

# The Valley Weekly

FREE

"To define is to limit."

- Oscar Wilde

Volume 5 No. 22

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, February 8, 2019

## District 6 Builds First New Road in 20 Years

Following a series of town hall meetings since his appointment as the Madison County Commissioner for District 6, Commissioner JesHenry Malone has built the first new road within the district in the last 20 years.

Carlean Drive, located in the Oakwood Community of Madison County, is one of the few unincorporated roads within the District 6 boundary. Previously, Carlean Drive was unpaved, damaged from heavy rains, and filled with mud holes. While Carlean Drive is one of few county roads in District 6, it is now newly built with fresh asphalt. A connector to Harris Road, Carlean Drive serves district residents between Oakwood and Rideout Roads.

"Although funding for unincorporated road improvements in the district has been a challenge, and continues to be an issue, I am committed to making it a priority as I assess other roads within district 6. Together, we can build a stronger community," says Commissioner Malone.



## HMA to Feature Civil Rights Activist

The Huntsville Museum of Art will be the site for "An Evening with Ambassador Andrew Young, Jr.: Then and Now - A Continuing Legacy."

The event will be held Thursday, February 14, in Loretta Spencer Hall at 7 p.m. Non-member tickets are \$55 each. Coordinators are describing the activity as an interview of Young by Dr. Jim Ralph, Rehnquist Professor of American History and Culture at Middlebury College.

A native of New Orleans, La., Andrew Young, Jr. was an activist for the Civil Rights Movement. He became a member of Congress, mayor of Atlanta,

Ga., and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

His Andrew Young Foundation builds on his legacy by developing and nurturing new generations of innovative leaders to tackle this era's global challenges.

Raised in a middle-class family, Young is the son of a dentist, and his mother was a teacher. Young was forced to travel from his own neighborhood in order to attend segregated schools. He excelled as a student and entered college early, graduating from Howard University in 1951 at 19 years of age. He became an ordained minister after graduating from Hart-



ford Theological Seminary in 1955 and took a job as a pastor in Thomasville, Ga. It was during his time in South Georgia that Young first became active in the Civil Rights movement.

## NAACP Founder's Day Noted

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Huntsville Madison County Chapter, will observe its 111th anniversary on February 12.

The NAACP was founded by a multi-racial, multi-gender group of individuals who fought for the cause of justice and equality for all mankind.

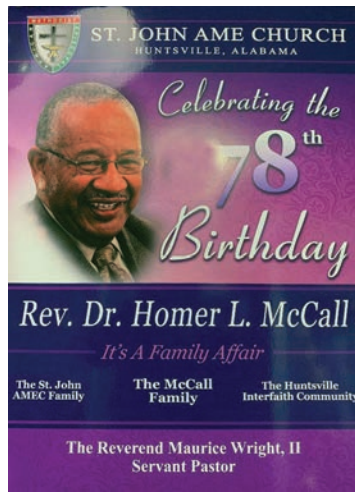
For additional information, contact Jerry Burnet, president of the Huntsville Madison County NAACP, at (256) 655-9330

## Local Elder Statesman Celebrates 78th Birthday

Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall, retired pastor of St. John A.M.E. Church in Huntsville, Ala., was honored by his congregation with a 78th birthday celebration.

Hosted by current St. John Pastor, Rev. Maurice Wright, Dr. McCall received birthday greetings from members of his beloved church.

With birthday cel-



bration music provided by Church Minister of Music, Mr. Reginald Pearson, Dr. McCall was celebrated in grand fanfare.

Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District (State of Alabama), The Rt. Rev. Dr. Harry L. Seawright, attended and provided congratulatory greetings to the birthday honoree.



## The Valley Weekly

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## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

### “DEFENDING WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN”

In Acts 17:18, we find the Apostle Paul in Athens. And, while he is waiting for Silas and Timothy to join him, a group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbling trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

As we read this scripture, we can see how Athens is a lot like the world that we live in today. A world filled with Epicurean-type people. Now, an Epicurean person believes that the pursuit of “pleasure” is the greatest good. So there was always this pursuit

of pleasure, comfort, and high living, with these kind of people, just like we find today.

