

# AAMU's 'Circle of Sustainability,' p. 8

# FREE

Friday

December 11, 2020

Vol. 7, No. 14

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

## What's New in Huntsville for 2021?, p. 3

"Grace Love" p. 2

*"Net the large fish and you are sure to have the small fry."*

- George Eliot



## Huntsville Site of 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open

The Huntsville/Madison County community is excited to announce that U.S. Paralympics Cycling will visit the Rocket City next year, as it begins its national calendar in preparation for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo this coming summer. Huntsville will host one of four domestic cycling events, the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, the second opportunity for cyclists to qualify for Tokyo.

The events will be held on

Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18, 2021 in Huntsville's Cummings Research Park, the second largest research park in the nation and fourth largest in the world. Time trials will be held on Saturday, and road races will be held on Sunday. Approximately 100 Para athletes are expected to compete in the weekend's cycling events.

The athletes will compete in three different types of



road cycling events including the men's and women's road race, individual time trial, and handcycling team relay. Learn more about U.S. Paralympics Cycling: [teamusa.org/USParaCycling](https://teamusa.org/USParaCycling).

- [hsv.chamber.org](https://hsv.chamber.org)

## Hugine Announces 2021 Retirement

Alabama A&M University President, Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., announced his retirement during the Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting this afternoon. The announcement comes after more than 11 years of service to the institution. President Hugine will remain in leadership

over the next year through December 31, 2021.

"Alabama A&M University will always hold a special place in the hearts of First Lady Abbiegail Hugine and I. Since 2009, Abbiegail and I have

been blessed to be a part of the growth and development of Alabama A&M. Most importantly, we are grateful to have played a small part in providing an accessible, affordable, and quality education to the thousands of students and alumni that walked the campus," noted Hugine.

President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees,

Dr. Jerome B. Williams, stated, "The University is in a much stronger position today than it was in 2009. President Hugine has done a tremendous

job in taking our beloved institution to the next level, and the future of Alabama A&M remains bright. On behalf of the entire Board, we salute him on a job well done, and we wish him the best."

The Board will announce the transition process in 2021.



## State Representatives Pay Tribute to Rosa Parks

State Representatives Anthony Daniels and Laura Hall and The Rosa Parks Day Committee of Huntsville-Madison County hosted the second annual Rosa Parks Day Celebration, streamed on Facebook Live Sunday, December 6. The featured speaker was U. S. Sen. Cory Booker. Also, Dr. Danielle McGuire, author of "At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance," was a special guest. Huntsville singer/songwriter Victoria Jones

also performed.

Mistresses of Ceremony for the event was Alabama A&M University alumna Erica "Fox" Washington, program manager and interim music director of WJAB/Electronic Media Communications at AAMU, and Miss Nevaeh Eggleston.

Rosa Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee, Ala., on February 4, 1913. She entered civil rights history once again on December

1, 1955, when she refused to relinquish her seat on a public bus to a white man in violation of Montgomery's racial segregation laws. This made her the symbol of a bus boycott organized by the Montgomery Improvement

Association, which was led by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Three hundred and eighty-one days later, the segregated seating on the Montgomery bus system was ruled unconstitutional by the federal courts, delivering a victory for Mrs. Parks.



## Huntsville Council Meetings

Huntsville 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 5:30 p.m., Downtown Huntsville.

Watch the meetings live via [HuntsvilleAL.gov](https://HuntsvilleAL.gov)/HSVTV or on the City of Huntsville Facebook page (@huntsvillecity).

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



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# Called 2 Preach

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

## "A Theological Enigma"

Mark 4:35-41

An enigma is defined as something that is paradoxical; puzzling; that does not fit within the loins and lines of the logical. Enigmas always have within them the potential of challenging one's faith which is exactly the divine design. Faith that is not challenged is not faith at all, for the very nature of faith always involves risk and mystery.

