

The Valley Weekly

"All artists are constantly looking for something, and they don't always know what."

- Jacob Lawrence

FREE

Volume 4, No. 52

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, September 7, 2018

Calhoun Host Site of This Year's Health & Wellness Fair

The 18th Annual North Alabama Health & Wellness Fair will be held this year at Calhoun Community College Saturday, September 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Huntsville/Cummings Research Park site.

The event will feature free medical screenings, healthy living seminars and other information, as well as healthy snacks, door prizes and Spanish interpreters.

Other sponsors of the 2018 fair are Asha Kiran,

100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville, Alabama A&M University, J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Virginia College, The Links Inc., Delta Sigma Theta So-

rority, Inc., and the League of United Latin American Citizens.

For additional information, contact Earnest Starks at (256) 975-5519 or Bhavani Kakani at (256) 696-4446.

NW Huntsville Site of Neighborhood Resource Center Pilot

The City of Huntsville has launched a neighborhood program pilot to enhance community policing and city support.

The Neighborhood Resource Center will be housed in a residence staffed by Huntsville police, who will help to build resources around a neighborhood so that residents may be the champions of their cause.

"We've been looking at programs that will help to rejuvenate older neighborhoods, and this is our first step toward an innovative community partnership," said Mayor Tommy Battle. Huntsville police will staff the home, provided by Habitat for Humanity of Madison County, and will pull in resources from other City departments and agencies. "We're not coming in to fix a neighborhood," said Captain Jeff Rice, North Huntsville Pre-

dict Commander. "We're here in partnership, and the neighborhood will be taking the lead in telling us what they need and want." While Rice will be overseeing the pilot program, another champion in this effort is District 1 Council Member Devyn Keith. He sees the home as a positive alternative center that can provide quality programming, space for neighbors to interact with public safety officials, and a place for community volunteers to positively engage with each other.

The first Neighborhood Resource Center will be located at 3014 Sonya Drive, 35810. While this neighborhood is not a statistically high crime area, it has struggled to maintain its once vibrant community. If successful, at the end of one year, the City will move the program to another neighborhood as an



RESOURCE: City and law enforcement officials join Mayor Tommy Battle (3rd, left) at NRC on Sonya Drive in northwest Huntsville. -HuntsvilleAL.gov

ongoing tool for community empowerment and connection. In turn, Habitat for Humanity will return the Sonya Drive home to its inventory of affordable housing for sale.

The City took over the Sonya Drive home on September 1 to start furnishing and staffing the residence. Huntsville Police Chief Mark McMurray and

Capt. Rice plan to go door-to-door to visit neighbors and introduce them to the initiative.

In addition to Sonya Drive, the Neighborhood Resource Center will be serving residents on Melrose Drive, Deerfield Drive, Valley Park Drive, Pueblo Drive, Colfax Drive, Teton Drive and Teton Circle.

- HuntsvilleAL.gov

Peace & Love
L.O.V.E.

A Celebration Fit For The Queen

ARETHA

"THE QUEEN OF SOUL"

Detroit native and The Valley Weekly contributor Gary T. Whitley, Jr., submits a fitting tribute to The Queen of Soul on Page 7 of this issue. Enjoy!

The Valley Weekly

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Need Rescuing?

by Danny Shepherd

Have you ever seen the movie, "Raid on Entebbe"? Many of you may remember it as one of the most daring rescue operations every performed. In late June 1976, Air France Flight 139, with nearly 250 passengers, was hijacked by members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Over a couple days, the non-Israeli passengers were released as the hijackers only wished to keep hold of any Israelis and air crew. The 106 remaining hostages soon found themselves at Entebbe Airport in Uganda, a country whose leader, Idi Amin, was sympathetic to the hijackers. Believing the hostages were doomed and that no negotiation would ever work, the Israelis opted to try an ambitious rescue mission. One hundred Israeli commandos were flown 2,500 miles and landed at Entebbe. Disguised as Amin's motorcade, they approached the terminal building where the hostages were being held by several hijackers. A fierce firefight erupted as the commandos swarmed the building. Over the next hour and a half, 102 hostages were rescued while the 7 hijackers and over 40 Uganda military personnel were killed. The Israeli forces lost a single commando, Yonatan Netanyahu, the older brother of Benjamin Netanyahu. I don't know about you, but I like it when the good guys win and the bad guys lose. But as I think about the plight of the hostages at Entebbe, I am compelled to think about the greatest rescue operation that will ever be performed, that being when Jesus comes for His bride, the Church.

