

The Valley Weekly

Happy Thanksgiving!

FREE

Volume 5, No. 11

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, November 23, 2018

Hampton Dance Team to Perform in the Valley

In continuation of its year-long observance of a "Century of Service," Royal Funeral Home, Incorporated, will present "An Evening of Dance," featuring the Terpsichorean Dance Company of Hampton University.

This event will be held at the Mae Jemison High School Auditorium on Saturday, December 1, at 7 p.m.

The Terpsichorean Dance Company of Hampton University, originally named the Hampton Institute Creative Dance Group, showcases the talents of University students who have studied tap, bal-

let, African, jazz, modern and many other dance forms.

The Terpsichorean Dance Company has been in existence since 1934 and has developed a rich history as one of the first African American touring companies in America to perform in New York.

Each year, the Terpsichorean Dance Company performs two annual concerts in the fall and spring seasons, as well as outreach performances.

Royal Funeral Home management and staff are delighted to bring this exciting performance to



the Huntsville/Madison County community.

"An Evening of Dance" will be a celebratory dance benefit concert during which a local dance school will be recognized.

Tickets are available for sale online at www.royalfh.com/dance, at Royal Fu-

neral Home or interested persons may also purchase tickets at the door.

VIP tickets must be purchased in advance and will entitle the ticket holder to attend the Pre-Reception "Meet and Greet" at 6 p.m., and to reserved seating during the performance.

City Addresses Downtown Parking

A new 490-space parking garage has been planned for downtown Huntsville in 2019. The municipal garage will be built on a City-owned parking lot at Greene Street, Holmes Avenue and Lincoln Street (Lot D) and will accommodate monthly, daily and hourly parking needs.

"We're seeing increased demand for new office, lodging, and residential space downtown," said Mayor Tommy Battle.

"Having more people live and work in the central core is what we've been working toward through our BIG Picture and downtown master plan. Parking is a key piece of that growth strategy."

Architectural designs for the Greene Street Parking Garage were presented



to the Huntsville Planning Commission and approved.

The project includes 16,000 square feet of space for first floor retail and a small plaza area at the northeast corner of the property where Holmes Avenue and Lincoln Street transition into the Old Town Historic District.

Matheny-Goldman Architects were tasked with designing a multi-level parking structure that complemented the site's historic and residential surroundings.

The cast in place structure also includes new streetscaping and improvements to the intersection of Holmes and Lincoln. Entrance to the garage will be from Greene Street with an exit onto Lincoln Street.

MPO Meeting Nov. 28

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizen Advisory Council will meet at City Hall on Monday, November 26, at 4 p.m.

MPO is the transportation planning agency for Huntsville, Ala.; Madison County; and the cities and towns of Madison, Owens Cross Roads and Triana.

MPO meetings occur quarterly and on (or close to) the last Wednesday of every quarter.

Calhoun Opens Nursing Lab

The Calhoun Community College Nursing Department will host a ribbon-cutting event on Thursday, November 29, beginning at 10 a.m., to officially mark the opening of its new Nursing Simulation Lab, located in the Sparkman Building at the Calhoun Huntsville campus, 102 Wynn Drive.

The nursing lab is the result of a partnership between Calhoun and Huntsville Hospital and represents the final piece necessary for the establishment of a new nursing program at Calhoun's Huntsville campus.

The new Huntsville program, similar to Calhoun's nursing program in Decatur, was created in an effort to help fill the growing need for additional nurses for the region.

The Valley Weekly
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Millennial Thought

by Larry Campbell

'Vampires' and the African Diaspora

As part of its Book Talk series, Alabama A&M University's Top of The Hill Society offered a showing of the popular 1994 film "Interview with the Vampire." One of the central premises of the work is the constant struggle man has between his inner nature and the way things are perceived to be. Louis is an unhappy centuries-old vampire from New Orleans telling his story to an eager reporter in San Francisco. Louis has a friend, Lestat, a man who turned Louis into a vampire and who absolutely relishes in the violence and blood that keeps him seemingly and eternally vibrant. But, perhaps unintentionally, there are many parallels that can be drawn between the story's plot and the situation and plight of blacks in America.

