

The Valley Weekly

*"Before I get out of bed, I am saying thank you.
I know how important it is to be thankful."*

- Al Jarreau

FREE

Volume 2, No. 11

Friday, November 27, 2015

District One Town Hall Scheduled

Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., Huntsville City Councilman, is holding a District One Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, December 1, at 6 p.m.



The town hall will be held at the Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center, located at 4600 Blue Springs Road, NW. The meeting will feature on-site representatives from

the following departments to speak to residents and answer questions: Administration, Engineering, Public Works, Landscape Management, Traffic Engineering, City Planning, Police, Community Development.

For additional information, contact Tamikah McWilliams at (256) 427-5011.

AMRDEC Director Gets Coveted Dred Scott Foundation Award

Dr. Juanita M. Harris, director for the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center's Weapons Development and Integration (WDI) Directorate at Redstone Arsenal, has been selected for a new distinction because of her military achievement.

Dr. Harris is being honored by the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation for the Dred Scott Freedom Award.

The Foundation was created

to honor the legacy and impact of Dred Scott in the struggle for racial equality.

Harris will receive the award at the Grand Ballroom of the historic St. Louis Union Station on December 5, the eve of the 150th Anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment.

Dr. Harris is a native of East St. Louis, Ill., and previously served as the deputy director for AMRDEC's Aviation Development Directorate.



Presidential Medal of Freedom Awarded to 17

President Barack Obama on Nov. 24 presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, to 17 men and women who have made especially meritorious contributions.

Yogi Berra (posthumous) spent over 40 years as a professional baseball catcher, manager, and coach.

Bonnie Carroll, a life-long public servant who founded the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).

Shirley Chisholm (posthu-

mous) ran for the Democratic nomination in 1972.

Emilio Estefan is a passionate and visionary music producer, entrepreneur, author, and songwriter who has won 19 Grammy Awards.

Gloria Estefan is a singer, songwriter, actor, and entrepreneur who introduced Latin music to a global audience.

Billy Frank, Jr. (posthumous) was a tireless advocate for Indian treaty rights and environmental stewardship.

Lee Hamilton has for 40 years

been one of the most influential voices on international relations and American national security.

Katherine G. Johnson is a NASA mathematician whose computations have influenced every major space program from Mercury through the Shuttle program.

Willie Mays (posthumous) was a professional baseball player, spending most of his 22 seasons as a center fielder for the New York and San Francisco Giants.

Barbara Mikulski became the longest serving woman in

Congress in 2012.

Itzhak Perlman won four Emmy Awards, 16 Grammy Awards, and the 2008 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

William D. Ruckelshaus has worked tirelessly to protect public health and combat global challenges like climate change. atergate special prosecutor.

Stephen Sondheim is one of the country's most influential theater composers and lyricists.

Steven Spielberg is an American film director, producer, philanthropist, and entrepreneur.

Barbra Streisand is one of the Nation's most gifted talents and one of the few performers to receive an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and a Tony.

James Taylor is a recording and touring artist, who has touched millions with his warm baritone voice and distinctive style of guitar-playing.

Minoru Yasui (posthumous) was a civil and human rights leader known for his continuous defense of the ideals of democracy embodied in our Constitution.

Happy Thanksgiving from The Valley Weekly!

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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

"Celebrate Your Blessings"



Pastor

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

NOVEMBER is upon us – a time when our hearts and minds turn to giving thanks. We remind our children often to say “thank you” when we give them something. It isn’t that we have to be thanked to give them good things, but we want our children to have an attitude of gratitude. And we notice when we’re not thanked. Jesus noticed it too. Daily the multitudes followed Him, hoping to experience something miraculous. In Luke 17:11-19 we read about ten lepers who came to Jesus diseased, broken, and hurting. All ten left Him completely healed, whole, and free from pain. But only one returned to say, “Thank you, Jesus!” When Jesus asked him, “Where are all the others?” He had no reply.

