

# The Valley Weekly

*"Wealth is not the fruit of labor but the result of organized, protected robbery."*

*- Frantz Fanon*

**FREE**

Volume 3, No. 49

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

Friday, August 18, 2017



**BUZZ:** Primarily due to Buzzfeed.com, residential assistant Tamia Barnes' room at Alabama A&M University received high praise from thousands of viewers throughout the social media sphere. See STORY on Page 8

## J.F. Drake State Rolls Out Strategic Plan

J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College rolled out of its strategic plan as well as plans to solicit community input. Faculty, staff and administrators have concentrated their efforts in recent weeks on the development of strategic initiatives to provide direction for the future of the college.

Christopher A. Lewis, interim president, presented the strategic plan on Tuesday, August 15. Drake State opened its doors to the public to collect insight and feedback on the institution's strategic plan. The new strategy, called "Initiative 2021" focuses on returning enrollment to 1,400 by 2021. The strategic plan establishes a clear framework for performance improvement that emphasizes student suc-

cess, workforce development, and evidence-based program development and evaluation.

Specific goals include:  
 Institutional Goal 1: Provide administrative, academic, and student support to assist students in achieving their personal, academic, and career goals.

Institutional Goal 2: Offer programs of study with integrated general studies that will assist students in developing the knowledge, training, work skills and ethics necessary to become productive, contributing members of society.  
 Institutional Goal 3: Create an atmosphere conducive to learn-

ing by providing competent staff, up-to-date equipment, state-of-the-art technology, and adequate physical facilities. Institutional Goal 4: Provide adult education and workforce development to prepare students for gainful employment in business, industry, and service.

## Alabama Model Farm Day Set in Tanner

The public is invited to join Alabama A&M University for a comprehensive event featuring relevant agriculture practices on Friday, August 18.

The event will begin at 8 a.m. and will run until 12 p.m. at Bridgeforth Farms, located at 17049 Bridgeforth Road in Tanner, Ala.

The Model Farm Series

highlights several facets of production agriculture, including conservation, biotechnology and precision agriculture.

Further, the Series substantially delves into grain storage and even farm financing. Examples of GPS utilization, UAV technology, integrated usage of U.S. Department of

Agriculture (USDA) programs and agricultural technology will be demonstrated. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, contact Bill Bridgeforth at (256) 777-3627 or e-mail [billbridge@aol.com](mailto:billbridge@aol.com); Kyle Bridgeforth at (256) 497-3589; or Leigh Allen at (202) 997-6680.

## Women Launching 2017 'Saved in the City' Conference

Women throughout North Alabama are invited to join the 2017 Saved in the City Conference (SITC) August 17-19 at 607 Airport Road SW in Huntsville, Ala.

The three-day experience will include powerful sessions, live music, giveaways and more, according to organizers.

The Saved in the City Conference is a life-changing experience for women

with God through worship, fellowship and a whole lot of fun. Now in its fifth year, the conference's three power-packed days are full of spiritual empowerment designed to encourage and equip women with tools to live a more successful life.

To date, thousands of women from all walks of life and all across the country have joined the event.

This vision was birthed from a weekly bible study

held on a local college campus. With such amazing testimonies, organizers saw the need to expand this effort to reach the entire city and surrounding areas, creating this annual weekend just for today's young Christian woman.

Registration fees fall under two options: an open donation and a VIP admission offering of \$79 that includes admission to all conference events;

exclusive bag, t-shirt and personalized nametag; conference magazine; VIP seating for general sessions; and special meet and greet with SITC leaders with light hor d'oeuvres.

For details and to register, visit [www.savedinthecityconference.com](http://www.savedinthecityconference.com) or contact Delisha Clemons at (256) 469-1720 or e-mail [conference@savedithecityonline.org](mailto:conference@savedithecityonline.org).



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Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

## Washington in a Minute



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

1. The House and Senate are in recess until September 5.

2. On Monday, President Trump signed a memorandum determining whether China should be investigated for intellectual property violations. He then travelled to New York City, where he stayed until Wednesday before returning to his golf resort in Bedminster, N.J., for the rest of the week.

3. On Saturday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions called for a federal investigation into the violent weekend in Charlottesville, Va., caused by the clash of protesters over the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue. The investigation will be led by U.S. Attorney Rick Mountcastle and the Richmond field office of the FBI. A 32-year-old woman was killed and as many as 19 others were injured when a car plowed into a crowd of counter protesters. Two state troopers were killed in a related accident when their helicopter crashed.

