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Fine Example: DR. PAUL B. RUFFIN - p. 4

Friday
June 12, 2026
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SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Dr. Annie Grace Robinson



The Valley Weekly

“Change your thoughts and you change your world.” — Norman Vincent Peale



Late Blues Musician Honored

The City of Huntsville approved two resolutions honoring legendary blues musician “Microwave” Dave Gallaher with the renaming of both a downtown street and dog park.

As part of this tribute, Cleveland Avenue between Meridian Street and Church Street will now bear the name Microwave Dave Way, while the Downtown Dog Spot has been formally renamed the Microwave Dave Dog Spot.

These changes recognize Gallaher’s profound influence as a musician, educator and advocate for the arts, as well as his lasting impact on Huntsville’s cultural identity. New signage has been installed across both locations.

Key Dates Before Municipal Election

Candidate qualifying for the City of Huntsville Municipal Election will begin on Tuesday, June 9. The election is Tuesday, Aug. 25, for representatives from City Council and Huntsville City Board of Education in Districts 2, 3 and 4.

Qualifying forms are available in the City Clerk’s office, third floor, Huntsville City Hall, 305 Fountain Circle.

- Some key dates for the election cycle:
- June 23:** Candidate qualifying closes at 5 p.m.
- Aug. 10:** Last day to register to vote. More information available at the State of Alabama election website.
- Aug. 18:** Last day for voters to mail an application for a regular absentee ballot.
- Aug. 24:** Last day to hand-deliver regular absentee ballot by 5 p.m.; last day to apply for emergency absentee ballot.
- Aug. 25:** Municipal Election
- Sept. 22:** Runoff Municipal Election, if necessary.

“Voting is a critical part of our democracy, and we encourage everyone to cast their ballot in the Municipal Election,” City Clerk Shaundrika Edwards said.

Drake State’s Annual Jazz Fundraiser Date Approaches

Mark your calendars! Jazz in the City is back, and this time the fun is being taken indoors, at the Von Braun Center Mars Music Hall, as Drake State celebrates its 65th Anniversary of education, workforce development, and community impact.

The Drake State Foundation’s 5th Annual Jazz in the City is presented by Mazda Toyota Manufacturing and will be held on



Friday, June 19, at 7 p.m., headlined by the legendary AJ Ghent and His Singing Guitar. Ryon Schultz and Nina Marie Live will kick off the evening with special musical performances.

Organizers look forward to sharing

an unforgettable evening of live jazz, great company, and real impact for Drake State students. Proceeds from the event will support scholarships, technology upgrades, and facility improvements, expanding access and opportunity for students pursuing high-demand careers in North Alabama.

Tickets are now available for purchase [HERE!](#)

Drake, Huntsville Utilities Hold “Dig the Line” Training

Drake State Community and Technical College, in partnership with Huntsville Utilities, held “Dig the Line,” a hands-on workforce development event onsite at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10.

Local high school graduates who completed a three-week Underground Utilities Course operated heavy equipment in a live demonstration, showcasing the skills they have gained to enter the trades.

Huntsville faces a growing shortage of skilled utilities workers. Workforce development programs like the Underground Utilities Course offered at Drake State give direct access to industry-recognized

credentials and hands-on training that connect workers to living-wage careers. This event offered an opportunity to see what workforce development looks like in action.

Before starting

any digging project, whether installing a fence, planting a tree, or beginning construction, Huntsville residents are urged to call 811 or visit www.al811.com to have underground utility lines marked for free.

The Valley Weekly

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AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN ...

Pay at the Grocery Store or Pay at the Pharmacy!

Everybody in America likes to talk about freedom until the prescription bill comes due.

We say nobody should tell us how much salt belongs in our soup, how much sugar belongs in our cereal, or how much grease belongs on our hamburger. Then twenty years later we're standing in line at the pharmacy wondering why our medicine costs more than our first car payment.

Well, somebody is paying for all that "freedom."

The **food companies** make their money today. The **hospitals** get their money tomorrow. The **drug companies** get theirs for the next *thirty* years. Meanwhile, the rest of us help pay through insurance premiums, Medicare, Medicaid, taxes, and family caregiving.

