

MLK Unity Breakfast Honors Local Leaders, p. 8

FREE

Friday

January 22, 2021

Vol. 7, No. 19

ValleyWeeklyllc.com



Aramark to Honor Wilson, p. 6

"Amy Draper," p. 3

*"There are years that ask questions
and years that answer."*

- Zora Neale Hurston



POSITIVE-INSPIRATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL

RJF Scholar Becomes Nurse During COVID-19 Pandemic

Katie Thomas, a December 2020 nursing graduate of the University of North Alabama and recipient of the Rosetta James Foundation's "Jerry & Butch Damson Scholarship Award," has accepted a nursing position with Huntsville Hospital's Cardiac Care Unit.

A native of Madison County and a graduate of Hazel Green High School, Thomas maintained a 4.0 GPA during her undergraduate studies in nursing at UNA.

"I am eternally grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Damson for providing the scholarship that I received from the Rosetta James Foundation. It allowed me to focus on my studies so that I could be the best nurse possible, and I am ready to serve my community during this pandemic," said Thomas.

Named in honor of a local, long-time activist, volunteer and civil rights advocate, the Rosetta James Foundation recognizes individuals who have given consistently, unselfishly and untiringly of them-



selves in service to mankind, worthwhile causes and institutions.

Although COVID-19 has limited the Rosetta James Foundation from hosting its annual "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration, donations to the Foundation's scholarship efforts can be made directly to: The Rosetta James Foundation, P. O. 17452, Huntsville, AL 35810.

Applications for the Rosetta James Scholarship are also available at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org.

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.

Center to Be Named for Trailblazer

The former Berachah Campus, under redevelopment as a new City park and recreation center to accompany the new North Huntsville Public Library, will be named "The Dr. Robert Shurney Legacy Center," in recognition of Dr. Shurney's valued contributions to the U.S. Space Program. As one of the most important leaders in the history of manned space flight, Dr. Shurney was a trailblazer in the African-American community and was one of the first African

Black Attorney Heads MCVLP

Local Attorney Raven Perry-Beach has made history as the first woman of color to serve as president of the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program. The group is the oldest pro bono law program in Alabama.

"I am humbled and grateful for the faith and confidence that the board of directors of the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program has placed in me," said Atty. Perry-Beach. "It is an honor to serve as the president of this historic and vital organization that continues to provide relief for our community."

Atty. Perry-Beach stated

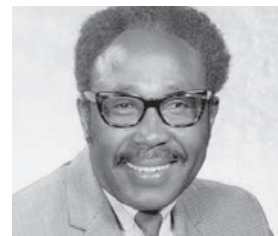
that she is excited to begin work to advance the core mission of promoting equal access to justice through the delivery of pro bono legal services to low-income citizens in Madison County.

"It is my absolute joy to work alongside so many attorneys who dedicate countless hours of their time and resources to ensure that every citizen in Madison County has access to fair and just legal representation," she said. "I also want to thank my wonderful team who enables me to do this vital work and to my family and my children who continue to be my inspiration in making our great state more equitable for all."

Perry-Beach has served on the board of directors of MCVLP since 2017. Her



firm specializes in personal bankruptcy and veterans law. She is a member of the Alabama and Tennessee state bars, as well as Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association. She has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Northern District of Alabama, and Middle and Eastern Tennessee District Courts.



Americans to work in the U.S. Space Program. Despite the obstacles he faced, he had an incredible career and was instrumental in the development of the Saturn V rocket and the design of the lunar rover. - HuntsvilleAL.gov

The Valley Weekly
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Called 2 Preach

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

“Laudable and Lamentable Labels”

Matthew 11:16-19; Ecclesiastes 1:9; John 17:4; and Luke 2:49

In this era of what some feels are *laudable labels*, it is worth delving into what labels would have been put on Jesus if He were on earth today.

All we have to do is listen to those who were around in His day and we have our answer, because

as the Qoheleth quote says, “there is nothing new under the sun.”

Politics is full of these divisive *labels* and the *lamentable* thing about them is that they are so objective and can be so far off. After all, they come from the lips and limitations of created beings.

Whether it is “left vs. right,” “conservative vs. liberals,” they miss



the mark. Note how far off these labels were in Jesus’ day. He was called a “glutton,” a “winebibber” (our version of a wine-o), “friend of sinners.” (This is

the only one they were right about, although they meant it in a derogative way). All of these were heralded about and handed to Jesus--the only Perfect Person to ever live.

Jesus teaches us that the labels will come; some good and some not so good; some laudable, some lamentable.

