

The Valley Weekly

"One of the processes of your life is to constantly break down that inferiority, to constantly reaffirm that I Am Somebody."
- Alvin Ailey

FREE

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Friday, January 5, 2018

Doug Jones Names Black Chief of Staff

Newly elected Alabama Senator Doug Jones has announced Dana Gresham as his Chief of Staff.

Gresham, an African American, is a former transportation official and congressional aide. Jones is the only U.S. Senate Democrat to have an Afri-

can American chief of staff.

Gresham previously served as assistant secretary for government affairs at the Department of Transportation, and before that was chief of staff to then-Rep. Artur Davis (D-Ala.).

The Georgetown Uni-

versity graduate is an Alabama native.

Jones has made hiring a diverse staff a priority.



NEAR COMPLETION: Construction and other crews for the new 580-bed residence facility on the campus of Alabama A&M University are making final preparations for its 2018 opening. The facility (rear entrance shown above) faces Meridian Street and is situated between the Lionel Crump Building and the AAMU Wellness Center. (Photo by J. Saintjones)

UAH Paying Tribute to Dr. King

The Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at the University of Alabama in Huntsville will hold its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Program on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

The program will be held at 4 p.m. in the Conference



Training Center (CTC) Exhibit Hall on the UAH campus.

Special performances will be presented by the Alabama

A&M University Choir, The Aeolians of Oakwood University, the UAH Baptist Campus Ministry Praise Team, and saxophonist Alex Banks, II.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (256) 824-2332.

Alphas Will Host 2018 King Day Parade

This year's event will commemorate the 50th

anniversary of the death of the slain civil rights leader.



The Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, announces the 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade to be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018, at 12 p.m. in downtown Huntsville.

2017 Brings Big News of Valley Growth

Among the major industry announcements made in the Valley in 2017 were:

— BOCAR, a German-based auto parts company, will build its first manufacturing facility in the U.S. in Huntsville, in the area of Limestone County is inside Huntsville city limits. It will be a \$115 million facility and provide 300 jobs.

— Blue Origin, a privately owned (by Jeff Bezos) aerospace manufacturer, said

it will build a \$200 million rocket engine factory in Cummings Research Park, employing some 400 people.

— Aerojet Rocketdyne broke ground for a "rocket shop" in the North Huntsville Industrial Park, not far away from its new defense headquarters in Cummings Research Park.

— Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama, which anchors the North Huntsville Industrial Park, expanded



its facility for the fifth time since its 2001 groundbreaking, with a \$106 million investment that will bring 50 new jobs.

— IBM will build a \$62 million cloud data center on Redstone Arsenal.

- Huntsvilleal.gov

The Valley Weekly
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Washington in a Minute



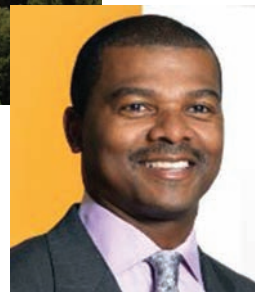
Happy New Year! Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., this week.

1. The House is in recess until Monday, January 8. The Senate convened the 2nd Session of the 115th Congress Wednesday and swore in 2 new Democratic Senators: Senator-elect Doug Jones of Alabama, who defeated Roy Moore, and Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, who was chosen to replace Senator

Al Franken (D-MN). The Senate now has 51 Republicans and 49 Democrats (a gain of 1 for the D's). The Senate was scheduled to start off its week with a vote on the nomination of former Lockheed Martin and Raytheon executive John Rood to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

2. President Trump returned to D.C. after his 10-day trip to Florida. This

weekend, he will host House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell at Camp David to discuss the GOP's 2018 federal agenda. Reportedly, they will discuss whether to appeal to traditional conservative voters by tackling welfare reform or instead push forward on the president's long-prom-



ised infrastructure plan. 3. On Wednesday, the "Big 4" (House Speaker Ryan, House Democratic Leader Pelosi, Senator Majority Leader McConnell and Senate Democratic Leader Schumer) met in Speaker Ryan's office with White House budget director Mick Mulvaney and White House legislative-affairs director Marc Short to discuss a deal for raising the spending caps on FY2018 and FY2019 appropriations and to renew talks on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which expires

on March 5.

