

GHIMF Speaks out on Capitol Insurrection, p. 7

FREE

Friday

January 29, 2021

Vol. 7, No. 20

ValleyWeeklyllc.com



MEREDITH: Unity Starts with Accountability, p. 3

"Effie Gaines," p. 3

"Everyone today is playing my stuff and I don't even get credit ... hell, it's all Jelly Roll style." - Jelly Roll Morton



Commissioner Announces \$5.2M Fed Relief Funds

Commissioner Violet Edwards, representative of the sixth district of Madison County, has announced \$5 million for emergency rental and utility assistance for residents of Madison County. Commissioner Edwards sought these federal dollars on behalf of the entirety of Madison County and they will be administered out of her office.



dented times, we have to be willing to do what we can to bring relief to our community," continued Edwards.

"We will continue to work with local non-profits to assist as many people as this money will allow."

Edwards also thanked her staff who worked around the clock to roll out this program successfully.

Commissioner Edwards also has served as board president of the North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless since 2018. In that role, she has witnessed first-hand the housing instability and utility assistance needed in Madison County. The federal assistance will provide relief aimed at the staggering inequality surrounding these issues.

This money is part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which established a \$25 billion Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program for state, county, and municipal governments.

NAAACC Presents Awards



The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce has presented honors to two women for their business acumen and service.

NAAACC has paid tribute to Shon Henry of Shon Henry State Farm Agency (top) and Sharon Snell of the Huntsville Convention & Visitors Bureau by awarding the Entrepreneur of the Year and Outstanding Service award, respectively, during the ASBCC E&I Conference.

Jerry Mitchell heads NAAACC.

NAHA Partners with Drake State

North Alabama Homebuilding Academy (NAHA) has announced that it will partner with Drake State Community & Technical College to provide students with the opportunity to advance their skills and earn college credit for their experience and training.

The announcement comes as NAHA marks its one-year anniversary and celebrates the nearly 100 graduates who have completed the eight-week training course since its inception.

Through the new partnership with Drake State, those students and future students who complete the initial course can apply to the college and receive college credit for the material they previously learned in the NAHA course.

For students who do not meet admission requirements at Drake State, the college's Adult Education Services will provide free additional training to help them gain admission.

"We are extremely excited about this partnership." Said Barry



Oxley, Executive Director of the Huntsville Madison County Homebuilders Association. "Our primary goal since the beginning has always been workforce development. This partnership will help us further that goal and better train the next generation of tomorrows skilled workers."

"This partnership gives students the chance to build on technical training

and propel themselves forward in their chosen careers by converting work training and experience to college credits," said Dr. Patricia Sims, president of Drake State Community & Technical College. "We see it as a way to help develop the workforce in our community and provide more career pathways for students."

For students to be eligible to attend NAHA classes, they must be 18 years old, submit and pass a drug screening, and be legally authorized to work in the U.S. Persons interested in becoming a student should call (256) 536-2602 or visit gobuildyourfuture.com.

The Valley Weekly
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CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

"Reposed and Reciprocal Joy"

Zephaniah 3:14-17

What a marvelous picture that the prophet Zephaniah painted of this scene of *reposed and reciprocal joy*. It was reposed because the people of God had come through a time of chastisement from the loving Hand of God and the prophet called on them to collectively sing songs of joy. Among

the reasons he gave was that the LORD will remove his hand of judgement and will disperse the armies of your enemies. He also spoke of God's continual presence as the reason for settling down into this nest of nearness, eradicating their fear.

The most incredible thing in this scene, at least for me personally, is Zephaniah showing God as reciprocating the joy that



He saw in His people. Like a parent lovingly watching the calmness and happiness and joy of a child as he/she sings and expresses an internal joy that they do not

even understand themselves, God is seen here as *delighting in the gladness* that He was witnessing from His people. Then comes this statement about God's reaction. The Living Bible paraphrased reads: *He will rejoice over you with great gladness, he will love you and not accuse you. Is that a joyous choir I hear? No, it is the LORD Himself exult-*

REJOICE IN YOUR SALVATION

Zephaniah 3:14-17



ing over you in happy song. Imagine that! God singing! The prophet noted that the sound of God's singing was

sonorous, symphonic, and satiated with joy; sounding like a choir, but it was God singing a solo.