He was not swayed by



any of them for He knew early on that He was to “be about His Father’s business,” and at the end of His

earthly life He could say, “I have finished the work you gave me to do.” That is all that matters.



Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Amy Lewis Draper

A lifelong resident, Mrs. Amy Lewis Draper was born in Huntsville, Ala., as one of two children of the late Mary E. Lewis and Anderson Lewis, on July 27, 1927.

She enrolled at Alabama A&M University, where she attended classes in biology, alongside her son, Charles Draper, who was also a student. She also had two other children in middle school at the time. Mrs. Draper knew that education was the only way for her to move forward in life, so her home became known as the “House of Learning,” where she worked with all of her children

to excel academically. In 1969, she completed all her required academic courses in nursing from Alabama A&M University. In Summer 1969, she enrolled in the nursing program at J.F. Drake Technical Trade School and after many long nights of studying hard, perseverance and prayer, she completed and received her License Practical Nursing (LPN) in 1971.

Mrs. Draper absolutely loved nursing! She knew that she had found her true calling. Armed with this passion and a belief that she could excel even more, she enrolled at Calhoun Com-

munity College in the Registered Nursing Program in 1972. She later completed her course work at Huntsville Hospital to receive her Advanced LPN license.

Mrs. Draper was employed at Huntsville Hospital for 27 years, working in several departments, but her absolute favorite was working in the nursery.

Mother Draper is the proud mother of four children: William H. Draper III, Charles E. Draper, Carl Draper (deceased) and Dr. Janice D. Toney (Dr. Anthony Toney), 8 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, 1 adopted daughter (Deborah Jones), 2 daughters-in-law, and a host of godchildren.



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JANUARY 22 - SAM COOKE - *Samuel Cook, known professionally as Sam Cooke, was an American singer, songwriter, and entrepreneur. He was also influential as a composer and producer, and is commonly known as the King of Soul for his distinctive vocals and significance in popular music.* - Wikipedia.org

COVID-19 Assistance

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Assistance Fund

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www.uwmadison-county.org

Get Assistance: Call 211

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disastercustomerservice@sba.gov

gov

(800) 659-2955

COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

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(866) 234-5382

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/>

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HIDDEN PRINCESS

Infomercial (Please Watch and Share!!!)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HqBJs8e-GMM&feature=emb_logo

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.

Champion Game Plan for Life

"FALSE PROPHETS"

by Preston Brown

Matthew 7:15-16 says, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them."

You know, some people just can't help who they are. Even though they disguise themselves very well, the truth comes out in the end. These types of people know all the right things to say to get you to "buy in" to whatever it is that they are trying to sell. However, the truth always comes out in the end. These types of people are masters when it comes to disguising the truth and may even appeal to your rational senses. But in the end, it's all a lie or a "conspiracy theory." The writer

Matthew compares these types of people to "fruit trees" Matthew tells us that every good tree bears good fruit; however, a bad tree can only bear bad fruit. It's just their nature.

This comparison reminds me of a story about the Scorpion and the Turtle. Remember, the crafty Scorpion couldn't swim and needed assistance from the Turtle to help him cross the river. Now the Turtle knew this was against his better judgement; however, the deceptive Scorpion talked him into it. And, because the Scorpion was a "false prophet"--so to speak--he ended up doing what scorpions do: he stung the unsuspecting Turtle.

While they were drown-



ing, the confused Turtle asked the Scorpion, why did you sting me after I agreed to help you cross the river? The Scorpion answered, "It is my nature to sting." Just like some people, they can't help who they are; however, the truth always comes out in the end.

My brothers and sisters, as we go through life, beware of "false prophets" because they will always lead you to destruction. Stay encouraged and be safe.

Make sure you purchase a copy of my book "A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE" at amazon.com.

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.



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Pine Grove MB Hosts MLK and Emancipation Proclamation Celebration

The Martin Luther King Jr. and Emancipation Proclamation Celebration was held Friday, January 15, at the Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Harvest, Ala.

Ms. Erica "Fox" Washington (right) was the recipient of the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellow-



ship (GHIMF) Service Award for her work in voter registration, food distribution and her service and membership in various community organizations.