4. On Monday, the Defense Department began accepting transgender military recruits, after the Trump administration announced last Friday that it would not appeal a court order blocking the president's ban – pending the release of an independent study of transgender issues in the coming weeks. President Trump had announced a ban in July on Twitter and followed up with a memo in August directing the Pentagon to stop accepting transgender recruits and to put in policies to deal with those already serving.

5. According to a December 30 report in The Washington Post, by the end of September, all Cabinet departments except Homeland Security, Veter-

ans Affairs and Interior had fewer permanent staff than when President Trump took office in January — with most shedding many hundreds of employees.

6. Universities and colleges are preparing for a contentious 2018. Administrators at many campuses say they are struggling to balance their commitment to free speech, which has been challenged by alt-right supporters of President Donald Trump, with campus safety.

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Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

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

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 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 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.

SNL Veteran Kicks Off 2018

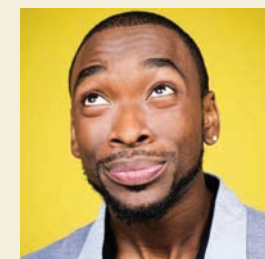
Comedian and former Saturday Night Live cast member Jay Pharoah is kicking off the new year with a two-night run at Stand Up Live from Jan. 5-7. The Virginia native joins Colin Jost, Darrell Hammond, Rob Schneider and Chris Kattan as the many SNL alumni to take the Huntsville stage.

A notable celebrity imitator, Pharoah rose to fame when his impersonation of former President Barack Obama went viral on YouTube, landing him a recurring gig on the now cancelled BET show 106 & Park. However, his talent didn't go unnoticed. Pharoah joined SNL in 2010 where he wowed viewers with his spot-on impersonations of Will Smith, Denzel Washington, Katt Williams, Kevin Hart and Jay Z for six seasons. A year before departing the popular skit series, Rolling Stone dubbed him the 55th greatest cast member of the show's forty-year run.

Since appearing on SNL, Pharoah has since established himself as an actor, appearing in Ride Along, Sing, Top Five, Get A Job and Family Guy. In 2016, Pharoah hosted the American Music Awards with model Gigi Hadid and appeared in a Funny or Die video with former First Lady Michelle Obama.

Currently, Pharoah can be seen on the Showtime series White Famous, where he plays Floyd Mooney, an up-and-coming actor who just got his big break in a big-budget Hollywood comedy. The show, which is based on the early life of executive producer Jamie Foxx, wrapped its first season in December.

As a stand-up comedian, the 30-year-old has toured with the late comedian Charlie Wilson and Corey Holcomb, who is slated to perform in March.



by Reggie D. Allen

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ahhh ... A Difficult Year!

Happy New Year, TVW Readers. We thank God for 2017, and we thank Him even more for 2018. All of us know people who were here last year who are not here today. We experience seasons in our lives, different and diverse. Sometimes we're up, sometimes we're down;

many times we are encouraged and other times we are challenged. We can be hopeful yet doubtful at the same time. Sometimes we are healthy, and sometimes we need revitalization. Yes, 2017 delivered us challenges, anxiety, hope through love, and reaffirmation.

Last June, Bill had a medical emergency that landed him in three emergency rooms and eventual admittance to Huntsville Hospital after several days of excruciating pain and a prolonged feeling of helplessness. He was there almost two weeks and from there to Millennium Health Care for three weeks, followed by two months out-patient therapy. With our faith foundation, family and friends we were able to overcome a very difficult season. At one point, they closed the door to his room at Huntsville Hospital and suggested that he 'was too loud' and thus, disturbing other patients. It is his earnest belief that had my sister not been there during my working hours that he would have been left in the room to die. No one seemed to be able to diagnose the source of his pain. The best of humanity is challenged during times like these.

