

# The Valley Weekly

FREE

Volume 3, No. 8

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, November 4, 2016

## ACAR, AshaKiran Holding Free Training Session



The Alabama Coalition Against Rape (ACAR), AshaKiran and the University of Alabama's Women's Resource Center are hosting a free half-day training on responding to sexual assault victims in diverse communities: "Responding to Sexual Assault Victims from Diverse Communities."

The session will be held on Tuesday, November 8, at the Holiday Inn Express, 815 Bradberry Lane in Clanton, Ala., from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Specifically, the training will focus on overcoming barriers that exist for foreign-born sexual assault survivors; enhancing services to campus sexual

assault survivors, including international students; and bringing community agencies together to address this critical issue.

Sign-in and material distribution will start at 8:45 a.m. The session includes 2.75 CEUs for social workers. RSVP or for more info: [ACARinfomation@gmail.com](mailto:ACARinfomation@gmail.com)



**AWARENESS:** Alabama A&M University students and staff form human ribbon in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and in tribute to the survivors of and those living with breast cancer and the loved ones who support them. Coordinated by Thedis Bryant, the event was held at the Learning Resources Center (Dr. Annie Payton, left, director).

## Deadline Nears for Links, Inc.'s Weekend Scholars

The Greater Huntsville Chapter, The Links, Incorporated is accepting applications to its Weekend Scholars program for high school students in the 9th and 10th Grades.

The Weekend Scholars program is a new signature youth enrichment program designed to motivate, stimulate and engage the curiosity of students

in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Health, Math, STE(AM) and life skills training, through real-world experiences. The program will consist of monthly meetings January - May 2017.

The Application is available for download at [www.greaterhuntsvillelinksinc.org](http://www.greaterhuntsvillelinksinc.org). The Application deadline is Friday, November

11, and should be mailed or E-mailed to: Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, P. O. Box 18804, Huntsville, AL 35804 or E-mailed: [ghlinksweekendscholars@gmail.com](mailto:ghlinksweekendscholars@gmail.com) For additional information, please contact Gail Fisher at (937) 369-4378 or Ms. Sharon Butler, (256) 653-8061.

## TVCWRT Focuses on Alabama's Final Year in the Confederacy

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table on Thursday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St., Huntsville, will have John H. Allen speak on "The Unraveling of a Confederate State: The Last Year of Civil War Alabama."

In the last year of the Civil War, Confederate Alabama was running short of everything, and

every aspect of life was disintegrating. Before the conflict finally ended, some 25-percent of Alabama's white population was receiving some form of relief. Nine reasons for the disintegration have been identified and will be presented.

John Allen is president of the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society and past president of the

TVCWRT serving five years. He inaugurated the "Little Roundtable Discussion Group," now in its sixth year. While on the Beautification Board, he was instrumental in getting ordinances passed that provided a tree ordinance, a tree commission, a city arborist, and landscaping of commercial parking lots and street medians.

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

AAMU Public Relations Office

Albert's Flowers

Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law

Big Oh's

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

Books a Million - N. Parkway/University

Drive

Briar Fork CP Church

Bryant Bank - Church Street

Burritt on the Mountain

Chris' Barber Shop

Depot Professional Building

Dunkin Donuts

Eagles' Nest Ministries

The Favour Group

Fellowship of Faith Church

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Garden Cove Produce

Health Unlimited

Huntsville Bible College

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

James Smith - AllState Insurance

Lakeside United Methodist Church

Landers McLarty Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram

Lucky's Supermarket

Mamma Annie's

Marshall England - State Farm Agent

Martinson & Beason, PC

Moe's - Village of Providence

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Phuket's in Providence

Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Progress Bank - Madison

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

## The Hamm Consulting Group



# Your Washington Recap

Here are the top issues in Washington:

1. The House and Senate remain in recess until after next week's November election. The ultra-right House Freedom Caucus is circulating a letter among House Republicans calling for a delay in the House Leadership elections for the next Congress scheduled for the week of November 14 - including the reelection of House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), who many in the GOP blame for conceding the presidential election when he announced he would not support Donald Trump. The House Freedom Caucus wants the House leadership elections delayed until December.

2. After a campaign stop for Hillary Clinton in Las Vegas, Nev., President Obama went to California for fundraisers in San Diego and Los Angeles and participated in a taping of ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live!