You see, history always has a way of repeating itself, and I believe that today, because of this mindset, we are living in a world that is moving away from Christian values. It seems that most people, in their pursuit of success and achievement, would rather be considered a “good person” than be considered a Christian, with no real commitments to our faith. In other words, we don’t have to go to church. We don’t have to read God’s word, we don’t have to tithe or fellowship with other believers. So when it comes to taking a side or defending what you believe in, we can remain neutral.



The Apostle Paul was not willing to remain silent or neutral when faced with the people of Athens and neither

should we when people come at us with non-Christian views that are not spiritually-minded or biblically based. You see, we as Christians should see things differently than other people that are not Christians--Just like we find with Paul. Paul took a side because he had decided to be a follower of Jesus Christ and not just a “good person”. Paul decided not to remain neutral. Because of his choice, he was able to boldly defend what he believed in ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

## “Still Standing: The Fifth Little Girl ...”

On February 18, 2019, at 5 o’clock in the evening, Lakeside United Methodist Church (3738 Meridian Street, North) will host a special event entitled “Still Standing: The Fifth Little Girl of the 16th Street Church Bombing.”

Keeping in line with the Bicentennial Celebration, the program will focus on celebrating and remembering influential people and noteworthy events of Black History in Alabama.

The event will also honor Mrs. Sarah Rudolph, survivor of the September 15, 1963, church bombing in Birmingham, Ala. During

the program, Mrs. Rudolph will share accounts of her childhood experiences, and specifically those relating to this tragic bombing. A private reception will be held at 4 o’clock p.m. at the Lakeside United Methodist Church Annex. Tickets to the private reception are \$35.

The reception will include a meet-and-greet with Mrs. Rudolph, and reserved seating during the celebration program. The celebration program is free of charge and all members of the community are encouraged to attend.

The bombing was an act of white supremacist

terrorism which occurred at the African-American 16th Street Baptist Church. Four members of the Klu Klux Klan planted at least 15 sticks of dynamite beneath the steps of the church. As a result, four little girls passed away: Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Carol Denise McNair. Mrs. Rudolph was severely injured in this attack.

The bombing and subsequent deaths were a turning point in the civil rights movement and contributed to the passage of the Civil Rights of Act 1964.



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### Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Mr. Eugene O. Dickerson

Mr. Eugene O. Dickerson is a native of Marion, Ala. He is a military veteran with both active duty and reserve service. He received a B.S. degree from Alabama A&M University in vocational education in 1959 and the Master of Education degree in trade and industrial education in 1975. He has done further study at AAMU in urban planning.

In August 1966, Dickerson began a civilian career with the U.S. government at Redstone Arsenal, serving at the U.S. Army Missile Munitions Center & School (MMCS) as an electronics training instructor. He was patient with the students, spent extra time

with them, and sought ways to improve his lesson presentations and teaching techniques to reinforce the soldiers’ learning experiences and understanding of missile and radar systems operation.

In 1980, Dickerson accepted a transfer from the missile school to the Research, Development, and Engineering Center (RDEC) on Redstone Arsenal to support Millimeter Wave Guidance Technology and Equipment Development.

After a stellar civilian career of more than 32 years, he retired from the government but continued to serve in the private sector as a technical specialist



for 17 years.

Dickerson is also a community servant and was appointed to the Huntsville Beautification Board by the Huntsville City Council in 1999 and was reappointed to serve through 2010. He also serves as a volunteer for Huntsville Hospital Authority.



# The Valley Weekly

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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.

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## 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	
	5x10 inches	\$400
	Vertical	
	10x5 inches	\$400
Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$200
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$100
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$50
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$6
	(4 col. in. minimum=\$24)	
6 Month/1 Yr.-10% & 20% Discount!		



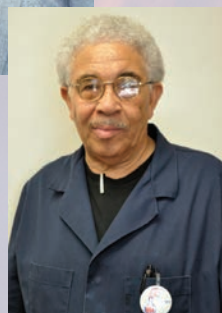
## From the Editor

### Two Esteemed AAMU Colleagues Succumb!

Citizens in the Valley are mourning the death of two beloved, retired Alabama A&M University faculty members. Dr. Arlester McBride, who passed away on January 22, was retired from the School of Education and had served as dean.



McBride



Thompson

A consummate educator and administrator, McBride was born in Mississippi, and moved with his family to Coffeeville, Ala. He went on to become a thought-leader in the field of educational leadership and will be missed by all who loved and knew him.