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Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Effie Gaines

One of Huntsville's local heroines is known to many as Mrs. Effie Gaines. She is also affectionally known throughout the church community as "Mother Gaines," and she is known to her family and close friends simply as "Madea," and "Mu"; and "Aunt Effie" to everyone else.

Gaines is the youngest child of the late Al and Laura Douglas. She was married 39 years to the late Mr. Ruben Gaines, and she is the mother of their five children. Mrs. Gaines has extraordinarily juggled being a wife, mother, musician and chef with a warm smile and a soft "Yes, I will." Many know that all it takes is a request for a cake,

pie, or homemade rolls for holidays or "just because," and Effie is the one to go to for a heavenly dessert.

Over the years, hundreds of grief-stricken families have called her to perform during home-going celebrations. A true servant, this very gifted and humble lady answers whenever she is called upon to deliver her heart-felt and soothing music. Her music transforms the heaviness of mourning to a place of hope and peace.

The sheer number of performance requests for weddings, funerals, and other church engagements

are enormous and performed without an expectation of com-

pensation. Mrs. Gaines does not consider herself a great pianist or soloist. She will only say, "I owe it all to God for the gift I have, and I do my best to give it

back to Him through songs and praises. Whatever way I can be a servant as I travel this road, I reach out and I extend that helping hand, for I am walking in His will."

Gifted, humble, spirited, eloquent, and virtuous are words used when one describes Mrs. Gaines.



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JANUARY 29 - OPRAH WINFREY - Longtime television host, entrepreneur, actress and editor. Born in Mississippi, Winfrey's successful career has made her a billionaire and one of the most recognizable faces in the world. - Wikipedia.org

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

"IT'S TIME TO TELL THE TRUTH"

Ephesians 4:25 says, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."

We all live in the same nation under God; however, we all see this country in a different way. In other words, some people see our country through the "lens" of truth, based on facts. While others view our country through the lens that is "blurred" with hatred, assumptions and conspiracy theories. You see, when we support lies and conspiracy theories, it will only lead to chaos, confusion and destruction.

I believe that this is very important for the people in this country, because our nation is based on a democracy, which involves freedom of speech. However, the only way to debate a democracy is to base our beliefs and opinions on facts, not lies.

Also, we need to figure out ways of "fact finding" people's opinions so that we can hold people accountable, as well as being accountable ourselves. However, so many people refuse to accept and speak the truth. Why? 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 explains it this way: "People perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends



them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."

My brothers and sisters, as we go through life, let us make sure that we support the teachings of Jesus Christ that are always grounded in the truth. "Now, more than ever, it is time to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help us God. Stay encouraged and be safe. Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE at amazon.com.

Unity Starts with Accountability

There have been two insurrections in America since Reconstruction and, while not present at either event, I have ties to both. The first occurred in 1962 on the eve of my father's enrollment at the University of Mississippi.

On that deadly night, segregationists laid siege to the campus of Ole Miss as they fought with U.S. Marshals and regular Army troops sent by President Kennedy to facilitate dad's registration.

The more recent of the insurgencies occurred a

few short weeks ago in Washington, DC when a band of right-wing thugs stormed the Capitol Building, a place I frequented constantly during my years as a federal lobbyist. I watched in horror as a deranged pack of lawless, wanna be "patriots" defiled the grandest symbol of democracy in the world.

In almost every televised scene, I could recall where in the building they were. I knew the doors police were defending. I had used them myself. I remembered the two officers shot and killed steps away from those very doors during the height of my lobbying career and the profound effect that had on us at the time. For years after that shooting I would



by John Meredith
TVW Guest Contributor

only access the building from the tunnels.