3. According to The Hill newspaper, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the House Democrats' campaign arm, has launched a new coordinated effort with Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign that will shift millions of dollars to traditionally red states, where party leaders are hoping to

upset House GOP incumbents, including Reps. Will Hurd (R-TX), Erik Paulsen (R-MN) and Crescent Hardy (R-NV).

4. The Washington Post reported that the Supreme Court may be deliberately scheduling a light workload of cases through the end of 2016 in the hope that nominee Merrick Garland gets a vote in the upcoming lame duck session of Congress after the election-in time for Garland to join the Court in early 2017. Senate Judiciary Committee Member Jeff Flake (R-AZ) called on the Senate to move forward with Garland's nomination in the lame duck session if Hillary Clinton wins the election. Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Chuck Grassley (R-IA) continues to oppose any action on the Supreme Court vacancy until a new president is sworn in.

5. U.S. Department of Education Secretary John King announced that the Education Department's office of Federal Student Aid is rolling out a new initiative to make emergency funds available to students attending minority-serving institutions who need a financial boost to get to graduation day. The multi-year effort will pair guarantee agencies with minority-

serving institutions. The financial assistance will help meet emergency costs that adversely impact a student's ability to complete their education.

6. 2016 Presidential Watch. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the 3rd presidential debate drew an audience of approximately 71.5 million viewers. This is slightly ahead of the 2nd debate which brought in 69 million viewers.

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) joined Hillary Clinton at a rally in Manchester, N.H. Clinton also had a rally in Coconut Creek, Fla.; Obama joined her in Salem, N.C., and on Clinton was in Cedar Rapids, IA. Donald Trump scheduled stops in Florida: St. Augustine, Tampa, Sanford, and Tallahassee, and he was in Kinston, NC.

THE HAMM CONSULTING GROUP LLC  
400 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 585  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20001  
V: 202-596-838  
M: 703-608-1906  
RHAMM@HAMMCONSULTING.COM  
WWW.HAMMCONSULTING.COM  
TWITTER: @HAMMCONSULTING  
"WE KNOW THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND POLITICS"

# World AIDS Day Events Scheduled

Since 2006, Community Faith Partners has honored individuals and organizations that make significant contributions in the area of HIV/AIDS. On Friday, December 2, 2016, while honoring HIV/AIDS activism, participants will have an opportunity to enjoy a hearty breakfast, inspirational music, and hear Rev. John R. Faison, Sr., national NAACP HIV/AIDS ambassador and pastor of Watson Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn. Armed with only wit and the Scriptures, Rev. Faison has the ability to deliver powerful messages that move people and communities to HIV/AIDS activism.

At 4 p.m., don't forget to tune in to hear WJAB 90.9FM radio host Marcus Sims and special guests as they deliver the spoken word through poetry and music, and share life-saving information on HIV/AIDS.

Community Faith Partners' World AIDS Day 2016 activities will close with "An Evening with Rev. Edwin Sanders," national HIV/AIDS speaker and senior servant of Nashville's Metropolitan Interdenominational Church. The event

will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Dr. Richard Showers Recreational Center, 4600 Blue Spring Road in Huntsville. Although targeted to millennials, this program is ideal for anyone age 12 and older.

The World AIDS Day 2016 events are free and open to the public. Participants are encouraged, however, to register at [www.facebook.com/CommunityFaithPartners](http://www.facebook.com/CommunityFaithPartners) or to send an e-mail to [comfaithpartners@gmail.com](mailto:comfaithpartners@gmail.com).

Partners this year include Alabama State Representative Laura Hall; Center Grove United Methodist Church; DAVIDPERSONMEDIA, LLC; Diverse Educational Life Training Activities, Inc.; First Missionary Baptist Church; Huntsville-Madison County Branch of the Alabama NAACP; Madison County Health Department; Thrive Alabama; and Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

For more information on Awards Breakfast, contact Judy Edmond at (256) 509-4252 or Lorraine Fant-Thompson at (256) 679-2019. For other activities, please contact Wendi Williams at (256) 372-4953.

## Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation

# #94612

The Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation provides financial scholarship to undergraduate students who demonstrate sound academic principles; commitment to community volunteerism, civic engagement and unselfishness to assist others in Huntsville/Madison County.

The Rosetta James Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization with a 0% Administrative and Fundraising Rate (AFR). For additional information, contact (256) 536-9717 or write P.O. Box 17452, Huntsville, AL 35810.