Since the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, there have been tons of speculation, discourse and dialog over how things will ultimately end. And although science and scholars disagree over how that happens, the Lord made sure we would not be ignorant to the truth. I believe the Bible is the sole authority on the topic because the Holy Spirit ensured its authenticity! Allow me a moment to put that into perspective.

The Apostle Paul, when writing to the church at Thessa-

lonica, wanted the church to not be uninformed as to how the end times take place; therefore, he provided us with a clear understanding when he wrote 1 Thess 4:16-18, "16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Paul wanted us to know for certain the events that would take place so we can be encouraged by it, and there are three specific events that he tells us will happen: the Rapture, the Judgment seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. I like the way Dr. Jerry Vines puts it. He says it this way, "the Lord will catch us up, clean us up, and cheer us up! Now that sounds like "good news in tough times," huh?

Paul not only informs us, but he gives us reason for hope through five promises. First, the Lord promises his return. Paul reaffirms what Jesus told the disciples in John 14:3 ... *If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.* The second promise is the resurrection. Again verse 16 says.....*16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.* In other words, those that have died in Christ will precede those of us that are alive. Again, Paul affirms what Jesus said in John 11:25 *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."* So, if you've lost a love one who was a Christ follower, there is good reason for the assurance this verse gives us.

The third promise is the rapture. After the resurrection, Paul tells us that 17 *Then we who are alive and remain will*

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Paul goes on to explain to the believers at Corinth, *"I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."* Not that I'm afraid of death, but I would like to be in this crowd when it happens.

The fourth promise is the rewards. Now Paul doesn't tell us in 1 Thess., chapter 4, about the judgment seat of Christ, but he does tell us in 2 Corinthians what that will be like. He tells us in 2 Cor 5:10: *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be paid back according to what he has done while in the body, whether good or evil."* I don't about you, but this rescue operation is getting better and better all the time.

Lastly, the fifth promise is the reunion. This is probably my favorite because Jesus knows how to throw a good dinner, and I'm not going to miss it. This promise he made during the last supper with His disciples, and he said this, *"I won't drink from the fruit of the vine until I drink it anew with you!"* This reminds me of one of my first remembrances as a small boy. Our family would gather in Gadsden Ala., in a community center in Campbell Court, and my entire family would be there, my Aunt Linda played the piano and sang the old hymns of the faith and in the center was my grandmother (the center of gravity in our family) and we ate and laughed and had the best time ever. No tears, no pains, just joy. I'm sure we could all use some of that!

I'll close by sharing what Paul tells us that is what I consider to be the ice cream on top when he said, *"and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

Now I don't know about you, but I can do that! If there was ever a time when we as a people, and as a nation, needed to be unified, strengthened, encouraged, comforted, and rescued, it's now. I'm ready; how about you?

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

1 John 3: 10 says: *This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.*

Living in the state of Alabama, it is inevitable that you will be asked the question, "Who's side are you on?" In other words, do you pull for Alabama or do you pull for Auburn? And, the reason for the question is that when these two teams play, it is one of the great rivalries of college football. So, when these games are played, there is a lot at stake. Things like bragging rights for a whole year.

But, unfortunately, there is much more at stake when it comes to the decision to follow Jesus or to follow the devil, because it will decide where you will spend eternity. You see, we all need to realize that we are being influenced by God or by the devil.

Now, the problem that we have when we decide to follow the devil is we end up with a lot of broken promises. For example, the devil will promise us pleasure, but he brings us misery. He promises us fun, but in the long run he brings us guilt and shame. He promises us life, but he brings death.

1 John 3: 8 says the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's



work. But, we have to choose who's side we are on. Because God will not interfere with our free will.

The choice is ours. But once we make the decision to follow Jesus, he will strengthen us toward the direction that he wants us to take.

Remember, Jesus will always meet us where we are, but He refuses to leave us that way. So, when we choose to follow Christ, we will have all the "bragging rights" that we need, because we can say with full confidence that we are children of God.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Dr. Marvin P. Carroll

Dr. Marvin P. Carroll, president and Chief Executive Officer of Tec-Masters, Inc., is a Servant Leader who embodies humility, service and generosity. An electrical engineering graduate of Howard University, he went on to earn a master's and the Ph.D. degree in public administration.