Aunt Irma isn't saying the government ought to inspect every biscuit recipe from Mobile to Seattle. But when nearly every loaf of bread, frozen dinner, canned soup, restaurant meal, and drive-through sandwich comes loaded with enough sodium, sugar, and additives to make a cardiologist rub his temples, perhaps the market isn't policing itself very well.

The food industry likes



to tell us consumers have choices. That's true—up to a point. But if almost everything on the shelf is engineered to be extra salty, extra sweet, and extra hard to resist, then the deck is already stacked before we ever push the shopping cart down the aisle.

Here's the choice as Aunt Irma sees it:

You can accept reasonable limits and gradual

improvements now, or you can accept astronomical health-care costs later.

You can pay a little more attention to what goes into the food supply, or you can pay a lot more for blood pressure pills, diabetes medications, heart procedures, dialysis treatments, and insurance premiums.

Nobody likes government meddling. Aunt Irma doesn't particularly enjoy it

herself. But she likes paying for preventable illness even less.

So saddle up and demand better from the food industry—or saddle up for a future where your medicine cabinet costs more than your monthly groceries.

- TVW Staff






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ON THIS DAY

June 12 is a monumental date in Black history, defined by two major milestones in the United States: the tragic assassination of civil rights leader Medgar Evers in 1963 and the landmark *Loving v. Virginia* Supreme Court decision in 1967.

- BET.com

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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Making Impact and Building Legacy: The Example of Dr. Paul B. Ruffin

In every community, there are individuals whose lives remind us that true success is not measured by titles, awards, or wealth, but by the impact they make and the legacy they leave behind. Dr. Paul B. Ruffin is one of those individuals.

Born and educated in Alabama during a time when opportunities for African Americans were often limited, Dr. Ruffin refused to allow barriers to define his future. As a member of the first class to integrate his high school in Choctaw County, he went on to become the first African American to earn advanced degrees in physics in the State of Alabama. His academic achievements opened doors not only for himself but also for countless others who would follow.

Dr. Ruffin's distinguished career as a physicist and Senior Research Scientist with the U.S. Army led to groundbreaking innovations in fiber optics, micro-sensors, and nanotechnology. His work produced patents, scientific publications, and technologies that continue to benefit both military and civilian communities. Yet, while these accomplishments are remarkable, they are only part of his story.

What truly sets Dr. Ruffin apart is his unwavering commitment to community service and youth development. For more than 25 years, he mentored over 100 students through the Army's summer internship programs, helping young people gain exposure to careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Through these efforts, many students discovered opportunities they may never have imagined for themselves.



His passion for education extended beyond the classroom. As Director of Education for the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies, Dr. Ruffin helped design science enrichment programs that served students throughout Madison, Morgan, and Limestone counties. He regularly volunteered as a science fair judge, conducted motivational seminars at Sci-Quest, and visited schools across North Alabama during Black History Month to encourage students to pursue careers in physics and other STEM fields.

Recognizing that many young people need additional academic support, Dr. Ruffin established the Dr. Paul B. Ruffin Math Tutoring Academy, providing science and mathematics assistance to students living in public housing communities in the Huntsville area. This initiative demonstrated his belief that every child deserves access to educational opportunities regardless of economic circumstances.

His impact has also been felt through the church. For decades, Dr. Ruffin has served as a pastor, ministry educator, and mentor, helping individuals strengthen their faith while building stronger families and communities. His leadership in theological education, radio ministry, and pastoral care has reached countless lives throughout Alabama and beyond. Most recently, he helped lead the acquisition and development of a new church campus, creating a lasting spiritual and community resource for future generations.

The lesson from Dr. Ruffin's life is clear: legacy is built when achievement is combined with service. While many know him as an award-winning scientist, educator, and inventor, those whose lives he has touched know him as a mentor, teacher, pastor, and community builder.

As we continue our series on making impact and building legacy, Dr. Paul B. Ruffin reminds us that the greatest accomplishments are not the awards we receive but the lives we influence. His legacy can be found in the students he inspired, the families he strengthened, the churches he helped build, and the opportunities he created for others to succeed.

Long after the patents, publications, and professional honors are forgotten, those investments in people will continue to shape our communities for generations to come.

That is impact. That is legacy. Until next week ...