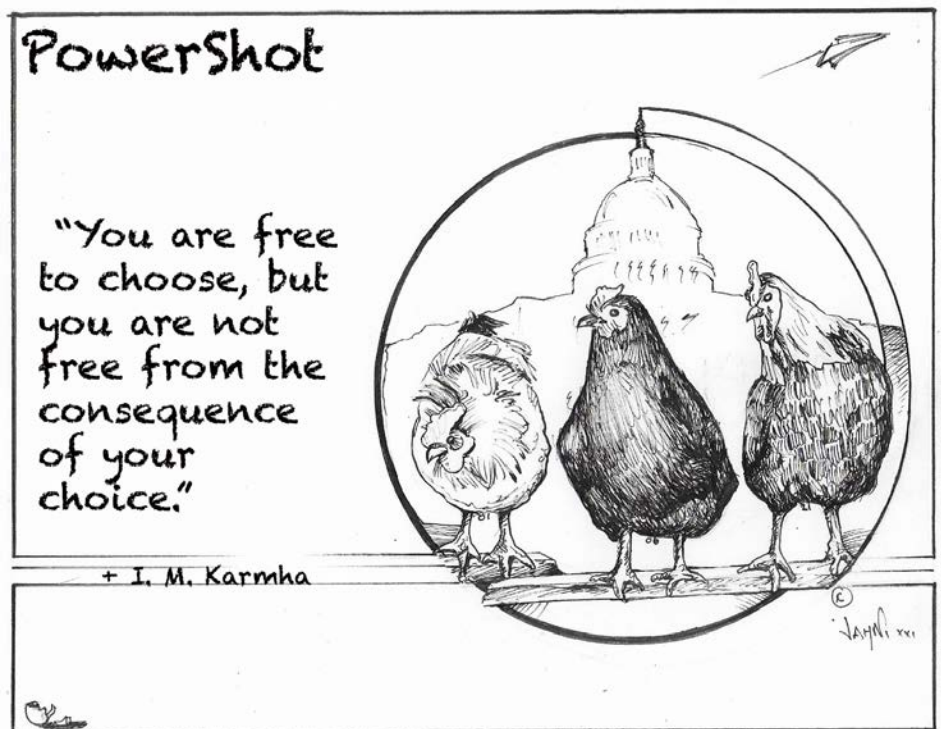
Washington was presented the award by the Rev. Dr. Wendell Thompson, and her uncle, the Rev. Dr. Julius Scruggs, pastor emeritus of the First Missionary Baptist Church.

Washington is entering her 40th year in broadcasting and is the program and acting music director for

WJAB -FM 90.9 on the campus of Alabama A&M University, where she received both her bachelor's and master's degrees.

Ms. J. Raquel McCrary, a graduate of Sparkman High School and The University of Alabama at Birmingham, presented a stirring youth challenge, encouraging her contemporaries to "get involved."

by Robert Drake
TVW Community Editor



"Inevitable is not the same as immediate—and love does not mandate forgiveness." - N. K. Jemisin

Tennessee Valley Calendar of Events

January 20

The Price Is Right Live Stage Show
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
8 p.m.

Special Guest: Dr. Jazmine Highsmith, Female Athletes Rock
Zoom Webinar
Eventbrite.com
6:30 p.m.

"Jonathan Becker: Social Work"
(Last Day)
Huntsville Museum of Art
300 Church Street
Huntsville, Ala.
(Admission Charged)

January 21

Ribbon Cutting for Felicia Wilson Dining Hall
Alabama A&M University
Hosted by Aramark, AAMU Knight Center
2 p.m.

January 23

The Market at Leigh Acres
5655 Maysville Road
New Market, Ala.
8 a.m.-2 p.m.

January 26-27
Rosa Parks Day Celebration in Alabama
Huntsville-Madison County Oratorical Contest
Sponsored by the Huntsville Optimist Club
The Village of Promise
2700 Fairbanks Street
Huntsville, Ala.
(Participants will be assigned a time)

January 24

"Gloria Vanderbilt: An Artful Life"
(Last Day)
Huntsville Museum of Art
300 Church Street
Huntsville, Ala.
(Admission Charged)

"Are You Ready for the Next Level?"
Kingdom Fitness
Hosted by: Crystal Harris, Professional Trainer

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Valley Deaths

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME -

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Graveside service for MR. CURTIS STEWART was held on Monday, January 18, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with the Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.

Graveside service for MR. JARMIN ALEXANDER, SR., was held Tuesday, January 19, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Pastor Jeffery Jefferson officiating.

Public viewing for MR. BRIAN CHRISTOPHER FLEMING (b. 1973) was held Saturday, January 16, from 12-3 p.m. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Graveside service for MRS. EDNA FAILS (b. 1948) was held Thursday, January 14, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with The Reverend Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.

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

Graveside service MR. LURINZO D. SULLIVAN, SR. (b. 1936), will be held Saturday, January 23, at Fleming Cemetery in Berkley, Ala., at 12 noon with Pastor Joe Kelly officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MARY LOU HAMMOND (b. 1953) will be 12 noon, Saturday, January 23, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Eric Peoples officiating.

