

Have a Prosperous Happy New Year!

FREE

Friday

January 1, 2021

Vol. 7, No. 16

ValleyWeeklyllc.com



Another Council Statue Erected, p. 5

"Lettie Boyd," p. 2

"Whoever is in control of the hell in
your life, is your devil."

- John Henrik Clarke



CCC to Host Site Visit for Dental Hygiene Program

The Calhoun Community College Health Sciences division received approval from the Alabama Council on Higher Education and the Alabama Community College System to develop a new dental hygiene program.

The program is seeking accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). CODA will conduct a site visit from March 18-19, 2021. Third-party comments are sought regarding the planned dental hygiene program from administration, faculty, students, dental professionals, patients, and the community-at-large. All comments must be related to the CODA Dental Hygiene Accreditation Standards or the CODA Policies and Procedures used in the commission accreditation process (<https://www.ada.org/en/coda>) and must be received by January 18, 2021. Names and/or signatures will be removed from comments prior to forwarding them to the program.

Commission on Dental
Accreditation
American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: 1-800-621-8099
Extension 465



DAR Gives to Glenwood: *Twickenham Town Daughters of the American Revolution contributed \$10,000 toward grave preservation and monument restoration at the City's historic Glenwood Cemetery. Established in 1870, Glenwood is the oldest municipally-owned African-American cemetery in the Southeast. HuntsvilleAL.gov*

State of the County Address Slated for Jan. 27

The virtual 2021 State of the County Address featuring Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong has been scheduled for January 27, 2-3 p.m.

His address will review issues currently facing the region, and his outlook for the year ahead. For additional information, contact Amberly Kimbrough at (256) 535-2031 or e-mail akimbrough@hsvchamber.org.

Chamber Sponsors 2021 Legislative Update

Members of the Huntsville Madison County Chamber and interested persons will receive 2021 Legislative Updates virtually on January 12 from 2-3:30 p.m.

The Alabama Legislative Update will feature Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives Mac McCutcheon; Senator Arthur Orr, chairman of the Senate Finance and Taxation Education Committee; Senate Majority Leader Clay Scofield; and Alabama House Minority

Leader Anthony Daniels.

Tennessee Valley legislators hold some of the most powerful State Legislative leadership positions. The featured speakers listed above all hail from north Alabama and have tremendous impact on the legislative process and funding of State government.

For additional information, contact Amberly Kimbrough at (256) 535-2031 or e-mail akimbrough@hsvchamber.org.

A&M Part of Multi-School Consortium on Data Science

Alabama A&M University is part of a HBCU consortium offered seed funding from the National Science Foundation.

Headed by Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C., the HBCU Data Science Consortium will work with faculty from AAMU, Bowie State University, Florida A&M University, Morehouse College and Norfolk State University to address the underrepresentation of African Americans in the field data science. The NSF awarded a \$100,000 seed grant for the development and implementation of the

consortium.

An inaugural workshop, "HBCU Data Science Consortium—Building Data Science Pillars," is scheduled to take place virtually Feb. 19-20.

"Johnson C. Smith and several other HBCUs have been working to address this need by providing students across the nation with high-demand data skills," said Felesia Stukes, assistant professor of computer science at JCSs. The Consortium is an exciting way to build a diverse community of practice that could help accelerate and expand our reach."

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Called 2 Preach

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

"Blaming and Blessing"

John 9:1-3

In the minds and mouths of humanity, blaming is as natural as breathing. We cannot help it; it is in our DNA inherited from our first parents, Adam and Eve. The Bible has recorded for us their initial implications of blame hurled at someone other than themselves for their disobedience of the com-

mand of God not to eat from the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is of little surprise, therefore, that we see in the opening verses of John 9 this matter of *blame* entering into the interrogative investigation of the life of a man who was "born blind."

This matter of blame had so permeated the psyche of the people of that day that Jesus' disciples



even hinted at some pre-natal predilection of sin in this man's life. They asked, "Master who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?"

Jesus' answer was,

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." Wow!