Dr. James Thompson, who passed away on January 29, was a retired professor of chemistry known for his advocacy for all students, especially those from modest means. We were forever trying to pursue resources to enhance the laboratories in the Chemistry Department so that our students would have similar academic experiences as students at more endowed institutions. He was fun-loving and serious, both at the same time.

I will miss both Drs. Thompson and Dr. McBride. Both impacted my life in a positive way. Our community has indeed lost two great men!

It's a new year, and life is moving fast. Let's make every day count by impacting someone's life in a positive way. Tomorrow is not promised! Until next week ...

*Dorothy*

## Black Panther Returns to Theaters, Free Showings in Huntsville

by Reginald Allen

### Wakanda Forever!

In celebration of Black History Month, select movie theaters offered free showings of Marvel's Black Panther. From February 1-7, the blockbuster phenomenon played across the nation, including, Huntsville's AMC Valley Bend 18, located at 1485 Four Mile Road Southeast. The Rocket City was one of 8 Alabama cities that showcased the billion-grossing film.

Based off the popular Marvel character, the film followed newly-crowned T'Challa as he navigates his life as king. Following the death of his father, the young ruler must take on the

mantle of the Black Panther, the sworn protector of Wakanda.

The film, which was released last February, marked the iconic character's live action debut. Praised by critics and fans for its stunning visuals, costume design and predominantly black cast, the adaptation raked in \$1 billion in the box office during its initial release.

After scoring Best Movie Cast at the Screen Actor's Guild Awards, Chadwick Boseman, who played the titular king of the technologically-advanced Wakanda, said the film's monumental success served as a precedent for future African-American driven projects.

"We all know what it's like to be told that there is not a place for you to be featured, yet you are young, gifted, and black," Boseman said in his victory speech, quoting the late Nina Simone. "We know what it's like to be told to say there's not a screen for you to be featured on, a stage for you to be featured on. We know what it's like to be the tail and not the head. We know what it's like to be beneath and not above."

In addition to the free showings, Marvel announced plans to donate over \$1.5 million dollars to The United Negro College Fund, an endowment that provides scholarships to African-American students

seeking education at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

This isn't the first time the landmark film was shown for free. Last February, local shoe boutique SneakerPhetish teamed up with Cinemark to offer locals a chance to be exposed to film that showcases black actors in positive, empowering roles.

Directed by Ryan Coogler (Fruitvale Station, Creed), Marvel's Black Panther also stars Michael B. Jordan, Angela Bassett, Forest Whitaker, Leticia Wright, Sterling K. Brown, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurrai, Daniel Kaluuya, Winston Duke and Andy Serkis.





## Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

AAMU Public Relations Office

Albert's Flowers

Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

Briar Fork CP Church

Bryant Bank - Church Street

Chris' Barber Shop

Depot Professional Building

Dunkin Donuts

Eagles' Nest Ministries

Fellowship of Faith Church

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Health Unlimited

House of Hope and Restoration

Huntsville Bible College

James Smith - AllState Insurance

Lakeside United Methodist Church

Lucky's Supermarket

Marshall England - State Farm Agent

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Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

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

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

# ... And Why Not Kamala Harris in 2020?

*"So she said, '... the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. . . . And Deborah said unto Barak, 'Up; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand'"*

- Judges 4:9, 14 New King James Version

## An Historic "Take 2"?

Old Testament Israel, drifting away from its God-given values and being co-opted by the Sisera-commanded foreign enemy nation Canaan, chose Deborah as its first and only woman judge (definition: "one who brings people into right relationships") to defeat Canaan - sound somewhat familiar?

Now, replace "Deborah" with "Kamala Devi Harris" and Barak with, well . . .

With a "We are better than this" message, and before 20,000 hometown Oakland, CA supporters on January 27th, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris announced her presidential candidacy.