However, like the muscles in our physical bodies, faith must be exercised to be strengthened. Jesus, the Master of the stewardship of teaching moments, turned a storm-tossed ship into a classroom to teach His disciples about faith, even in and especially in storms. When they heard His dynamic voice speak in decibels that dumb downed a storm, it caused



them to ask, "Who is this?" This exclamatory expression was the result of what was *a theological enigma* to them. What they were to later learn was that *the winds and waves obey Him*

because He created them. Outwardly He appeared to be just like any other man, but He was God in the flesh.

Biblical stories are designed to give us proof of the power and permanence of Jesus so that when we as believers find ourselves in situations that seem overwhelming, we will be reminded that just as He



did then, His immutability guarantees that He can do it again. Grace and Mercy give us time to go through

enough so that we can answer that question for ourselves. Who is this? You know.

### Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Mrs. Grace Love

Born on September 11, 1922, in Decatur, Ala., Grace and her family moved to Huntsville when she was a child. From Huntsville, her father's work took them to Cincinnati, Ohio, and back to Huntsville by the times she was age six.

Her affiliations with community and civic activities date back to her attendance at the bible school at First Baptist Church, when its membership met on Steele Street. She was baptized in Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville, Ala., because at that time the facility on Church Street did not have a pool



on-site. Honoree Grace Love enjoyed an active church involvement and is a regular at First Missionary Baptist Church for over 80 years. After attending Councill High School through the 11th grade, she was employed for more than 52 years as a domestic worker for various families, includ-

ing some of Huntsville most prominent residents – Woody Anderson, Martha Fleming, Judy Smith and the family of Atty. Jim Smith. She assisted with the rearing of many of their children and grandchildren. She loves to iron and today still irons the sheets and pillowcases for her beds. She is a homemaker extraordinaire! For years, she would iron baskets of clothing, especially white shirts of men, curtains, linen and tablecloths.

The 98-year-old mother and her late husband of 58 years, Herbert Jones, Sr., had seven sons and one daughter.

**DECEMBER 11 - WILLIE MAE "BIG MAMA" THORNTON -** Singer Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton was born in Montgomery, Ala. She was the original singer to record the hit song "Hound Dog" in 1952. She later she wrote and recorded "Ball n' Chain".  
- BlackinTime.info



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# Local Minister's Devotional Finds Answers to Life's Tough Questions

by Reggie Allen

When Chante Elmore Knotts' plans for 2020 got cut short, she could've complained. Instead, she wrote and published a daily devotional.

Knotts is the author of *Surviving the Whirlwind: God's Answers for Tough Times*. The book is a deep dive into the biblical scriptures that examines, and answers questions Christians have during times of crisis.

The daily devotional, which is comprised of 31 chapters, tackles questions like "Do the innocent perish?" and "Lord, why are

you late?"

Knotts began writing in March during the beginning stages of the global pandemic. She recalled seeing various social media posts asking why God would let something like this happen. Some even claimed that they should be immune to Covid-19, better known as the coronavirus.

"The Bible is filled with all kinds of calamities that people of faith endured," Knotts said in a phone interview. "Famines, droughts, plagues, natural disasters, storms,



hurricanes, shipwrecks, war, marriage betrayal, being unloved... So, what

does that say to what God is? Where does that lead us in terms to our faith?

Realizing that the faithful sometimes suffer"

The Rocket City-based writer said she had difficulty finding a text that properly addressed crisis and tribulation, so she decided to write her own.

"A lot of books try to comfort and this not necessarily a book of comfort," Knotts said. "This is a book that answers questions people may have. This has been a book that I've never been able to find."

Knotts is a professional writer who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from

Harvard University. She completed her graduate studies at Northeastern University, the Harvard Divinity School Leadership Institute, and Columbia Theological Seminary. She currently serves as the Adult Curriculum Editor for the National Baptist Sunday School Publishing Board in Nashville, TN.

Knotts is also the author of *Go with God: Life Lessons from the Book of Proverbs*.

*Surviving the Whirlwind* is available for digital download and paperback on Amazon.com.

## Champion Game Plan for Life

"GOD IS IN CONTROL"

by Preston Brown



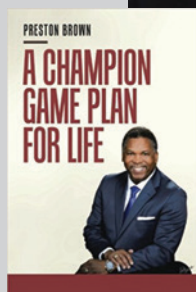
In Mark 4:39, it says, "Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the wind 'Quiet be still,' then the wind died down and was completely calm."