## Publisher

The Valley Weekly, LLC

## Editor-in-Chief

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

## Assistant Editor

Georgia S. Valrie

## Editorial Assistants

Linda Burruss  
Gary T. Whitley

## Layout & Design

Independent

## Photographer

Eugene Dickerson

## - Contributing Editors -

Hortense Dodo  
Dave Herron  
Amoi Savage

## Website Administrator

Calvin Farier

## Illustrator

John "Jahni" Moore

## Editorial Consultant

Jerome Saintjones

## Mailing Address:

The Valley Weekly  
415A Church Street - Suite 100  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(256) 651-9028  
[www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)

Copyright 2016

Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com). Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

**Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the belief of the editorial staff and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.**

## The Valley Weekly

Ad Rates Single Issue

Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,000
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$800
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$600
Half Page	Horizontal	
	5x10 inches	\$400
	Vertical	
	10x5 inches	\$400
Fourth Page		
	5x5 inches	\$200
Eighth Page		
	2.5x5 inches	\$100
Sixteenth Page		
	2.5x2.5	\$50
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$6
	(4 col. in. minimum=\$24)	
6 Month/1 Yr.-10% & 20% Discount!		

# From the Editor

*Don't Take My Legacy Away ... Ah, I'm not finished!*

Dr. Prince Preyer, Jr., is my 'homeboy' from Monroeville. Like me, he grew up in the county seat of Monroe County. It is known as the hometown for three prominent writers: Nell Harper Lee, Truman Capote and Cynthia Tucker. Actually, Cynthia Tucker's father was my principal at Rosenwald Elementary School, and her mother was my English teacher at Monroe County High School. In 1997, the Alabama Legislature resolved that Monroeville is the Literary Capital of the State of Alabama.

Now back to Dr. Preyer. After high school, Dr. Preyer attended Tuskegee Institute, Alabama A&M University and Iowa State University, earning the bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees, respectively--all in the field of agriculture and agriculture administration. Dr. Preyer was always a teacher first! Even today, when you talk to him, he will point his finger and teach you some stuff, if you will only listen.

Some years ago, he retired as a professor and administrator from AAMU. After his retirement, he was elected County Commissioner for Madison County District 6. During his tenure as County Commissioner, he put his agriculture knowledge into developing the Community Garden Initiative that still exists today in North Huntsville. The citizens of that District can still count on fresh vegetables annually. Of course, they have to go out there and *pick* them.

He is currently a resident at Millennium Nursing and Rehab Center, just west of Oakwood University. Last week, Bill and I had the good fortune of visiting some folks we knew were rehabilitating at the facility: Bro. Walter Rodger, Bro. Bill Hall and Dr. Preyer. You will not believe where we found Dr. Preyer--in the garden! He has managed to convince someone out there that he needs to be gardening. They have constructed 'urban' gardening plots, and he is taking care of business, sporting his white lab jacket. He has a generous crop of tomatoes, okra, egg plants, along with a variety of broccoli, cauliflower and greens. I was amazed. He invited us back for fried green tomatoes and okra. Bill was able to go and enjoy the food and fellowship. Oh, you need to *see* it.

We sat with him in the dining room, so he could eat his lunch. He then proceeded to 'teach' us about what he was doing and the value of homegrown, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Prince Preyer, Sr., his father, was one of the biggest black farmers in Monroe County. His family's farming legacy in the county is cemented in the county's history. Dr. Preyer has the same type of tenacity and stick-to-it-ness. And, it does not matter who comes or goes in the future, we can't take his legacy away. He is not finished!

We enjoyed our visit with you, Dr. Preyer. The more I learn about farming, the more I know I am not interested in it. I love fresh vegetables; however, Bill will just have to buy them.

Blessings 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*

## ValleyScopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

**Scorpio** One of the best things about love is that it's such a powerful reality that there's no force needed for it to grow. It's okay to be compulsive when it comes to gestures that express how you feel, as someone close to you will welcome the sincerity.

**Sagittarius** When speaking your mind, you'll find that peppering your critiques with well-deserved compliments will increase the tactfulness of every encounter, making them a bit sweeter.

**Aquarius** Your honesty, along with your ability to step outside of situations and be objective, is giving you an enticing edge on competition.

**Aries** There is someone, in your corner putting forth the effort to back you mentally as you fight for important things.