As I watched police fall back against a ring of columns in one scene, I remembered shopping in the gift shop down the steps. I remembered "bumping into" the notorious RBG, Justice Ruth Badger Ginsberg, in the Senate side hallway one day and the casual smile we exchanged as she passed. Then I wondered if the rioters found the Supreme Court Chambers in the building and, if so, hoping they had not damaged the sacred room.

However, what hurt most was watching the scene outside the building where the scaffolding was. That is where I had the honor of witnessing the inauguration of Barack Obama, the first and only Presidential candidate I ever hosted a fundraiser to benefit. I recalled the promise of that day as I witnessed a pack of rabid, two-legged animals threaten the peaceful transfer of power that defines American democracy.

In the aftermath of the latest American insurrection, we must be vigilant in holding those responsible for the events on January 6th accountable. Unity must start with accountability.

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 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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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

January 27

"State of the County"

Presenter: Dale Strong
Chairman, Madison County
Commission

(Virtual)

For more information, contact
Amberly Kimbrough, (256)
535-2031 or e-mail akim-
brough@hsvchamber.org

January 28

"Toys: The Inside Story"

EarlyWorks Children's Mu-
seum

404 Madison Street
Huntsville, Ala.

January 28-31

Mike Epps

Comedian

Stand Up Live

Huntsville, Ala.

January 29

"Apollo: When We Went to the Moon"

U.S. Space and Rocket Center
One Tranquility Base
Huntsville, Ala.

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

January 31

Celebration of Groundhog

Day

3101 Burritt Drive
Huntsville, Ala.

February 1-28

Black History Month

THEME: "The Black Family:
Representation, Identity and
Diversity"

"The World of Frida"

*Celebrating the culture, style,
and persona of visionary
Mexican painter Frida Kahlo
(1907-1954)*

Huntsville Museum of Art

300 Church Street

Huntsville, Ala.

(Admission Charged)

February 9

Gardening for Birds | Nature
Academy

Huntsville Botanical Garden

Huntsville, Ala.

10 a.m.-12 noon

February 19

Dancing with the President
and First Lady

Alabama A&M University
Virtual Event

Access: \$25 & \$10 (Students)

Contacts: Dr. Larry McDaniel
(larry.mcdaniel@aamu.edu)

February 21

Essential Workers Apprecia-
tion

(Last Day)

U.S. Space and Rocket Center

One Tranquility Base

Huntsville, Ala.

February 22

Christopher Cross

40th Anniversary Tour

Von Braun Center Mars

Music Hall

700 Monroe Street

Huntsville, Ala.

7:30 p.m.

February 25

Lauren Daigle

Christian Music Singer and

Songwriter

Von Braun Center Propst

Arena

700 Monroe Street

Huntsville, Ala.

7:30 p.m.

February 27

"Carnival of the Animals"

Huntsville Symphony Or-
chestra

Von Braun Center

Mark C. Smith Concert Hall

Activities: 9:30 a.m.

Performance: 11a.m.-12 noon

AAMU vs. Alcorn State

Football

Louis Crews Stadium

March 4

28th Scholarship Awards

Program

North Alabama NSBE Profes-
sionals Chapter

www.NSBE-NorthAlabam-

aAE.com

nsbenorthalabamaae@gmail..

com

March 5-7

Arnez J

Comedian

Stand Up Live

Huntsville, Ala.