## The Kamala Advantage: Something Old/Some- thing New-er?

While standing equally on the shoulders of presidential-race pioneers Barack Obama (multi-racial parenting, first-term Senator in White House run) and Hillary Clinton (gender), this "next new thing" combines and one-ups them in several ways:

### (Positive) Profiling.

National MLK Day and HBCU alma mater Howard University provided un-apologetically this Alpha Kappa Alpha soror's launchpad. NBC News Senior Political Editor Beth



Fouhy, from the Oakland rally: "she leaned in on race in a way as I've never seen before: (Black) gospel choir; Black preacher giving the invocation; hip-hop musicians, . . . that's where the dynamism is for the Democratic Party right now - black voters and especially black women";

### Paper Chase.

This Asian-Indian/Jamaican offspring raised a record \$1.5M in campaign's 1st 24 hours - i.e, 38,000 donors averaging \$37 each - 3,000 more than Bernie Sanders' 2016 givers, who averaged \$43 gifts;

### Political Landscape.

Kamala's California, where she's won two statewide elections, is the nation's largest and most competitive state - a warm-up for a national campaign - with 11% of the Democratic National Convention delegates; March 2020's Super Tuesday primaries will now include California, which usually primaried in June;

### Past Prosecutor.

Harris' previous San Francisco District Attorney and later California

Attorney General prosecutorial jobs might endear some of the law-and-order crowd. MSNBC's Joy Reid: "Modern voters (are) less concerned about candidate's past, (declaring) 'give me the furthest change from what's presently in place'; and

### Protest and Prospectus.

The #MeToo movement

has empowered women to increased political office seeking (TVW, 1/25/19). Also, Daily Kos founder Markos Moulitsas: "I can't imagine a (Democratic) presidential ticket ... that doesn't include Kamala Harris, either at the top or in the VP slot; she represents the future ... If you're a white male running this year, you're not reading the

room correctly."

Whereas, lightning may not strike twice in one spot, perhaps black lightning will!

*tim allston is the author of the free book, 7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else," free and downloadable now at [www.GetEgo-HelpNow.org](http://www.GetEgo-HelpNow.org).*

## The 13th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration

# 2019



Mrs. Jacquelyn K. Bennett

Mrs. Gladys Branch

Elder John Branch

Rev. Ethel Y. Delaney

Mrs. Carolyn Rice Florence

Mrs. Josephine Scruggs

Mrs. Kathy Steja

Mother Elizabeth Smith

### - Also Honoring Pioneers -

Deacon Robert Jackson

Mrs. Elaine Plank

Mrs. Josephine Robinson

Mr. Eugene Dick Scruggs, Sr.



### Save the Date!

Saturday, March 9, 2019

The Jackson Center

6001 Moquin Drive (Cummings Research Park)

Huntsville, Alabama

12 Noon

Tickets: \$50/Each

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



## The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

February 9

"A Night of Motown and Soul Music"

Featuring Back Beat Band  
UAH Roberts Recital Hall  
7:30 p.m. (\$10)

February 12

Black History Month

The Beyond Normal Lecture Series - Presenting Dr. Bernice A. King  
Alabama A&M University  
RSVP:

<https://form.jotform.com/83167566954168>

Knight Center  
12:30 p.m.

February 14

Valentine's Day Dance

Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness & Advocacy Center  
6156 Pulaski Pike  
6-9 p.m.

\$50, couples; \$30, singles  
Tickets: (256) 519-2040

February 18

"Still Standing: The Fifth Little Girl of the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing"  
Lakeside United Methodist Church  
3738 Meridian Street  
5 p.m.

## Valley Scopes by Melissa Wilson/Seloma



**GEMINI** The sun is at a semisextile with benefic Jupiter in your 3rd house of sibling concerns which, in laymen's terms, indicates fortunate developments for you that may have an intrinsic connection along those lines.

**TAURUS** Juno is in your 2nd house. Additionally, the sun is at a conjunction with Saturn, showcasing your painstaking ability to wisely form opinions in order to authoritatively make decisions that are helping you with your goals to defend human rights. Heightened concentration is leading to the uncovering of the emulous true nature of someone who desires what you already have.

**ARIES** With Mercury being at a tension rich square with malefic Mars, you'll likely have a need to assert yourself; when it comes to expressing how you feel, in communication.

**PISCES** Benefic Jupiter is at a tension rich square with Neptune in your ascendant influenced 12th house; as your plans mature in some way, which should help you feel a bit more balanced.

**AQUARIUS** Vesta, in transit within your sign,

reflects that you're probably eliciting results from persuading someone else to do something. Fortune is in your 11th house also and your resilience, along with devotion from others is creating a positive outcome, where a financial challenge existed.