For instance, Louis can symbolize blacks in America, with centuries-old traumatization that has resulted in only fragments of their African essence. Louis was made into a vampire, but his heart was not in it. He despised everything associated with it and knew it was not his real nature, yet the vampire's curse had a strong hold on him. Similarly, the early blacks in America were brought into a European-framed existence that at the same time cursed their African nature. Europe was to be praised for its relentless accrual of wealth and power

through violence, while its unbridled barbarism and taste for blood was to be ignored and regarded as just the way things are.

The character Louis is an embodiment of one serious question: Is human nature geared to be inherently good or inherently evil? If it is good, then people are perfectly within their natural rights to fight oppression and the results stemming from it, even violently. However, if men are really inherently evil, then the oppressed have little to gain through prayer and patience and would be better served through their own mass assertion of the Second Amendment.

Although we all are not so different from one another, blacks in America are both Chosen and Forgotten people, tragically trying to hold on to their place in history and a world beyond America. Like Louis, blacks are—through no faults of their own—deeply tied to the fangs of America's past, even though ties to a vampire never end well in the light.

Unlike the character Louis and event novelist Thomas Wolfe, through planning and organization, black Americans literally can go home again. While

it might not entail going directly to their village or tribe in Africa, there would still be much to be gained from setting foot on the soil alone. A rejuvenation is very much needed when so much blood is drawn from a people. There is a need to regroup and replenish in order to one day achieve economic empowerment.

Vampires have sucked the blood out of the African diaspora, leaving behind a distorted black community with nothing left but a malformed understanding of what it is to be black and the mission that being so commands. It is sad when a brother hurts another brother. However, when we are killed in the streets by this racist Society ... it's rightly time for action on several levels.

While collaborations are justifiable if done with the aim to lift our communities, there must be a willingness to both acknowledge weaknesses as well as to identify those people and entities for whom misery loves company. There is a time for passiveness and a time for proactivity. In the end, perhaps the degree of our humanness lies somewhere between the choices we make for ourselves and the choices we steal from others.

Larry Campbell is a communications major at Alabama A&M University and intern student under the coordination of Professor Edward Journey and PR director Jerome Saintjones.



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Lowes Chapel United Methodist Church

Lowes Chapel United Methodist Church is seeking to fill the position of Full-Time Church Musician/Choir Director. The successful candidate must be able to read music as well as "play by ear" and direct all types of Church music. All interested candidates should submit a resume to: Pastor/Parish Relations Committee, loweschapel@yahoo.com, Lowes Chapel United Methodist Church, 460 Sanderson Street, Huntsville, AL 35805 - CLOSING DATE FOR RESUMES IS NOVEMBER 30, 2018 - For more information please contact the church at 256-895-9104



BIRTHDAY - November 23 - TOM JOYNER - Popular longtime radio personality Tom Joyner was born in Tuskegee, Ala., and graduated from Tuskegee University. He is the host of "The Tom Joyner Morning Show." - BlackinTime.info

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ahhh ... Happy Thanksgiving!

It's Thanksgiving, a time of pause and work. We pause to give thanks for the awesome blessings that we enjoy and experience without earning or deserving them. Regardless of our current situation, we should pause to give thanks. Over 40 area residents left Huntsville on a bus last Wednesday and became victims to bad weather. Two individuals lost their lives and many others were injured. But for mercy and grace, it could have been any one of us, at any place, at any random time. Elders used to say, "We never know" what tomorrow will bring. The Winans might have coined it best in "Tomorrow, tomorrow is not promised, we better choose the Lord today."

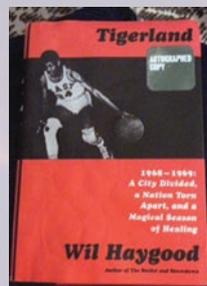
I am playing catch up, so we are online ONLY this week due to Thanksgiving. Our team at TVW is pausing to not only give thanks but to spend quality time with family and friends. In September, I had surgery back-to-back, two weeks in a row. It's mighty hard for a busy-body to follow the doctor's orders and rest for at least six weeks. Obligations and responsibilities pull and tug from every direction. One commitment I made was to attend and participate in the inauguration of one of my former students who became president of Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Kalamazoo, Mich. I have known L. Marshall Washington since he was 14, during his freshman year in high school. He invited me to make the Inaugural Remarks at his formal Inauguration and Investiture Ceremony. It was my great joy to see a young man that I mentored over 25 years ago excel in his profession. Bill carried my bags--lol--and we went to Michigan to take care of that business. Even if it meant a set-back for me, I made the commitment and I needed to be there. So glad my dad taught me that my word should be my bond!