**Leo** Someone sees right through your humorously patronizing ways into your ability to deeply sense someone else's pain and seek realistic cures.

**Cancer** In the realm of work-related issues, you'll find that taking time for yourself will help you to more fully recharge your batteries as you move beyond some moodiness and adjust, in full preparations, to maximize opportunity.

**Taurus** The secure, safe haven that you thrive in is creating vibrations of comfort, an appealing energy that has set the tone for any company that you keep.

**Libra** As you become equipped with relevant facts, you're able to move closer, to clarity and a solid balance

between personal issues that you have and a matter, with someone else, who is no longer a regular part, of your daily life.

**Gemini** As you see, past someone's surface, you'll be able to pinpoint qualities, that could make all the difference when considering who could really be considered a member of your special "team".

**Pisces** You'll feel a tug of intuition which can keep you from being needlessly misled when it comes to grandiose plans that aren't set in stone.

**Virgo** You'll be more likely, to progress, with a meeting-of-the-minds, now that you're closer, to overcoming a fussy phase, and pursuing a mutual understanding with someone.

**Capricorn** Once you make the first move on a particular project, you'll feel more assured about how much time you'd like to invest in something.

## TU Scholars Given "Borlaug" Distinction

by Lamar A. Braxton, Jr.

While many departments were closed for a much-deserved summer sabbatical, the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Tuskegee University was filled with research-driven professors and 60 intellectually stimulated high school students.

The scholars enrolled in one of four programs which were sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): Discovery-TREK, AgriTREK/SciTREK,

AgDiscovery, and an Ag Adventure. The programs aimed to give participants an opportunity to gain leadership and research training in agriculture and related disciplines.

The students demonstrated their research and writing skills at the Alabama Youth Institute, which was hosted by Tuskegee University and the World Food Prize Foundation. The top presenters at the conference would participate in the Global Youth Institute as a part of the World Food

Prize events in Iowa.

Initially, two slots were allotted for presentations from Tuskegee's programs. However, the adjudication committee was extremely impressed by the essays of the Tuskegee scholars and selected 10 of them to present their essays at the World Conference in Iowa. An additional four scholars were selected as alternates. The 14 program scholars were identified as Borlaug (Nobel laureate) scholars.

## AAMU Welcoming 19th Laureate

The 19th Annual Putcha Venkateswarlu Memorial Lecture (The Nobel Laureate Lecture) will be held on Friday, December 2, in the Dawson Building auditorium at 3 p.m. on the campus of Alabama A&M University.

The featured Nobel Laureate for 2016 will be Dr. Jack Szostak of Harvard University.

Szostak is the 2009 Nobel Prize winner in physiology/medicine. During the public lecture,



he will discuss "The Origin of Cellular Life."

Attendees will be able to dialogue informally with

the Nobel winner following the presentation during a reception in the Knight Center at 5 p.m.



**On This Day** - Friday, November 4 - BERLINDA TOLBERT - Actress noted for role as Jenny Willis on the long-running comedy "The Jeffersons," as well as such films as "Patriot Games," "Goodfellas" and "Harlem Nights." She was born in Charlotte, N.C. - [BlackinTime.info](http://BlackinTime.info)



*Come Discover  
the Magic on  
the Mountain!*

No matter what time of year you explore Burritt on the Mountain, there is something delightful and new to see. And no matter how young – or old – you are, there is something for you on the Mountain! If you've never visited, you're in for a treat. If it's been awhile, what are you waiting for? Come on up and let the Magic begin!

3101 Burritt Drive • Huntsville, Alabama 35801 • 256.536.2882

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

OPEN: April-October: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday: noon - 5pm  
November-March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm

W&A  
WOMACK & ASSOCIATES LLC

"Partnering With You to Make Informed Decisions"

\*Comprehensive Financial Planning \*Estate Planning \*Accounting Services

\*Tax Planning and Preparation for Individuals, Businesses, Estates and Trusts

**To learn more contact us:**

Lori A. Womack, CPA/PFS, CFP®  
Managing Member

[lwomack@womackassociatesllc.com](mailto:lwomack@womackassociatesllc.com)

4650 Whitesburg Dr S, Suite 101  
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

256-534-1360

# Twitter Axes the Vine App

The social media platform that once ruled the internet is no more. Last week, social media giant Twitter announced that the video sharing app would be discontinued as of October 26. The popular tweeting service acquired the app a year before its official launch in 2013.