There are times when I’m like that one leper, and I return to praise God and thank him for his goodness and faithfulness. Yet it disturbs me how often I’m more like the other nine, forgetting in the midst of all my blessings to express my praise, love and gratitude to Him. Psalm 103 calls us to praise the Lord and remember all his benefits. How do we teach our children to do the same? The best way is to model it ourselves, to show a heart of thanksgiving throughout the year. T. W. Hunt, in his Bible study, THE DISCIPLES PRAYER LIFE (SBC Publishing) suggests a wonderful tradition to use at Thanksgiving. He reminds us first of Psalm 136, which was used by Jews to review the Lord’s faithfulness from one generation to the next. It begins, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!” Then the people would respond, “His love endures forever!” It goes on to review God’s faithfulness: “Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt ...?” “His love endures forever.” “...and brought Israel out from among them... His love endures forever.”

As you continue this tradition from year to year, a praise history will be established in your family that can be passed on from generation to generation as a testimony of God’s goodness.

Your Servant Leader,

O. Wendell Davis

OU “Storm-Ready”

Oakwood University Police Department signed the final papers with the National Weather Service and Huntsville-Madison County Emergency Management Agency, making Oakwood University an official StormReady University on November 3.

StormReady is a nationwide community preparedness program of the National Weather Service that uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives.

To be officially StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center.
- Have more than one way to

receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public.

- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally.
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars.
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

Oakwood University previously held the designation of StormReady Supporter and was the first National Storm Weather Supporter university in Alabama and second in the southeast United States. This updated designation of StormReady University is a historical milestone. Oakwood University is:

- First StormReady HBCU in Alabama
- 1 of 5 StormReady HBCU’s in the USA
- 1 of 2 StormReady colleges and universities in Huntsville
- 1 of 9 StormReady colleges and universities in all of Alabama

Oakwood University received the StormReady designation at a presentation on November 19, at the Oakwood University Church.

For more information about the designation, call George Johnson at (240) 338-2219.

“What is done in love is done well.”

- Vincent Van Gogh



Subway on “The Hill”: Students and University officials were readily on hand for the grand opening of a Subway restaurant franchise in the Knight Center at Alabama A&M University.

From the Editor

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The Valley Weekly

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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$200
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$100
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Mr. Benny J. Rogers, Sr.



Dr. Pat R. Odom

When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at www.valleyweeklyllc.com.

Eventful Days ...

This past week, Mali and Paris were attacked. Unknown, innocent people everywhere are attacked daily but just don't make the news. The fact is that innocent people are being murdered, abused, harassed and mistreated all around us. There is something seriously wrong when innocent people are randomly attacked by individuals and groups who believe that it is okay to prey on the innocent because they have a 'score to settle' with someone. It does not matter who is doing the attacking--terrorists, law enforcement, neighbors, family, friends, strangers, gangs or organized crime--it is *still* inhumane. With everything going on, my prayer is for world peace! There are absolutely too many innocent people being murdered, mangled and mistreated.

Many of TVW readers will remember the song "Respect Yourself." The Staple Singles wrote: "If you disrespect anybody that you run into, how in the world do you think anybody s'posed to respect you?" The primary notion is that if we expect to be respected, we must be respectful. I was taught as a young child that there were certain positions you respected: the President of the United States--regardless of party; the school principals and teachers--regardless of race or gender; elders--just regardless! In addition, everyone was expected to follow the 'law.' Times have changed and people are moving about everywhere. The "village" is no longer there to protect the innocent, especially the poor, the children and the disabled. Therefore, I believe you can respect the position, but the person holding the position must earn 'personal' respect. Respect is not something granted because you hold a title. Respect is something that a person holding a title must earn through their actions!

Time is moving on, moving on, moving on. This past week, we lost two highly respected gentlemen in the local community - Dr. Pat Reynolds Odom and Mr. Benny J. Rogers, Sr. I have known them for about two decades. I had the awesome honor of serving with both of them as directors on the Redstone Federal Credit Union Board. Ben and Pat passed away on November 17th. For many years, we were church members with Benny and Lil Rogers. They were beautiful elders who always earned the respect of those around them. Similarly, Pat Odom was a wonderfully kind and compassionate elder. He and his wife, Marge, loved life and people. Both Benny and Pat were retired from the local engineering community and were avid volunteers in the local community, each serving on a number of non-profit boards. I remember Benny's love for the Boy Scouts at First Missionary Baptist Church (FMBC). When our boys were young, they were Cub Scouts at FMBC. Benny was always one of the faces we would see when we entered the door on Saturday mornings for Boy Scouts training. Similarly, Pat was serious about his church, First Baptist Church and the Downtown Rescue Mission. Space will not allow me to share all of the great times we shared with Pat and Benny. They were both traditional 'gentlemen' in every sense. They loved God, their families, the community and respected everyone they met. Pat's life was celebrated on Friday, November 20th, at Valhalla Funeral Home's chapel. We celebrated Benny's life on November 23rd at FMBC. RIP, Benny and Pat.