After much persistence and agony, we were able to get a diagnosis that he had a DVT, deep vein thrombosis, from his knee up to his groin. So deep, the blood clot was, that the doctors considered surgically removing it. The DVT was in his left leg, which we affectionally referred to as his "good leg." He has already had four total replacements on the right leg, from Huntsville to Birmingham to Rochester, Minn.

In August, my niece lost her home and worldly possessions in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Her mom and dad died too soon, both of cancer; so, she looked to us, mature family members, as a source of encouragement, strength and support. She will never fully recover her losses, flooded house and car--but she and her two children are doing fine. Get this: FEMA offered her \$500 for all of her losses! But thanks to The Fellowship of Faith Church and Lady Dayle Rice Reed for demonstrating your love to a stranger. Dayle did not ask, "What can I do?" Instead, she packed up tons of clothing, shoes, coats and things that were needed, and we sent them to her. Love is what is does!

This is one of the positive wonders of social media, Dayle read about her on Facebook and discovered that she was my niece and she put love into action. The good Lord worked it out that most of the items sent were perfect fits and she was ready to go back to work as a teacher in the Houston area when school resumed. Her high school and college friends contributed more than \$5,000 via her Go-Fund-Me account. We would never have predicted a storm of this type in her life. We thank God for wonderful family and friends. She knows, without a doubt, that we love her.

In December, Bill's mother passed away at the age of 91. When his father passed away, she came to Huntsville to live with us. A life-long Ohioan, she missed her family, friends, church and civic/social activities in Columbus and moved back after several months. She lived long and well and will be missed by all who knew her.

As we begin 2018, we are grateful to our sponsors and readers. Our sponsors make the print copies available each week, and our readers hold us accountable for our mission and content. TVW has a team of volunteers and a hand-full of part-time team-members who get us through from week-to-week. Thanks for your commitment to building our legacy in the Huntsville community.

Blessings for a wonderful New Year to all of you, your family, friends and acquaintances. If this cold weather this week is any indication of what 2018 will bring, we had better brace ourselves for different and diverse seasons. To global warming skeptics, we must be experiencing Southern chilling. Snow in south Alabama in early December and uncommonly cold temps one week, after unusually warm temps the next. It's above my IQ; thus, I do not know what to call it, but there has to be a name for it--perhaps, Divine!

Live, love, laugh and enjoy His Divine plans of us. Until next week ...



Dorothy

The 12th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration

2018

Mrs. Amy
Lewis DraperMrs. Effie
GainesMrs. Jacquelyn
IfillElder
Dorothy B.
Johnson

Mr. Bob Petty

Mrs. Alice
SamsMrs. Rosa
Walker

- Also Honoring Pioneers -

Dr. Army Daniel
Mrs. Loretta Spencer
Mrs. Beulah Toney
Dr. Arthur L. Walker

Save the Date!

Saturday, March 10, 2018

The Jackson Center

(Cummings Research Park) - Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.

5 p.m.

Tickets: \$50/Each

For additional information, call
Linda Burruss at (256) 536-9717

Valley Scopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

JANUARY

of Jupiter in your 5th house of self-awareness, finding you on a development filled path.

PISCES

Your water sign begins the New Year in a merchandising frame of mind, which is evident in Mercury's trine of Venus within your 11th house.

LIBRA

Your air sign is inclined to start off the year in a non-partisan frame of mind, as you view the year ahead, which is evident, by the sun's conjunction of Venus.

ARIES

Your fire sign begins the year with a Venus sextile of Mars, and your more outlandish, comical, or unusual characteristics are shining through, as well as the revolutionary tendencies that you have.

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your 12th house.

CAPRICORN

Your earth sign begins the year with Venus' conjunction to Saturn, in your 8th and 9th houses, as you persevere, taking ancillary actions to fortify and safeguard yourself in some way.