As of now, neither representatives from Twitter or Vine has released any additional information about the app's sudden

demise, but promised users that they will answer all questions on their official Twitter account at a later time.

The video sharing platform enabled users to create 6 second videos, or vines, that could be uploaded to the app or various other social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube

and Twitter. Videos are ranked by the number of views, or loops, it receives.

In its three years, Vine helped launched the careers of various comedians including King Bach, DeStorm, Lele Pons and Zach King. Last year, rookie artist Ruth B debuted her platinum single "Lost Boy" on the video sharing app.



**CLASSIC VICTORY:** Alabama A&M University Bulldogs, administrators, trustees and thousands of fans found the taste of victory was SWEET following the team's 42-41 OT win over the Alabama State University Hornets in the 75th annual Magic City Classic in Birmingham, Ala., on Saturday, October 29.

Shortly after the announcement, many stars, who rose to fame from the once popular app, paid their respect by re-releasing some of the videos that kick started their internet careers and posting heartfelt messages on social media.

Former Vine star Victor Pope Jr. tweeted, "Vine gave me so many opportunities. The chance to survive solely off comedy for the first time. I met so many good friends. It saved my life."

While the app is discontinued, it is far from dead. Those still wanting their Vine fix can still watch and download some of their favorite videos; however, users cannot add new content.

by Reggie Allen



**CLASSIC PERFORMANCES:** The city of Birmingham was host to a cavalcade of entertainers, comedians and celebrity guests for the 75th Annual Magic City Classic. Pictured above: Singer-songwriter Elle Varner, Anthony David and R&B sensation Tank were some of the myriad musical guests to perform during the weekend, celebrating the rivalry between Alabama State University and Alabama A&M. (Photos by Reggie Allen)

## BRYANT BANK

Unbeatable Service. Legendary Results.™

BANKING & MORTGAGE SERVICES

Downtown Huntsville | 415-H Church Street, Suite 100 • Huntsville, AL 35801 • 256.535.1045  
 Southeast Huntsville | 1804 Four Mile Post Rd SE • Huntsville, AL 35802 • 256.217.5170  
[www.bryantbank.com](http://www.bryantbank.com)

**MB** MARTINSON & BEASON, PC  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW SINCE 1937

Dedicated To You.  
 Delivering Results.

Personal Injury | Auto Accidents | Probate & Estate Administration  
 Corporate Law | Real Estate Law | Divorce | Criminal Law

### Contact Us

Phone: 256-533-1667

Fax: 256-533-1696

[info@martinsonandbeason.com](mailto:info@martinsonandbeason.com)

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

[facebook.com/martinsonandbeason](https://facebook.com/martinsonandbeason)



No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

## MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE. ALLSTATE IS NOT.



**JAMES F SMITH & ASSOCIATES**  
 256-852-7310

415 CHURCH ST NW BUILDING B  
 HUNTSVILLE  
[jamesfsmith@allstate.com](mailto:jamesfsmith@allstate.com)



**Allstate**

Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co. © 2013 Allstate Insurance Co.

168974

## Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mr. Willie Leslie, Jr.** was Thursday, October 27, at Blackburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church with Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Gregory L. Bone** was held Tuesday, October 25, at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church, with Pastor Timothy Rainey officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Steve Persinger** was held Tuesday, October 25, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Bertha L. Watts officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Bertha Thurman** was Saturday, October 22, at the Humphreys County Hospital Auditorium - Belzoni, Miss.

Funeral service for **Ms. Brenda Stewart** (b. 1966) was held Wednesday, October 19, at 12 noon at Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (2105 Winchester Road - Huntsville, AL) with Pastor Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral services will be held at a later date and will be announced when available by Nelms Memorial Funeral Home for the following individual:

- Thomas W. Hereford

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

Now I know what you're thinking, as you furrow your brow and wonder if the title is a misprint or whether *The Valley Weekly* has turned into a tabloid with an article featuring a story about an extraterrestrial who crash landed in New Market.

While, the latter would be far more entertaining, this is simply about growing up. I grew up all over this strange land that we call the United States of America. I've encountered and stumbled into both rural and urban places while being a certified Army brat.

My first few years on this planet served as a tour; like a flying saucer, we'd go to small southern towns

(like Hicks, Louisiana, and sprawling cities like Baltimore, Maryland) so much that I have an accent with no identifiable location. I say, "How ya doin'" like a New Yorker and pronounce words like bright, might, light with a considerable Southern accent. People don't know *where* I'm from and neither do I. This makes me an alien.