After retiring from the U.S. Army Missile Command, Dr. Carroll founded Tec-Masters in 1988 to provide technical support to the Department of Defense and commercial customers. The company provides a wide range of services, including: Training Systems Technology; Modeling & Simulation Technology; Multimedia Design Technology; Training and Doctrine Development; Weapons Systems Technology; Automotive Systems Technologies; Navigation and Telematics; Commercial/Manufacturing Technology;

Aerospace Technology; Information Systems Technology; E-Teaching; and much more.

He also had the unique experience of serving as a Legislative Fellow for three years for a U.S. Senator, advising him on Weapon System Acquisition policy.

Dr. Carroll has served diligently throughout the community, and he has previously been actively involved or is currently serving as a member of various industry organizations, such as the board of Huntsville Botanical Gardens, Huntsville-Madison County Department of Health and Human Services, Board of Directors of Tuskegee Univer-

sity School of Engineering, the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), Huntsville-Madison County Space and Rocket Center, and many others.



Dr. Carroll has a keen interest in working with and involving youth in various aspects of business. He has committed himself to lending his personal

expertise to college interns who are interested in learning business start-up and operations. As a Visiting Executive-in-Residence at Auburn University, he exhorted students to spend time understanding the market, customers, and their requirements.

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ahhh ... Breaking the Pace!

We have been told all of our lives that we should work 6 days and rest one day of the week. For some of us, it's going to take a major change in our lifestyles to actually put the skids on some stuff so that we can do as we know we should. The body and the mind need rest, relaxation and reflection.



Aretha Franklin (r) with civil rights icon and Alabama native Coretta Scott King.

family-time, whenever we can get it! It doesn't matter how old they become or where their careers take them, our children are one of God's greatest gifts to us.

Last week, we celebrated the lives of Sen. John McCain and Queen Aretha Franklin. Both are legends in their individual, unique ways. In spite of what any of us think or believe about either of them, they were two of America's honorable warriors - fighting very different but necessary fights. Many have been glued to our television sets over the past week to say goodbye to a Queen and a Hero! They have earned their wings and enough has been said.

Until next week ...

Dorothy

I received a few responses to the appeal to take some time to tutor or mentor a child in our public school system. So, we are making some progress. Our community's effort is coming together through the leadership of Dr. Terrence Vickerstaff. We are the village that it takes to make the difference, so please let us know if you have the time and interest, and we will get you connected. Success is a process, so get involved now and help us help the children. Through this effort, we will be able to slow the pace and focus on a goal that our entire community needs to be attending and is committed to accomplishing. We look forward to hearing from you.

This past weekend, our family took some time off from work and school to 'settle' our schedules and focus on things that matter. Every now and then, we gather to relax, reflect, re-connect and re-focus. For us, it's important and a necessary time we share away from the fast-paced big cities and bright lights. I thank God for



The late Senator John McCain on one of his campaign stops in Birmingham, Ala.



Award-Winning Band to Play Rescheduled Concert

After postponing their show in August, popular Christian rock band MercyMe is scheduled to make their triumphant return to Alabama and play the Von Braun Center Sept. 9 with Hip Hop artist Andy Mineo as the supporting act. The show kicks off at 6 p.m.

The award-winning quintet was scheduled to perform at the popular venue last month as part of the Power Leadership Conference but cancelled due to unforeseen circum-

stances. The Alabama date is one of the last solo shows before embarking on their Imagine Nation Tour in October.

Formed in Edmond, Oklahoma, the Christian contemporary behemoth released several independently-backed projects before breaking into the mainstream market with their first major studio album "Almost There", which featured their smash hits "I Can Only Imagine" and "Bless Me Indeed."

The winner of eight

GMA Dove Awards, MercyMe is regarded as one of the most prolific bands in the Christian music industry. Last year, the band released their ninth studio album "Lifer", which debuted No. 10 on the Billboard 200.

Tickets purchased for the August show will be honored this Sunday. For additional information, please contact the Von Braun Center box office or visit www.Ticketmaster.com.

by Reginald Allen



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Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

AAMU's Coach Maynor Gets First Win, Miles to Go

By Janae Roberson, Sports
Information Director

Connell Maynor made his debut as Alabama A&M's new football coach, and the Bulldogs delivered the program's first shutout in six years.