**VIRGO** The Vertex is in transit within your 6th house so, if your spirits are even a tad down or if you're feeling a need to acquire more experience in some area, you're likely to feel a great deal better when participating with competent people, who you are connected to in some way.

**CAPRICORN** Malefic Saturn, which is at a sextile

with Neptune in your 11th house, means that your closest pals are likely to be there as you celebrate advancing in some area.

**SAGITTARIUS** Mercury is at a trine with Uranus, therefore, a new pattern that you're adopting is obviously beneficial to you and likely to be noticed within the public eye.

**CANCER** With the node in your 4th house, your accommodating mood has you bending without breaking, bouncing back from a situation. A mentor or boss is likely to offer sound guidance as far as advising you to accomplish something that you've been aiming to do.

**SCORPIO** Benefic Venus is at a sextile with Pluto, within your 8th house, indicating that you're probably in the mood to spread the good fortune that you have been granted while working towards some advantageous venture.

**LEO** If you're not being

called fiery or quick tempered these days, chances are that you're being called nonchalant, as your daring and strong-willed nobility of mind is being showcased. Your magnanimous character is seasoning your 5th house, inducing you to create something from your souls' deepest desires for peace & happiness.

**LIBRA** Pallas is in your 7th house, so you're more inclined to feel like you're advancing - if you're testing out the capability of something that you expect can be done with a partner. Other people might think that you're wasting your time by being too forceful about something that's considered non-viable, although, you're likely to end up flossing/displaying your success in a particular matter. Right now, you have a need to see if things are workable or not, on your own. Be sure to give proper attention to someone special who could be feeling neglected in some sense.

## Alumni Chapter Offering Dr. Rather Brown Scholarships to Local Students

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter of the Alabama A&M University National Alumni Association, Inc., announces the 2019 Dr. Rather G. Brown Scholarship.

The chapter will award two (2) scholarships for Fall Semester 2019 expenses. Graduating high school seniors enrolled in Madison County,

Madison City, Huntsville City Schools, or parochial in Madison County are eligible. Madison County residents that are currently enrolled at AAMU are also eligible.

The scholarship deadline is March 15, 2019. To apply, please visit the website: <http://aamuhsv-madisonalumni.org/resources>.



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# Valley Deaths

## - Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for DR. JAMES M. THOMPSON (b. 1938) will be held at 12 p.m. Thursday, February 7, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

Private memorial service for MR. JORDAN C. WILSON (1994) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIE J. HALL (b. 1934) was held Saturday, February 2, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. HELEN DANGERFIELD was held Thursday, January 31, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. LAWRENCE E. MCCRARY (b. 1955) was held Monday, January 28, 2019 at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with the Reverend Hernandez Ford officiating.

## - Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. GEORGE THOMAS DOUGLASS (1948) will be held at 12 p.m., Friday, February 8, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church (1055 Hughes Road, Madison, Ala.).

Funeral service for MRS. ROBERTA MOTT JOHNSON (b. 1939) was held Sunday, February 3, at Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church (14204 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens, Ala.) with Pastor Damon Betts officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CHARLES THOMAS HOLLEY (1946) was held Saturday, February 2, at New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (28520 Wall Street, Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Terry Bennett officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WOODIE HERMAN BRAZELTON (b. 1942) was held Saturday, February 2, at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church (710 Dan Crutcher Road, Toney, Ala.) with Reverend Adolphus A. Elliott Sr. officiating.

Graveside service for BABY RODNEY D. TIBBS, II, (b. 2019) was held Friday, February 1, at the Huntsville Memory Gardens (6810 University Drive, Huntsville, Ala.) with Minister Steve Andrews officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WALTER LOUIS PALMER (b. 1923) was held Thursday, January 31, at First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Springs Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for DR. ARLESTER "MACK" MCBRIDE was held Wednesday, January 30, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (315 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service was held for MRS. KATHRYN A. HIGGINS (b. 1942) on Saturday, January 26, at Greater Mount Carmel Primitive Baptist Church (6570 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Curtis Jordan.

