

# The Valley Weekly

"None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free."  
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

**FREE**

Volume 3, No. 36

[www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)

Friday, May 19, 2017



**BREAKING CODE:** This is what cyber class looks like at Jemison High, where students are learning to code drones they have made and acquired. It's just one academic exercise in the school's cyber lab to prepare graduates for a workforce demanding high-tech skills. The students will also be eligible for scholarship prizes in the first Cyber Cup competition June 7-8, sponsored by Cyber Huntsville. (City of Huntsville)

## Trump's Official Statement on HBCU Support

**Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

The statement that accompanied my signing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, sets forth my intention to spend the funds it appropriates, including the funds for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), consistently with my responsibilities under the Constitution. It does not affect my unwavering support for HBCUs and their critical educational missions.

In February of this year, I signed an Executive Order pledging to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to provide the highest-quality education; to ensure equitable opportunities for HBCUs to participate in Federal programs; and to increase the number of college-educated Americans who feel empowered and able to advance the common good at home and abroad.

My commitment to the above-stated goals remains unchanged.

In a few days, my Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos will give the com-

mencement address at Bethune-Cookman University, a school founded by the great Mary McCleod Bethune and committed to leadership and service. Secretary DeVos chose an HBCU as the venue for her first commencement address to demonstrate my Administration's dedication to these great institutions of higher learning.

I look forward to selecting an Executive Director and Board for my HBCU initiative and continuing this important work with HBCUs throughout the nation.

- Donald J. Trump

## Sickle Cell Walk-A-Thon Set

The entire family is invited to take part in the annual North Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc. "Sickle Cell Walk-A-Thon" on Saturday, June 3.

Walkers will convene at Big Spring Park in Downtown Huntsville. Registration begins promptly at 7:30 a.m., and the walk starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 12 noon.



Designed as an awareness effort to promote sickle cell awareness, education and research, the walk-a-thon is comprised

of individuals, schools, churches, community members who form teams prior to participation.

For more information, contact the North Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc., 224 Church Street, Suite B, Huntsville, AL 35801, (256) 536-2723, or visit [www.sicklecellna.org](http://www.sicklecellna.org)

Pamela Thompson serves as executive director.

## Sinbad, Arnez J Coming to Valley

Popular comic Sinbad will perform at Stand Up Live Huntsville May 26-28. The new comedy club is

located at 2012 Memorial Parkway SW. Energetic comedian Arnez J also will appear

June 8-11. For more information, visit [huntsville.standuplive.com](http://huntsville.standuplive.com).



**REDESIGN:** Hiley Huntsville held a special launch party at Cotton Row Restaurant to unveil the most recent redesign of the Mazda CX-5. Photo courtesy of Huntsville Event Magazine/Reggie Allen.

## Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

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Lucky's Supermarket

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Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

## The Hamm Consulting Group



# Washington in a Minute

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

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. In a nod to Police Week in Washington, D.C., the House is slated to take up a bill to amend the federal criminal code to make the murder or attempted murder of a local law enforcement officer, firefighter or other first responder an aggravating factor for juries considering the death penalty for a defendant.

It will also consider a bill to grant greater arrest authority for probation officers in situations where a 3rd party is interfering with his or her duties.

The Senate on Monday voted to end debate on the Deputy Secretary of Transportation nominee Jeffrey Rosen and Associate Attorney General nominee Rachel Brand.

2. On Monday, President Trump made remarks at an event in Washington, D.C., to honor fallen police officers. On Tuesday, he met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the White House. On Wednesday, he traveled to New

London, Connecticut, to speak at the Coast Guard Academy commencement. On Friday (through May 26), he left for Saudi Arabia to begin his first foreign trip as President, in which he will also visit Jerusalem, Vatican City, Brussels (for a NATO meeting), and Taormina in Sicily (for a G7 meeting).

3. The Associated Press on Monday listed 14 potential candidates to replace FBI Director James Comey, who President Trump fired. The candidates are: (1) Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX); (2) Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC); (3) ex-Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI); (4) ex-NYC Police Commissioner Ray Kelly; (5) Boeing Corp. General Counsel J. Michael Luttig; (6) former Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson; (7) FBI Criminal and Cyber Branch Chief Paul Abbate; and (8) former Assistant Attorney General Alice Fisher; (9) Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe; (10) New York Court of Appeals Judge Michael Garcia; (11) Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers; (12) FBI Richmond Field Office Chief Adam Lee; (13) Federal

Judge Henry Hudson; and (14) Frances Townsend, a former homeland security and counterterrorism adviser to President George W. Bush.