Thanksgiving is here. My doctor told me this morning to take some time off, get some rest and enjoy the holiday. I am certain that most of your doctors will give you the same advice, if you were to make a visit to their offices. Time is moving on and once we decide that we should focus on the things we can 'make better' and leave the rest to someone else, we will simultaneously find that we will have time to get some rest and enjoy our families--those we are born into, those we marry into and those we choose. Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your FAMILIES!

Until next week ...



Dorothy

The Hamm Consulting Group



Washington in Minutes

Here are some developments in the nation's capital over the last two weeks.

1. The House and Senate were in session last week, and there was a flurry of work before Congress adjourned on last Friday for the Thanksgiving Recess. House and Senate conferees were expected to complete work last week on the final version of the six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill, but they will also likely have a short-term extension at the ready in case they don't finish it (the current extension expired on Friday). Congress aimed to also consider three financial services measures, including a bill to overhaul the Federal Reserve, and a motion to go to conference on the Elementary and Secondary Education Reauthorization. The Senate were on tap to take up a bill by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), which would have create a mandatory minimum sentence of five (5) years for any undocumented immigrant who re-enters the country after they were previously convicted of an aggravated felony or of illegally reentering the country twice. It was also postured to take up the House-passed Reconciliation bill to repeal parts of Obamacare (after a few tweaks).

2. President Obama visited Antalya, Turkey, for the Group of 20 major economic nations summit (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the

UK, the US and the European Union), part of a nine-day trip to Turkey, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

3. 2016 Presidential Watch. Fox Business Network had the highest rated program in its history last Tuesday night when 13.5 million people tuned in to watch the fourth GOP presidential debate. The CBS/Twitter Democratic debate on Saturday had 8.5 million viewers, markedly fewer than the 15.3 million viewers that watched the first debate in October, but still the most-watched show of the night on broadcast television, topping the college football games that aired on ABC and Fox.

4. People left flowers, candles and wine at the French4. Over the weekend, people left flowers candles and wine at the French Embassy in D.C. after the terror attacks in Paris, while American warplanes for the first time carried out airstrikes in eastern Syria, destroying 116 trucks used by ISIS to smuggle oil. ISIS has generated millions of dollars to fund its military operations by producing and exporting oil.

5. The House and Senate are in recess this week and will reconvene next week.

6. Back from his 9-day trip to Turkey, the Philippines and Malaysia, President Obama met at the White House with French President François Hollande on coordinating the efforts on the French-led investigation into the ISIS attacks in Paris and to discuss a proposed 65-member coalition to eliminate ISIS.

7. Last Friday, President Obama signed a bill to extend the current surface transportation bill for two more weeks, until midnight on December 4. House and Senate conferees had hoped to get an agreement on funding the new 6-year bill (known as the DRIVE Act) before the Thanksgiving break, but they are still trying to decide whether they will dip into the Federal Reserve's surplus fund.

8. House and Senate Appropriations Committee Members have been steadily working on compiling a final FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill, combining all of the 12 annual appropriations bills. Rumor has it that 9 of the 12 bills are finished and ready to be put into the Omnibus. The biggest problem facing the Omnibus bill will be the proposed legislative riders on issues ranging from Syrian refugees to climate change that might derail the bill or at least prolong the debate past the December 11 deadline (when the current stopgap bill expires).