Dorothy

JUNE 12 - ELLA JOYCE (born Cherron Hoye) is an American actress. Joyce is best known for her role as Eleanor Emerson on the FOX comedy-drama sitcom *Roc*, which originally ran from 1991 until 1994. Born Cherron Hoye in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Joyce graduated from the Performing Arts Curriculum at Cass Technical High School, and went on to attend the Dramatic Arts program at Eastern Michigan University. She has studied with several professional mentors, and worked in many regional theaters across America and overseas.



Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly
PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

"Be Thankful"

Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God that transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

One of the ways we prepare for increase or promotion in our lives is to be thankful for what we already have. Let us not forget to be grateful for what God is already doing in our lives and for the talents that He has already given us.

When we are thankful, we create an atmosphere and a spirit of joy and peace that brings us inner strength. When we are thankful, we guard our hearts and minds against the spirit of complaining about what we don't have.

You see, we all have to be careful about complaining, because



and in a place where no progress can be made.

Remember—life is about momentum, so don't let the enemy keep you from your blessings or from the increase that God wants you to have by

when we complain, we remain stressed out

complaining about what you don't have.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to be thankful for the gifts and talents that we are already blessed with and give thanks always.

Question: Can we complain and be thankful at the same time?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books, *Spiritual Game Plans for A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com.

NEXT WEEK:

"Thy Will Be Done"



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Funeral and/or memorial services for **MRS. JOETTA HORTON** (b. 1946); and **MS. BRANDY NICOLE KING** (b. 1981) are incomplete and will be announced by Nelms Memorial Funeral Home staff at a later date.

Memorial service for **MR. COYLE LEE BONE** (b. 1956) was Monday, June 8, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Bishop Carl Pruitt officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. MARY JUANITA BRAZELTON** (b. 1942) was Sunday, June 7, at Liberty Primitive Baptist Church.

Funeral service for **MS. ROTINA JANELE TIBBS** (b. 1970) was Sunday, June 7, at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Ricky L. Sykes officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. LEO ABERNATHY, JR.**, (b. 1956) was Saturday, June 6, at Liberty Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Jukobie Jones officiating.

Graveside service for **MR. TOMMIE LEE STEVENS** (b. 1969) was Saturday, June 6, at Haygood Cemetery in Harvest, Ala.

Funeral service for **DEACON WILLIE B. MCCAULEY, SR.**, (b. 1960) was Friday, June 5, at First Seventh-Day Adventist Church with Elder Alexander Lampkin officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. BOBBY J. MCCRARY, JR.** (b. 1981) was Tuesday, June 2, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Larry Davidson, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. VERNON ALLISON** (b. 1959) was Saturday, May 30, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor David Terry and Pastor T.C. Johnson officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. ALICE FAYE REAVES** (b. 1958) was Saturday, May 30, at Saint Minor Primitive Baptist Church - Guntersville, Ala., with Pastor Shawn Moore officiating.

Leaders: You Must Learn How to L-Y-E!

No — not L-I-E! I'm talking about L-Y-E: Love Your Enemies.

As the world's first publicly acknowledged recovering ego-holic, one unexpected gift of this journey has been heightened awareness of my own SPAIDES: Selfishness. Procrastination. Arrogance. Impression Management. Disorganization. Eye Contact (poor).

Once you name your ego-holisms, you start seeing them everywhere.

Psychologists call it the law of attraction. Spiritually, I call it God sharpening my discernment.

Recently, while reading Judges, I discovered something that reframed everything I thought I knew about Joshua.

God explicitly said He left enemy nations in place — not because Joshua failed — but because He was testing Israel's obedience and developing their character.

Obstacles were intentional.

That stopped me cold.

It reminded me of Paul's thorn in the flesh — placed there to keep him humble. And it helped me finally understand something I've preached for years but only recently absorbed:

*Our enemies are not accidents.
Our opposition is not random.
Our discomfort is divine curriculum.*

I often tell leaders: "If you want to grow, you must learn how to L-Y-E." Your opponents are simply people who challenge you in uncomfortable ways — and help you see yourself.



Think about it:

Barack Obama needed Hillary Clinton in the primaries and John McCain in the general election.

Donald Trump once admitted he might never have run if Obama hadn't come first.

In Chicago, Harold Washington was strengthened by opposition from Walter Jacobson's infamous "three Eddies" — Ed Vrdolyak, Ed Burke, and Edward Mell.

Opposition clarified their purpose.

Friends, ego-holism can't be cured — only managed.