While the disciples were trying to attach *blame* to this man's blindness, Jesus corrected them by informing them that God purposely delayed his sight so that He could *bless* him on a day when others would be able to see *the works of*



God. The Sovereignty of God is both mysterious and magnificent. Look closely, there may be a *blessing*

attached to that *blame* that you are currently dealing with.

God has not changed.

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Ms. Lettye A. Boyd

Lettye A. Boyd, a native of Auburn, Ala., is the daughter of the late Lois D. Boyd and the late J. D. Boyd. She graduated from Lee County Training School in 1957, attending historic Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., from 1957-58.

In 1961, however, she received the B.S. degree in Elementary Education and Music from Alabama A&M University. She pursued additional studies at Alabama A&M University, Grove City College, Virginia State University and Jackson State University.

Boyd's 33-year professional career includes student teacher, 2nd Grade & Music, 1961, Cherry Street Elementary School,



Decatur, Ala.; teacher, 2nd Grade & Music, 1961-63, Laney Elementary School, Waverly Hall, Ga; teacher, Music & Other, 1963-1970, Councill Senior High School, formerly Councill Training School, Normal, Ala.; teacher, Music & Other, Four Summers, Madison County Headstart Program, Madison County

Schools; and teacher, Music & Other, 1970-93, Madison Cross Roads School, Toney, Ala., (established the school's first organized music program).

Ms. Boyd's numerous other skills and interests are exemplified by her service as choral director, 1978-80, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; Minister of Music, 1980-2000, First Missionary Baptist Church; director, 1988, Alabama A&M University Alumni Choir, Normal, Ala.; choral director, First Missionary Baptist Church; and others.

She is affiliated with several professional, community and civic organizations.

JANUARY 1 - JOHN HENRIK CLARKE - Born in Union Springs, Ala., Clarke was a highly respected historian, professor, editor and a pioneer in the creation of Pan-African and African studies, and professional institutions in the late 1960s.

- *BlackinTime.info*



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What We Know about the New COVID-19 Variant

Just as vaccines are rolling out for the current COVID-19 virus that are roughly 94% effective, a new variation of the disease has surfaced.

The United Kingdom has identified a new, potentially more contagious coronavirus variant linked to a recent surge in cases in England.

The new variant is being called VUI-202012/01 — the first “Variant Under Investigation” in the UK in December 2020.

Some are saying it reacts more quickly upon contact and others are saying that it’s more contagious than the current virus we know most about.

The UK government’s New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group said it had “moderate confidence” that this new variant “demonstrates a sub-

stantial increase in transmissibility compared to other variants.”

Chris Whitty, England’s chief medical officer, said this particular variant “contains 23 different changes.”

To better understand what this is, we need to comprehend what a variant is.

It’s not uncommon or unusual to see multiple strains of the same virus. For example, swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with influenza viruses that normally circulate in swine and not people have occurred. When this happens, these viruses are called “variant viruses.” They also can be denoted by adding the letter “v” to the end of the virus subtype designation.

However, this virus is slightly different. The vari-

ant carries a set of mutations including an N501Y mutation to part of the genetic sequence which forms the spike protein.

“There is still much we don’t know. While we are fairly certain the variant is transmitted more quickly, there is no evidence to suggest that it is more lethal or causes more severe illness. Equally, there is no evidence to suggest the vaccine will be any less effective against the new variant,” United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson said.

Public Health England says it is working to learn as much about the variant as possible.

The British variant has about 20 mutations, including several that affect how the virus locks onto human cells and infects them.

These mutations may allow

the variant to replicate and transmit more efficiently, said Muge Cevik, an infectious disease expert at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

European Union members Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and the Netherlands announced travel restrictions hours after Johnson’s speech.

The variant can be found across the UK, except Northern Ireland, but it is heavily concentrated in London, the South East, and eastern England. Cases elsewhere in the country do not seem to have taken off ... In short: It will be very hard for the coronavirus to escape the body’s defenses, despite the many variations it may adopt.

- BlackDoctor.org

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 counselors and local churches. 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 or call 256-714-9399. Applications must be received not later than *March 19, 2021*.