Our friend Wil Haygood has written a new book--just released by publisher Alfred A. Knopf. My Aunt Catherine Willis of Columbus, Ohio, sent me an autographed copy. Once I began reading it, it's hard to put it down. "Tigerland: 1968-1969 - A City Divided, a Nation Torn Apart, and a Magical Season of Healing" is primarily a sports story about the East High School Tigers whose black players made history through basketball and baseball in 1968 and 1969 through their own athletic prowess and enlightened social consciousness. A must read if you are in any way familiar with Haygood's unusually forthright style of providing us a history lesson while inspiring us--all at the same time. I am not a fan of history, so his works continue to inspire me to read, read and then read!

A few weeks ago I began a new daily meditation, "Morning Glory," that is a 52-week devotional, penned by Lady Yolanda Turner. A survivor of domestic abuse, terminal illness, depression, betrayal and rejection, Turner's faith has catapulted and inspired her to produce a bible-based devotional that encourages and inspires. I'm grateful for her gift of sharing and caring. So, pause and read a book. Both books can be ordered via Amazon.

Leaves are falling fast. For some of us, that means lots and lots of work. Fall is not only a time of pause but also a time of harvesting and winterizing. Some of us are putting away fresh vegetables and fruits for the winter, while raking leaves, pruning and trimming outside in preparation for the real winter that's destined to come. For me, it's a wonderful time to shed a few pounds after a big Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings, leftovers and sweet things that I wouldn't dare conquer during any other season. Ahhhh, goodness!

We will return with a printed copy of TVW next week. Enjoy your time with family and friends until then.



From top (counter-clockwise): Dr. Dorothy W. Huston; Dr. L. Marshall Washington; new book by author Wil Haygood; and photo of Lady Yolanda D. Turner.

Dorothy

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

November 23-December 31

Galaxy of Lights
Huntsville Botanical Garden (\$25/car up to 10)
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue
Huntsville, Ala.
5:30-9 p.m.

November 24-25
Sesame Street Live! Make Your Magic
Von Braun Center Mark C. Smith Concert Hall

November 27
North Alabama NSBE
General Body Meeting
Lockheed Martin, 4800 Bradford Drive
5:30 p.m.
Visit www.nsbe-northalabama.com

Huntsville Rotary Luncheon
Von Braun Center

North Alabama Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Featuring Tim Tebow
Von Braun Center

www.northalabamafca.org
7 p.m.

November 29
Basketball
Alabama A&M University vs. University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
Von Braun Center
Propst Arena
7 p.m.

December 1
Deltas Meals on Wheels Effort
Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center
2200 Drake Avenue, SW,
Huntsville, Ala.
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

A Centennial Grand Finale Celebration
Sponsor: Alabama Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, Inc.
Limestone County Event Center
114 Pryor Street, West Athens, Ala.
2 p.m.

Alabama A&M Men's Basketball vs. Austin Peay
Elmore Gymnasium
6 p.m.

December 2
Annual Christmas Musi-cale Featuring the Alabama A&M University Choir
T.M. Elmore Building
5:30 p.m.

December 4
2018 State of the City Address Featuring Mayor Tommy Battle
www.hsvchamber.org
Von Braun Center North Hall
12 p.m.

December 8
The First Annual Celebration of Caretakers
Host: Jamal's Helping Hand Valeria McConnell, Executive Director
DoubleTree Suites by Hilton
6000 Memorial Parkway, S
Huntsville, Ala.

December 18
Rocket City College Basketball Classic
UAH vs. Fort Valley State University
Von Braun Center Arena

AAMU Founder Honored by ALA

The founder and first president of Alabama A&M University has been added posthumously into the ranks of a state-wide professional association.

Dr. William Hooper Council has been selected for induction into the Alabama Lawyers Association.