9. House Science Committee Chair Lamar Smith (R-TX) has escalated his battle with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), firing off two letters in a week to Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker urging her to pressure NOAA officials to comply with the committee's subpoenas for NOAA's internal communications pertaining to NOAA's June report rejecting claims that climate change had slowed over the past 10 years. Chairman Smith claims that whistleblowers have come forward saying that the report was rushed to publication over the objection of some NOAA scientists. The Washington Post reported on Friday that Secretary Pritzker may be the next person to face a committee subpoena.

10. Happy Thanksgiving!

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Why Every Company Needs Workforce Assessment

*Improving Your Odds:
Why Every Business Could Use
a Workforce Assessment*

When talking with potential customers for my company Workforce Intermediary Group, I hear the same comment from small business owners: "I only have a few employees." I always give the same response: "It doesn't matter how many employees you have — you'll benefit from a workforce assessment." Here are the top 3 workforce assessment benefits:

1. **Efficiency**
A good workforce assessment looks at all the components of your workforce -- employees, departments, and processes. Assessments allow leaders to see each component clearly and get rid of dead weight.
2. **Customer Service**
Results of the assessment will show where improvements can be made in the customer interaction process. The right information can allow you to strengthen customer service, which will allow you to gain more clients.



3. Opportunities

Companies that run at peak efficiency and have great customer service can obtain more contracts because they have the speed and talent available to meet client demands.

As a member of the Huntsville community and a lover of all things workforce, I am always here to answer any workforce question.

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Calendar of Events

Giving Thanks and Giving Back

Thanksgiving is by far my favorite holiday. I could be a little biased, since my birthday is around Thanksgiving time; so it's a time for good food, good football, Black Friday shopping, and birthday presents. More importantly, it's the holiday that we spend feasting with family and friends, expressing our gratitude for the blessings we receive.

Thanksgiving is the day dedicated to appreciation. We give thanks to God for giving us each day, our daily bread. Although every day should be a day of Thanksgiving, the world stops on this holiday for us to spend valuable time with our loved ones, celebrating the glories of God.

"The first Thanksgiving was celebrated between the Pilgrims and the Indians in 1621. That first feast was a three-day affair. Life for the early settlers was difficult. The fall harvest was time for celebration. It was also a time of prayer, thanking God for a good crop. The Pilgrims and the Indians created a huge feast, including a wide variety of animals and fowl, as well as fruits and vegetables from the fall harvest. This early celebration was the start of today's Thanksgiving celebration." (www.kidport.com)

Giving thanks replenishes the rewards in which we reap. We

express gratitude by the energy we exert. When we are working to build, grow, produce, supply goods, and sow prosperous seeds by putting good energy and effort into our craft or career, we receive big blessings in return.

However, the act of giving thanks doesn't require a holiday. This is something that can be done daily through prayer and/or gospel. When we make the conscious decision to wake up everyday on a mission of growth and development, we depict the ultimate form of gratitude.

"To whom much is given, much is required." As hard working civilians--whether you are the employer or employee--we have a responsibility of expressing thanks by giving. We must show our appreciation by giving back and being a blessing to someone else.

We all have assignments that are bigger than ourselves. Therefore, we should spend every day dedicated to those duties. Sow the seeds, then trust and believe the Good Lord will grow the crops for us to harvest.

Both Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays bring forth the spirit of giving, whether we are giving gifts, giving back or giving thanks.

by Amoi Savage

Thru November 30
Alabama A&M University Designated Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month

Thru December 3
Mandarin Chinese (Beyond the Basics) Free Continuing Education Class
AAMU Center for Extended Studies
Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m.
(256) 372-5753

November 27
CONCERT
featuring Keith Sweat
VBC - Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

November 29-January 24, 2016
"Blow Up: Inflatable Contemporary Art"
Sponsors: Sarah and Carl Gessler

Huntsville Museum of Art
Elmore Building
9 a.m.

December 6
87th Annual Christmas Musicale
Alabama A&M University Choir
Elmore Building, 5:30 p.m.

December 17-19
Special Holiday Jazz

December 11
Fall Commencement Exercises
Alabama A&M University

January 10
Harlem Globetrotters
VBC Arena

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UAH Continuing Ed Gears Up for 2016

Osher Lifelong Living Institute at UAH Registration Celebration!