Champion Game Plan for Life

“I’M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT”

by Preston Brown



lead us. So this year we all need to start saying, “I’m looking forward to it! No matter what it

is. If God is leading me, then I’m looking forward to it!” ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. Remember to stay safe and make sure you purchase a copy of my book, “A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE,” at amazon.com

a few things that we need to understand about faith and change.

First, we need to understand that faith looks forward. I believe that God is always pointing us toward our future. So often it’s easy to focus on past hurts and disappointments. But God doesn’t want us to focus on those things. Remember Isaiah 43:19 says: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it. God can always make a way out of no way, if we let Him

Hebrews 11: 1 says: *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

You know, I believe that we all need a faith that looks forward and not behind. Even though it may not look like we are moving forward, if we are faithful, God will always continue to bring us through whatever it is that we are going through.

So many times we just want “out” of our current situations without any action on our part. But I have found that there are



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Surviving the New Year: A Nutritionist's Perspective

by BlackDoctor.org

Sure, we're surrounded by temptation, like yummy treats, all year long. But, there's something about the holiday season that increases our urge to dive deep into an abyss of banana pudding, fill up on peach cobbler or say "YAAAS" to just one more helping of grandma's sweet potato pie.

Needless to say, while sweet swaps or avoiding them altogether sounds nice, that may not be your best course of action when trying to stay on course.

In case you didn't know so, holiday weight gain is real! In fact, according to research from Cornell University's Food and Brand Lab as well as scientists in Finland and France, Americans were found to experience weight gain throughout October and November, and peaked 10 days after Christmas. Although the change wasn't large — about 1.3 pounds during the Christmas to

New Year's season — the extra pounds can take up to five months to lose.

What You Can Do

"Switches are still junk. Fuel yourself throughout the day and go into every situation feeling satisfied and in control," Adrienne Daly, a lifestyle nutrition coach, tells BlackDoctor.org.

"I encourage my nutrition coaching clients not to save themselves for the party foods and drink, but to eat normally through the day and to meal prep," added Daly.

By eating meals that are low in carbs and high in veggies and healthy fats, Daly went on to argue that "this keeps down the crave/dive into food and drink head first feelings we all have during the holidays."

Alternate drinks. Festive cocktails are super fun. They are also super caloric. Instead, reach for soda on the rocks with a splash of



cranberry or lime juice for a punch of flavor. "Alternate with an alcoholic beverage of choice," continued Daly.

Snack smart. "Snack on the meat and veggie selections only — keeping sugar at bay."

Don't be impulsive. Reaching for every dish you see is a big "no, no." Said Daly: "It's just food. Think of every bite as 5g of FAT. Because it is. Pass it by!"

DO NOT SKIP THE GYM.

Be Mindful. "Find a mantra that means something to you, religion or

spiritually based. Speak to whatever aligns with your core values for change and personal strength," said Daly, reminding us that often our struggles with cravings is mental, not physical.

Example: "I am working harder than anyone else in this room to keep my waist tight, and with your love

and support, Lord, I can have success."

"It works and my clients have a great feeling of control and satisfaction, especially when they wake up the next day feeling accomplished and not shameful," Daly concluded.

Photo: cdc.gov

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/HSVTV or on the City of Huntsville Facebook page (@huntsvillecity).

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

PowerShot

"Nonconformists have never been accepted nor appreciated until the status quo realizes that what they have to offer is much greater than what can be denied them."

j.T. Moore

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Unveiling of Council Statue at Memorial Park

City of Huntsville Parks & Recreation and the
William Hooper Council High School Alumni Association
Dr. William Hooper Council High Memorial Park on St. Clair Avenue
Wednesday, December 23, 2020 - 1 p.m.



Valley Deaths

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

Graveside service for MRS. MINNIE M. WESTBROOK KYLE (b. 1925) was held Monday, December 28, at Val-halla Memorial Gardens.

Funeral service for MS. DIANNE TOWNSEND (b. 1955) was held Sunday, December 27, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Dr. Mario D. Ford officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. EDNA DAVIS BROWN (b. 1924) was held Saturday, December 26, at Pine Grove Memorial Gardens (759 Pine Grove Road - Harvest, Ala.).