Just like sinusitis.

Just like colds.

Just like pride.

These are the enemy nations God allows to remain — so we stay dependent on Him. So today, I'm learning to thank God for resistance. Because every enemy pushes me to my knees. And knees are where leaders become strong.

Learn how to L-Y-E. Love your enemies.

They're shaping your leadership.

#EgoHolismRecovering #SilverMettleLeader #LeadershipDevelopment #Humility
#EmergingLeaders #LYE



Tim Allston

Leadership Player-Coach and Four-time Amazon Best-Selling Author, "Leading from the Middle"

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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

"When the Nights Are Long ..."

When the nights are long and your heart is broken, when disappointment moves in and you cannot find the door — you feel it. It is real. But you cannot live there.

Scripture reminds us that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. That is not a suggestion. That is a promise.

Forgive yourself for your part. That is all you can control. Then get up and move — literally. Physical activity is a gift God placed in the body to release what the mind cannot yet process.



Negative energy, grief, sadness — movement displaces it. You come out on the other side having accomplished something. And that matters.

Start small. Make your bed. Take out the trash. Eat breakfast.

These are not insignificant acts. They are declarations that you are still here, still functioning, still purposed.

The nights will be long sometimes. But long does not mean final. If you woke up this morning, God is not finished with you. The assignment is still active. The gift is still in your hands.

So do not lay down on that hill. There is more.

Lace up. Let's go.

God loves you — and so do I.

He has given you a gift; *open* it!

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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

June 10

Huntsville Housing Authority 85th Anniversary

"Family Fun Fest"

Meet & Greet Black Kids Adventures!

Lincoln Park

402 Webster Drive

Huntsville, Ala.

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Volunteer Sign-ups: Patrice Boddie, (256) 532-5630

"Dig the Line" with Drake

State & Huntsville Utilities

Outdoor Classroom and

Back Lot

Drake State Community and Technical College

3421 Meridian Avenue N

Huntsville, Ala. | 10:30 a.m.

June 11

"Master Artist Workshop with Qiang Huang"

Huntsville Museum of Art

300 Church Street SW

Huntsville, Ala.

<https://hsvmuseum.org>

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

June 11-13

"Rock the South"

The Biggest Party in the South!

Jason Aldean, Riley Green, Zach Top and Dozens More!

The Raised Rowdy Stage

The Fields at Decatur

Decatur, Ala.

June 12

"Beyond the Shore: Family Paddle Series"

Family Paddle Boarding 101

(Friday Sunset Edition)

1000 Hobbs Island Road

Huntsville, Ala.

5:30-7 p.m. | [MORE](#)**June 12-14**

Marlon Wayans

Huntsville Levity Live

Comedy Club

2012 Memorial Parkway SW

Huntsville, Ala.

June 13

Outdoor Recreation Fair

Meet & Greet Black Kids

Adventures!

The Orion Amphitheater

11 a.m.-3 p.m.

June 14

Flag Day

"Taylor Swif-Tea"

Huntsville Botanical Garden

3 p.m.

Sundays on the Greenway

The Flint River Greenway at

Hays Nature Preserve

(Series Kickoff | Free Pop-

sicles after Walk!) | [MORE](#)

4-5:30 p.m.

June 15

"Throw Your Rope Across the Fence"

Career Mentoring and Net-

working Ministry Meeting

First Missionary Baptist

Church

3509 Blue Spring Road NW

Huntsville, Ala. | 1-3 p.m.

June 16

The St. John The Worker

Career Networking Club

Meeting

(Every Tuesday Except State/ National Holidays)

St. John Catholic Church

Hughes Road

Madison, Ala. | 12:30-2 p.m.

June 18-21

Alabama Taxidermist Asso-

ciation 50th Annual Con-

vention & Competition

Lake Guntersville State Park

Guntersville, Ala.

June 19

Juneteenth

National Holiday

4th Annual Juneteenth

Community Conversation

"Oh Freedom 2026!"