Come and celebrate the season with OLLI at UAH! On December 15, in the lobby of Wilson Hall on the UAH campus, OLLI will be socializing with members and guests, enjoying refreshments, and finding out about over 70 classes that will be offered during the OLLI at UAH winter term starting on January 25.

The festivities will begin at 10:00 am! Become a member, or buy a gift membership (only \$16 for 12 months), or purchase a gift registration (\$85 for six classes). The first 10 gift memberships or registrations will receive a FREE adult coloring book and colored pencils.

The OLLI program offers lifelong learning opportunities to members 50+, who enjoy learning just for the fun of it.



No tests, no grades, no homework—just fun! Here are a few samples of courses we'll be offering:

- The Power of Genetics – HudsonAlpha
- Photography – Progressing from Snapshots to Great Shots
- Brushstrokes: Painting with Friends

- The History of Native Americans
- The Life of Abraham Lincoln

Can't make it during the day? We offer classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:15 – 6:45pm!

Start the New Year off by joining a vibrant learning community of 50+ adults called OLLI at UAH.

Call Jessica at (256) 824-6835.

NACH, SOAR Meeting Dates

The North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless (NACH) has changed its monthly meeting dates to once every other (even) month.

The Madison County chapter of Survivors Overcoming Abusive Relationships (SOAR) monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at Crisis Services. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12.

SOAR's mission is to promote, advocate and work for the elimination of domestic violence and to provide a positive voice for survivors. The chapter is open to all survivors who are now both physically and emotionally safe and want to tell their stories to educate our local community.

Inflatable Contemporary Art Exhibit to Open

"BLOW UP: Inflatable Contemporary Art" exhibit will open at the Huntsville Museum of Art on November 29.

The exhibition will remain on display through January 24, 2016.

The exhibit delves into "the imaginative ways that artists use air as a tool for creating large-scale sculpture." It includes

figurative and abstract imagery.

Organized by Bedford Curator Carrie Lederer and sponsored by Sarah and Carl Gessler, the exhibit features several large-scale artworks by a diverse roster of internationally-renowned artists.

"Inflatable structures connote fun and whimsy, and challenge our everyday, feet-on-the-ground



perspective," Lederer said. "The show creates a spectacular, immersive environment and taps into our fascination with inflatables with artworks that are surreal, humorous and poetic."



Ivory W. Reedus, LUTCF

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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.



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AAMU Holds ALICE Active Shooter Training

The Department of Public Safety at Alabama A&M University recently arranged for the ALICE Training Institute to present a U.S. Department of Education-approved active shooter training session on the campus.

The important session was conducted at the AAMU Wellness Center on Monday, November 23., and was made free to all attendees.

This special training is considered critical to DPS' overall mission of proactively keeping the AAMU campus safe.

Participation was encouraged to assist AAMU in becoming designated an ALICE-certified organization.



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Pastor Julius R. Scroggs, D.Min.
FOUNDER

Point of Contact: RONNIE AND FLORA DAVIS AT 256-852-4052

"At some point in life the world's beauty becomes enough. You don't need to photograph, paint or even remember it. It is enough." - Toni Morrison

WORLD AIDS DAY 2015

Getting to Zero: The Time to Act is Now!

Friday, December 4 - 7:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Red Ribbon Awards Breakfast: 2015 - 10th Anniversary!
Guest Speaker: Mr. Cedric Wherry, HIV Prevention Education
Specialist, Selma AIR
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Boone-Lacey Fellowship Hall
315 Winchester Road Northeast
Huntsville, AL 35811
To register: <http://www.facebook.com/events/1019267614792711/>

Friday, December 4 - 4:00 p.m.
World AIDS Day Poetry Corner with Marcus Sims & Guests on WJAB
(90.9FM) - To listen online go to www.wjab.org and click Listen Live.

Saturday, December 5 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
World AIDS Day Workshop for Youth & Young Adults
Facilitator: Ms. Shakira DeSavoie, Holistic AIDS Advocate
for Youth & Young Adults
First Missionary Baptist Church
Snodgrass Fellowship Hall
3509 Blue Spring Road
Huntsville, AL 35810
To register: <https://www.facebook.com/events/478980898947678/>

For information, please contact Judy Edmond at (256) 509-4252 or Wendell Williams at (256) 372-4953



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