Funeral service for MRS. CAROLYN CARTER (b. 1944) was held Saturday, December 26, in the Briggs Cemetery with Pastor Trevor Briggs officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. MATTIE PEARL CRAIG-HEAD JONES (b. 1942) was held Saturday, December 26, at Northside Cemetery.

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

Graveside service for MR. DONALD WAYNE JORDAN (b. 1958) was held Monday, December 28, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Minister Christopher Rogers officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. VERA LORRAINE STEPP (b. 1983) was held Sunday, December 27, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Javon Hearn officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. DOLORES BRANDON JEFFERSON (b. 1929) was held Saturday, December 26, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Dr. Patrick Arrington officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MAUDIE FEARS (b. 1931) was held Wednesday, December 23, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Graveside service for MRS. IZOLA ERSKINE HINTON (b. 1939) was held Tuesday, December 22, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

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

Funeral or graveside services will be announced for the following: JACK LONG, MARK WHITAKER, DONNA KENNEDY, WILLIAM LANE, OLLIE HAMBRICK-MORGAN, RANDOLPH GILBERT and others.

COVID-19 Assistance

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Alabama Department of Labor

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labor.alabama.gov

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (256) 539-3711

LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov

TAKEOUT/ DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

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

CITY OF HUNTSVILLE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN

The City of Huntsville, Alabama proposes to amend its FY2020 Action Plan to represent HUD's corrected FY2020 allocation. The City of Huntsville's FY2020 available allocations are now as follows:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	\$1,408,264
HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)	\$713,837

The City of Huntsville, Alabama also propose to amend its FY2019 Action Plan for the purposes of reprogramming CDBG funds from Program Income (\$40,392.00), the Deferred Home Maintenance Repair Program (\$123,715.90) and Code Enforcement (\$21,000.00); totaling \$185,107.90 to be applied towards the purchase of land in census tract 30-Lincoln Village for a neighborhood park.

A 30-day comment period ending on February 1, 2021 is required before amendments can be made to the Consolidated/Action Plan. Submit public comments to Community Development at <https://huntsvilleal.seamless-docs.com/f/CommunityDevelopment> or mail to the City of Huntsville, Department of Community Development, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804. For more information, please contact Turkessa Coleman Lacey at (256) 427-5400/ TTY: 256-427-7092.

CIUDAD DE HUNTSVILLE ENMIENDA AL PLAN DE ACCIÓN CONSOLIDADO

La ville de Huntsville, en Alabama, propose de modifier son plan d'action pour l'année 2020 afin de représenter l'allocation corrigée du HUD pour l'année 2020. Les allocations disponibles pour l'année 2020 de la Ville de Huntsville sont maintenant les suivantes:

Subvention du Bloc de développement communautaire (CDBG)	1,408,264
PARTENARIATS D'investissement HOME (HOME)	\$713,837

La ville de Huntsville, en Alabama, propose également de modifier son Plan d'action pour l'exercice 2019 aux fins de la reprogrammation des fonds de la CDBG à partir du revenu du programme (40 392 \$), du Programme différé de réparation de l'entretien des maisons (123 715,90 \$) et de l'application du Code (21 000 \$); totalisant 185 107,90 \$ à appliquer à l'achat d'un terrain dans le secteur de recensement 30-Lincoln Village pour un parc de quartier.

Une période de commentaires de 30 jours se terminant le 1er février 2021 est nécessaire avant que des modifications puissent être apportées au Plan consolidé et d'action. Soumettre des commentaires publics au Développement communautaire à <https://huntsvilleal.seamlessdocs.com/f/CommunityDevelopment> ou envoyer un courrier à la Ville de Huntsville, ministère du Développement communautaire, P.O. Encadré 308, Huntsville, AL 35804. Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec Turkessa Coleman Lacey au (256) 427-5400/ TTY: 256-427-7092.



Why Did Biden Pick Harris? The Closer (Part 5 of 5)

Joe Biden's picking Kamala Harris paralleled Jesus' picking the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well.