Robert "Bob" Harrison Se-

nior Wellness and Advocacy

Center

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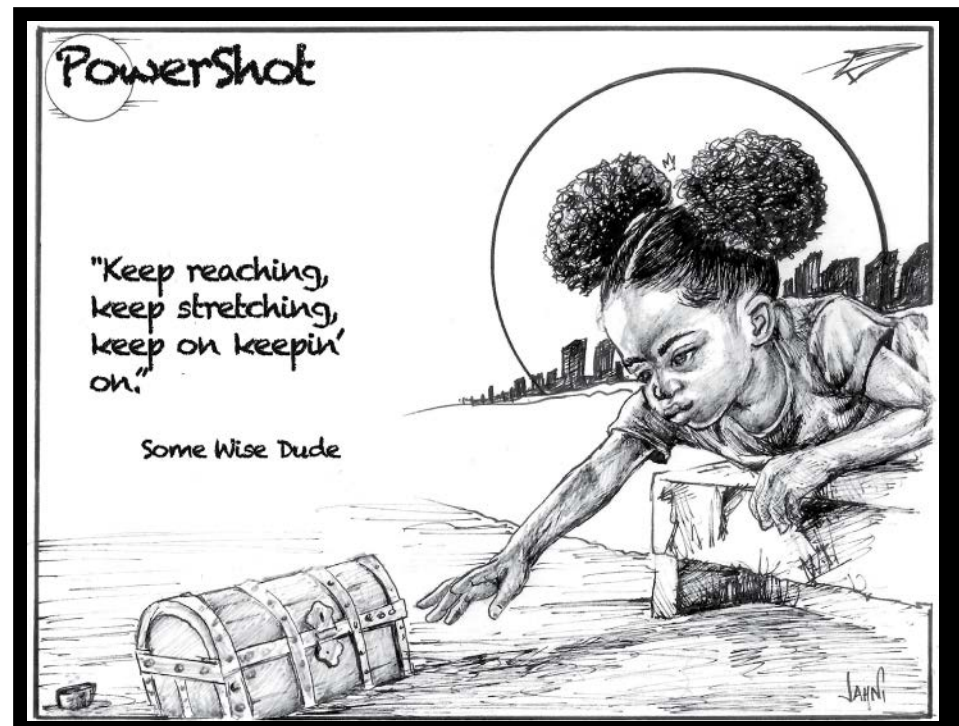
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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Dr. Annie Grace Robinson

Having grown up in Hale County, Alabama, Dr. Annie Grace Robinson assembled a long legacy of service to education, extending back to her years as a business education teacher at Riverside High School.

When interviewed much later for "Alpha Kappa Alpha's Timeless Service in West Alabama: The Golden Legacy of Eta Xi Omega Chapter," a book by Irene Issac Byrd, Robinson talked about her early experiences. Robinson indicated that she "became interested in Eta Xi Omega because she had met and was greatly impressed with the friendliness, helpfulness, and consistently high expectations from the ladies."

She was the first AKA in her family, where her mother always instructed her to be the best she could be, to never use the word "can't", and to never give up on her aspirations and achievements.

Robinson earned her bachelor's degree at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, a Master of Arts degree from the University of Alabama and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

She remained active with Eta Xi Omega until 1969, when she moved to



Huntsville to accept a teaching job with Huntsville City Schools.

After about a month with Huntsville City Schools, Dr. James Hicks went to see her at Stone Middle School to talk with her about a teaching position at Alabama A&M University.

She spent a 33-year career in education at A&M and remained active as a civic volunteer and member of a number of local organizations, including Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the Ro-

setta James Foundation (founding and current board member), Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Huntsville Chapter of AARP, Friends of the Library and Learning Quest.

She also served on the Board of Trustees of Miles College in Birmingham for many years. She even was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Texas College in Tyler, Tex.

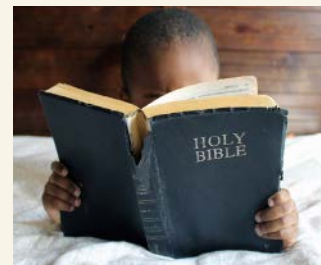
"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+)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



This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Third Sunday
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Second Lesson:

Romans 5:1-8

GOSPEL:

Matthew 9:35-10:8-23

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THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

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Retirees: How Medicare/Medicaid Affect Long-Term Health Care Insurance

Planning for a smooth transition into retirement can bring freedom, happiness, and lots of enjoyment. It can be a wonderful time to try new hobbies and/or interests. However, it also brings important hidden responsibilities such as estate planning. Specifically, I'm referring to the protection of accumulated assets you have worked so hard to have. Such as a mortgage free home, a comfortable 401(k), 403(b), 457(b), IRA retirement plans and Pension (defined Benefit Plan). Also, Investments in Taxable brokerage accounts (Schwab, Fidelity, etc.), Mutual funds, stocks, CDs, savings accounts, etc. If one is not properly prepared, in most cases and in certain situations, even if you have a Will, the state can seize these assets upon your passing.

