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FREE

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Friday
August 21, 2020
Vol. 6, No. 50
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



Elaine Plank, p. 4

*"The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."
- William Faulkner*



Huntsville City Councilman Devyn Keith

JLC Opens to Public

The public was invited on Sunday, August 15, to view the \$5.3 million Johnson Legacy Center (JLC) at 6000 Cecil Fain Drive, Huntsville, Ala.

Huntsville City Councilman Devyn Keith said the "first-of-its-kind space showcases why North Huntsville is a great place to live, work and play."

Additionally, JLC will

launch a \$15 per month gym membership, featuring state-of-the-art strength training and cardio equipment area, saunas, wi-fi connectivity in lounge area, group exercise area, LED lighting, indoor rock climbing wall, jacquar community room and more.

For more about the facility: <https://bit.ly/3kPoBq0>

AAMU Alumni Association Announces New Officers

The Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., has announced its new leadership for the next two years. On Saturday, August 8, **Mary Jones Moore** '83, of Harvest, Ala., replaced Albert Benifield, Jr., '78, as the newly elected president of the more than 40,000-member body. Moore serves as a test engineer with KBR Government Solutions.

"I am pleased to take over



the reign as president of the AAMU National Alumni Association," Moore said. In addition to President Moore, the Association's membership elected (pictured above, l-r) **Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff**

(procurement analyst, Department of the Army) of Harvest, Ala., vice president; **Chiquita Goodloe Suggs**, (cost/budget analyst, Marshall Space Flight Center/NASA) Madison, Ala., financial secretary; **Youlanda**

Caudle, (supervisory human resources specialist, Army) Huntsville, Ala, recording secretary; and **Karen Howze-Samuels**, (billings & ops analyst, AT&T Communications) Birmingham, Ala., treasurer.

Then There Was Light

State Officials Fund Outdoor Lighting at Drake State

Drake State Community & Technical College will soon have a new outdoor LED lighting system, thanks to a \$27,628 donation through the efforts of state Sen. Sam Givhan, R-Huntsville and Rep. Laura Hall, D-Huntsville.

"A well-designed LED lighting system can provide both safety and financial benefits for the campus, and a student's experience cannot be successful without safety," said Bruce Bulluck, Drake State director of operations.

LED, or light emitting

diode, is a lighting technology which is more energy efficient and less expensive to operate and maintain than conventional lights. LED lights also appear brighter and distribute light more evenly. These characteristics make LED lights the perfect choice for college campuses.

The donation came from Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) funds made available to state legislators to spend at their discretion.

"We truly appreciate Sen. Givhan and Rep. Hall



President Sims (c) accepts funding from (l-r) Sen. Givhan and Rep. Hall.

recognizing the importance of campus safety and helping us invest in Drake State for the benefit of our

students and employees," said Dr. Patricia Sims, Drake State President.

The Valley Weekly
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Washington in One Minute



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

1. The Senate is in recess. As of Sunday night, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) had decided to call members back to Washington later in the week to vote on a bill to prohibit the U.S. Postal Service from implementing any changes to operations or level of service it had in place on Jan. 1, 2020. The Speaker is also calling on House Democrats to hold press events on Tuesday at post offices in their districts to call attention to reported

changes that have prompted slower mail deliveries and may endanger the timely delivery of mail-in ballots in time to be counted for the November election.

2. President Trump traveled to Mankato, Minn., and Oshkosh, Wis., Monday for 2 quick campaign rally stops at each city's airport. On Tuesday, he traveled to Yuma, Ariz., for another campaign rally at the airport. On Thursday, he met with new Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi at the White House and then traveled

to Old Forge, Pa., for a rally (near Joe Biden's hometown of Scranton). According to The Wall Street Journal, President Trump will be featured each day of the Republican National Convention on Aug. 24-27, a departure from previous nominating events when the candidate was only showcased on the final night. The newspaper also reported that the President will accept the nomination during a prime-time speech on Aug. 27 scheduled to be delivered from the White House.

3. On Saturday, CBS News reported that the U.S. Postal Service Inspector General (IG) has launched an investigation into recent staffing and policy changes, including limiting worker overtime pay, put in place by Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and to review DeJoy's conflicts of interest (it has been reported that DeJoy still owns at least a \$30 million equity stake in his former company that is also a USPS contractor). The IG received a letter on Friday requesting the

review signed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren and 8 other key House and Senate Democrats. In related news, on Sunday House Oversight and Reform Committee Chair Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) invited DeJoy to testify at a hearing at 10 a.m. on Aug. 24.