When we read this scripture, we should see that the disciples thought they were headed for destruction but they forgot one important thing: Jesus was with them.

So often when we experience difficult times we also forget that Jesus is with us. The disciples had to remember that although the wind was blowing the boat all around, God was still in control. Just like today, even though the coronavirus appears to be out of control, God is still in control. You see,

the grace of God doesn't always prevent the consequences of our actions, it just provides us a way out. Life can come at you fast and sometimes there is nothing that we can do to get ourselves out of the "mess" that we get ourselves into. We just need to continue to have faith and know that God is in control.

Now the devil will try to convince us that if we were following Jesus, we wouldn't be having all this trouble--just like we find in our scripture reading with the disciples. When they got in the boat to follow Jesus,



they had no idea that a storm was about to happen, just like us with this coronavirus; no one saw this coming. But remember, Faith doesn't

prevent us from being "snake bitten" or having problems. Our faith gives us the ability to shake it off and understand the new revelation and new direction that God has for our lives. Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my book "A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE" at amazon.com

"The give me a song, and I wind up changing that song completely." - Big Mama Thornton



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## From the Editor



### Ahhh, Happy Holidays!

Our TEAM at The Valley Weekly wishes everyone a healthy and safe holiday season during this COVID-19 pandemic. We had hoped by now that things would be different; however, we now know that we must remain diligent via social distancing, wearing masks, Zooming, Skyping, and Face Timing while

performing good hygiene practices. One of my dearest aunts once told me a long time ago that good hygiene is always in good favor.

As precious as this season is, I understand that many of us are feeling down and stressed because of the passing

of loved ones, loss of jobs and businesses, ongoing underlying health issues, pauses in school calendars, churches and child care facilities. Tragedy doesn't hit home for some of us until it touches our own households and families.

2020 has been a challenging year for our family. Bill was informed by his cardiac specialist

that his heart is working at only about 50 percent. This is due to the volume of medications associated with four total knee replacements and two back surgeries over the past four decades.

If you have children who want to play football, make sure to have the conversation with them about how that might affect their lives and bodies in the future. We have two sons, and neither of them played football--at any level.

We lost a brother who was only 66 years old. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of our family was unable to visit him during his illness nor travel to his graveside service in Monroeville, Ala. It's heartbreaking to have to bury loved ones during such a time as this. Adding to that, one of our nieces passed away in Mobile at 40 years old. At a point, Marvin Gaye's song "What's Going On" becomes a real life existence

for us. Gaye challenges us to be loving, conversational and non-judgemental. Listening to Old School music is one of many things that brings me reflection, rest, restoration and resolve to remain strong, safe and steadfast.

International artist Jahni Moore did a PowerShot this week (see bottom left) with one of my favorite quotes and a "pen and ink" of the home where I was born. Some time ago, I shared with Jahni the story of my beginning and showed him an old polaroid of that house. He is one of the most talented artists I know because of his ability to take a description of something and bring it to reality. Our beginnings should not necessarily determine our

end and our past does not have to dictate our future. And, regardless of our beginning and past, we just need to find someone who is headed in the direction of our hopes and dreams and push them forward. I used this concept a lot during my doctoral studies at Ohio State. I figured if the students in the class before me could be successful, so could I. So, as a graduate assistant in the Educational Leadership Department, I was an advocate for them and pushed them forward with all resources available to me as a student working directly with the graduate faculty.

This Advent Season will take those of us who are Christians into a season to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As we celebrate at TVW,

we are sending you love and good will for better days in 2021, if you need it. If you don't, please share it with someone who does.

We are raising a glass of good cheer to health, healing and happiness on behalf of our entire writing and technical TEAM, sponsors, readers and ongoing supporters.

**Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year!**

Until next time ...