## - Serenity Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. OARY "MAIN" MOORE, JR., (b. 1947) was held Saturday, February 2, at Serenity Funeral Home (2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

# Called 2 Preach

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

## Making Ourselves of No Reputation

Reputation is defined as *the beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone or something*. As I am writing this, in the background are more discussions on the news about how people who are working in or for the current administration are messing up their *reputation*. The debate has been that they go in with a good one and come out with a bad one. In comes the Apostle Paul and if we can imagine him being interviewed by MS-NBC, FOX, CNN, or any of the other networks, he says to us regarding *reputation*, to "make yourselves of no reputation." The word that Paul used in this passage

means to *make of none effect*; to make empty; to neutralize. Colloquially this would be the same as saying, "get over ourselves." These words came from Paul's pen, written to a

people who he loved and believed in Christ. They were saved, on their way to heaven, yet they had to be encouraged to unify, and the way to do it was by *making themselves of no reputation*. He didn't just make this admonishment arbitrarily, he said that is was exactly



what Jesus did as He lived on earth as God in human form. Because Jesus lived a *self-emptying* life, God has given Him a name above every name and one day *every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord*.

This is the example for and expectation of every believer.

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## DLC Accepting Applications for 11th Cohort

DLC



Applications are being accepted for Cohort XI of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium until February 26.

Classes will begin March 5 and end April 23, running 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Graduation will be held on

April 30.

Applications are available online at [www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com). Questions should be emailed to Mrs. Georgia Valrie at [gvalrie1971@gmail.com](mailto:gvalrie1971@gmail.com) or call (256) 656-4698.

## Huntsville City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

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



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# Washington in One Minute



Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., for this week's edition.

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. The 17 bipartisan House and Senate conferees on the FY2019 Homeland Security Appropriations conference had their first meeting last Wednesday and have two weeks to hammer out a compromise to keep the government open after February 15. According to The Hill newspaper, conferees are attempting to carefully include money for some type of border barrier (without using the term "wall") to garner GOP support. The House will have votes on legislation, among other items, to create an earthquake early warning system from Northern California to Washington and a bill requiring lactation rooms in public buildings for breastfeeding mothers (large and medium-sized airports were required to do this as of fall 2018). The Senate will return to debate

on the Syria sanctions bill.

2. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), the chairman of the Senate education committee, today will outline his vision for updating the main federal law governing higher education. His goal is to get a bill passed by the end of this year. In a speech at the American Enterprise Institute, Senator Alexander will discuss his goals for reauthorizing the Higher Education Act.

3. President Trump will deliver his rescheduled State of the Union Address in the House chamber on Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. Politico reports that the President is not optimistic that Congress will be able to construct an acceptable compromise on the border wall and has directed his staff to prepare a national emergency declaration and also has started circulating talking points with outside conservative political groups. On Thursday, he will make remarks at

the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington and on Friday he will travel to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD for his annual physical exam.

4. Last week, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan announced that the Trump Administration will deploy 3,600 additional active-duty troops to the Mexican border to watch for "potential threats" and install 150 miles of concertina wire, bringing the total number of active-duty troops at the border to 5,900 plus 2,300 National Guardsmen. President Trump has threatened to declare a national emergency, if he does not get Congress to provide \$5.7 billion for the first payment on the border wall by Feb. 15.

5. Last week, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer began new talks at the White House's Eisenhower Building with a Chinese trade delegation headed by Chinese Vice Premier Liu He in an attempt to reach agreement to avert a new 25% levy on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods set to start

on March 2 if no deal is reached. According to The Washington Post, the U.S. is demanding that China put in place a mechanism to monitor Chinese promises to crack down on intellectual property theft and it also wants China to cut government direction and support for state-owned companies. China has pledged to make significant purchases of U.S. goods to narrow the trade deficit.

6. On Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee was expected to vote to approve William Barr's nomination for Attorney General and send it to the full Senate for a vote.

7. On Friday, President Trump's former personal attorney Michael Cohen will testify before a closed session of the House Intelligence Committee. Cohen reportedly may also testify in open session a day earlier before the House Oversight and Reform Committee and has received a subpoena to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee on February 12. Cohen is scheduled to report to prison on March 6 to serve a 3-year sentence for tax evasion, bank fraud, campaign finance violations, and lying to Congress – charges related to his business dealings with President Trump and the

Trump Organization.