4. Monday was the start of the virtual Democratic National Convention, which ran through Thursday night (Aug. 20). Primetime speeches were scheduled from 9-11 p.m. (EDT) each night. For the full schedule, go to: DNC schedule. Some highlights were: Monday - Michelle Obama, Bernie Sanders; Tuesday - Bill Clinton, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez; Wednesday - Kamala Harris, Barack Obama; and Thursday - Pete Buttigieg and Joe Biden's acceptance speech broadcast from the Chase Center in Wilmington, Del. The New York Times reported that Joe Biden raised \$50 million in the 48 hours after choosing Sen. Harris to be his running mate on Tuesday.

5. Last Friday, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced a new deadline for Americans who missed the April and May deadlines to request the \$500 stimulus payment for each dependent child under 17 as part of the CARES Act. The new period to request the payment runs from Aug. 15 through Sept. 30, 2020, and may be accomplished via the IRS' online portal for people who didn't file a tax return for 2018 or 2019. For more information, go here: IRS.

6. Last Friday, Congress' investigative agency, the General Accounting Office (GAO), found that Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and his top deputy Ken Cuccinelli do not have a legal basis to hold their jobs, because the previous Acting Secretary, then-Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, was himself installed without a legal basis — and therefore his decisions to appoint Wolf and Cuccinelli to their respec-

tive posts were also invalid. The GAO investigation was prompted by an inquiry from House Homeland Security Chair Bennie Thompson (D-MS) and House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chair Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and can be read here: GAO letter.

7. Last Friday, The Cook Political Report changed the ratings of 15 House races, with 11 shifting toward the Democrats and 4 toward Republicans, including the GOP's open GA-07 seat going from toss-up to "Lean D," the GOP's NJ-02 seat going from "Lean R" to toss-up, and the Democrats' UT-02 seat going from "Lean D" to toss-up.

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- Zierdt Rd. Drivers! We are still working in your favor. Thank you for your patience

County-Wide economic development brought Blue Origin, Facebook, Mazda/Toyota, Stove House,

Civil Rights Organization Endorses Candidates

AL New South Alliance, Madison County Chapter, led by President Jessica Fortune Barker have announced the chapter's endorsed candidates for municipal elections to be held in Madison County, Ala., on August 25.

Candidates for Madison City Mayor, Huntsville City Mayor, Huntsville City Council Districts 1 and 5, and Huntsville City Schools Districts 1 and 5 were invited to be screened (interviewed) for the chapter's endorsement. All candidates were invited (except for Jackie Reed whose contact email or phone number was not located).

Confirmed participants included Huntsville Mayoral incumbent Tommy Battle; Huntsville City Council District 5 incumbent Will Culver, and opponents John Meredith and Tom Hopf; Huntsville City Schools District 1 School Board incumbent Michelle Watkins and opponent, Dr. Diedra Willis; and Huntsville City Schools District 5 School Board incumbent Carlos Mathews. Huntsville City Council District 1 candidates Joseph Wayman and Chris Baker did not confirm in advance, but did show during screening times (Baker was unable to wait and was not screened). Endorsements are as follows:

Huntsville Mayor
No endorsement
Madison Mayor
No endorsement
City Council – District 1
No endorsement

School Board – District 1
Chapter endorses Michelle Watkins

City Council – District 5
Chapter endorses Will Culver

School Board – District 5
Chapter endorses Carlos Mathews

For more information, contact Jessica Fortune Barker, president, at (256) 640-2483.

Champion Game Plan for Life

"A REASON TO REJOICE"

by Preston Brown

2 Corinthians 4:8 says, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, perplexed, but not in despair."

You know, one of the things that we need to understand is, when we wake up in the morning thinking that all things are working for my good, because we love God and have been called to his great purpose for our lives, it will change your attitude.

In other words, when we are looking for a reason to rejoice rather than a reason to complain, it will change your entire perspective about life. That's what the Apostle Paul was saying in this scripture. Even though times are tough, we can still find reasons to rejoice.

Now we all realize that the last seven months have been very difficult for so many people dealing with this coronavirus, and it has become easy for us to complain about so many



things and to become discouraged.

But we have to realize that this is a "trick" by the enemy to get our minds off praising God for all the good things that He has done and is doing in our lives.