4. Last week, the House Rules Committee posted a message telling Members of the House to get their appropriations amendments ready for the 8 remaining FY2018 appropriations bills

(the House passed a package of 4 appropriations bills in July). The official notice does not set an amendment deadline other than saying it will be before the end of the recess - but it has been reported that it will be August 25. The House intends to put the 8-appropriations bill package on the House floor on the first week of September. To date, none of the 12 annual appropriations bills funding the operation of the federal government has been signed into law (the deadline is October 1). The Politico

website reported last week that White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short met with top GOP and Dem staffers on the Senate Appropriations Committee offering to agree to lift the defense and non-defense spending caps in



exchange for funding the Mexican border wall - in an effort to forestall a government shutdown at the end of the month.

5. A group of immigration law teachers and scholars are urging President Trump to keep the Obama administration's program that protects from deportation immigrants who were illegally brought to the country at a young age. In a new letter, more than 100 law professors outline a legal case for keeping the De-

ferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA. The legal scholars argue in the five-page letter that the legal foundation for DACA is "crystal clear." University of California president Janet Napolitano, who helped set up DACA when she was Obama's secretary of Homeland Security, published an op-ed on Friday in The Washington Post urging Trump to keep the program - and for Congress to step in with a legislative solution.

6. On Tuesday, Alabama holds a special GOP primary for the remainder of AG Jeff Sessions' Senate term, currently occupied by Sen. Luther Strange (R-AL) - who has 8 opponents in the primary. Last week, President Trump endorsed Sen. Strange, who the latest poll has running in 2nd place after former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore (who was suspended from the court last year for instructing probate judges to deny marriage licenses to gay couples). Unless a candidate secures more than 50% of the vote,

the top two vote-getters will face-off in a Sept. 26 contest. The final round of voting is scheduled for Dec. 12, when the Republican nominee will face the Democratic nominee.

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

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## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Psalms 103:12 says: *As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.* You know, God knows that we are not perfect. He just wants us to keep working toward perfection. He wants us to keep making progress and moving forward, because momentum is everything as it pertains to your spiritual growth. Keep moving forward and don't look back. Don't look back at past disappointments that you have had. Don't look

back at past mistakes and bad choices that you've made. You can't do anything about them now. Let's stop looking back at past sins and know in your heart that God has forgiven you. Because God is doing a new thing in your life; can't you perceive it? God is a God of forgiveness and progress. And, He wants all of us to be better. Now, I realize that sometimes we may feel unfor-

given from our past sins. But that's not the kind of God that we serve. Remember Isaiah 43:25 says, *I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.* When Jesus died on a cross, He paid a debt that none of us could pay, and because of it, our sins are forgiven ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



## 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.

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**The Valley Weekly**

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# From the Editor

**What's Going On?**

The late Marvin Gaye wrote the lyrics to this song in 1971. He wrote: "Mother, mother, There's too many of you crying, Brother, brother, brother, There's far too many of you dying, You know we've got to find a way, To bring some lovin' here today - Ya! Father, father, We don't need to escalate, You see, war is not the answer, For only love can conquer hate, You know we've got to find a way, To bring some lovin' here today, Picket lines and picket signs, Don't punish me with brutality, Talk to me, so you can see, Oh, what's going on?" (excerpted).

It is time for us to stop and take a good look at who we are as Americans. It is terribly distressing that we don't really care how we treat each. Our elders used to say, "The more things change, the more they remain the same." It's a sad day in our country and around the world when all we know how to do is shout at each, call names and spew hatred and bigotry, regardless of the source. Every American of good conscious should be outraged. We must understand that all blood is red. This is not just about the leadership; it's about each of us. When we cannot articulate in a coherent manner about our individual sense of accountability and purpose at a time like this, we hit a very low place in history.

We have lost sight of the need to bring our Nation together with a moral clarity about our relationships with each other. Many times tragedy brings out the good in people who otherwise are so tied to party and ideology that they lose sight of our humanity. I cannot sit another day and remain silent. In times like these, the real tragedy is when good people remain silent or appear oblivious to what is good and what is evil. There *is* a difference!

Action, deeds and words *do* matter. We are headed into dangerous territory. We must be concerned about human decency. We cannot accept "isms" in any format as decency. We do ourselves a disservice to sit and act as if we are not in a crisis. Unlike in the past, many people are not going to sit idly by and accept just anything from those who are elected to serve us. We are in a moral crises! Yet, I see people each day and hear discussions that are contrary to what we say we believe in as Americans.

Today is a day of reckoning. We are a Nation of progress but we find ourselves in a space that is uncomfortable and each of us has an obligation to help make it better. We don't want to go back. We cannot put our hands on the plow, while looking backward and expect to be making progress at the same time. The physics of that doesn't equate to progress.

This past January, at Delta Theta Lambda's Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Unity Breakfast, my friend Butch Damson challenged us to close our eyes and hold the hands of the people surrounding us. In the end, her premise was that "isms" don't and shouldn't count. Essentially, we are holding the hands of humanity.