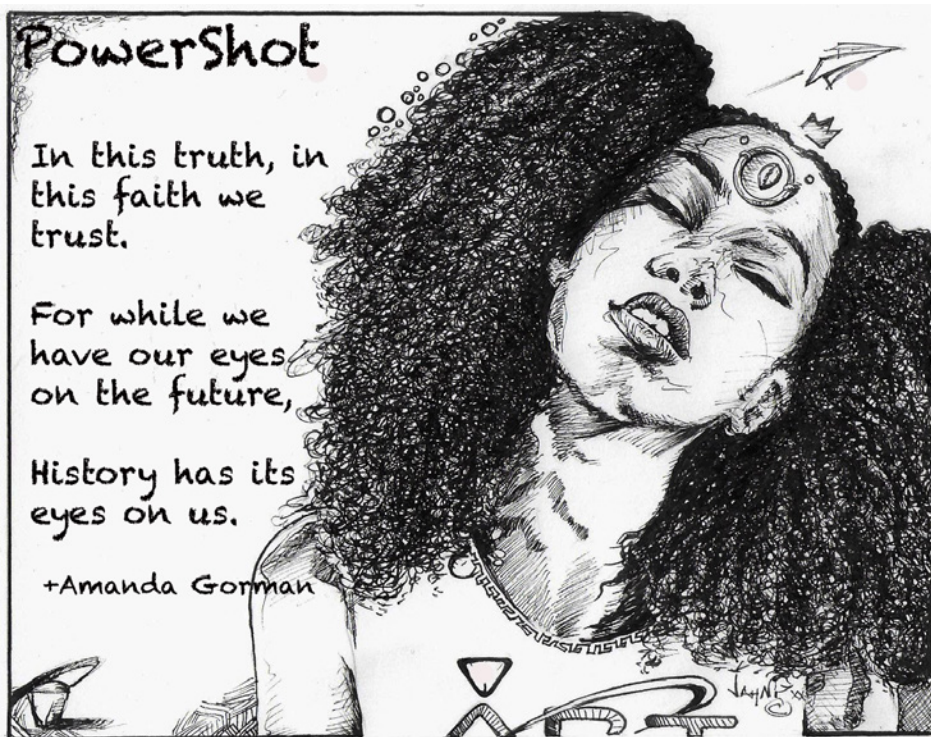
PowerShot

In this truth, in
this faith we
trust.

For while we
have our eyes
on the future,

History has its
eyes on us.

+Amanda Gorman



"If it's enough money, I'll play the North Pole."

- Teddy Wilson, jazz pianist

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The Valley Weekly, LLC

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the belief of the editorial staff and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.

The Valley Weekly Ad Rates Single Issue		
Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,000
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$800
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$600
Half Page	Horizontal	\$400
	5x10 inches	
	Vertical	
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Two Artists Synergize Magic into One Masterpiece

The COVER REVEAL for *Hidden Princess: The Rebirth of Making Mary* will take place during Black History Month 2021. John Jahni, a prolific artist, and Author Dedra Muhammad are both known to answer the cry for justice within their art.

The heightened level of positivity that occurs when aesthetic masterminds take the reins, being an example for youth and others, can spark societal healing and raise the bar of personal excellence. The historical novel, *Hidden Princess: The Rebirth of Making Mary* is a cultural explosion, a page-turning masterpiece filled with the rich description of a dead people who did not even know they were divine. Based on true accounts, it is a monumental piece that can sit on book-



shelves next to the likes of the great Richard Wright and Toni Morrison, and all would be in good company.

John Jahni stated: "I have watched the artistry of Sister Dedra in her many plays over the years and have seen a rare passion that comes from beyond her. She asked me to add a wing to an already soaring eagle."

Hidden Princess will be released in the summer of 2021. With a new adults to senior citizens audience, Muhammad presents

remarkably accurate pills of truth, taking on everything from the Willie Lynch syndrome, the anatomy of domestic violence, to the lasting impact of the Great Migration.

Hidden Princess reads like a treatise on American psychology. Her points are cogent, her logic is flawless, and most impressive is the seamless way Author Muhammad applies rich historical descriptions within the real framework of everyday contemporary Black urban life.

Northern Bypass Next Step Spring 2021

The Northern Bypass is designed to be part of the City's future "loop" road, improving and connecting Research Park Boulevard to Martin Luther King Boulevard, Bob Wade Lane, North Memorial Parkway, to Winchester Road, 72 East, 431 South, Cecil

Ashburn Drive, and South Memorial Parkway.

In September 2020, the project's right-of-way acquisition as reported as 95 percent complete, with nearly 20 structures in need of removal and one remaining acquisition.

The City has begun the process of structure removal to clear the site for roadway work to begin. Utility relocations are anticipated to begin in spring 2021 with roadway construction scheduled to begin shortly thereafter.