With a swarm-ing defense that dominated the trenches, Alabama A&M topped Miles 37-0 Saturday night to open the season in the Louis Crews Classic.

"That was a strong performance and a great way to open the season," said Maynor, who was hired in February.

"Guys were flying around the ball all night long. We made some plays early and did a good job of setting the tempo for the game."

Alabama A&M dominated from the opening kick.

On the first possession of the season, quarterback Aqeel Glass led Alabama A&M on a six-play drive

that ended with a 28-yard field goal from Spencer Corey.

And the momentum never shifted.

A few minutes later, Jordan Bentley carried the ball four straight times before



punching the ball into the end zone for a four-yard touchdown. Glass threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Isaiah Bailey and Gary Quarles rushed for a 1-yard score to give Alabama A&M a 24-point cushion at halftime.

Glass finished with two touchdown passes, completing 11 of 18 attempts with an interception. The sophomore threw a second-half touchdown to Marceles Clash. Dylan

Smith threw a touchdown pass to Octayvious Miles.

Miles led Alabama A&M in receiving with three catches for 66 yards, while Quarles led the Bulldogs on the ground with 51 rushing yards on seven carries.

"We expected to play well," Glass said. "There are a lot of playmakers on this team — several guys capable of making plays. This definitely is a positive performance to build on."

Alabama A&M's defense was the prominent storyline.

The Bulldogs held Miles (0-1) to just 115 total yards, with 80 on the ground.

"Everyone wanted to make a statement," linebacker Elijah Timarky said. "Our goal was to play physical and give up nothing. This was a good win for our team."

AAMU hosts North Alabama on Saturday, September 8, at 6 p.m.

(Photo by J. Saintjones)

Rocket Center to Offer Free Admission

In celebration of Smithsonian Magazine's 13th annual Museum Day, The U.S Space and Rocket Center will offer free admission Saturday, Sept. 22. The Rocket Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Museum, is one of many national museums to take part in the yearly function. While admission is free, patrons will need to obtain their tickets from the Smithsonian's website. One ticket will admit two patrons. The complimentary ticket will only cover admission. Additional amenities will be extra.

Patrons are encouraged to explore some of the Rocket Center's permanent fixtures, including the Main Exhibit Area, ISS: Science on Orbit, Rocket Park and Saturn V Hall. Museum Day comes just in time for "Alien Worlds and Androids," the Rocket Center's newest exhibit, which opens Sept. 21. Described as an exhibit that "brings patrons face-to-face with worlds beyond their own", patrons get a first-hand look at the research scientists are conducting to study extraterrestrial life.

The U.S Space and Rocket Center is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For additional information, please visit www.Smithsonianmag.com.

by Reginald Allen

Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. JOHN D. BROWN (b. 1938) was held Saturday, September 1, at 11 a.m. at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Bishop Marshall S. McGill officiating.

Memorial service for DR. GAIL EZELL of Wilmington, NC and formerly of Huntsville, Ala., was held Saturday, September 1, at 12 noon at Little Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church (884 Indian Creek Road - Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Dr. Jerry Crutcher officiating.

Funeral service for MR. DAMON FLETCHER (b. 1975) was held Saturday, September 1, 1 p.m. at Union Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (3126 Nevel Drive NW - Huntsville, Ala.) with Bishop Theophilus Knowles officiating.

Funeral service for MR. KENNICE DWAYNE SULLIVAN (b. 1967) was held Saturday, August 25, at 12:00 noon at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church (Brownsboro, Ala.) with Elder Dennis L. Green, Sr. as eulogist.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for REV. JEREMY TAVARES GARDNER (b. 1981) was held Sunday, September 2, at Fresh Winds Christian Fellowship Church (17200 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens, Ala.) with Pastor John Jude officiating.

Funeral service for Mr. Martavious Sha'Quan "Tay" Malone (b. 1995) was held Saturday, September 1, at the Round Island Creek Mission Center (13829 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens, Ala.) with Dr. Clarence Johnson officiating.

Funeral service for MR. SCOTTY LEE SALES (b. 1965) was held Saturday, September 1, at the Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church (2105 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MIRIAM M. GETER (b. 1935) was held Friday, August 31, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue N.W. Huntsville, Ala.) with Ms. Yvonne Geter/Pastor Richard Long officiating.