The renowned educator, administrator, minister, lawyer and editor was recently honored at the 8th Annual Alabama Lawyers Association Hall of Fame Dinner held on Wednes-

day, November 14, at the RSA Activity Center in Montgomery, Ala.

Other honorees included Atty. Robert Turner, Sr.; The Honorable Johnny Hardwick, presiding judge, 15th Judicial Circuit; and The Honorable Eddie Hardaway, Jr., presiding judge, 17th Judicial Circuit.



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For The View event details and tickets, visit burrittonthemountain.com!

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Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Halloween's Jamie Lee Curtis: No More (opioid) Tricks, Only (recovering) Treats

"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it." Habakkuk 2:2 (NKJV).

Our virtual "Opioid Addiction Recovery Hall of Fame" inductees: Eric Clapton, Elton John (1990), Robert Downey, Jr. (2001), Jada Pinkett Smith (1997), Eminem, Nicole Richie and pop star Demi Lovato.

Absent? Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Phyllis Hyman, Elvis Presley, Prince, psychiatrist Sigmund Freud and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Overdoses from opioids - a diverse range of narcotics used initially for morphine-like pain relief, but often morphing into addictions and death - claim 115 American lives daily.

Now, People Magazine's November 5th cover story adds to the Hall "Halloween" star Jamie Lee Curtis, daughter of former movie stars Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis.

She and her fellow celebs' admissions mirror the 10 steps for recovering from the mother of all addictions, ego-holism - the addiction to self:

1. Target it -

(Downey) "I don't pretend it didn't happen. I'm a veteran of a war that is difficult to discuss with people who haven't been there";

2. Own it - (Richie) "No, I don't blame my parents. I created it and manifested it, and I got myself through it with the help of a lot of great people";

3. Proceed - (Eminem) "I knew I had to change my life. That's when I knew: I either get help, or I am going to die";

4. Change your Lanes Effectively, by Glancing Back before Driving Forward. (Clapton) "I thought that if I stopped drinking and I stopped using drugs ... I would not be able to play anymore. But it was a shortcut. I can be a good musician with or without that philosophy";

5. Dig Deeply and Uncover more Buried Treasures - Both Curtis and Jada Pinkett Smith confessed that their parent's addictions fueled their own;

6. Start Listening Aggressively. (Kristen Bell) "My husband is in recovery and is almost 13 years sober. Seeing the world through his eyes has really opened mine to knowing that it is a disease . . .";

7. Re-start your Engine. (Demi Lovato) "I am one

of the 1 in 7 people who has faced addiction, and I am grateful to be in recovery today. It's time for us all to reflect, and start @facingaddiction. Let's stop ignoring the biggest problem in our country we often don't want to look at";

8. Convert your Lemons into Lemonade - all of the above (and below) confessions!

9. Got Healing? Start Revealing - (Elton John) "I never thought of myself as being handsome or good-looking or whatever. And I think that's why I started doing drugs, to be one of the gang"; and

10. Now that You Know... Go, Elevate and Grow! (Curtis) "My recovery is the single greatest accomplishment of my life. Without that, the rest of my life would have fallen apart... Recovery is an acceptance that your life is in a shambles and you have to change it"

by tim allston

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.



Reality Show Focuses on Huntsville's Movers, Shakers

by Reggie Allen

"We are not the ATL, we are the ALA!"

The Rocket City is getting the reality show treatment with "Love & Marriage: Huntsville," OWN network's most ambitious venture yet.

Last September, the Valley Weekly reported that the OWN network announced an unscripted series under the working title "Rocket City Revival" that followed three Huntsville couples striving to put the Rocket City on the map. After months of waiting, the network has finally released a trailer and it looks like a hit. Set to premiere in January, the Alabama series joins the cable network's batch of programs to air in the coming months.

"When people think of Huntsville, Ala., they think cotton fields, animals ...," Martell Holt explains in the opening seconds as a montage of Redstone Arsenal, The Space and Rocket Center and Alabama A&M and other notable landmarks flash across the screen. So, why do a show there?

Huntsville, Ala is a booming market for real estate and development projects. Additionally, the city boasts the highest population of engineers in the South. As one of the couples stated in the trailer, Huntsville is a gold rush. Blink once and you just might miss it. But, why Huntsville?