SAGITTARIUS

The fire sign is prone to start off the year, in an eye-witness role. An idyllic new encounter of some kind is also favorable as Mercury squares Neptune and you find yourself evaluating needs verses urges.

SCORPIO

Your water sign is inclined to begin the year with an animated desire to meet a required standard or otherwise fit a mold of some kind, that you're actually feeling rather neutral about, evident from the Mars conjunction of Jupiter in your 6th house.

VIRGO

The earth sign begins the year with the sun's sextile

LEO

The fire sign is inclined to start off the New Year on a rewarding, production-filled path, which is evident from the sun's sextile of Neptune in your 4th house.

AQUARIUS

The water-bearing air sign is prone to start off the year pairing up with someone in a human rights activist role--obvious from the Jupiter sextile of Pluto in your 10th house.

GEMINI

Your air sign is inclined to begin the year with lots of eyes on you and your behavior as Venus sextiles Neptune in your 1st house.

CANCER

Your water sign is prone to start off the year in a diplomatic, thoughtful role, with the sun's sextile of Mars in your 2nd and 3rd houses.

TAURUS

The earth sign begins the New Year with people being in tune to the way that you're effectively expressing yourself--evident with the Mars sextile of Pluto in



January 5 - ALVIN AILEY - Acclaimed choreographer, dancer and founder of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, was born in Rogers, Texas.
- *BlackinTime.info*



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Robotics Kickoff Workshop Scheduled at NASA

4SIGHT, INC.'s First Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 6107, a community-based robotics team established by the non-profit organization, will participate in a "kickoff" workshop hosted by Google Fiber at the NASA MSFC Education Resource Center.

This workshop will take place immediately following the Kickoff of the Worldwide 2018 FIRST Robotics Competition Game - FIRST POWER UP on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018.

The kickoff and the workshop provide 4SIGHT, INC.'s FRC team members from Jemison High School the opportunity to meet with adult mentors from the community, industry, and academia as well as other FRC teams to get ideas, make friends, learn the game, and get geared up for the 2018 Rocket

City Regional that will be held March 14-18 in the Von Braun Center South Hall in Huntsville, Ala.

4SIGHT, INC. established the robotics team in 2016 to provide historically underserved students attending Jemison High School (then Johnson High School) equitable access to participate in the internationally recognized competition and engage in creative, hands-on problem-solving opportunities.

FIRST is a phenomenal tool in the development of the STEM pipeline for underrepresented students who attend Title I Schools in Huntsville, according to Dr. Cydale Smith, founder of 4SIGHT, INC. Through FIRST, students are exposed rigorous hands-on science experiences that prepare them with the necessary skills for entry to the workforce or college.

Every year following this inaugural event, 4SIGHT,

INC. will collaborate with a local STEM education stakeholder to engage and excite students on FRC Team 6107 about the annual competition. This year's workshop is hosted by Google Fiber.

4SIGHT, INC. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for equitable access to first-rate science education among all students beginning in the early years.

Google Fiber and 4SIGHT, INC. invite the community to visit the team during the workshop on Saturday, Jan. 6, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Members from the community are also invited to serve as a mentor to the team.

For more information, please contact 4SIGHT, INC. at (256) 682-9481.

by Dr. Cydale C. Smith
CEO /Founder
4SIGHT, INC.

Called 2 Preach

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

5 Days in 745

Bacterial infection in the blood stream.

It had caused me to awaken suddenly very early in the morning, experiencing bone-chilling coldness and uncontrollable shivering. This was followed by a ride in HEMSI (which I don't remember), and five days in room 745 in Huntsville Hospital--God's providential place of encounter and encasement.

The subsequent tests became God's way of directing and redirecting a heart that had been searching for answers. Speaking of the heart, it was during my echocardiogram that I learned that if bacteria get attached to the valves of the heart, they can be gravely dangerous. Thankfully, they had not.