The woman said, "Sir, give me this water so I won't ever get thirsty, won't ever have to come back to this well again!"

He said, "Go call your husband and then come back."

"I have no husband," she said.

"That's nicely put: 'I have no husband.' You've had five husbands, and the man you're living with now isn't even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough," John 4:15-18.

Jesus exposed the Samaritan woman's six unfulfilled relationships; now, he proposed to become #7 - Heaven's number of completeness, perfection.

Likewise, Joe to Kamala: "You too have had six relationships:

- District Attorney
- California's Attorney General
- California's junior Senator
- Senate Judiciary Committee
- 2019 Democratic presidential primaries; and later
- Democratic primary dropout!

"Now, let me be your #7!"

25 *The woman said, "... I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we'll get the whole story."*

26 *"I am he," said Jesus. "You don't have to wait any longer or look any further."*

Equivalently, Biden answered Harris, by asking, "Are you ready to go to work?" Harris answered in Samaritan woman-esque fashion, "Oh my God. I'm so ready to go to work," <https://bit.ly/2Ux93v2!>

What Jesus offered her none other could, and vice versa.

Jesus made her the first evangelist to a non-traditional, unfamiliar (Jewish) territory - and a woman at that! - preceding even the Apostle Paul; and

Correspondingly, Biden made Harris the first "evangelist" in non-traditional and unfamiliar territories, as the first:

- Black woman;
- Indian-American;
- HBCU graduate;
- "Black Greek"; and California Democrat!

28-30 *The woman: "Come see a man who knew all about the things I did, who knows me inside and out. Do you think this could be the Messiah?" And they went out to see for themselves.*

Just as the Samaritan woman returned to Samaria with Jesus' offer, Harris went back to those five aforementioned villages and likewise declared, "Come see a man (and the first-time woman, looking and being like you!), ...
" ... And they went out to see for themselves," in record numbers and elected the historic Biden-Harris ticket.

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>.

Washington in One Minute



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

1. ON THE FLOOR.

The House reconvened Monday and was expected to vote on an override (2/3rds vote required) of President Trump's veto of the \$740 billion Defense Authorization bill and to hold a separate vote

to amend the \$2.3 trillion combined FY 2021 omnibus appropriations package/COVID relief bill – signed by the President Sunday night – to raise direct COVID relief payments from \$600 to \$2,000, at the President's urging. The Senate was scheduled to reconvene on Tuesday to take up the Defense bill override (but only if the

House succeeded in its override vote). In his signing statement Sunday night on the appropriations/COVID bill, the President said that the Senate "will start the process for a vote that increases checks to \$2,000, repeals Section

230 [of the Communications Decency Act], and starts an investigation into voter fraud."

2. BIDEN TRANSITION NEWS.

This week, President-elect Biden is expected to make more announcements on cabinet appointees, such as Attorney

General, Commerce Secretary, Labor Secretary, and CIA Director. Last week, the Biden/Harris team announced Connecticut's Commissioner of Education Miguel Cardona as the nominee for Secretary of Education.

On December 23, Transportation Secretary-designee Pete Buttigieg met with the following group of mayors to discuss the critical need for transportation and infrastructure investment:

Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville, Ky.
Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin, Tex.
Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, Calif.
Michael Hancock, Mayor of Denver, Colo.
Lori Lightfoot, Mayor of Chicago, Ill.

Nan Whaley, Mayor of Dayton, Ohio
Patrick Wojahn, Mayor of College Park, Md.

3. CORONAVIRUS VACCINE.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, 1,944,585 people in the U.S. have received their first dose of the Moderna and Pfizer BioNTech COVID vaccines as of December 26 and 9,547,925 doses have been distributed.

On December 23, the Trump Administration announced that it will purchase an additional 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer, with 70 million doses to be delivered by June 30, 2021, and the remaining 30 million doses to be delivered no later than July 31, 2021 (bringing the total U.S.

purchase to 200 million doses).

4. HOUSE 2021 CALENDAR. The House Leadership released its legislative calendar for 2021, which can be seen here: House calendar. The Senate has not released its calendar for 2021.

HAVE A SAFE, PLEASANT AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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