As stated earlier, the series will focus on three successful African American couples

who've recently returned to Huntsville, Ala., to help "revitalize the region" via their respectively successful real estate businesses.

The Alabama reality series will feature multi-millionaires Martell and Melody Holt, Kimmi and Maurice Scott, and LaTisha and Marsau Scott, and document their longstanding friendships and professional ventures in Huntsville. That's not to say there won't be rocky roads ahead of them.

Per the show's press release, "The couples are long-time friends and avid socialites who have their own personalities, strong points of view, and individual strategies for wanting to make this huge undertaking a success. We'll see if they can succeed at mixing business with pleasure for all the right reasons, or if the cutthroat industry makes foes of the longtime friends."

"Love and Marriage: Huntsville" will be produced by reality show giant Kingdom Reign Entertainment, who's working credits include TV One's "Hollywood Divas" and "The Next 15" and MTV's "My Super Sweet 16." An air-date has not yet been released, but the series is slated to run sometime next year. Kingdom Reign founder Carlos King, Gil Lopez and Andrew Hoagland are tapped to executive produce the Alabama series.

"Love and Marriage: Huntsville" premieres January on the OWN channel.

Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. ROY DUKE (b. 1936) was held Sunday, November 18, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Clement U. Okinedo officiating.

Funeral service for MS. SHIRLEY BLAND (b. 1943) was held Sunday, November 18, at Saint Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Perry Clark officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MELVIN F. BURRESS (b. 1929) was held Saturday, November 17, at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Brandon Nance officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JOHN GIDEON (b. 1932) was held Saturday, November 17, at Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Dennis Green, Sr. officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIE LAMAR SALES was held Saturday, November 10, at the Consolidated Flint River and Running Water Primitive Baptist Memorial Tabernacle with Elder Dennis Green officiating.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MRS. BETTY RUSSELL (b. 1948) will be held at 12 p.m., Saturday, November 24, at the St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Avenue NW Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Patrick Franklin officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JESSE "GENE" HURT (b. 1927) was held Monday, November 19, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, NW Huntsville, Ala. 35810) with Pastor Archie Emanuel officiating.

Funeral service for MR. BOBBY R. EPPS (b. 1963) was held Saturday, November 17, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, NW Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Leon Manigan officiating.

Funeral service for MS. SADIE MARIE GREEN (b. 1960) will be 11 a.m., Saturday, November 17, at the Fellowship of Faith Church with Reverend Travis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for MASTER MALIK JEVON MILLER (b. 2007) will be 12 p.m., Saturday, November 17, at Blackburn Chapel CPCA (507 Plummer Road Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Tramaine D. Snodgrass officiating.

- Serenity Funeral Home -

Funeral service to be announced at a later date for MR. DARRIUS N. MOORE (b. 1990).

Called 2 Preach

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

Circumspect Walking

Ephesians 5:15-20

Walking circumspectly is necessary because even with a walk of faith, a fall can occur at anytime that can be disastrous. The word, *circumspectly*, interestingly enough is translated from a word in the original Greek language that means, *accurately*. It is accuracy that is reached through careful consistency. It can best be illustrated by how a tightrope walker both trains and performs. As a matter of fact, we call those who do this kind walking acrobats for a reason. The original word is akribos (AK KREE BOSS), from which the word acrobat is derived. Training takes years and starts at low heights and then works up. Training also involves strict mathematical calculations that take into account the

affects of wind and height upon the senses. It is the "inner ear" that gives information to the rest of the sensory organs that helps a tightrope walker maintain balance.

That is exactly what the

Apostle Paul was saying in Ephesians 5:15-20. His list of important, impartial imperatives is designed to train the spiritual "inner ear." Also, just as the training of a tightrope walker involves strict mathematical calculations, so does walking circumspectly involve strict calculations in the spirit realm.

A miscalculation could and would be deadly to a tightrope walker; likewise, with walking circumspectly. So, what is it that keeps our spiritual inner ear from

developing spiritual vertigo (dizziness)? Verse 20: And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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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.

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Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Matthew 28: 19-20 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."