You see, when we learn to stop complaining about our circumstances, God will give us a different outlook on life, because I believe that God will place us in difficult situations to change them. I also believe that God allows us to be in certain circumstances so that others can see Him glorified in us.

So it's time for all of us to "rise up" and let our lights shine so others can see the good things that God is doing in our lives. And, remember: there is always a time to rejoice! ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

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

What You're Drinking Could Be Hindering Weight Loss

If you've been exercising, working out and still can't seem to get down to your goal weight, it's not just you. It could be what you're drinking (or not drinking).

Diet and regular sodas have both been linked to obesity, kidney damage, and

certain cancers. Some bottled seltzers and flavor enhancers could contain hidden calories and extra sodium. Beware of "dressed up" coffee, and smoothies and fruit juices that are high in sugar are a recipe for weight gain, according to BlackDoctor.org.

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Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Elaine S. Plank

Elaine S. Plank is a health-care innovative entrepreneur, founder, owner, president and CEO of SafeHealth, Inc., a provider of occupational health and safety services, and integrative holistic healthcare.

The Missouri native started SafeHealth, Inc., an S-Corporation, in December 1993. SafeHealth, Inc.'s health and safety services hold onsite and offsite schedules of professional nurses, physicians and other health and safety personnel for small and large domestic businesses, universities and at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park. The U.S. Small Business Administration awarded Plank the U. S. Small Business Administration's "Alabama Women in Business

Champion Award" in 2005. She has a private practice of Body-Mind-Emotion-Spirit Healthcare, Holistic Nursing as a Certified Interactive Imagery Guide and was the very first professional in Alabama to achieve such certification. She was a District Delegate to the Alabama State Nurses' Conventions, 2017 and 2018, and remains affiliated with the American Nurses' Association and Alabama State Nurses' Association.

Plank is a founding chair of the Women's Business Center of North Alabama (WBCNA), an autonomous "Women's Center" for the Women's Business Council. In 2003, she became the first president of WBCNA. Moreover, she



is a founding member of the Christian Cancer Support Group; has worked with Bosom Buddies, a breast cancer support group; as well as a Reach-to-Recovery Volunteer and Breast Cancer Survivors' Counselor for the American Cancer Society. The mother of three and grandmother of five was married to the late Duane Plank for 56 years.

AUGUST 21 - WILT CHAMBERLIN - Chamberlin was an American professional NBA basketball player for the Philadelphia/San Francisco Warriors, the Philadelphia 76ers and the Los Angeles Lakers; and also played for the Harlem Globetrotters. - BlackinTime.info



Called 2 Preach

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

"This One's on Me"

Exodus 14:13-19;
2 Chronicles 20:15

This statement is often heard in restaurants when the ticket gets to the table. Some altruistic and able person decides to pay for everyone's meal. This especially brings delight to the hearts of those whose means are meager at best or nonexistent at worse.

Nothing but gratitude should ever come from those who are the benefactors of such a generous gesture.

Life can and does present situations and scenarios that are far more challenging than tickets at a restaurant, however. If one lives long enough, they will face Red Sea experiences and face insur-



mountable battles that are too challenging to overcome.

Such was the case of Moses and the children of Israel and Jehoshaphat and

the descendants of those same people that came out of Egypt on their way to the Promised Land. The Red Sea was uncrossable. A war where the odds were three nations against one was unwinnable.

However, what Moses and Jehoshaphat had in common was their Covenant God who promised to always be with them. The Good News of the Jehoshaphat story was that God showed up even after he had made the mistake of initially seeking an unholy alliance with another na-

tion to aid them in that war. God's mercy met them on the battlefield and turned it into the Valley of Berachah (Blessings).

The prophet had a word for Jehoshaphat; *The battle is not yours, it's the LORD's; This one's on me.* Praise the Lord!



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**"Everything is habit forming, so make sure
what you do is what you want to be doing."**

- Wilt Chamberlin

How to Support the Success of Valley Small Businesses

(BPT) - Small businesses are the backbone of the economy. Small businesses will play a vital role in helping communities around the world get back on their feet. They account for more than half of global employment, and COVID-19 has hit them hard. As a result of the pandemic, 43% of small businesses say they only have money to last six months. Women- and minority-owned businesses have been hit especially hard. Consider these five simple things you can do to support local small businesses:

Make shopping locally a habit. Exploring neighborhood businesses is not only good for the economy, it can make you feel like a real part of your community.