Funeral service for MR. SAMUEL S. MITCHELL (b. 1960) was held Friday, August 31, at the St. James Cumberland Presbyterian Church (2950 Jeff Rd. NW, Harvest, Ala.) with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for MR. HORACE E. GREEN (b. 1958) was held Monday, August 27, at Progressive Union MB Church (1919 Brandontown Road, Huntsville, Ala.).

- Serenity Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MS. LORETTA LANGFORD (b. 1954) will be announced.

The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

September 8

Bulldog Football
Alabama A&M vs. UNA
Louis Crews Stadium
6 p.m.

September 9

Valley Conservatory
Open House and Fall
Festival
*Awesome Performances
by students, staff and local
musicians*
2-5 p.m.

September 10

Stage Play
"The Walls Are Talking"
Huntsville High School
5:30 p.m.

September 11

Grandparents Day
RiahRose Home for Chil-
dren
EarlyWorks Museum
(256) 489-4348 - 1:30 p.m.

September 12

Jazz in the Park
Featuring Adam Hawl
Big Spring Park
6-9 p.m. (Free)

September 16

Jazz in the Park
Featuring Kim Scott and
T.A.D. of Jazz (Free)
Big Spring Park
6-9 p.m.

September 23

Jazz in the Park
Featuring Brian Simpson
and Norris Jones
Big Spring Park
6-9 p.m. (Free)

September 30

Jazz in the Park

Featuring Theo Crocker
Big Spring Park
6-9 p.m. (Free)

October 10

Fall Career Fair
Alabama A&M University
Student Wellness Center
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

October 12-14, 19-21

Fantasy Playhouse
"Lyle the Crocodile"
fantasyplayhouse.com

October 13

Alabama A&M University
Homecoming
AAMU vs. Alcorn State
Host Hotel: Space & Rock-
et Center Marriott

Huntsville City Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's 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. Council work sessions are also held in the 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.



Called 2 Preach

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

Let Him In!

Western and Eastern Oriental cultures are polar opposites when it comes to the matter of hospitality. This is particularly true when it comes to how guests are welcomed into a home.

In Eastern culture, even strangers are welcomed and treated with honor, because for those in that culture it is more important to be hospitable than not. In Western culture, the height of hospitality when it comes to house guests, is that hosts seek to make them feel at home.

In my boyhood days, I remember hearing my parents say to our guests: "Sit down and make yourself at home." However, we would have thought it quite strange and put upon, if that guest had *really* made themselves at home; that is, ... *we would have thought it quite strange and put upon, if that guest had really made themselves at home ...*

acting as if our house was theirs.

Eastern hospitality does just that. When a guest comes to a home, they are made the lord of that house. The host says to the guest repeatedly, "This is your house." When the

guest asks for a favor, the host respond,; "You do honor me."

When Revelation 3:20 is read with an Eastern mindset, that polite, persistent,

and personal knock from Jesus takes on a totally different meaning. When He says, "If any man opens, I will come in and sup with him and he with me," He's saying, "Make me the Lord of your house." That means when we pray, we are literally honoring Him.

So, I say to you, when Jesus comes knocking, let Him in.



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BIRTHDAY - September 7 - JACOB LAWRENCE was an artist and educator born in Atlantic City, N.J. He emerged as one of America's leading figurative artists and the first to document the history of African Americans through widely-viewed and influential artworks.

- BlackinTime.info



ARETHA FRANKLIN: A Celebration Fit for a Queen

Following the August 16, 2018, passing of Aretha Louise Franklin, 'The Queen of Soul,' the Franklin Family in coordination with her publicist, Gwendolyn Quinn, started the dutiful task of preparing for her Homegoing Celebration, after pancreatic cancer had claimed her life at her waterfront condo in Detroit. The Franklin Family enlisted the services of Mr. O'Neil D. Swanson, owner and sole proprietor of The Swanson Funeral Homes of Detroit, to prepare Aretha, The Queen of Soul, for her celebration fit for The Queen.

