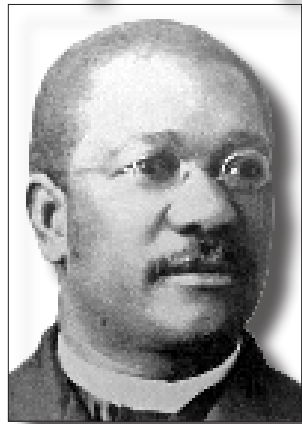


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FREE



Heart Health and Blacks, p. 5

"Alice Sams," p. 3

*"Life is the flower for which
love is the honey."*

- Victor Hugo



Friday

February 12, 2021

Vol. 7, No. 22

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Rev. Joseph Lowery



Born to a teacher and shop owner in Huntsville, Ala., in 1921, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Echols Lowery co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and was a vocal advocate for civil rights.

He graduated from William Hooper Councill High School. After his collegiate experiences at Knoxville College (Tenn.), Alabama A&M University, Paine College (Ga.), and the Chicago Ecumenical Institute, Lowery launched his career as pastor of Warren Street Methodist Church in Mobile, Ala.

It was during this period in the 1950s when he met Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights martyr who was pastoring at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala. He is credited for helping to lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott following the arrest of Rosa Parks in 1955. Lowery and King, with Rev. Ralph Abernathy and other civil rights activists, formed the SCLC in 1957.

Two decades later, Lowery would head the organization set it on a new course encompassing a range of social and environmental issues.

During the historic Selma to Montgomery March in 1965, Lowery joined organizers on a mission to deliver demands to Alabama Governor George Wallace.

State troopers violently attacked the peaceful marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, leaving many of the marchers bloodied and badly beaten. Congressman John Lewis, among the marchers that day, suffered a fractured skull during the beatings.

The distinguished leader not only received the NAACP's coveted Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997 but also the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama in 2009.

He received honorary doctorates from several colleges and universities, including Morehouse College, Alabama State University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.



AAMU Alumnus Seeks 'Fintech' Answers in Australia

A Nigerian-American alumnus of Alabama A&M University has been working feverishly in Australia to acquire invaluable research tools in financial technology to fuel his own Atlanta-based company. Ultimately, these resources, he believes, will better enable him to help bring the African continent into its destiny as the next frontier of innovation.

Oyedemi "Deji" Oluwoye is founder and CEO of Coincentrix, a blockchain research firm that creates software for blockchain and social-impact projects aimed at emerging markets, smart cities and developing countries.

A key project of Oluwoye's operation is Canza, a blockchain-powered ecosystem enabling access

to financial tools for sub-Saharan African small- and medium-sized enterprises.

"We are members of the African diaspora who regularly send money to our family members at home, visit and conduct transactions across various African markets," explained the 2012 computer science graduate. "Our team has first-hand experience dealing with the frustrations that come with unstable currency and limited options for seamlessly transacting across borders. This is what powered our interest in creating a platform that would simplify how businesses across the continent can serve customers on the ground and in the diaspora."

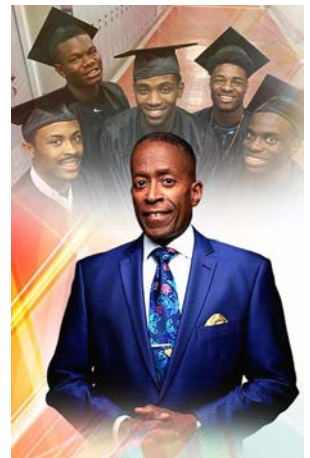
Deji is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Oluwoye.

100 Black Men to Hold Virtual Fundraiser

The members of 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville (100BMOGH), in celebration of Black History Month are kicking off the Scholarship/Mentoring Program virtual fundraiser to support efforts in awarding 10 annual scholarships to local high school seniors, and a structured Mentoring Program for young males in the community.

The program will be hosted by Kenneth Anderson, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs for the City of Huntsville.

100BMOGH solicits support through donations or sponsorships. Visit the link: <http://www.100bmogh.com/donate>



or contact (256) 277-3488 to discuss levels of sponsorship/advertising, and join 100BMOGH during the virtual celebration/fundraiser on February 27, 2021, at 1 p.m.

The Valley Weekly
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CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

"According to the Counsel of His Will"



Ephesians 1:11

The title is one of five times that the Apostle Paul used the words, *according to*, in his libatious litany of praise that he poured out and pored over concerning the worthiness of God to receive that twelve-verse anthem found in Ephesians 1:3-14.

Although it is twelve separate verses in our

Bibles, in the original language of the New Testament, it is just one long sentence. Its content and context help to understand why Paul went on and on and on about what God has done regarding the salvation of believers who first heard and read and those who have read it across the annals of time.