UAH Scientists Find Star Flare Beyond Milky Way

The first-time discovery of a giant flare from a neutron star that's outside Earth's galactic neighborhood is the subject of a new research paper in the journal *Nature* that has four co-authors from The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), a part of



the University of Alabama System.

UAH co-authors include Dr. Peter Veres; Dr. Mi-

chael Briggs, Dr. Narayana Bhat and Rachel Hamburg. The find was made by the Gamma-ray Burst Monitor (GBM), an instrument aboard the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope with 12 low-energy sensors and two high-energy sensors.

Photo: NASA

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. JIMMY C. PERKINS (b. 1967) will be Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 10 a.m. at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Troy L. Garner officiating.

Graveside service for DEACON ROY JACK WILLIAMSON (b. 1936) was held Tuesday, January 26, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Pastor Dr. Mitchell M. Walker officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. PATREKA RICH (b. 1983) was held Saturday, January 23, at the Saint James Cemetery with Bishop Daniel Richardson officiating.

Private funeral service for MRS. IRENE M. WATKINS (b. 1938) was held Saturday, January 23, at the Saint Mark Baptist Church with Pastor Jeremiah Chester officiating.



ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Graveside service for MR. HENRY ANDERSON FREEMAN (b. 1935) was held Tuesday, January 26, at the Little Elk Cemetery (4692 Snake Road Athens, AL 35611) with Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. FRANKIE MITCHELL CANTRELL (b. 1929) was held Sunday, January 24, at the Northside Cemetery (1715 Jordan Lane NW, Huntsville, Ala.)

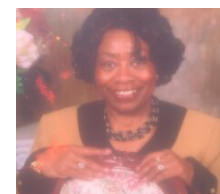


Graveside service MR. LURINZO D. SULLIVAN, SR. (b. 1936), was held Saturday, January 23, at Fleming Cemetery in Berkley, Ala., with Pastor Joe Kelly officiating.

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).





In Memoriam: Trump was NOT the Enemy - just a Mirror!

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities against powers; against the rulers of the darkness of this world; against spiritual wickedness in high places" - Ephesians 6:12

Here, Paul reminded the Ephesians that their true enemy was not human but Satan, the spiritual being.

Waiting to Exhale, . . . from "Trump-xhaustion"?

Not so fast, . . .

Yes, a majority of us voters rejected him and all of his misdeeds, missteps and mountain of 65,000+ false claims (lies, y'all).

But as the Apostle Paul wrote, the twice-impeached one-term President Trump was not and is not our main enemy.

Trump was merely a Satan avatar - just like you. And me.

If anything, Trump was a four-year wide-screen TV, whose reflection mirrored our own shortcomings that we need to acknowledge and correct. Now.

Homework: Take the "Trump-in-You" Challenge, . . .

True, we enjoyed gang-tackling "45" for his thinly-veiled racism, sexism, nativism, ill-preparedness, qualification-lessness and feigned empathy.

Even as our criticism of him is justified, however, we also need to first ask ourselves for example:

1. We railed against Trump for discriminating, separating young children from their immigrant parents, . . . *but do your and my words, actions also break up families - starting with our own immediate families?*

2. We decried Trump's documented lies, . . . *but how often do you and I fail to be forthright and truthful?*

How often do we offer incomplete information, when transparency is what's needed?

How many times do we remain mum and withhold vital fill-in-the-blank facts - the withholding of which we employ as a tool for control? And

3. Yes, we were angered by Trump's un-confessed and vilifying statements of racial, ethnic, gender and class discrimination, . . . *yet can you and I accept Jesus' challenge of John 8:1-12, to the men accusing the woman caught in adultery and demanding that she be stoned to death, when he asked, "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, 'He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her'" John 8:7?*

. . . And a God Do-over!

If like me, you're 0 for 5 with those in-your-face questions, let's look now and forever at our own mirror reflections; and then, apply God's do-over: daily Bible reading and prayer. Trust me, it works when applied daily, ...

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>.

Stopping a Cold

BlackDoctor.org

Stop a cold in its tracks with five easy, affordable tips, sure to get the job done... fast!