Franklin's sons, Clarence and Edward Franklin, Ted White, and Kecalff Cunningham, arranged a multi-day public viewing of their mother in her 24-karat gold-plated Promethean Casket by Batesville. Daily wardrobe changes, complete with a different pair of signature "red bottom" shoes by designer Christian Louboutin, all selected and arranged by O'Neil Swanson's daughter, Linda Swanson, became a highlight of the celebration events.

Detroit is known as the Motor City because of its history with the auto industry. Swanson Funeral Home carried Detroit's own Aretha in a vintage 1940 LaSalle Hearse produced by General Motors that also carried her late father, Rev. C.L. Franklin and Rosa Parks. Detroit's Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History hosted thousands of mourners over the course of two days who came to pay their RESPECT to The Queen of Soul as she lie in state.

An honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Aretha L. Franklin received the funeral rites ceremony from the sorority on Tues-



day, August 28. The sacred ceremony, known among members as the "Omega Omega" service, was conducted by National President Beverly E. Smith along with other national officers and hundreds of members from the Detroit Alumnae Chapter.

Detroit's historic New Bethel Baptist Church, the church her father pastored until his demise, served as the public viewing location for day three for fans to come and pass by the casket of the musical icon. While mourners viewed The Queen of Soul, her gospel music was featured as well as voice excerpts from some of her father's famous sermons. Aretha was further honored with a gospel concert that was hosted at New Bethel and a public celebration concert held at Detroit's Chene Park.

Possibly the largest church sanctuary in the City of Detroit, Greater Grace Temple, led by Bishop Charles H. Ellis, III, who served as officiant, hosted the funeral service for The Queen of

Soul. Nearly every seat in the 4,000-seat sanctuary was filled by family, friends, invited guests and public. New Bethel's Pastor, Rev. Smith, served as co-officiant, accompanied by The Aretha Franklin Celebration Choir and Orchestra. Musical colleagues and celebrities traveled to Detroit to say goodbye to a woman who influenced six decades of music around the world.

The nearly eight-hour celebration was televised by several media outlets and streamed online. Musical tributes were presented by Faith Hill, Ariana Grande, The Clark Sisters, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, The Williams Brothers, Alice McAllister Tillman, Audrey DuBois Harris, Pastor Shirley Caeser, Tasha Cobbs-Leonard, Dottie Peoples, Chaka Khan, Ron Isley, Fantasia Barrino-Taylor, Marvin Sapp, Jennifer Hudson, Stevie Wonder and Jennifer Holliday.

The Queen of Soul was memorialized and nearly canonized by a roster of politicians, preachers,

friends and family. The Honorable Mike Duggan, Mayor of the City of Detroit, with City Council President Brenda Jones, announced that Detroit's amphitheater, Chene Park, would be renamed Aretha Franklin Park. The church broke into a thunderous applause and Bishop Ellis commented that Mayor Duggan, "has just been re-elected." Michigan's Governor noted during his reflections that the State's Department of Natural Resources had recognized Aretha's voice as one of the state's natural resources. The Queen's grandchildren and niece and nephew spoke on behalf of the family and shared their personal interactions with their grandmother and aunt which surmised Bishop T.D. Jakes' comment that Aretha was "down to earth enough to be in her kitchen making potato salad and frying chicken."

Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder spoke about his love for Aretha's music and recalled memories of being in New York as

a teenager looking for someone to dance with while attending basement house parties. Bill Clinton, former U.S. President, told the audience that he and his wife, Hillary, former First Lady, U.S. Senator and Secretary of State, were Aretha groupies during their law school days at Yale. Clinton brought the crowd to near tears as he recounted his last time seeing Aretha in New York at Sir Elton John's annual HIV/Aids fundraiser, where she was the event headliner. Clinton played the chorus of Aretha's "Think" as he closed his comments.

With personal reflections from Judge Greg Mathis, U.S. Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, Rev. Al Sharpton, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Dr. William Barber, Tyler Perry, Smokey Robinson, Mildred Gaddis, Isaiah Thomas, and Michael Eric Dyson, attendees learned what many had suspected - The Queen of Soul was a quiet philanthropist and very engaged with the Civil Rights Movement. From covering the payroll for Dr. King when he was

unable to pay employees to taking care of victims of violence after seeing something on the Detroit news, Aretha used her platform and influence to leave the world a better place than she found it.