You must have a plan in place to ensure your assets are preserved and dispersed according to your wishes. Hence, a Medicaid Asset Protection Trust (MAPTs) is a document that when prepared properly will protect those assets.

Let's take a look at one

of the most expenses retirees will face: Medical Insurance. How are they different and who will need which one for skilled nursing custodial care?

Sometimes Medicare and Medicaid are described as being used in similar manners but each has different requirements for eligibility and provides different medical insurance coverage and are vastly different. Medicaid is an income means-tested federal program with strict income limits for qualification. It's designed to provide long-term medical, and more importantly, custodial care for low-income workers. Medicaid eligibility requirements are based on proof of household income, demographics (primarily children), pregnant women, parents/caretakers of minor children, and the elderly or disabled. Applicants must be Alabama residents and US citizens.

If you are covered under Medicare, and want to apply for Medicaid to have medical coverage for skill nursing care you will be required to provide bank

statements, brokerage statements, and a list of all assets from the last 5 years and all transactions will be reviewed to include charitable donations, checks written to family/friends for support or gifts, etc.

Medicare is a federal health insurance program designed for employees who have contributed to the Medicare program during their working careers. Employees have paid 7.65% FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) tax per pay period and when they are 65 years old, they have the option to enroll in Medicare in which at presently, monthly Medicare premiums are \$202/month. To qualify for Medicaid insurance a family of 2 income must be below \$2600/month and for a family of 4 the income must be below \$4000/month in Alabama.

Unfortunately, Medicare will not cover long-term custodial care (i.e., assistance with bathing, walking, feeding, any personal help/support with daily tasks). Medicare will cover up to 100 days of skilled

nursing care for rehabilitation. Once a measurable improvement has been determined, Medicare coverage will be discontinued.

Therefore, what happens if you have Medicare and you need long-term skilled nursing care?

You must have a plan in place to ensure your assets are preserved and dispersed according to your wishes. Hence, a Medicaid Asset Protection Trust (MAPTs) is a document that when prepared properly will protect those assets.

You have the option of paying out-of-pocket for skilled nursing/custodial care. In Alabama, this is estimated to be between \$9k-\$10k per month. Or if you already have Medicare, you

can try to qualify for Medicaid Insurance. But to qualify for Medicaid insurance you will have to liquidate all assets and you will be subjected to the 5-year financial review look-back requirement. This is usually not a viable option for Medicare participants due to its rigid low-income requirement. However, if you established a MAPT years earlier, you may very likely qualify for Medicaid Insurance and avoid the loss of your major assets. If the MAPT was established at least 5 years and one day prior to needing long-term skilled nursing care, all your assets will be protected by the MAPT. All bank accounts, investments and your home will be in the trust and controlled by

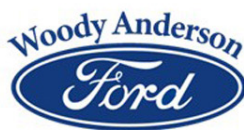
your designated trustee.

Finally, statistics show 7 out of 10 people who reach age 65 will need some form of long-term care before they pass. (i.e., Referenced from US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the 2000s) If you plan ahead, you can avoid the trap of losing assets to the government seeking to get this vital and needed insurance. A MAPT will allow you to qualify for skill nursing care (i.e., under Medicaid) while preserving your assets and your heir's inheritance. If you think you may need advice on this topic, you should contact a fee-based Certified Financial Planner.

by Stephen Hendricks

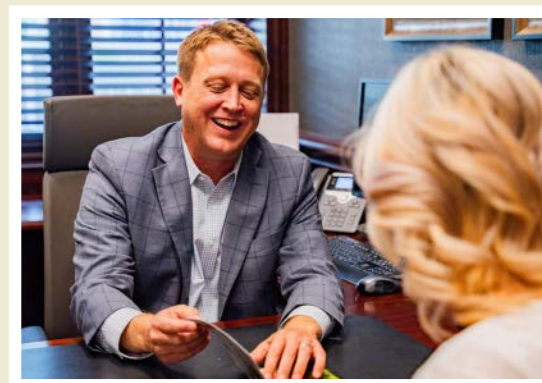


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Here are the top issues and events in Washington, D.C., for this week.