The new director will reportedly be named before the President leaves Friday on a 7-day foreign trip. This week, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein traveled to Capitol Hill to brief the full Senate on his role in Comey's firing. Democrats yesterday continued their demands that recordings the president suggested he may have made of his meetings with the former FBI director be preserved

and handed over to lawmakers. And the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee said he'd like to see Comey testify at a public session of the panel.

4. CBS News reported that a senior White House staff shakeup could happen in the next 48 hours, which may include CoS Reince Priebus and the White House communications office.

5. A bipartisan group of senators will begin a push to overturn a federal prohibition on tracking the educational and employment outcomes of college students.

Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), all members of the Senate education committee, are unveiling legislation that would allow the federal government, as well as families and prospective students, to obtain more accurate and complete data about whether students at a particular college, or in a certain major, graduate on time and find well-paying jobs, among other things.

6. Congress and energy industry groups will lay the groundwork this week for President Trump's forthcoming infrastructure proposal. Trump has vowed to advance a \$1 trillion plan to rebuild aging water lines, pipelines, highways and other U.S. infrastructure through some as-yet undetermined combination of public spending and tax incentives.

For more information, contact Ron Hamm at 202-596-8384 or rhamm@hammconsulting.com.

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"WE KNOW THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND POLITICS"

## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

The bible tells us to pray for our enemies and care enough about them to want to see them go to heaven.

So many Christians today are angry and upset over people that have hurt them. But remember: "hurting people, hurt other people."

And, they hurt others based on the pain that they had in their own lives. So,

it's time to forgive those who have hurt you. Job



42:10 says, After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

You see, the promises of God come with conditions. We can't be blessed and also be mad at everybody at the same time. Remember, love gives and forgives ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

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**The Valley Weekly**

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# From the Editor



**President Trump to Consider New Leadership for HBCUs ...**

Four well-known leaders are being considered by President Trump for the Executive Director's position at the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHI-HBCUs). Earlier this year, he invited HBCU presidents to The Hill to announce that he was moving WHI-HBCUs, which falls under the U. S. Department of Education, to the White House.



According to the publication *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, the names of four individuals who are being "floated" for the position. *Diverse Issues* reported on May 14 that the following individuals are "being considered" for the post (alphabetically, top to bottom at left): Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd, immediate past president of Alabama State University (ASU); Ms. Linda Chastang of the U. S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. Leonard Haynes, who served in the position under President George W. Bush; and Meldon Hollis, Esq., the first Executive Director of the WHI that was established by President Jimmy Carter.

I have had the good fortune of meeting three of these individuals, including Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd during her tenure as President at ASU; Dr. Meldon Hollis when he was employed at the WHI; and Dr. Leonard Haynes when he served at the U. S. Department of Education. To say the least, this is an interesting group of professionals.



Taking an aside, I am still not convinced that Dr. Boyd shouldn't be at ASU. She seems to have had the right 'stuff' to move the University forward. With that said, I believe HBCUs will be well served by her if she were selected as the next Executive Director of the WHI. She is the former national President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a past engineer at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, and is a "prominent advocate for women's equality and for the recruitment of black Americans into science and engineering." (<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2445/Boyd-Gwendolyn-E.html>)



Last Wednesday, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos gave the commencement address at Bethune-Cookman University--a school founded by the great Mary McCleod Bethune--and committed to leadership and service. According to President Trump, "Secretary DeVos chose an HBCU as the venue for her first commencement address to demonstrate [his] Administration's dedication to these great institutions of higher learning." During the commencement address, the graduates and many in the crowd--and outside--rejected DeVos and the President of Bethune-Cookman University, and booed and jeered them for several minutes. According to *USA Today*, "Education Secretary Betsy DeVos struggled to deliver her commencement speech at a historically black college Wednesday, as the crowd drowned out her words with roaring boos." DeVos' remarks on the importance of education were overpowered by calls from the audience to "shut up."