These five uses of this phrase *according to*, explains much of what some would call the strange and unnecessary behavior that is seen and heard in many settings during the gathering of the saints in worship.

What Paul was saying

in a theological way, was what our elders used to say in their own quaint quotes such as "He's God all by Himself." That is the idea conveyed in this two-word phrase in English and one-word in Greek. It means that God not only acted alone in the provision and process of salvation, but that the security of this salvation is a fact because



He is the One who *works all things* "according to the counsel of His will."

Nothing or no one stops

God from doing what He has willed.

He is worthy!

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Alice Sams

Mrs. Alice Friend Sams was born in Madison County, Ala., where she attended public schools before earning undergraduate and MBA degrees from Alabama A&M University.



A graduate of the coveted Leadership Huntsville Madison County program in 2000, Sams served as program director for Project FOCUS (Former Offenders Changing for Unconditional Success) under the auspices of the Madison County Commission District Six. In that capacity, she assisted with job and housing placement, GED preparation, restoration of voting rights and pardons from the State Pardon and

Parole Board. With partners, Project FOCUS provides workshops on anger manage-

ment, financial stability, life skills, and counseling. Sams is also a retiree of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, where she served for 25 years as contract specialist from 1982-2007. At NASA, she was chiefly responsible for soliciting bids and proposals, selecting vendors, negotiating, evaluating budgets and personnel assignment, which resulted in the awarding of purchase orders, grants and multi-million dollar contracts in support of space and missile systems.

Her diverse career also includes 12 years of teach-

ing middle and high school students, preparing lesson plans, using innovative instructional methods to improve student's functional academic levels, reporting to local and state educational offices and evaluating students at the beginning and end of each year.

Sams is no doubt known equally as well for her significant community involvement and civic engagement with various organizations and boards. She worked closely with the Judge U. W. Clemon and the community on the Desegregation Consent Order with the Huntsville City Schools and Madison County Schools and helped prepare budgets with the state and NAACP offices and the Von Braun Lions Club.

FEBRUARY 12 - GUCCI MANE - Radric Delantic Davis, known professionally as Gucci Mane, is an American rapper. He helped pioneer the hip hop subgenre of trap music alongside fellow Atlanta-based rappers T.I. and Young Jeezy, particularly in the 2000s and 2010s. - Wikipedia.org



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION
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“WORDS MATTER”


James 3:5-6 says, “Consider a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body and sets the whole course of one’s life on fire and is itself set on fire by hell.”

When I read this scripture, it made me think about freedom of speech and the way it has taken on a different meaning in today’s society. Now, freedom of speech is defined as

a principle that supports the freedom of an individual to articulate their opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal sanctions.

It goes on to say, every citizen may accordingly speak, write and print with freedom but shall be “RESPONSIBLE” for such abuses of this freedom as shall be defined by Law.

Today, we are living in a time where freedom of speech has gotten out of control. And, the reason it is out of control is some people are not



cently, we have witnessed some of the wrong ways to express our freedom of speech, which include things like slander, sedition, incitement and just plain “fighting words.”

However, the Apostle Paul gives us a better way to express ourselves. Galatians 5:13 says, “You my brothers and sisters were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather serve one another humbly in love.”

My brothers and sisters, “words matter”, so let us use our freedom of speech to bring about real change.


Stay encouraged and be safe! And, make sure you purchase a copy of my book, “A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE” at amazon.com.

willing to be responsible for what they say.

Furthermore, so many people today are willing to say things that are hurtful, hateful, disrespectful and humiliating without taking any responsibility.

They don’t seem to realize that “Words Matter,” and there are consequences for the things that we say.

You see, freedom of speech is crucial to our way of life; however, there is a right way and wrong way to do it. Re-



Farmers Plan for
Cotton Pest Recap

While the Alabama cotton industry had an unusual weather season, no one cotton pest dominated the growing season.

Alabama Cooperative Extension System entomologists Scott Graham and Ron Smith said while there were notable pests, no single species required extra effort to control.

“The beginning of a new year is always a time when producers begin thinking about seed orders and making budgets for inputs and variables throughout the growing season,” said Smith, who has served Alabama Extension as a cotton entomologist for 48 years.

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labor.alabama.gov

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Public Health

www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

cdc.gov

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RESTAURANTS

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

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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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

February 1-28

(larry.mcdaniel@aamu.edu)

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 19

Dancing with the President and First Lady
Alabama A&M University
Virtual Event
Access: \$25 & \$10 (Students)
Contacts: Dr. Larry McDaniel

February 21

Essential Workers Appreciation (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 Orchestra

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 Professionals Chapter
www.NSBE-NorthAlabamaAE.com
nsbenorthalabamaae@gmail.com

March 5-7

Arnez J
Comedian
Stand Up Live
Huntsville, Ala.