You know, one of the things that we need to understand is that we can't make disciples of other people if we are not a disciple ourselves. In other words, it takes one to make one. Now a disciple is a personal follower of Jesus. And, according to scripture, there are several things that a person must do to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Jesus explains in Luke 14:26-27 that a disciple must love Jesus more than anyone or anything. Now, I

realize that for most of us this seems impossible. But remember: with God all things are possible. And, when we learn to love Jesus more than anything, He will give us the capacity to

love others more. Also, to be a disciple, we need to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily. Matthew 16:25 says, for whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. You see, it's not about "finding yourself." Being a disciple of Jesus is about denying yourself. Which means not being prideful but willing to help others. And, when we take up our cross it can mean different things to people. For some it means resisting the temptation to do what every-

one else is doing. It could mean swallowing your pride and telling someone about Jesus. It could mean doing what God wants you to do instead of doing what you want to do.

Being a Disciple means that we fully surrender our lives to Jesus in a way that brings forth spiritual fruit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the very things that we are called to do.

And, when we do these things, we will be able to go and make disciples of other people that we come in contact with ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

Christmas is coming soon, so make sure that you purchase a copy of my book, "A Champion Game Plan For Life." It makes a great stocking stuffer!

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Dorothy Davidson

Mrs. Dorothy Davidson earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and pursued additional studies in mathematics, business administration, and systems engineering.

She also possesses a working knowledge in selected foreign languages and has studied Latin, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Danish, and Russian.

Her professional career includes technical and scientist assignments in the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Patent Office and as a system engineer engaged in U.S. military defense activities and in support of foreign military command operations for NATO countries.

Davidson was already a



savvy and successful entrepreneur as the founder and managing partner of a property and trust management firm when an unexpected spouse's death in January 2013 changed the plan.

It was at that moment that Davidson took on the leadership helm and became the CEO and chairman of the board of one of

Huntsville's most successful and admired companies.

She has been active in the community, providing time and resources in support of numerous organizations.

Some of these affiliations include the Huntsville Museum of Art, the Huntsville Symphony, The Huntsville Botanical Garden, the Saturn V Restoration Project, the US Space and Rocket Center, the National Children Advocacy Center, Calhoun Community College, Girls Inc., Auburn University School of Engineering, Auburn University Museum of Art and many other organizations.

Washington in One Minute



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

1. The House and Senate are in recess this week for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Last Thursday, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Richard Shelby (R-AL) and other Senate GOP Leaders met with President Trump reportedly to discuss how to avoid shutting down part of the federal government on Dec.

7 if he does not get \$5 billion for his Mexican border wall. Congressional Quarterly has reported that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) wants the FY2019 appropriations bills wrap-up to contain language requiring that Special Counsel Mueller can only be fired for cause, would get a 3-judge appeal panel if fired, and could only be replaced by a Senate-confirmed Attorney General or top confirmed

DOJ official (i.e., not current Acting-AG Matt Whitaker).

2. The parlor game that will dominate holiday tables inside the Beltway this Thanksgiving is how many votes does current House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi have for Speaker. On November 28,

House Democrats will vote by simple majority to choose their leaders for next year, which the 78-year-old Pelosi is expected to win – but according to The Washington Post – 20 current and incoming Democrats plan to vote no, exceeding the approximately 15 Democratic votes she can lose when the full House votes next January. Reportedly, Reps. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) and Seth Moulton (D-MA) are exploring challenges to

Pelosi.

3. Sunday, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) conceded the Florida Senate race to Gov. Rick Scott, thereby handing the GOP its 4th pickup that includes IN, MO, and ND for a net gain of 2 seats. On Nov. 27, Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) takes on Rep. Mike Espy (D-MS) in the Mississippi Senate runoff for a full 6-year term. On Nov. 26, President Trump will travel to Tupelo and Biloxi, MS to hold rallies for Sen. Hyde-Smith. In the House, Democrats have picked up 37 seats, including all 4 GOP-held seats in the former Republican stronghold of Orange County, CA. There are 5 races left to be called (GA-7, NY-22, NY-27, TX-23 & UT-4 – where the GOP leads in 4 of the 5 races).