8. According to Politico, representatives from Milwaukee, Houston, and Miami made their final pitches in DC last week to host the July 2020 Democratic National Convention. DNC Chair Tom Perez is expected to choose the winner this month. Politico reports that Milwaukee is the front-runner. The GOP has already chosen Charlotte, NC for its convention site, which will be held in August 2020.

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**BIRTHDAY - February 8 - GARY COLEMAN** - Gary Coleman was an actor and 1970s and 1980s television child star. He was perhaps best known for his role as Arnold on the TV sitcom "Different Strokes."  
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## Lowe's Chapel Presenting Black History Program

The pastor and congregation of Lowe's Chapel United Methodist Church invites the community to join them as they observe Black History Month on Sunday, February 17, at the 10 a.m. service.

The Black History speaker is Molly Stewart of Mt. Moriah United Methodist Church of Valhermosa Springs, Ala.

For more information, see the church website at [www.loweschapel.com](http://www.loweschapel.com) or call the

church at (256) 695-9104.

Lowe's Chapel United Methodist Church is located at 460 Sanderson Road, Huntsville, Ala. The pastor is Rev. Waymond K. Smith.



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# Love in the Valley: Celebrating Valentine's Day with Everyone You Love



(BPT) - Valentine's Day is not just for lovers anymore. While we naturally want to show our significant others how much we love them on the sweetest holiday of the year, Valentine's Day has become a wonderful day to celebrate everyone we care about, from your BFF to your furry, feathered and four-legged friends. In fact, last year the National Retail Federation reported that approximately 20 percent of Americans plan to buy Valentine's Day gifts for their pets.

Here are some ways to share the love with everyone who is important to you this Valentine's Day:

**For him:** For the special man in your life, put him in charge of capturing your special moments together with the nostalgic Fujifilm Instax Mini Camera. Or for the gamer in your life, why not spend time playing Nintendo Switch? Maybe you'll even let him win.

**For her:** For her, there's nothing like setting a

relaxing, romantic mood for a memorable evening together. Celebrate Valentine's night with the help of a handmade Lavender Natural Soy Wax Candle infused with natural essential oils like lavender, orange, lemon and cedarwood. Then pour a glass of her favorite wine for both of you into All Purpose Wine Glasses and shower her with affection.

**For your BFFs:** Sometimes on Valentine's Day, all you want to do is hang with your girls. Have your BFFs over for the perfect Galentine's Day brunch. Get in the party mood with some great decor like a Glitter Galentine's Day Banner and the perfect playlist from Prime Music, then prepare a waffle feast fit for the queens you are with a Heart Maker Waffle Iron. End the day by watching an awesome girl-power movie like "Miss Congeniality" or "Lady Bird" on Prime Video.

**For your kids:** Valentine's Day is a great time for a festive family party

with your kids. Decorate the house for your event together with a Light-Up Love Easel Sign and Valentine's Day Paper-Kit Party Decorations. Share some sweet treats and favorite games as a family, followed by a fun creative activity using an easy-to-make Plush Craft Heart Pillow Kit.

**For your furry friend:** More pet owners than ever are showing their appreciation for their animal companions by giving them special gifts on Valentine's Day. No matter what size your dog is, you can find a comfy sweat suit to fit them from Scheppend Adidog Pet Clothes, which come in 12 different sizes and 9 cute colors. Spoil your pooch while also watching their health with snacks from the Petco Treat Bar while you indulge yourself with some yummy Chocolate Covered Strawberries by Golden State Fruit.

It's easy and fast to find the perfect gifts to share with all of the special humans - and animals - in your life on amazon.com/

valentinesday, which has easy-to-search categories, as well as gifts for any budget. Curated gift choices include everything from chocolates and flowers to jewelry, apparel, electronics and more. There are even ideas to plan the perfect Date Night In. From risotto delivered through Amazon

Restaurants to dancing to "your song" on Prime Music, it's easy to plan the perfect evening in.

Waited until the last minute? Don't panic. With Amazon Prime, a majority of Prime members in the U.S. have access to Free One-Day Shipping (or faster) on millions of

items, as well as access to unlimited Free Two-Day Shipping on more than 100 million items. Prime Now even offers free two-hour delivery windows, reserved exclusively for Prime members in eligible areas, so you can still surprise your Valentine with jewelry, flowers or dinner.

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*For The View event details and tickets, visit [burrittonthemountain.com](http://burrittonthemountain.com)!*

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