The Spirit reminded me that the same can happen in the spiritual realm with 'spiritual bacteria,' such as pride, offense, unforgiveness, doubt, fear and the like. These could dangerously affect my intimacy with God. God's word is called a mirror. For me, it was now my echocardiogram.

God also taught and retaught me about servanthood. He allowed me to be served by a team of nurses



that served so unassumingly and joyfully that what I experienced was almost surreal.

One of them said to me, "Thank you for allowing me to serve you today." Really?

Who says that but a true servant? The Spirit used that statement to humble me and remind me of my own attitude about serving in my household and my ministry. Thank God for those 'five days in room 745'--my green pastures, where He MADE me to lie down.

The hand of opposition is never exposed.

- Chancellor Williams

A Good Read

by Jerome Saintjones



Angela Patrinós
"Sculpture I"

This story originally appeared in The New Yorker before becoming part of the "Best



American Short Stories (1996)" series edited by John Edgar Wideman and Katrina Kennison.

The main character is a young woman whose life is in dire need of structure and purpose, as her search from one dead-end job to another leads her to an art class that pays her to model in the nude. One of the students, an older, take-the-moment, married Indian student shows his interest in her. Although he is not her type, she is drawn in by his attention to her and later decides she is willing to go all the way.

Only, on the big day, his over ambition and sleep deprivation gets the best of him, and he falls asleep on her in his apartment. Hurt, yet relieved, she quietly lets herself out.

AG Joins Suit Protecting Alabama from Farming Regulations Imposed by Other States

Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that Alabama joined two lawsuits in December challenging attempts by California and Massachusetts to impose their agricultural

restrictions on farmers in other states, including Alabama.

"States and their residents have the right to set their own standards for the production of agricultural

goods, especially for reasons of health and safety," said Attorney General Marshall.

"However, they don't have the right to impose restrictions on how prod-

ucts from other states are raised, which is what California and Massachusetts have done," he noted.

"Through a series of referendums," the AG continued, "both states have

attempted to impose costly restrictions on the production of certain agriculture products coming from outside their states and sold within their borders."

Marshall added that,

if unchallenged, "such unconstitutional regulations could adversely affect all forms of commerce between states."

Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for RET. STAFF SERGEANT L.D. MAY-FIELD were held Saturday, December 30, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

Funeral arrangements for MR. JEFF HUMPHREY will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MRS. BARBARA BUTLER (b. 1943) was held Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. PERRY CAUDLE (b. 1931) was held Saturday, December 23, 2017, at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Joe Cater officiating.

Funeral service for MR. KENNETH DEWAYNE RICE (b. 1971) was held Saturday, December 23, 2017 at Saint James Primitive Baptist Church (1093 Fairbanks Street NW - Huntsville, AL 35816) with Pastor Billy Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. LUCILLE L. THOMPSON (b. 1954) was held on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MRS. ETTA PRIDE HENRY (b. 1944) will be held at 12 noon, January 6, at the First Missionary Baptist Church.

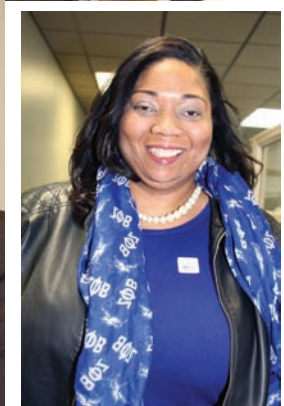
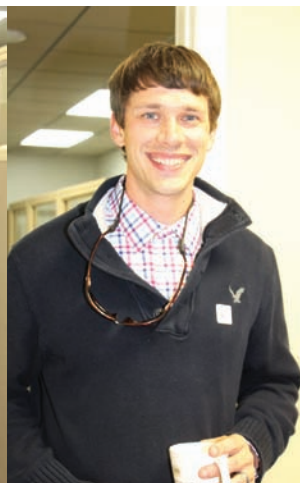
Funeral service for MRS. HELEN HUMPHREY LACEY (b. 1928) was held Wednesday, January 3, at the Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with Pastor Keith Ellison officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. CLENTHELL FIELDS JOINER (b. 1936) was held Sunday, December 31, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Donald F. Smith officiating.