Graveside service for MR. MEKHI KAREEM DOUGLAS (b. 2000) was held Monday, January 18, at the Oakwood Memorial Gardens (1 H.L. Cleveland Way, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.

Graveside service for MR. LARRY HORTON (b.1953) was held Sunday, January 17, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Apostle John D. Harris officiating.

Funeral service for MS. THERINA DEVONNE ELLIOTT (b. 1952) was held Sunday, January 17, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Elder Reginald Burrell officiating.

Calling hours for MR. DANA GERAD LYMON (b. 1962) were 3-6 p.m., Saturday, January 16, at the Royal Funeral Home.

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

Funeral services will be announced at a later date for BRENDA GRAY (b.1958), ANNIE JEFFERSON (b. 1940), MATTIE LORENE PERRY (b. 1950) and HELEN LOUISE TURNER (b. 1949).

Longtime Food Service Director Honored at A&M

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the newly renovated Felicia Wilson Dining Hall, named in recognition of Aramark General Manager Felicia Wilson, was scheduled virtually on the Alabama A&M University campus Thursday, January 21, at the Ernest L. Knight Complex at 2 p.m.

The event honoring Wilson was slated for presentations by such speakers as Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., Alabama A&M University president; Aramark Higher

Education President and CEO Jack Donovan; as well as other members of AAMU's and Aramark's leadership teams.

Wilson was honored with the naming of the newly renovated campus dining hall in recognition of her tireless dedication and countless contributions to AAMU for the last 53 years.

Aramark delivers experiences that enrich and nourish people's lives through innovative services in food, facilities management,

and uniforms. United by a passion to serve, its 270,000 employees make a meaningful difference each day for millions of people in 21 countries around the world.

AAMU is a fully accredited, nearly 150-year-old land-grant institution offering degrees ranging from the baccalaureate to the Ph.D. Internationally respected as a center of learning, research, culture and opportunity, AAMU has produced nearly 40,000 graduates around the world



and has established numerous collaborations with business and industry.

Huntsville Chosen Site for U.S. Space Command

Secretary of the Air Force selects Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama as the preferred location to host US Space Command Headquarters

The Secretary of the Air Force, on behalf of the Office of Secretary of Defense, selected Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, as the preferred location for the U.S. Space Command Headquarters.

The Department of the Air Force conducted both virtual and on-site visits to assess which of six candidate locations would be

best suited to host the U.S. Space Command Headquarters based on factors related to mission, infrastructure capacity, community support and costs to the Department of Defense.

Huntsville compared favorably across more of these factors than any other community, providing a large, qualified workforce, quality schools, superior infrastructure capacity, and low initial and recurring costs. Additionally, Redstone Arsenal offered a facility to support the headquarters, at no cost, while the permanent facility is being constructed.

Albuquerque, New Mexico; Bellevue, Nebraska; Cape Canaveral, Florida;

Colorado Springs, Colorado; and San Antonio, Texas, will remain reasonable alternative locations for the U.S. Space Command Headquarters.

The preferred and reasonable alternative locations were chosen from amongst 24 states that were evaluated as potential locations for hosting the headquarters.

The Department of the Air Force anticipates

making a final decision for the location of U.S. Space Command Headquarters in spring 2023, pending the results from the required environmental impact analysis.

Colorado Springs, Colorado, remains the provisional headquarters until the permanent location is ready to support the mission.

- U.S. Air Force Announcement



Champion Football Coach Steve Sarkisian: 2021's Poster Child for #2 Persons

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith, . . . Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, . . ." - 2 Timothy 4:17

Before his death, the Apostle Paul summarized to his understudy Timothy his Godly accomplishments with three points: he labored fruitfully; finished successfully, and remained true to his God.

Therefore, he knew God's crown of "well done, good and faithful servant" awaited him.

In leaving as the Alabama Crimson Tide's offensive coordinator, Steve Sarkisian's legacy mimicked Paul's: his Alabama offense fought and finished 52-24 over Ohio State in the national championship game on Monday, January 11; and now he's crowned as University of Texas' incoming head football coach.

Nicknamed the "Sark-i-nect" for designing winning game plans, he becomes perhaps 2021's earliest poster child of how to achieve your #1-ness, by embracing your #2-ness.

"Fought, . . . Finished, . . . Kept, . . ."

After Sarkisian's unsuccessful head coaching jobs with the Universities of Washington and Southern California, he stepped down and accepted in 2016 a Crimson Tide analyst position.

He later became the NFL Atlanta Falcons' offensive coordinator for two years, then was fired.