1. Don't overlook OTC meds. While pain relievers like acetaminophen will fight off body aches, cold and flu medicines like Theraflu can help ease symptoms. This powerful option can also aid in clearing your sinuses- because we only have so many sick days.

2. Drink up. Fluids are your friend! Not only do you keep a glass of just about any fluid - with the exception of alcohol and coffee - you're aiding your body in unclogging your nose and thinning out mucus, making it easier for you to blow or cough out.

For those suffering from a sore throat, opt for warm liquids like hot tea with honey.

3. Eat up Good Bacteria. Some studies have found that eating 1 small container or ¾ cup of yogurt daily, reduces the body's inflammatory response. According to a study published in the British Journal of Nutrition, the beneficial bacteria (probiotics) shortened the duration of a cold by two days. It also made symptoms 34% less severe.

4. Rest up. Believe it or not, if you feel overworked, stressed out, sad, angry - those emotions can slow your immune system, making you vulnerable to catching a cold AND powerless against fighting its total body terror.

Listen to your body. Put your feet up and get all the sleep you need. Refusing to do so could result in a simple cold turning into something far worse, like bronchitis - inflammation of the lining of bronchial tubes, which carry air to and from the lungs.

5. Exercise regularly. On the flip side, exercise may be just as vital to preventing and curing a cold as kicking your feet up. If you have symptoms like a stuffy/runny nose, sneezing or sinus pressure, working out shouldn't hurt.

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SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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A New Generation Of Service

GHIMF Speaks out on Insurrection

"We, the members of the clergy, and more specifically the members of the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship (GHIMF), Incorporated, Huntsville, Alabama, want to go on record in stating that we absolutely denounce the acts of insurrection that took place at the National Capitol on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

We certainly lament the loss of lives and pray God's mercy on those families—and on the millions of Americans who have watched the replaying of those events.

We come against the very spirit that led to such actions; and we recognize the spark that incendiary remarks given by our nation's 45th President, Mr. Donald J. Trump, contributed to the manifestation of those things. We believe those actions were indeed aligned with intents to mount a hostile takeover of our government at the very site and symbol of our democracy.

We are also aware of, and reject the inflammatory comments made by Congressman Mo Brooks from the State of Alabama, at the Capitol. We want to acknowledge his sentiments as being given to advance a truly divisive and disturbing agenda that continues to be publicly broadcast and unfortunately supported by some.

We believe America to be the land of freedom, the place to pursue happiness,

and a place where every voice matters. We believe that the voice of Americans did speak on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, with the now verified election of our 46th President, Mr. Joseph R. Biden. It is our prayer that Americans would begin to work in the spirit of unity to go forward together in this.

We refuse to believe it is the will of Almighty God that such division as we have seen and experienced

"We, the members of the clergy ..."

remains as the primary context of our interactions with one another. Therefore, we as the members of GHIMF, Inc. call on all of our clergy brothers and sisters to join us as we collectively condemn these actions of insurrection and any future acts of violence. We must realize that together we indeed stand yet divided we will surely fall.

Please know that our interest going forward lies in supporting those candidates who will represent all citizens of their jurisdictions as they affirm the dignity of every human life and demonstrate the ability to communicate with those that have different perspectives. This is a must as we move to mitigate the impact on these fractured United States coming from the bitter-tasting politics defining this season.

We also want to go on record stating our belief

in the restorative power of forgiveness. We do not harbor any hate toward those individuals who have demonstrated these acts of insurrection, neither toward any others who may have agreed with those feelings and actions in their hearts. We also confirm the collective resolve we have seen in America in the days since January 6th. We also press the citizenry of this great nation to acknowledge that now is the proper time to repent and turn back to God. For it will always be God's working and wisdom in our midst that moves the needle toward effective change.

We must trust God through this. Let us ask Him for the strength and the willingness to forgive one another. We need to listen to one another, love one another, and lift one another. This is for the perpetual health of our nation.

Our spirits are not broken nor shaken, even in light of these things. Rather, we maintain a deeper resolve to work in spreading the gospel message of Jesus Christ—and His love to all the world.