Funeral service for SGT MAJOR (RET) DAVID C. SMITH (b. 1930) was held at 12 noon, Saturday, December 30th at the First Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. OLA BEA BAKER CARTER (b. 1931) was held at 12 noon, Saturday, December 30, at the Phillips Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Archie Emmanuel officiating and Pastor Willie Lewis Baker as eulogist.

Funeral service for MR. XAVIER TYRONE NEWBY, JR., was held at 12 noon Saturday, December 30, at the Lakeside United Methodist Church with Pastor Waymond K. Smith officiating.



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N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

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Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Stallworth Featured in NFL Film

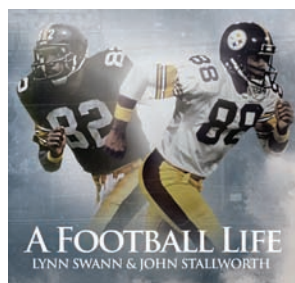
Former Pittsburgh Steeler and Pro Football Hall of Famer John Stallworth was



featured in an NFL film recently.

"A Football Life: Lynn Swann & John Stallworth" first aired on the NFL Network Friday, December 22.

A native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Alabama A&M University graduate, Stallworth was an All-Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference receiver for Alabama A&M in 1972 and 1973. Stallworth earned a Bachelor of Science degree



in business administration and an MBA with a concentration in finance from AAMU.

Stallworth played with the Steelers as a wide receiver from 1974-87. The four-time Super Bowl champion was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2002. He had 537 receptions for 8,723 yards and 63 touchdowns.

Stallworth holds the Super Bowl records for career average per catch (24.4 yards) and single-game average, 40.33 yards in Super Bowl XIV. He also scored touchdowns in eight straight playoff games (1978-1983), an NFL record.

A&M Business College Adds Golf Tournament

The College Business and Public Affairs (COBPA) at Alabama A&M University has added a golf tournament to the 3rd annual AAMU COBPA Silent Auction.

This year, there will be the opportunity to win amazing prizes such as a vehicle, courtesy of Woody Anderson Ford; a three-day RV rental, courtesy of Bankston Motor Homes; and much more.

The Alabama A&M College of Business and Public Affairs Golf Tournament and Silent Auction will take place Friday, April 6, at the Huntsville Country Club on Oakwood Avenue NW.

Participation and even any donations toward the event will be appreciated. For more information about the auction or golf tournament, contact Amoi Savage at (256) 527-7212.

The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

January 6

Kickoff Workshop
hosted by Google Fiber
NASA MSFC Education
Resource Center
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bulldog Basketball
(Men and Women)
vs. University of Arkansas
Pine Bluff (UAPB)
Alabama A&M University
Elmore Gymnasium
4 & 6 p.m.

January 8-February 26
"De-Stress Chair Yoga"
Holmes Street
United Methodist Church
5:30 p.m.

January 11

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemoration Program
Sponsor: Office of Diversity
and Multicultural Affairs/

UAH

UAH Conference Training
Center, Exhibit Hall
4 p.m.

January 12

Downtown Huntsville Annual Meeting and Awards
(Presented by Alabama A&M University)
Keynote Speaker:
David Downey
President/CEO
International Downtown Association
www.downtownhuntsville.org
VBC Propst Arena
7:30-9 a.m.

January 17

"Above and Beyond" Flight Exhibition
U.S. Space and Rocket Center

January 19

The 11th Annual Evening of Dance
Merrimack Hall Performing Arts Center

January 26

"Tallulah, Darling: The Life and Times of Huntsville's Wicked Star"
Huntsville/Madison County Main Public Library
2 p.m. (Free)

January 31

4th Black Male Summit
"Reclaiming Our Black Males"
Clyde Foster Auditorium
Alabama A&M University
6 p.m.

February 16

The Debutante Presentation and Ball
Von Braun Center

W&A

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