I think sometimes, we might really need some help. Having worked in majority and minority settings, I believe Dr. Gwen might be the "trump card" because now-a-days most of us believe "if you are not for us, why are you trying to speak to us? It's a question that deserves an answer.

Until next week ...

*When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us online at [www.valley-weeklyllc.com](http://www.valley-weeklyllc.com).*

*Dorothy*

## 'Always a Bridesmaid' to Close This Week

Theatre Huntsville's current production, "Always a Bridesmaid," will be making its final walk down the aisle on May 20 at the Von Braun Center Playhouse.

Written by Jamie Wooten, Jessie Jones and Nicholas Hopen, the comedy follows four friends that made a childhood pact to be bridesmaids in each other's wedding. However, the passing years have shown

that marriage was not all it was cracked up to be.

"Always a Bridesmaid" stars Colleen McNabb Staples, Joy Whitt and Tiffany Gray, Robbie Shafer and Nora Hixon. This production is directed by John Hancock.

The show will run throughout the week, with performances beginning at 7:30 p.m. On closing day,

there will be a 2:30 p.m. matinee and an evening performance.

Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 for students and seniors (65+). Tickets can be purchased at the box office, online or over the phone.

For additional information, call (256) 536-0807 or visit [www.thtix.com](http://www.thtix.com).

by Reggie Allen

## Huntsville Sigmas Holding Fundraiser

On May 20, the Beta Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. will be holding its annual pancake breakfast at the Applebee's located on 3150 Memorial Parkway Northwest in Huntsville, Ala.

From 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., attendees will be treated to fresh pancakes and sausage

served by the men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. The meal comes with a choice of juice, coffee or water. The event is open to the public and family friendly.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in advance from a member from BES. For any additional information,

please contact their chapter president Tom A. Randolph. Patrons are encouraged to keep their stubs as it can be redeemed for \$3 off their next meal.

All proceeds will go to the organization's upcoming event, "Stomp Out Diabetes."

by Reggie Allen

**"I have striven not to laugh at human actions, not to weep at them, nor to hate them, but to understand them."**

- Baruch Spinoza



**March 19 - MALCOLM X - Born in Omaha, Neb., Malcolm X ("By any means necessary") was the Nation of Islam's most controversial and popular figure during the 1960s.**

- *Blackin-Time.info*

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## Area Kappas Schedule Father-Daughter Gala

The Decatur-Athens Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., will hold its Father-Daughter Gala on Saturday, June 10, from 7-11 p.m. at the Best Western Plus in Madison, Ala.

For more information, contact Tony Richardson at (256) 289-3292. Interested persons can also visit [fatherdaughter-gala.eventbrite.com](http://fatherdaughter-gala.eventbrite.com).

## A Good Read



by Jerome Saintjones

### Maxine Swann's "Flower Children"

The offspring of hippies enjoy a rural utopia of southern Pennsylvania with seemingly no bounds or rules. Loaded with and/or obsessed with the infinite experiences and adventures well beyond their years, the children somehow miss the gradual meltdown of their parent's marriage.

As they begin to enter school and to interact with other children, they are introduced to structure, rules and the beauty behind certain childhood protections. Although they still love their parents, they begin to see them more clearly and to more fully recognize the positioning of their family in the grand scheme of things.



**FAMILY AFFAIR:** Therina R. King (c), owner of QU-gniK Consignment, the newest business at the northwestern corner of Oakwood Road and Meridian Street, gets ample assistance from (l-r) sister, Tanya K. Smith, and mother, Shirley K. Alexander.



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## Powers Scholarship Established in Rosetta James Foundation

Mrs. Veronica Curtis-Richie and Mrs. Barbara Johnson, along with their family, established the Norma L. Powers Scholarship in the Rosetta James Foundation.

This scholarship will be awarded to students attending J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College during the "Honoring Our Elders Celebration" annually in March.

According to Mrs. Curtis-Richie, "the scholarship will provide an opportunity for students to complete their education, while keeping their Aunt Norma L. Powers' legacy alive." They affectionately call Mrs. Powers "Aunt Bookie," who they credit with

"instilling in the family the importance of creating an avenue for providing for themselves."