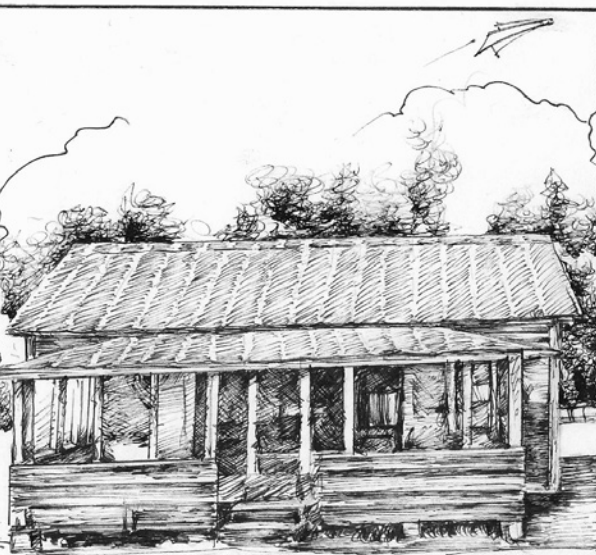
*Dorothy*



### PowerShot

"If you are trying to go somewhere, get behind someone who is headed in that direction and push them forward. When they arrive, you'll be there too."

+Dorothy Huston



Dr. Dorothy Huston's childhood home.



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JAHNI

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Poet Contributes to International Exhibit

Local poet Carey Link entered the international competition “Embracing Our Differences.”

Her quote, along with 49 others, was chosen from 15,912 participants from 128 countries. Her quote: “I am not defined by an inanimate object: Look at



me, not my wheel-chair.” The 50 selected quotes and 50 selected artworks will be showcased in the 18th annual exhibit, January 20 through April 1, in Sarasota’s Bayfront Park. Link’s quote was paired with the photograph titled “Sezer’s Diary” by Leyla Emektar, Erdek,



Turkey. A poetry sequence by Link is now available for pre-order from Finishing-Line Press. To pre-order a copy of the chapbook, visit finishinglinepress.com; write finishingbooks@aol.com; or call (502) 603-0670.

A Look at What’s Coming up for 2021

Despite the ongoing health and economic impacts of COVID-19, Huntsville continues to push forward with innovation and teamwork to make our city strong.

Part of that effort includes large-scale capital projects to improve quality of life across every sector of our community. Here’s a quick progress update on three major developments underway in the City of Huntsville:

Amphitheater at MidCity

In late October, the City Council approved plans to build a new 8,000+ seat amphitheater within a municipal park near the MidCity development. The classic Roman-style forum is being designed with amenities to support top talent and showcase community events such as farmer’s markets, a food hall, craft fairs, educational events and more.

The \$43.7 million amphitheater will be open to the public year-round and help Huntsville grow its music and culture economy. Huntsville Venue Group (HVG), a global entertainment and hospitality partner with operations in London, Austin and New York, will manage the amphitheater and develop its programming.

The amphitheater is expected to open in early 2022.

City Hall in Downtown Huntsville

Paying homage to downtown’s historic structures, the civic building will incorporate glass to allow natural light to flow in and feature two entrances that make accessing City Hall easier and more convenient for staff and the public.

The \$65 million open-office building will combine departments and promote collaboration across teams.

Wilkinson hopes to finalize construction plans soon and break ground in April or May of next year.

Construction itself is expected to last approximately 18 months, with a grand opening occurring sometime in late 2022 or early 2023.

South Huntsville Greenway

Another exciting project in the works includes more than two miles of new 12-foot-wide multi-use paths in South Huntsville.

The 2+ miles of new greenway will meander through six ponds and 200 acres of preserved open space. The paths will also connect to another 2.5 miles being constructed on the west side of Haysland Road within new subdivisions.

The total cost for the Haysland Road project, including the greenway, is about \$8 million.

The Valley Deaths

**NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME -**  
2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 -  
(256) 539-8189

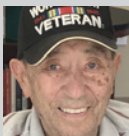
Graveside service for MR. TERRION C. J. KENNEMER (b. 1998) was held Saturday, December 5, at Valley View Memorial Gardens.



Graveside service for MR. JOHN ZACHERY (b. 1942) was held Saturday, December 5, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens Chapel of Love. Public viewing was Saturday, December 5, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Graveside service for MS. JUANITA MCCAULLEY BOOKER (b. 1948) was held Friday, November 27, at Valley View Memorial Gardens with Reverend Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, Sr. officiating.