In 2019, Sarkisian returned to Alabama as offensive coordinator for head coach Nick Saban.

Sarkisian rewarded Saban's second-chance faith handsomely.

In Saban's COVID-19 absence, "acting" head coach Sarkisian led Alabama to its 42-13 Iron Bowl victory over state rival Auburn, to complete an undefeated 2020 regular season.

"Henceforth, . . . a Crown, . . ."

The jewels in Sark's 2020 crown?

- The Joe Moore Award for college football's best offensive line;
- Three Heisman Trophy top-five finishers, including its winner Devontay Smith;
- Broyles Award recipient as college football top assistant, and of course
- Crimson Tide's 18th national football championship title!

Sark's Game Plan for us (Silver-Mettle) Leaders-in-Waiting?

- 1) Accept criticisms (or firings) as lemons for making lemonade;
- 2) Prepare others to embrace their #2-ness, in order to elevate to their #1-ness; and
- 3) Who knows? The one you prepare might just become you!

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>.

"They're afraid because we exist ... There's nothing we did to provoke their fear, other than exist. There's nothing we can do to earn their approval, except stop existing - so we can either die like they want, or laugh at their cowardice and go on with our lives." - N. K. Jemisin (from "The Stone Sky")

City Shares New Federal Courthouse Design

The U.S. General Services Administration last week unveiled design renderings for the new federal courthouse in Huntsville, Ala., in partnership with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

Soon to be a prominent feature in Huntsville's historic downtown, the three-story courthouse with a walkout basement will include five courtrooms and six judges' chambers, as well as workspace for the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services.

The new courthouse's design is neoclassical in style, with a large pedimented entry portico flanked by gently arcing symmetrical wings. The design incorporates modern security, sustain-

ability and technological features necessary for a 21st-century federal courthouse, while integrating classical organizational, proportional and design elements.

In addition, the design features a large formal public lawn with symmetrical plantings that will help both to create a sense of space and to focus the eye towards nearby panoramic views.

"GSA is excited to give the people of Huntsville a glimpse into what their

future downtown will look like through this courthouse design," said Kevin Kerns, Regional Commissioner for GSA's Public Buildings



Service Southeast Sunbelt Region. "GSA strives to provide a state-of-the-art facility that meets the long-term workspace and security needs of our partners

in the Northern District of Alabama."

With an authorized budget of nearly \$86 million, construction of the 123,000

square-foot courthouse is anticipated to begin in early 2022 and will take approximately 30 months to complete. The five-acre property sits at the intersection of Lowe Avenue and Gallatin Street. Steve White of Fentress Architects in Washington, D.C., is the project's lead designer, and Lee Sims of Studio Scarab Architecture Interiors Planning in Montgomery, Alabama, serves as the courthouse designer. Payne Design Group Architects of Montgomery is providing bridging architectural services.

In addition to the new Huntsville courthouse, construction also continues on a new federal courthouse in Anniston, Alabama. Work on the 63,000 square-foot facility is anticipated to be complete by fall 2021.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival Set



Hosted by ARA, Energy Alabama, Waterkeepers Alabama and Flint River Conservation Association, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival is set for Thursday, January 28, from 6-8 p.m.

While organizers would prefer to gather in person, participants can still gather on couches to share a night of film together and learn more about how to support the work of environmental

groups across the state.

Participants will be able to explore the issues and movements with leading environmental activists and professionals, filmmakers and celebrities. The activity is hosted by Cahaba Riverkeeper and Energy Alabama.

To participate in the online event, please visit: <https://qudio.com/event/AlabamaRivers>

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Delta Theta Lambda Educational Foundation

The Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast

Monday, January 18, 2021



The 36th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast was held virtually on Monday, Jan. 18, at 8 a.m. Hosted by the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the program was available on YouTube and on Comcast channel 78. Mayor Battle encouraged the community to use the national holiday as a “day on” and not a “day off.”

“Even in a pandemic, there are many acts of kindness we can do to serve others,” said Mayor Battle. “Consider helping a hospitality worker, taking food to an elderly neighbor or the Food Bank or contribute to a charity.” In the words of Dr. King, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

The guest speaker for the 2021 event was Dr. Otis Moss III, Trinity United Church of God. Other sponsors included Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama, Huntsville Utilities, Dr. Parker Griffith Family Foundation, and Cynthia Joiner - Kelly Williams Realty. Since its founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African-Americans and people of color around the world.

by Robert Drake
TVW Community Editor



2021 Unity Award Recipients: Alabama A&M University President Andrew Hugine Jr. and Former U.S. Senator Doug Jones

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated®

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36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Virtual Unity Celebration

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