HUNTSVILLE AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Public Meeting Notice

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board meets on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 4:00 pm. ALL meetings will be held on the 1st floor of Huntsville City Hall located at 308 Fountain Circle, unless otherwise noted on the Huntsville-Area MPO website at www.huntsvillempo.org. To read the plans up for review at this meeting visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/plans-and-reports/> For all other information on these meetings visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>

PowerShot

"Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfill it, or betray it."

+Frantz Fanon




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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

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Heart Health and African Americans

(BPT) - When former NBA player Caron Butler was in the league, exercise wasn't something he needed to worry about during his 14-year professional career. These days, in his new role as an assistant coach at Miami Heat, he's learned to be more mindful about incorporating physical activity into his daily routine to help maintain good heart health.

"Now that I'm retired, staying in shape is no longer part of my job," Butler says. "I have to make sure I set aside time to shoot hoops with my kids or go for a walk during the day - especially while we're spending more time at home."

Butler hopes others follow his example. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States each year, and African Americans are about 20% more likely to die from the condition compared to other racial or ethnic groups. With these statistics in mind, and as you navigate life during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's even more important to be aware of heart health as existing heart conditions can increase the risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Black men, in particular, face disparities when it comes to heart disease and



heart health. These disparities can include medical procedures and care. A 2018 study in the Journal of the American Heart Association found that Black men were less likely to receive cardiac medical procedures than white men - even when presenting with similar symptoms.iv

To help increase awareness and encourage action, Butler has teamed up with Astellas to encourage Black men and women to set the screen - make an appointment for a heart health screening. Set the Screen is a national campaign designed to empower African Americans to prioritize their heart health by raising awareness of some of the known (smoking, alcohol consumption and obesity) and lesser-known cardiovascular risks, such as genetics.

Butler has experienced heart disease on a personal level with his extended family and is passionate about ensuring Black men know their risk and, importantly, speak with their doctor to help reduce it.

Now that he's not playing professional basketball every day, Butler tries to adhere

to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' guidelines that suggest 150-300 minutes of moderate activity or 75-150 minutes of intense activity each week.

Physical activity is vital to heart health, but so is rest. The benefits of a good night's sleep can extend far beyond sweet dreams. Almost one-third of Americans get 7-8 hours of sleep each night, which puts them at a higher risk for heart disease.

As Americans are increasingly aware of their health amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, scheduling a cardiovascular screening virtually or in person is an important step in taking control of your health. "Set the Screen" and make an appointment with your doctor today.

"I am proud to partner with Astellas and the National Basketball Retired Players Association (NBR-PA), to help address some of the health disparities that exist in this country today," says Butler. "By encouraging more African Americans to talk to their doctors, I believe we can empower them to make their heart health a priority."

To learn more about how to reduce your risk of coronary heart disease, the most common type of heart disease, visit MindYourHeartFacts.com.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MR. ELBERT ("PETE") CLARK, JR. (b. 1959) was held Saturday, February 6, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Minister Lorenzo Moore officiating.

Graveside service for MR. DARRIN DEWAYNE FENNELL (b. 1985) was held Saturday, February 6, at Valley View Memorial Gardens.

Graveside service for MS. ALLICYN WEBSTER (b. 1957) was held Wednesday, February 3, at Pine Crest Memorial Gardens (Columbia, Tenn).

Memorial service for MR. DALLIS PATRICK RYAN WOLFE (b. 1998) was held Sunday, January 31, at Jorgenson Lake Park (37th Street & 11th Avenue North - St. Petersburg, Fla.).

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Graveside service for DEACON TILLMAN JEFFERSON, JR. (b. 1941) was held Tuesday, February 9, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens in the Chapel of Love (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, AL 35811) with Elder Mario Ford officiating.

Graveside service for MR. EDWARD DAVIS (b. 1930) was held Sunday, February 7, at Pine Grove Memorial Garden (759 Pine Grove Road, Unit A, Harvest, Ala.) with Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Graveside service for REV.MILTON JONES (b. 1940) was held Tuesday, February 2, at New Hope Community Cemetery #2 (28520 Wall Street, Madison, Ala.) with Reverend Kelvin Jones officiating.

Graveside service for MR. ROBERT DION JORDAN (b. 1964) was held Tuesday, February 2, at Saint Ruth Cemetery (330 Grimwood Road Hazel Green, Ala.) with Bishop Daniel Richardson officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW
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Funeral services will be announced at a later date for BABY DANTAVIOUS REED, TOMMY SPRINGS, WILLIAM ALLEN RAGLAND (b. 1947); and other beloved ones.

