food science students to create an AAMU-inspired beer in collaboration with the Straight to Ale brewing team. The project also received support from a group of MBA students who assisted in creating the product name and awareness campaign.

"Alabama A&M University produces market leaders in food science and business that are able to obtain leadership roles in many of the major food and beverage companies throughout the world," stated AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr. "As such, we are excited about the opportunities that this initiative provides for the students of Alabama A&M."

This is one of few brewing collaborations nationally in which industry has aligned with higher education to create a new beverage for the market.

By all indications, Alabama A&M would be the first Historically Black College or University (HBCU)

to have its own beer.

"Straight To Ale is very excited to be working with Alabama A&M on this special brewing project. The process of working hand in hand while crafting the recipe, marketing strategy, etc., has been very rewarding for our staff and a source of pride for the entire STA family," said Straight to Ale Brands owner Dan Perry. "We cannot wait to release the finished product in the very near future."

Alabama A&M will also receive a contribution for each case sold during the life of the product.

AAMU Vice President for Marketing, Communication & Advancement, Archie Tucker, II, stated,

"This collaboration is an amazing opportunity for our faculty and students to put theory to practice. It allows us to diversify our institutional revenue by connecting our world class faculty to industry experts, while also producing an amazing product that can be enjoyed throughout the

state and beyond."

Upon full production, the beer is expected to be sold at multiple locations throughout the State and will be available in May 2021 at Straight to Ale, located at Campus 805 in Huntsville. Additional details will be announced at a later date.

For more information, please contact Michael Colston at michael.colston@aamu.edu, Dr. Josh Herring at josh.herring@aamu.edu (project scientist) or martha.verghese@aamu.edu (Department Chair - Dr. Martha Vergese).



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