I'm a different person. My family is conservative Republican, and I'm a liberal Democrat. My dad likes to hunt; I like to write poetry and, most damning of all, I like soccer more than I do American football.

Needless to say, I'm okay with being different, but I didn't always feel that way. Moving from place to place as a kid made it difficult to form attachments to friends or to my extended family. My coping mechanism was to become an amalgamation of the people I'd meet and observe. Every new school I'd go to, I'd simply act like the coolest kid at the last school I was enrolled in. It got easier everywhere we went: to become an actor without a stage and--to be more on the nose with metaphors--an alien without a home.

Eventually, our tour of the country would slow



# Growing Up Alien



down and our family would put down roots in Huntsville, Alabama. My formative years would become increasingly difficult, as settling was not the norm. I would have to settle to be me, but I didn't have a clue who that was.

I went through phases as every teenager does, such as lashing out at parents for not being understand-

ing and thinking that everything in life at 17 is important. I've learned that both of those things aren't necessarily the case.

As I age, I realize that I have both of my parents' traits within myself, which reminds me of Maya Angelou's poem, "Human Family." Angelou's poem notes all of the considerable differences between human beings, while dispelling the myth that we are too different by saying that "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike."

I'm 29 years old now, and I'm finally okay with being weird. I graduated college with an English degree that has yet to rake in the big bucks from the unfinished novel that I

by Joshua Farmer

keep at my bedside table. Today, I live in Birmingham with my wife, who is beautiful inside and out, and we spoil our dogs like children.

We all have different paths to take in life. I think becoming your own person and not being afraid of being different is a noble pursuit. Now, with that being said, we're all different, with little idiosyncrasies and tics that are unique.

I guess a simpler way to say it is to simply be yourself and love it. Still, to this day, my parents look at me like an alien and say, "who are you and where did you come from?" I smile, and say, "Well, you ought to know; you brought me home."

## 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.

## Good Samaritan Hospice

*-Locally owned and operated-*

Call us at 256-772-8108

*Remember, It's your choice, so ask for us by name!*

*"Proudly serving our veterans"*

# WOODY ANDERSON

2500 Jordan LN NW  
(256) 517-1288

HOME OF

## HENRY'S

MUSTANG CAFÉ

BREAKFAST SERVED  
MONDAY THRU SATURDAY  
7:00AM UNTIL 11:00AM

---

LUNCH SERVED  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY  
11:00AM UNTIL 2:00 PM

## Calendar of Events

**November 3-4**  
2016 WEDC Leadership Conference  
U.S. Space and Rocket Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
www.wedchsv.org

**November 5**  
Football vs. Grambling  
Alabama A&M University  
Louis Crews Stadium  
(Campus)  
2 p.m.

**November 8**  
Election Day

**November 10**  
Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table  
Elks Lodge  
725 Franklin Street  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6:30 p.m.

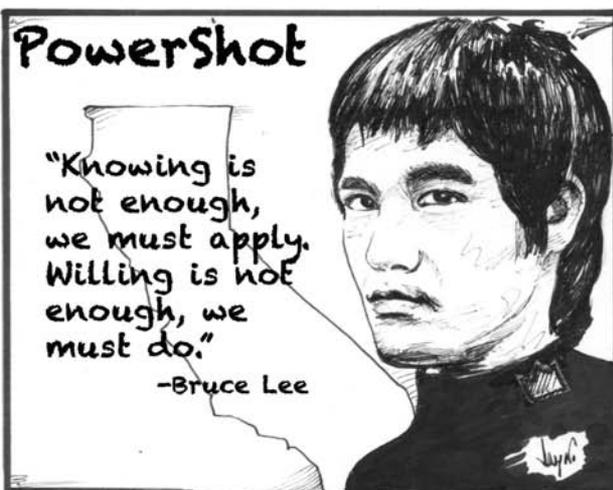
**November 12**  
Best of Broadway  
Sponsor: Dance Theatre of Huntsville  
Academy of Academics and Arts - \$8/\$10

**November 13**  
UNCF Women's Leadership Tea  
The Ledges of Huntsville Ballroom  
3 p.m.

**November 21**  
Festival of Praise Tour  
VBC Concert Hall  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

**November 27**  
Valley Conservatory Jam Session  
5-8 p.m.

**February 4**  
Huntsville Symphony Orchestra  
Free Family Concert  
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
Von Braun Center  
11 a.m.