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



Funeral service for MR. I. V. HAMILTON (b. 1921) will be 10 a.m., Friday, December 11, at the Harrison & Ross Mortuary (1839 Firestone Boulevard, Los Angeles, California).

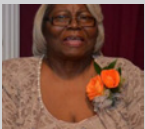
Graveside service for MR. PERCY LEE GILLIAM, SR., (b. 1940) was held Monday, December 7, at Pine Grove Memorial Garden (759 Pine Grove Road Unit A, Harvest, Ala.) with Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Graveside service for DR. ESTHER N. GILL (b. 1932) was held Sunday, December 6, at Oakwood Memorial Gardens (1 Cleveland Way at Wynn Drive Huntsville, AL 35806) with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.

Graveside service for MR. STANLEY TONEY, SR. (b. 1970) was held Saturday, December 5, at New Hope Community Cemetery #2 (28520 Wall Street Madison, Ala.) with Dr. Mylon Burwell officiating.

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

Funeral service for MRS. BETTYE MCGINNIS-DRAKE will be held Saturday, December 5, at 2 p.m. at New Life SDA Church, 3912 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.



Graveside service for MR. DAVID “FATS” GORDON (b. 1953) was held Friday, December 4, at Valley View Memorial Gardens, 139 Meridianville Bottom Road, Meridianville, Ala.)





## Why Did Biden Pick Harris? The Detoured Way Home (Part 2 of 5)

In last week's first installment of this series (ValleyWeekly12042020V7N13.pdf), I stated that Biden's choice of Kamala Harris closely paralleled Jesus' choosing the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well

### Let's continue, . . .

John 4:4 To get there (back home to Galilee), he had to pass through Samaria.

For many of us, the way "home," our intended destination, is not often a straight point-A-to-point-B path without detours.

Therefore, detours should not be ignored or devalued, but instead seen as necessary side steps or coincidences.

Albert Einstein once wrote that, "Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous." Here, Jesus Christ and Joe Biden authenticated Einstein's words.



### For Jesus, . . .

To get to his home in Galilee, Jesus had to pass through Samaria. To the Jews, Samaritans were despised and deemed not worthy of respect.

At best, they were second-class citizens. But to reach his destination, Jesus the Jew had to pass through the Samaritan 'hood.

### For Biden, . . .

To reach his "homes" of first the Democratic presidential nomination and ultimately the White House, Biden had to pass through some unfamiliar territories: winning his first primary or caucus, as well as the throes of the Me Too movement.

In his 1988 and 2008 primary and caucus contests, Biden failed each time; also beginning in 2020, he failed to win the Iowa caucus (placed #5), New Hampshire primary (#4) and in the Nevada caucus (#2).

Additionally, a handful of women accused the baby-kissing, forever-hugging "Uncle Joe" of non-sexual but inappropriate touching. Wikipedia: "Biden apologized for not understanding how people would react to his actions, but said his intentions were honorable", <https://bit.ly/3kfrezQ>.

Q: What are some of the detours that you've experienced heading home that, looking back now, you're grateful for?

A: Count them, cherish them as valuable necessary mileposts toward your destination.

tim allston is the author of the printed/digital/audiobook, *The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the "Silver-Mettle" Leaders*, available now at <https://amzn.to/3cx1koV>.

# Tennessee Valley Calendar of Events

**December 9**  
Zoning Committee Meeting  
7:30 a.m.

**December 10**  
Idea Competition for High School Students  
[www.be-entrepreneurial.org](http://www.be-entrepreneurial.org)  
9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Online)

**December 12**  
Marlon Wayans  
Stand Up Live  
6:30-10 p.m.

**December 13**  
Guided Tour of the Historic Park  
Burritt on the Mountain

2:30-3:30 p.m.

**December 18**  
Drive-In Movie: The Muppet Christmas Carol  
Athens-Limestone Public Library, 6-9 p.m.

Totally 80s Christmas Party  
SideTracks Music Hall  
9-11:55 p.m.