According to Curtis-Richie, Mrs. Powers believed that education is the number one means to reach that goal." The Foundation is pleased with the confidence this family has placed in it, according to Chair of the Board, Dr. Dorothy Huston.

The scholarship will "extend our reach at Drake, where the Foundation presents three endowed scholarships funded by the McKinley James/Rosetta Jones Families, Dr. Charles Smoot and Mrs. Virginia Pugh-Gilchrist," said Huston.

## Valley Calendar of Events

May 20

Untouchables Corvette Club Annual Scholarship & Charity Spring Fling  
Cahaba Shrine Center/1226 Blake Bottom Rd. - \$15  
Contact: 256-603-2441/256-684-2182  
8 p.m.-12 a.m.  
Please call Carolyn Lundy or James Lundy at (256) 852-2240 for more details

May 27

Old School and Blues Music Festival  
Huntsville Dragway Grounds, 502 Quarter Mountain Road  
<http://www.oldschoolandbluesfestival.com/>

June 2 & 7

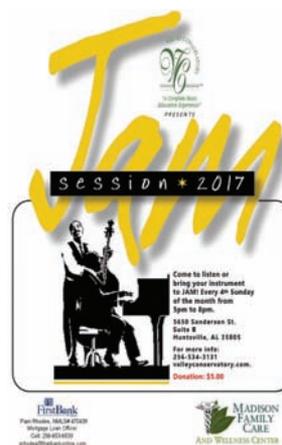
Jim Parker's Songwriters Series  
Playhouse - Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6:30 p.m.

June 10

Family Day of Education and Fun  
Sponsor: Alabama Cooperative Extension Service  
Agribition Center  
Moore's Mill Road, 12-4 p.m.

June 17

Fun Festival & Expo (Free)  
VBC South Hall



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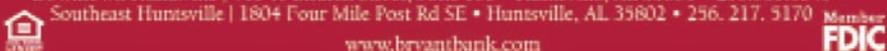
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## Chamber Schedules Senator's Update

The Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce is coordinating the "2017 Washington Update with Senator Luther Strange" on Wednesday, May 31, at the Von Braun Center North Hall, from 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.

Senator Strange's inaugural Washington Update event will provide the Senator an opportunity to

update the business community on critical business, NASA and military issues pending in Congress which will impact the Tennessee Valley community.

Moreover, Senator Strange has seats on the Senate Budget, Armed Services, and Energy and Natural Resources committees in the US Senate.

The Republican Senator was born in Birmingham, Ala.. He earned his baccalaureate degree from

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Tulane University in 1975

and later received the Juris Doctor from Tulane University Law School in 1979.

Strange was admitted to the Alabama Bar in 1981, and he engaged in the practice of law in Birmingham; served as attorney general of Alabama from 2011-2017; and was appointed as a Republican to the

United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Jefferson Sessions, and took the oath of office on February 9, 2017.

Torch Technologies and Aerojet Rocketdyne are presenting and platinum sponsor, respectively. For more information, call Tina Leopold at (256) 535-2031.

## Jazz-N-June Unites Community

A Tennessee Valley mainstay, the annual Jazz-N-June festival (June 15-18) truly brings together the diverse community through a shared appreciation for the role African-American spirituals, gospel, blues and jazz music have played in helping to shape American arts and culture.

Part of a series of activities, Jazz-N-June on the Mountain will culminate a symposium and gospel concert.

According to Howard Bankhead, director, Tennessee Valley Jazz Society-Youth Life Development, the event will recognize and pay tribute to the late Elizabeth Sloan-Ragland, one of the forces behind the success and longevity of WJAB-FM 90.9 on the Alabama A&M University campus.

Moreover, Jazz-N-June will serve to engage the younger populations to appreciate and become more interested in history.

"We also need as many people as possible to know about Thursday, June 22," said Bankhead. "It will feature the Elizabeth Sloan-Ragland Multicultural Unity Celebration" at Oakwood University Church.

Additionally, on Thursday, June 22, at Oakwood University (10 a.m.), a symposium/panel discussion on the evolution of African-American music will be held. The symposium will provide historical facts, religion, music and

humanity.