It is sickening to see what happened in Charlottesville, Va., this past weekend. Each of us with a heart that beats should be outraged. The behavior of the crowd, including the open punching, shouting, malicious behavior, arrogance, fist fights, swords, and fearless acts of violence should make each of us want to publicly condemn hatred in any flavor.

Let's inspire and educate. Three days is a long time to reconcile "What's Going On" at a time when everything is so instant! We should be able to agree and disagree and remain ethical and moral people. The tide is turning and we can no longer ignore the crisis that's looming. If we forget and overlook the real lessons of our history, we are likely to repeat it.

All Hail King Jesus! This is an opportunity for Americans of all colors, races, parties, clubs, organizations, affiliations, and backgrounds to come together and be the love that we profess as a Christian nation. Love is an action word--let's do it and stop talking about it.

Until next week ...

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

*Dorothy*

## Freshman Move-In Days Alabama A&M University August 10 & 11, 2017



## Taste of Kappa Event Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Huntsville Museum of Art - August 11, 2017



August 18 - MALCOLM JAMAL WARNER - The actor/director, best known for his role as "Theo" on television's "Cosby Show," was born in Jersey City, N.J., on this day.

- *BlackinTime.info*

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# Administrator Addresses OU Colloquium

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President of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County

Oakwood University Faculty and Staff Colloquium

August 1, 2017



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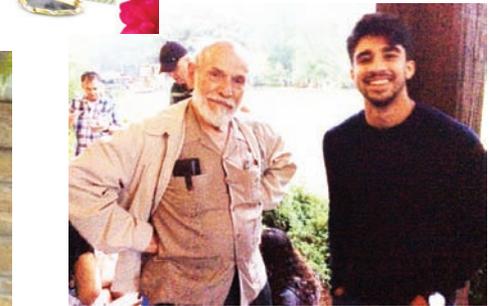


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# Locals Gather at Burritt on the Mountain for Concert Series

Burritt on the Mountain - Huntsville, Alabama  
Friday, August 11, 2017



# Valley Deaths

Funeral service for Mrs. **Edrina Green Pope** was held Sunday, August 13, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Wayne P. Snodgrass officiating.



Funeral service for Mrs. **Hattie P. Wall** was Saturday, August 12, at Church Street Cumberland Pres-



byterian Church in America with Dr. Mitchell M. Walker, Sr. officiating.

Memorial service for **Infant Jimmy Erskine, II** was Saturday, August 12, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Edward Steele officiating.

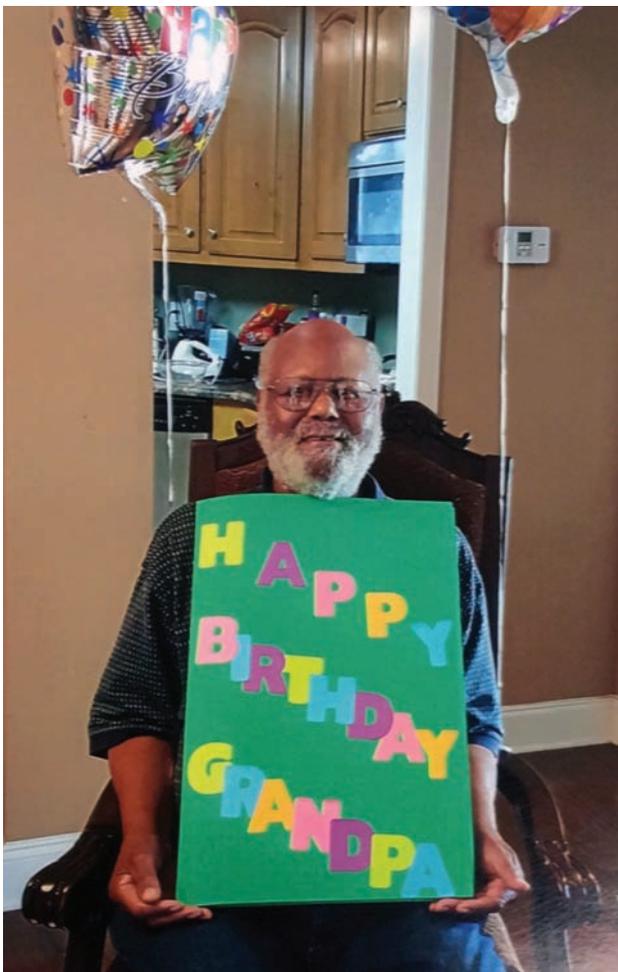
Funeral service for **Reverend Gregory Woods** was held Saturday, August 12, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor William Robinson, Eulogist, and Pastor Cornell Martin, Officiant.



- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home



**Birmingham Happenings:** *The Eric Bledsoe Foundation held their annual Celebrity Basketball Game on August 13 at Lawson State Community College in Birmingham, Ala. The game's roster included Bledsoe, KJ McDaniels, Demarcus Cousins, T.K Kravitz, Joe Gifted, K Camp and Skoolie Escobar, as well as personalities from 98.7 Jamz. Photo by Reginald Allen.*



**BIRTHDAY!** *Dr. Charles T. Smoot, a NASA pioneer and Anniston native, celebrated another birthday with family recently. Congratulations, Elder Smoot!*

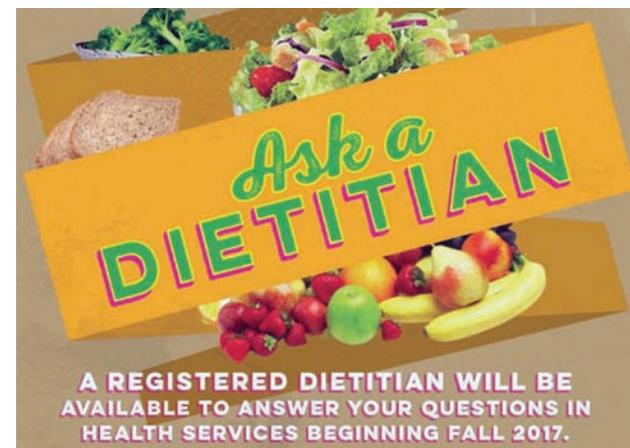
*"What we achieve inwardly will change outer reality." - Plutarch*

## OU Healthy Campus 2020 to Start 'Ask a Dietitian' Service

The Oakwood University Healthy Campus 2020 program and the Nutrition and Dietetics Department are partnering to implement the Ask A Dietitian program to start in the Fall 2017 semester.

This new initiative is in response to the Partnership for A Healthier America's requirement to "make available Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) for personal nutrition assessments and counseling for all students."

Teymi-Elise Herring, MPH, RDN, CDE will serve as the primary RDN for the 2017-18 school year. The RDN will be available by appointment only in



Health Services on Fridays from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

This schedule excludes all holidays and breaks including spring break and summer breaks. The RDN can bill the insurance company for services rendered but this will not begin until

spring 2018.

Students will be strongly encouraged to utilize this special service being offered to them as we create a healthier campus.

*by Shirna Gullo, Director, Healthy Campus 2020*



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## The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

**August 17**  
(Each Third Thursday)  
Southern Families African  
American Genealogy Meeting  
Alabama A&M University  
202 Wellness Center  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Dues \$35 per calendar year

**August 17-19**  
Saved in the City Conference  
- An Event for Women -  
607 Airport Road SW  
[www.savedinthecityconference.com](http://www.savedinthecityconference.com)

**August 18**  
Alabama Model Farm Series  
Field Day  
Bridgeforth Farms

Tanner, Ala.  
8 a.m.-12 noon

**August 19**  
"Mixed Media Mambo"  
One-Day Workshop with  
Artist Melanie Colvin  
Lowe Mill  
Arts & Entertainment  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Soap Making Class for  
Beginners  
@ IT'S SOAP!  
Bath Body & Candles Studio  
266 @ 10-11:30 a.m.

Bishop Daniel J. Richardson  
Book Release & Signing  
Eagles' Nest Ministries-2 p.m.

Southern Christian  
Leadership Conference  
"Don't Let This Harvest Pass"  
Lee High School Theater"  
2500 Meridian Street  
Huntsville, Ala.  
\$25 General - 12 & Under \$15  
For Groups: (256) 714-6621  
2 p.m. (Matinee) - 6 p.m.

**August 20**  
NeNe Leakes  
Stand Up Live Huntsville

**August 21**  
Solar Eclipse Viewing Party  
Adult Ticket \$15  
Child Ticket \$7  
Kids 3 & Under Free (Must  
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## Alabama A&M Student Featured on BuzzFeed

*By Reggie Allen*

A little trip to your local Walmart and Dollar Tree can go a long way. Just ask college student Tamia Barnes. The 19-year-old is kicking off her sophomore year with a new job, bigger room and instant internet stardom.

Last week, Barnes was featured in BuzzFeed article titled "This College Student Has The Most Extra Dorm Room And It Is Seriously Amazing."

Barnes is a resident assistant at Alabama A&M, which means she gets her own dorm room. In an interview with BuzzFeed, the sophomore said she wanted to make the temporary residency mirror her own household. This included a personal vanity, illuminating speaker, a customized bathroom and much more.

"I guess you can say I can be a little bit extra, too," Barnes told the popular online news platform.

Impressed with the outcome, Barnes posted pictures on her twitter to show her friends, but she instead became viral hit. Within days, the college student's timeline has flooded with overwhelming support, some saying that her room is something straight out of the Princess Diaries films.

But that doesn't mean that she broke bank styling her new space. The Computer Science major said that most the items came from her actual room. Where did she get the rest? You guessed it, the Walmart and Dollar Tree.