**December 18-20**  
"Arnez J"  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
Huntsville, Ala.  
[huntsville.standuplive.com](http://huntsville.standuplive.com)

**December 19**

Winter Solstice Market  
Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment  
10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**December 21**  
Watercolor Doodles  
(Online & In-Person)  
Huntsville Art League  
6 p.m.

**Rocket City Light Tour**  
[www.fbchhsv.org](http://www.fbchhsv.org)  
5-9 p.m.

**December 22**  
The Legume Room Comedy  
Salty Nut Brewery  
7 p.m.

*"The most dangerous creation of any society is the man who has nothing to lose." - James Baldwin*



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State Farm



## COVID-19 Assistance

### UNITED WAY COVID-19

Assistance Fund

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Get Assistance: Call 211

### SMALL BUSINESSES

[disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

(800) 659-2955

### COVID-19- RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department  
of Labor

(866) 234-5382

[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

### MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (256) 539-3711

### LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of  
Public Health

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

### TAKEOUT/ DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

<https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/>



# Washington in One Minute



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

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate are in session. Top on the agenda for both bodies is the wrap-up of the 12 Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bills, for which there is a current deadline of Friday (Dec. 11) to avoid a federal government shutdown – although this deadline may be pushed forward to Dec. 18 to allow final negotiations to conclude. A new rumor has it that the appropriations bills

will be divided into 2 bundles, the first anchored by the Defense Appropriations bill and the second by the MilCon/VA Appropriations bill. There has also been a renewed urgency on Capitol Hill to pass a COVID relief bill, augmented by a weaker-than-expected November jobs report. Also teed up for final passage this month are the FY21 Defense Authorization bill and the Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization. On Thursday night (Dec. 10), Members of Congress

attended the Congressional Christmas Ball at the White House.

2. **LATEST ELECTION RESULTS.** The latest results for the 117th Congress shows House Democrats with a 222-seat majority to the GOP's 211, which is a net loss of 9 seats for the Democrats. Two seats, Iowa-2 (called for the GOP by 6 votes) and New York-22 (GOP ahead by 12 votes), are likely to be contested into January 2021 and are not included in the above totals.

3. **BIDEN ADMINISTRATION NEWS.** The Biden Transition Team met at the Pentagon with representatives of the military intelligence agencies (Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, etc.), which comes after reports surfaced last week that the Pentagon had refused access to the Biden team. The New York Times reports that

President-elect Biden this week will name his health care team, including Xavier Becerra as HHS Secretary and Rochelle Walensky as CDC Director. Mr. Biden reportedly will also name his Inauguration Co-Chairs. Last week, he announced the following picks for his administration: Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury; Neera Tanden, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget; Cecilia Rouse, Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers; Brian Deese, Director of the White House National Economic Council; Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. Vice President-elect Harris announced the following staff: Tina Flournoy, Chief of Staff; Ashley Etienne, Communications Director; Symone Sanders, Chief Spokeswoman; Rohini Koseglu, Domestic Policy Advisor; Nancy McElDowney, National Security Advisor.

4. **CORONAVIRUS VACCINE.** On Tuesday (Dec. 8), the Trump Administration held a Covid-19 meeting at the White House with attendees from Pfizer, Moderna, FedEx, Walgreens, McKesson, CVS and UPS, along with state and military officials. On Thursday (Dec. 10) at 9:00 a.m. EST, the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee met in open session to discuss the Emergency Use Authorization of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. On Dec. 17, the FDA will hold a session on an Emergency Use Authorization for the Moderna vaccine.

5. **SUPREME COURT.** The court heard arguments in 2 cases dealing with Nazi-era confiscation and coerced-sale of property from members of the former Jewish communities in Germany and Hungary (among them 12 Auschwitz survivors), including the medieval "Guelph Treasure"

currently housed at the Bode Museum in Berlin and valued at \$225 million. The cases are Germany v. Philipp and Hungary v. Simon.

6. **HOUSE 2021 CALENDAR.** The House Leadership released its legislative calendar for 2021.