Pay it forward with a gift card. Supporting small business owners now is critical.

Become part of the community on social. Social

media platforms have become more than a marketing tool for small businesses - they are vibrant digital communities and can be as unique an experience as walking around Main Street.

Get it curbside, or on your porch. Although social distancing has changed the way some small businesses can work, many are going above and beyond to meet customer needs. Ask about options like curbside pickup or touch-free delivery, which are becoming another indispensable part of our new normal. Buy online-pickup, in-store orders including curbside, jumped 87% year over year by late March, according to Adobe Analytics.

Purchase with purpose. By choosing to make a purchase from a small business, you help support an entrepreneur's dream and help them get through extraordinary

times. You'll also find that many small businesses in your community are reaching out to help others during the pandemic - whether it's a restaurant donating food to front line workers, or a local distillery making hand sanitizer for the neighborhood. To help support small businesses during this time when many are struggling, there are ways you can get involved just by shopping. Pay with your Visa card and you'll be entered for a chance to win \$2,000 in small business gift cards and to pick a small business to receive a \$5,000 grant from Visa1.

With more than 30 million small businesses estimated in the United States alone, you have the power to make a difference. These tips can help you support local businesses now, so the community prospers in the future.



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*Accountability Report Card 2016-2019

- ★ Eight out nine D1 schools increased by a letter grade.
- ★ D1 had the highest growth on the 2018-19 State Report Card.
- ★ Graduation rate for 2018-19 was **95%**

*Source is Alabama Department of Education

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Perspectives on EGO-holism

by tim allston

The Biden-Harris "Relay Race": When a Veteran #2 knights a new #2!

"I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in.' . . . Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, . . ." - Deuteronomy 31:1, 2 and 7a.

Here, Moses presents his successor, admonishing him publicly to be strong and courageous.

On Wednesday, August 12, 2020, Joe Biden presented similarly his history-making running mate Sen. Kamala Harris, saying publicly, "She's smart, she's tough, she's experienced, she's a proven fighter."

"Kamala the First"

When Biden named Harris 24 hours earlier, many changed her last name symbolically to "The First," as in "Kamala the First":

1. The first woman of color . . .
2. The first of Asian American descent . . .
3. The first of Caribbean descent . . .
4. The first Black Greek (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority) member . . .
5. The first HBCU (Howard University) alum . . .

A Step Back = A Come Back?

As silver-mettle leaders (leaders from the middle), this Biden-Harris ticket represents another first: the first time two previous White House aspirants stepped back, assumed #2 positions, and now stand poised to receive politician's Holy Grail: the White House in incremental steps, potentially - Biden in 2020, and Kamala the First in 2024.



A Racial Slight = An Historic Flight?

In 2008, Sen. Joe Biden dropped out of the Democratic presidential primaries, having once made what some considered to be a racially stereotyped remark on Barack Obama, only later to have been chosen to be his successful running mate.

Similarly in 2019, Sen. Kamala Harris dropped out of the Dems' presidential primaries months after having confronted Biden with a challenge to his racial bona fide, and was later selected as his running mate.

Many see Biden at age 77 (the oldest president, if elected on Nov. 3) as a potential one-termer, with Harris the First well positioned for 2024.

A Final Word from the Leadership Expert

"Leaders who mentor potential leaders multiply their effectiveness. There is no success without a successor." Dr. John Maxwell, Developing The Leaders Around You

Who are you mentoring today - to step up, as you step back?

tim allston is the author of the free book, *7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else,"* free and downloadable now at www.GetEgoHelpNow.org.

Academy Celebrates Opening of New High School Building

Oakwood Adventist Academy, located at 7000 Adventist Boulevard NW, Huntsville, Ala., on the campus of Oakwood University, recently celebrated the grand opening of its new high school building on Sunday, August 9.

The new facility has been a 30-year dream in the making. The campus of Oakwood Adventist Academy will now feature an elementary school (remodeled in 2013), and a new high school, complete with science labs and a technology collaboration room. Moreover, the

academy campus will now have the capacity to hold 500 students.

The grand opening celebration event included a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house, and it featured Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battke, City Councilman Will Culver, and other dignitaries who offered congratulatory remarks.

The new building opens just in time for the start of the 2020-21 academic school year, which begins August 24 with both virtual and traditional "in person" learning options

available to students.