4. According to CBS

News, last Thursday the House Democratic Leadership distributed a list of 24 proposed changes to House Rules for next year, including:

- Requiring a committee hearing and bill markup before a bill can be debated on the House floor;
- Requiring all bills be available for 72 hours before they can get a vote on the floor (an increase of 48 hours);
- Banning House Members from serving on corporate boards (which is currently allowed for no compensation);
- Allowing religious headwear to be worn in the House;
- Banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the House; and
- Requiring a federal budget impact report for any federal

land that is transferred from the federal domain.

5. Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire philanthropist who is reportedly considering a run for the presidency, will donate \$1.8 billion to the Johns Hopkins University so that it can admit all qualified students, regardless of their financial need. The new gift — which follows \$1.5 billion in earlier donations to Hopkins — is the largest to higher education in the modern era.

6. U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos proposed sweeping changes on Friday to how colleges handle sexual-misconduct cases.

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Ways to Avoid Holiday and Other Charity Scams

(BPT) - Charitable giving is a significant part of many people's lives and budgets and individuals are often eager to give back and lend a helping hand to those in need. Unfortunately, not every organization seeking a donation is exactly what it claims to be. If you're not careful, you could wind up losing your well-intentioned money to a scam.

By staying educated and informed about charity cons, you will be prepared to spot a scam and avoid falling victim to fraud.

Recognizing common scam periods. While scams and other ploys can arise at any time, they often increase while emotions are running high--like near the holidays or following a natural disaster--when people let their guards down and are eager to support those in need.

Such scams may request donations from you over the phone, through the mail, via

email or even on social media. They might include charity names that are very similar to legitimate charities, or even mention recent genuine emergency relief efforts. Their goal is to look as authentic as possible in hopes of tricking you. Protect yourself with these fraud awareness tips from Western Union.

Take your time. Be wary of any sense of urgency to donate. Scammers will try to work quickly, urging you to donate before you find any holes in their story. "If you get a phone call where someone is wanting a donation, don't act right away.

Do your research and donate to a recognized charity," advised Western Union Senior Manager of Anti-Fraud Operations John Skoglund. Remember, authentic charities won't push you for an im-

mediate response, and will be happy to accept a donation at any time.

Do your research. Don't be afraid to ask for details about an organization. The charity should happily provide them. You can also find a third-party source for information such as Charity Navigator or the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance. If the group that contacted you isn't recognized as a charity by either of these organizations, you should exercise extra caution and think twice before donating.

The friends and family rule. Only use money transfers to send money to friends and family. Never send money to someone you have not met in person, and never share your banking or credit card information. Legitimate charities will never ask for donations to be sent to an individual

through a money transfer service.

Be cautious of email links. Some donation requests may come through emails that house fraudulent links taking you to look-a-like websites. These websites have phony donation pages where fraudsters can capture your personal and financial information. Instead of clicking on links in a donation request email, open a new

browser window to navigate to the charity's official website and donate there.

Trust your instincts. Don't ignore your own concerns regarding a charity's legitimacy and never assume you're "just being paranoid." If you notice any red flags or feel uncertain about the situation, don't donate. You may just be right after all.

Reach out for help. If you get

a fraudulent charity donation request and you've sent them money via Western Union, call the company's fraud hotline at (800) 448-1492 to report it. If the transaction has not been paid out to the receiver, Western Union can stop the transaction and refund your money.

To learn more about scams and how to protect yourself, visit the Western Union Consumer Protection Center at www.westernunion.com/fraudawareness.

UAH Opens Series at Alaska with 3-1 Victory

The University of Alabama in Huntsville hockey team opened a two-game Western Collegiate Hockey Association series on last Friday night (Nov. 16) with a 3-1 win at Alaska Fairbanks at the Carlson Center.

UAH improved to 1-10-0 (1-4-0 WCHA), while UAF dips to 1-8-2 (1-3-1 WCHA).



DLC Accepting Applications for 11th Cohort

DLC



Applications are being accepted for Cohort XI of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium until February 26.

Classes will begin March 5 and end April 23, running 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Graduation will be held on

April 30.

Applications are available online at www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com. Questions should be emailed to Mrs. Georgia Valrie at gvalrie1971@gmail.com or call (256) 656-4698.



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