7. **STUDENT LOAN RELIEF EXTENDED.** On Friday, the Department of Education granted an extra month of student loan relief to the 41 million Americans who have had a freeze on their monthly loan payments and interest. That relief, which was set to expire on December 31, will now end on January 31.

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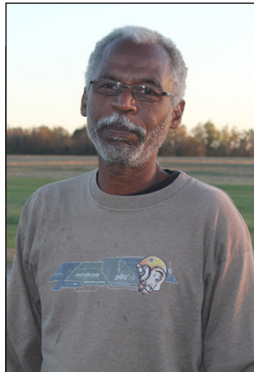
# AAMU Delves into Circle of Sustainability

After a three-year investment from a USDA-sponsored grant, agricultural research scientists at Alabama A&M University are swimming ever closer toward full implementation of a 'circle of sustainability.'

Associate Research Professor Ernst Ceibert, who also manages the University's Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station (WTARS) in Hazel Green, Ala., has received some \$300,000 over the years from the Evans-Allen program earmarked for 1890 land-grant institutions to develop a self-sustaining aquaculture/hydroponic system that not only potentially provides hands-on learning experiences for a plethora of disciplines, but one that also offers quality, healthy tilapia for the market.

"We wanted to show that we can create everything related to raising a self-contained product, free from pesticide and cutting down on the often costly use of fish food," explained Ceibert.

The project actually started in a greenhouse on the campus proper, but it was moved to the research farm. This allowed for ample space and



the use of well water. A group also was hired to assist with system design and setting up additional technology to convert fish waste into functional fertilizer. Ceibert said tilapia was selected primarily because the species is fairly easy to raise and isn't particularly picky about what it consumes.

A lot of tilapia eaten in America is produced in other countries, primarily China. As more people inquire about their food sources and the conditions under which that food source is produced, Ceibert said locally produced fish can alleviate a lot of concern.

The circle of sustainability doesn't necessarily have a beginning nor an end point. A system is created that is favorable for fish to thrive and reproduce, calling for constantly fish farm-generated water and other impera-

tives. Plants are raised to feed the fish to one and a half to two-pound maturity. The fish consume leaves from the plant and then produce waste. The solid and liquid waste from the fish is then pumped out and becomes part of an elaborate compost/fertilizer system. The resulting rich soil of the compost provides required nutrients for the plants being grown to feed the fish, as well as water for those plants growing hydroponically along the interior periphery of the greenhouse.

Ceibert said the process ultimately results in a cleaner, healthier product; a lower percentage of premature fish deaths, and no contaminants from the surrounding controlled environment.

Other positives involve what ongoing operations could mean for instruction

and research, noted Ceibert. For instance, there are numerous potential training opportunities through the self-sustaining tilapia farm. Environmental science students could play a role in testing the plants and soil for quality. Engineering students could help design systems that could automate the waste pump and filtration process. Moreover, food science students could run comparisons between the tilapia from the AAMU farm and the tilapia currently found in the market.

The tilapia operation could provide a multifaceted learning environment for visiting school children at all levels. But, when all is said and done, Ceibert would like nothing more than for his pounds and pounds of tilapia to someday find their way on the plates of a specialty restaurant.

by Jerome Saintjones

## Faith Initiative Scholarship Available

FAITH Initiative, Incorporated, a 501c3 nonprofit established by Fellowship Presbyterian Church USA, announces the annual scholarships to be awarded *Spring 2021*. The scholarships are open to deserving students from the Tennessee Valley who have been accepted to an accredited university or technical school and who demonstrate the potential to become a productive member of the community. Recipients are not required to be enrolled or accepted in an institution of higher learning in Alabama to receive the scholarships. Applications and requirements have been mailed to area high school coun-

selors and local churches. However, your assistance is requested in getting this announcement to high school seniors.

Students selected from the Tennessee Valley will be informed by letter, and the formal announcement will be made at the Annual Fundraising Event of the organization scheduled for *Spring 2021*. Due to the current COVID 19, this event may be virtual. Successful applicants are expected to participate.

Scholarship applications may be obtained from FAITH Initiative organization at [faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com](mailto:faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com) or call 256-714-9399. Applications must be received not later than *March 19, 2021*.



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