On Thursday evening, also at Oakwood University at 6 p.m., a gospel music concert will feature songs from area churches, along with the unity song by the Elizabeth Sloan-Ragland Multicultural Unity Choir. The Unity Choir will be comprised of choirs from a variety of churches throughout the Huntsville communities.

"Knowing our history is a source of empowerment," stated Bankhead. "For the

black youth and adult, to know their rich yet turbulent history is a power within itself."

This old but new-found awareness and understanding of other people, I believe, will spur a movement of empathy, from which some of the divides within our country and within some of our divided communities can heal," Bankhead said.

For more information, visit <http://www.tvjs.webs.com/>

## HudsonAlpha Plans CROPS Conference

Leading genomics researchers and plant breeders from around the world will convene at the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology for the CROPS conference.

The next CROPS conference will be held June 5-8, 2017, at HudsonAlpha.

The conference examines the latest genomic technology in plant breeding and crop improvement.

Co-hosted by HudsonAlpha and the University of Georgia, CROPS brings together leading researchers applying genomic-based techniques to crop improvement, plant molecular breeding experts, and traditional breeders interested in applying these techniques within their crops of interest.

Traditional breeding and crop improvement are undergoing a transforma-

tion as these disciplines expand to include genomic based, large-scale DNA genotype information, comparative functional insight from expression analyses, and new tools for selecting superior gene combinations while breeding crops to meet the challenges of population growth, declining natural resources and climate variability.

In addition, attendees

will have the opportunity to attend a free Phytozome Workshop Monday, June 5, from 3:30 - 5:30 PM at the Jackson Center.

Phytozome, the Joint Genome Institute's Plant Genomics Portal, is the home of all post-sequencing analyses of the eight JGI Flagship Plant Genomes, as well as the integration point for comparative analyses of these flagships in the context of other

plant genomes produced at the JGI and externally.

In this workshop, participants learn about the current version 12 of Phytozome as well as provides a preview of version 13, a significant redesign of Phytozome's software architecture and user interface. Click here to register for the workshop.

For more information, visit [hudsonalpha.org/crops](http://hudsonalpha.org/crops).

### 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.

### Botanical Art Classes Begin May 31

The Huntsville Botanical Garden will feature "Botanical Illustration Art Classes, Color Pencil II, 1-5" beginning May 31 in the Anderson Education Classroom. The course will be taught by Frank Andrus, certified botanical illustrator. Some prerequisites apply.

The study of "Underpainting" will add strength to art renderings. Introduction to "Solvent" as a major tool produces stunning pictures that mimic oil paintings. All work at this level is produced on quality Hot Pressed watercolor paper as final plate material. Call (256) 830-4447 for details.

# Valley Deaths

Funeral service will be announced at a later date for **Mr. Willie L. Steger**.

Funeral service was held Tuesday, May 16, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church for **Mr. Gerald Lamonte Turner** (b. 1973) with Pastor C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Graveside service was held for **Mr. Charles Edward Jones** (b. 1934) on Monday, May 15, at Valley View Memorial Gardens in Meridianville, Ala.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Ruby Simpson** (b. 1922) was held Saturday, May 13, at Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Mobile, Ala.

Funeral service was held for **Mrs. Mary F. Garth** (b. 1968) on Saturday, May 13, at Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Holloway Garth officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Keyondo Lanier** of Houston, Tex., (b. 1992) was held at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home on Sunday, May 7, with Rev. Gwen Holmes officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Dorothy Garner Johnson** (b. 1948) was held Saturday, May 6, at Conley Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Funeral service was held Thursday, May 4, for **Mr. Anthony Pierre Witt** (b. 1967) at Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church.

-Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

# Huntsville Art Festival

Saturday, May 13, 2017  
The Agribition Center  
Huntsville, Alabama



# District 4 Town Hall Meeting Showcases New Morris P-8 School

Huntsville City Council member Bill Kling and School Board member Walker McGinnis recently hosted a District 4 town hall meeting and tour of Morris Elementary School.

The activities and open house were held Tuesday, May 9, at 4801 Bob Wallace Avenue, adjacent to the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

Slated for discussion were municipal and education-related issues, followed by a question and answer period.

Special guests included Huntsville City Schools Superintendent Matt Akin and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

Morris is scheduled to open in August.



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