Black Hollywood's matriarch, Cicely Tyson, read an Aretha-modified version of Paul Laurence Dunbar's "When Malindy Sings" in the original dialect to honor The Queen of Soul. Record Producer and Music Executive Clive Davis spoke of his first meeting of Aretha and their relationship over the decades. Clive stated that he was elated that he was able to recently purchase Andy Warhol's original portrait of Aretha that was the album cover for her thirty-first studio album, the third self-titled, released in 1986, but the final work before Warhol's 1987 death.

Planning and executing a funeral homegoing celebration fit for The Queen of Soul was an auspicious task and no minute detail was overlooked. From her thirtieth studio album, Who's Zoomin Who, released in 1985, the now iconic song, "Freeway of Love," featured Aretha in a pink Cadillac. The promotional video was filmed entirely in Detroit and the song featured backup vocals by disco singer, Sylvester. To honor her last ride on the Freeway of Love, 100 representatives from Mary Kay cosmetics, drove their pink Cadillac's in Aretha's funeral procession.

Loved by Detroit and the world over, Aretha, The Queen of Soul, rode out on the Freeway of Love after being shown the utmost RESPECT to her final resting place, the historic Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit, where she joins her father and siblings.

Submitted by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Washington in One Minute



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

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. Back from its month-long summer recess, the House has a busy legislative week and will take up, among other items, the final version of the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill granting 1,600 product exemptions from import duties for 3 years (which is the result of a new process enacted in 2016 that avoids the ban on earmarks in Congress) and has also scheduled a possible floor vote

on the House/Senate conference version of the FY2019 Energy & Water/Legislative Branch/Military Construction & Veterans Affairs Minibus Appropriations bill. The big news in the Senate this week was Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh Monday.

2. According to Politico, the GOP Congressional Leadership was scheduled to meet with President Trump to discuss the fall agenda, including the FY2019 appropriations bills (FY2019 begins in

26 days and to date no appropriations bills have been enacted).

3. On Wednesday, Canadian and U.S. trade representatives continued talks to reset the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which have hit a snag on ultra-filtered milk prices and dispute resolution procedures. Last Friday, President Trump officially notified

Congress that he intends to sign a trade agreement with Mexico. According to Bloomberg, the Mexico NAFTA deal contains the following: A requirement that 75% of a car's content be made in the U.S. or Mexico (up from 62.5% to discourage Asian parts makers). Also 40-45% of the car's content must be made by workers earning at least \$16 per hour. Instead of a 5-year termination clause wanted by the U.S., negotiators agreed to a review at Year 6 with the ability to terminate

the agreement 10 years after that. The deal will strengthen protections for U.S. copyright holders, while allowing a safe harbor for internet service providers that inadvertently post pirated material.

4. Last Friday, the White House notified Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Chuck Grassley (R-IA) that President Trump was exerting executive privilege in the withholding of 100,000 pages of records pertaining to Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's job as a White House lawyer in the Administration of President George W. Bush. According to The New York Times, Senate Democrats complained that this was the first time that a sitting president had claimed executive privilege under the Presidential Records Act to prevent documents from going to Congress during the confirmation process for a Supreme Court nominee. Judge Kavanaugh's Senate hearings began Monday.

5. On Wednesday, the 47 House and 9 Senate conferees on the 2018 Farm Bill met in Room 325 in the Senate's Russell Building to begin final negotiations on the bill, which sets the nation's agriculture, nutrition, conservation and forestry policy. The House version of the bill contains a controversial requirement for a large portion of the 42 million Americans who use food stamps to either work or receive training for 20 hours a week to qualify for assistance. The current Farm Bill expires at the end of September.

6. According to a new Washington Post/ABC News poll released on Friday, 60% of Americans disapprove of President Trump's job performance (with 53% strongly disapproving – up 9 points from April 2018) and 36% approving. The poll further found that 53% believe that the President has tried to interfere with Special Counsel Mueller's Russia investigation (while 35% do not) ...

The poll of 1,003 adults was conducted on August 25-29 and has a margin of error of $\pm 3.6\%$.

7. A new report from Moody's Investors Service found that enrollment nationwide has stabilized for community colleges. Enrollment in community colleges generally runs counter to the national economy, and in recent years they've seen a drop in student numbers. Increases in state funding and higher appropriations from property taxes have also helped some colleges. The report found that colleges that receive property-tax revenue tend to have more revenue diversity and are better prepared for fluctuations in enrollment and tuition funding.

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