### Bruce Lee Ten Keys To Success

1. Demonstrate impressively
2. Express yourself
3. Have faith in yourself
4. Exploit opportunity
5. Be confident
6. Be like water
7. Create your art
8. Commit fearlessly
9. Don't think, feel
10. Take on the best

## Champion Game Plan for Life

Patience is one of the more important virtues that we can develop as Christians, because it says a lot to people about "stability" in their lives. Sometimes the easiest route in life is not always the quickest route. Many times when things are not easy for us, we have a tendency to complain. Impatience causes us to complain.

When we complain, we remain in our same circumstance. You see, it was their impatience that kept the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. Patience is one of the fruits of the spirit, and it has to do with character and temperament. It has to



## Employers and Health Care Reporting



*Health Care Information Reporting: Seven Things Employers Can Think About Now*

If your organization is an applicable large employer, you must report information about the health care coverage you offered to your full-time employees. As an employer, it's not too early to start thinking about these seven facts related to your information reporting responsibilities under the health care law.

1. The health care law requires ALEs to report information about health insurance coverage offered to its full-time employees and their dependents as well as to the IRS.

2. ALEs must report infor-

mation about themselves, the coverage they offered – if any – and the individuals covered under the policy.

3. ALEs are required to furnish a statement to each full-time employee that includes the same information provided to the IRS by January 31, 2017.

4. ALEs that file 250 or more information returns during the calendar year must file the returns elec-

tronically.  
5. ALEs must file Form 1095-C, Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage with the IRS annually, no later than February 28, 2017 or March 31, 2017 if filed electronically.

Forms 1095-C are filed accompanied by the transmittal form, Form 1094-C.

*Submitted by*  
David E. Herron  
DEH & Associates  
Nashville, Tenn.

for a bright  
future fueled  
by a rich history.

At PNC, we're about community. Because community is where our past connects with what's ahead. It's why we created PNC Grow Up Great,™ our \$350 million, multi-year, bilingual initiative that helps prepare children from birth to age five for success in school and life. It's why we're sponsoring local events, working with local leaders and supporting job-readiness organizations. It's why we're fostering relationships with diverse suppliers. And it's why we're building a workplace as diverse as the people we serve. We're committed to helping our communities keep achieving for years to come. Find out more at pnc.com





## Ivory W. Reedus, LUTCF

Agent

AL #A-058076

### New York Life Insurance Company

200 Clinton Avenue, Suite 600

Huntsville, AL 35801

Tel: 256-517-5922 Direct

Tel: 256-852-7328

Fax: 256-593-1842

ireedus@ft.newyorklife.com

New York Life "The Company You Keep"



Design • Print • Mail • Promotional  
256-539-1658  
www.xcelprint.com

## Albert's Flowers

Located Downtown in Medical District; Closest Florist to Huntsville Hospital  
Free Delivery to Huntsville Hospital and Local Funeral Homes

716 Madison Street - Huntsville, AL 35801

**FLOWERS, GIFTS,  
EXOTIC FLOWERS**

Graduate of

American Floral Art School

256-533-1623

256-536-6911

www.albertsflowers.com



State Farm



Marshall England, Agent

600 Franklin Street, SE

Huntsville, AL 35801

Bus: 256.539.2014

marshallengland@marshallengland.com



www.marshallengland.com

# DRAKE STATE

## Our Instructors Inspire

drakestate.edu | 256.539.8161

WE WILL EMPOWER YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE!

# JERRY DAMSON

HONDA ACURA



satisfaction  
visit us online at damson.com



# SAVE the DATES

## UNCF NORTH ALABAMA CAMPAIGN

2016/2017 Events

### UNCF Golf Classic

Monday, October 24, 2016, 12:00 p.m.  
The Ledges of Huntsville

### UNCF Women's Leadership Tea

Sunday, November 13, 2016, 3:00 p.m.  
The Ledges of Huntsville | Ballroom

### The 39th Annual UNCF Gala

Thursday, April 13, 2017  
VIP Reception, 5:30 p.m. | Gala, 6:30 p.m.  
Von Braun Center | North Hall

For more information on any of our events,  
please call 256-726-7201