We therefore commit ourselves, as followers of Christ, lovers of humanity, and unified workers, in our respective arenas—for His glory and for our good! So that His truth and glory continue to march on!" Amos 5:24 says, "But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."

"Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it, in relative opacity." - Frantz Fanon

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Washington in One Minute



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

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House has cancelled floor votes this week to allow the relevant committees to consider the proposed \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has stated that the legislation could be taken up by the full House as early as the week of Feb. 1. The House delivered an impeachment article against President Trump to the Senate Monday and, per an agreement between Senate Democrats and Republicans, the start of the trial will be delayed until Feb. 9. The Senate is in session and will continue voting on new cabinet nominees, with votes on Treasury Secretary-nominee Janet Yellen and Secretary of State-nominee Anthony Blinken expected today or early this week.

2. **BIDEN 100 DAYS.** This week, President Biden will continue issuing executive orders, which this week will be organized by a theme of the day: Monday – Buy America; Tuesday – Racial Equity; Wednesday – Climate Change; Thursday – Health Care; and Friday – Immigration ... Last week, President Biden's first calls to foreign leaders were, in this order, to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

3. **IMMIGRATION REFORM.** Last week, 6 of President Biden's 17 orders, memorandums, and proclamations were on the subject of immigration, such as halting work on the border wall with Mexico, lifting a travel ban on people from several predominantly Muslim countries, reversing plans to exclude people in the country illegally from the 2020 census, preserving the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, extending temporary legal status to Liberians who fled civil war and the Ebola outbreak to June 2022, and placing a 100-day moratorium on deportations for certain noncitizens. The President also sent to Congress a comprehensive immigration bill that would give legal status and a path to citizenship to anyone in the United States before Jan. 1—an estimated 11 million people—and reduce the time that family members must wait outside the United States for green cards.

4. **50-50 SENATE AGREEMENT.** The Hill reports that there is still no power-sharing agreement (known as an “organizing resolution”) ready for approval by the Senate, which means that last year's GOP chairs remain in charge for the time being. The sticking point to a final agreement seems to be whether Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) will pledge not to scrap the filibuster, as requested by the GOP.

5. **SWEET SIXTEEN.** According to Roll Call, a group of 16 Senators (8 Rs and 8 Ds) met on Sunday afternoon with new White House National Economic Council Director Brian Deese to discuss President Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief plan. The GOP Senators in the group are: Collins (ME), Murkowski (AK), Romney (UT), Portman (OH), Cassidy (LA), Moore Capito (WV), Moran (KS) and Young (IN). The Democrat Senators are: Manchin (WV), Warner (VA), Hassan (NH), Shaheen (NH), Kelly (AZ), Hickenlooper (CO), Durbin (IL), and Independent Sen. King (ME).

6. **NO “MARCH FOR LIFE.”** In lieu of the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., anti-abortion activists protesting the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision will assemble virtually on Jan. 29. The group cited the coronavirus pandemic and the “heightened pressures that law enforcement officers and others are currently facing in and around the Capitol” for its decision to do an online event.

7. **JUDGE VACANCIES.** According to The Charlotte Observer, the liberal advocacy group Demand Justice has bought a TV ad to run in the Washington, D.C. market calling on President Biden to expand the number of justices on the Supreme Court. During the campaign, the President pledged to create a bipartisan commission to study the Supreme Court, but has not yet named members to it. There are currently 45 vacant federal judgeships for President Biden to fill (President Trump appointed 230 judges over 4 years), including a soon-to-be-vacant post on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit held by Judge Merrick Garland (and Attorney General nominee).

8. **HIGHER EDUCATION.** On Friday, January 22, the Education Department recommended terminating the federal recognition of a controversial accreditor of for-profit colleges, potentially setting up what could be the Biden administration's first major decision on how to handle the industry. In a report, career department officials recommended that the federal government revoke its recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, citing its failure to comply with at least one of the federal standards for accreditors. Such a decision equates to the death penalty for any college accreditor.

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