For additional information, contact Pastor Paul Goodridge, associate pastor of the Oakwood University Church and Public



Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, at (352) 207-3451 or send and e-mail to pgoodridge@oucsda.org.

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"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." - Mark Twain

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Valley Deaths

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME -

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Graveside service for MR. DOUGLAS MCARTHUR MOORE (b. 1942) was held Saturday, August 15, at Oakwood Memorial Gardens with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

A public viewing for MRS. BARBARA DIANNA FREEMAN (b. 1945) was held Friday, August 14, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home. A private service was held for family on Saturday, August 15.

Graveside service for MRS. ALMA ACKLIN (b. 1934) was held Tuesday, August 11, at the Saint Ruth Cemetery with Pastor William Carter officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. ANNIE MAE HOLLEY BURKS (b. 1934) was held Saturday, August 8, at the New Hope #2 Cemetery (Madison, Ala.).

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

Graveside service for MRS. JOYCE DEVORALYN DONALDSON (b. 1957) was held Thursday, August 20, at the Faith Memorial Park (8100 Madison Blvd. Madison, Ala.) with Reverend Billy Jones officiating.

Graveside service for MR. ERIC MAURICE VAUGHN (b. 1980) was held Saturday, August 15, at the Triana City Cemetery (4th Street Madison, Ala.).

Graveside service for MRS. NINA WILLIS SMITH will be 11 a.m., Saturday, August 15, at Valhalla Memory Gardens.

Public viewing was held for MRS. ANNA LEE GAY (b. 1925) on Thursday, August 13, at the Royal Funeral Home.

Graveside service for REV. MATTIE JONES DAVIDSON (b. 1940) was held Wednesday, August 12, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Endia J. Scruggs officiating.

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

Service to be announced later for MS. BARBARA "BABS" GORDON (b. 1944), retiree of Drake State Community and Technical College.

Services were being planned at newspaper deadline for the following: MS. STEPHANIE PAICELY, BABY KHAMARI TAYLOR, MR. CHRISTOPHER PERRY, MRS. JOE WHITE-STANLEY, MS. GRETA FERRER, MS. ANDREA BREZZELL and MR. TYKEEM FRANKLIN.

Tennessee Valley Calendar of Events

August 20
"River City Votes"
League of Women Voters of
Tennessee Valley
Drive-up Voter Drive
Register to Vote
Appy for Absentee Ballots
Absentee Ballot Witnesses
(Please Bring Photo ID)
Elite Financial Services
19 14th Street SW Suite C
Decatur, Ala. - 2:30-5:30 p.m.

August 21-22
Gridiron Men's Conference

Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Friday: 7-10 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

August 22
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration
Program
Von Braun Center - North
Hall - 7 a.m.

Drive-In Movie at
Mid-City District
Sponsored by Google Fiber

August 23
Huntsville Community
DrumLine
"iDrum Summer Rhythms &
Beats" - 3 p.m.

August 28-29
Family Campout in the
Garden
Individual: \$30
Family of Two: \$60
Family of Four: \$110
Huntsville Botanical Garden
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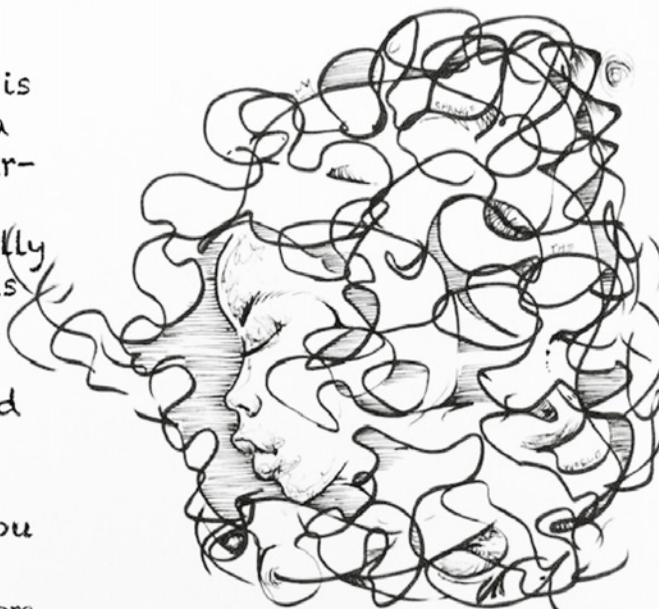
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