1. CONGRESS ... This week, the House will take up the \$71 billion reconciliation bill, which provides multi-year funding for ICE and CBP through 2029 (and does not include the \$1 billion line item for the President's ballroom), that passed the Senate last week on a mostly party-line 52-47 vote.

Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee abruptly canceled markups of 3 FY2027 appropriations bills (Commerce/Justice/Science; Leg Branch; and Agriculture) due to threats from Democratic Members to call up amendments on the President's \$1.8 billion anti-weaponization fund — and Punchbowl News is reporting that Reps. Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Suozzi (D-NY) are circulating a discharge petition to strike down the fund in the House this week.

Also last week, the House narrowly approved by a vote of 213-210 the FY2027 Agriculture Appropriations bill that stripped \$141 million from the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program — reducing monthly fruit and vegetable benefits from \$52 to \$13 for breastfeeding mothers and from \$26 to \$10 for young children.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The President was in New York City Monday night attending Game 3 of the NBA Finals at Madison Square Garden between the New York Knicks and the San Antonio Spurs (the Knicks currently hold a 2-0 lead)

... On Sunday (June 14), the President celebrates his 80th birthday and will host an Ultimate Fighting Championship event in a temporary arena constructed on the South Lawn of the White House with 4,300 attendees ... Last Thursday, the Kennedy Center ordered staff to erase President Trump's name from official materials, less than a week after a federal judge ruled it had been illegally added ...

Also last Thursday, the President announced that he was invoking \$425 million via the Defense Production Act and diverting \$350 million from a Biden-era fund created for projects to trap and sequester carbon and other pollutants to prop up the struggling U.S. coal industry, which will be used to open 2 new coal-fired power plants in Alaska and West Virginia, assist 14 other existing plants, and build a marine export terminal in Oakland, CA. Last Saturday, The Washington Post reported that

14 of the known 27 corporate donors to the President's \$400 million White House Ballroom project have been awarded \$50 billion in new or expanded federal contracts within the past 6 months.

3. NEW TARIFFS. In an effort to reimpose tariffs struck down by the Supreme Court in February, last Tuesday U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer proposed new tariffs under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 (that deals with unfair trade practices) of up to 12.5% on imports from 60 countries after determining they had failed to curb trade in goods made with forced labor.

The USTR has proposed 10% additional duties on imports from Canada, Ecuador, the European Union, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Malaysia, Taiwan and Britain and an additional 12.5% duties on the remaining 45 countries that it investigated, including China, India, Nigeria, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand.

The new tariffs have certain exemptions, including for imports already subject to U.S. Section 232 national security tariffs, such as autos, steel, aluminum and copper products. The tariffs will not apply to Canadian and Mexican imports that comply with the North American trade deal rules of origin.

4. SUPREME COURT. Using its precedent eviscerating the Voting Rights Act

in the April 29 decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*, the Supreme Court on Tuesday night cleared the way for Alabama to use a congressional map in the 2026 elections that eliminates one of two majority-Black districts in the state in a win for the GOP. The justices, split 6-3 on ideological lines with conservatives in the majority, granted an emergency request filed by Republican officials seeking to use the map that lower courts found to be racially discriminatory ...

5. EDUCATION. On June 5, the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee voted to approve its FY2027 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill ... The Department of Education faces a 10 percent

cut, and overall higher education programming runs six percent below current levels. Student aid provisions include a \$50 increase to the maximum Pell Grant (to \$7,445) and an anticipated \$15 billion in mandatory funding to address the broader Pell shortfall. TRIO, GEAR UP, HBCUs, and MSIs within the Aid for Institutional Development account receive modest increases, while Federal Work Study and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program face significant reductions.

The Committee Report, which provides program-level detail, will not be released until after the June 9 full committee markup. HCG will provide clients with an updated analysis

once that document is available.

6. MAY JOBS REPORT. On Friday, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the U.S. economy added an unexpectedly high 172,000 jobs in May, with the unemployment rate unchanged at 4.3%. Economists had predicted only 80,000 jobs in May. The largest job gains came in leisure and hospitality (+70,000), local government (+55,000), and healthcare (+35,000).

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