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 Last year we had to perse-
 vere
 Through the storm
 It was the new norm
 It was tough
 And it was rough
 People were struggling
 The news was troubling
 Wondering when we would
 get relief living with grief
 And unbelief
 It took a toll on our mind
 It was hard to find
 Another route
 Wondering if it would work
 out
 We started to doubt
 We didn't know what was
 ahead
 Hard to go to bed
 Trying to stop crying
 As people were dying
 It was terrifying
 Looking for a sign
 That everything would be
 fine
 Looking in the sky
 Wondering why?
 Knowing that God won't
 Let us go
 Because the bible
 Tells me so
 He's got the world in his
 hands
 He understands and
 He is our hope for today
 He gave us hope yesterday
 Hope will stay
 And won't go away
 Hope will help us find the
 way
 Hope will brighten your day
 Hope is something we can
 see
 Hope lives in me
 Hope is motivation
 Hope is inspiration
 Hope is something that is
 real
 Hope is something we can
 feel
 Hope is something that will
 heal
 Hope is helping us stand



Want to Improve your Memory? Start with "What's that in your Hand?"

And the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." And he said, "Cast it on the ground." - Exodus 4:2,3.

Previously, the shepherd Moses was telling God why he was unable to follow God's command to lead his fellow Israelites out of their 400-year Egyptian slavery.

God then ordered him to throw down his shepherd-ing rod, which then became a snake. God then had Moses retrieve it, returning it to a shepherd's rod.

Here, God was showing Moses that they would partner to bring victory, once Moses used the resources in his hand.

If you like me are starting to forget things more and more, join me in following Moses' mandate: in your and my hands are God's words, humility, and old school tools.

Sometimes it is easier to recall activities from 20, 30, and 40 years ago than it is to remember tasks from 20, 30, or 40 minutes ago! **DISCLAIMER:** This column is NOT to re-place medical or professional advice. Instead, it's my natural, humbling way to reverse my increasing memory seepage.

Again, "what is that in your hand?" God's Word, humil-ity, and old school tools.

"In the Beginning, . . ."

What built my memory 60 years ago was the three-pronged process of memorizing Bible verses at home, for church school and church. Recently, I downloaded an app that will make me once again memorize, write, and recite three new Bible verses weekly.

"Repeat after me, . . ."

Oakwood University Church Senior Pastor Carlton Byrd's maxim "repetition deepens the impression" actually works. I'm learning now to humble myself and ask my wife and our daughter occasionally to repeat what they just said; then in my own words, I'll recap their "honey-do" instructions!

"Write On!"

My latest venture is to jot down what I heard being said - that is, when I can remember to carry a small pad and pen!

The Navigators founder-evangelist Dawson Trotman once said, "Thoughts disentangle themselves when they pass through the lips and fingertips." These are God-gifts immediately available to us, "in your hands."

Are these three tools of humility, Bible re-memorizations, and notetaking working?

I'll keep you posted, . . . that is, if I remember.

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>.

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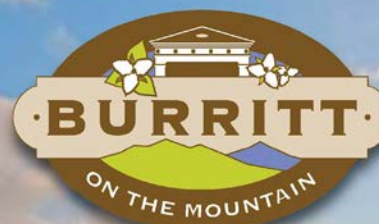
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CARNIVAL of the ANIMALS

HSO to Present 'Carnival of the Animals'

Huntsville Symphony Orchestra will present "Carnival of the Animals," a free family concert on Saturday, February 27, in the Mark C. Smith Concert Hall of the Von Braun Center from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Among the most beloved of children's pieces for the

orchestra, Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals presents the double bass as an elephant, the clarinet as a cuckoo, and an ensemble of shimmering strings and undulating pianos as an aquarium brimming with colorful fish. This event can be used as a way to intro-

duce young people to the instruments of the orchestra when paired with the dazzling, larger-than-life puppetry of Huntsville M.E.T. Best of all, this concert and the fun-filled morning activities which precede it are FREE to the family and to the entire community.

City's Multicultural Affairs Gets Update

The City of Huntsville's Office of Multicultural Affairs is getting a big makeover in 2021.

Established over a decade ago, the office that serves as the administration's point of contact for diverse races and cultures within the City limits will soon be restructured to the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ODEI).

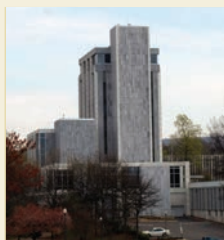
Mayor Tommy Battle first announced the change in his annual State of the City address, when he said the City will expand staff and programs to better represent the needs and goals of the growing community.

"We want to engage in dialogue to ensure we are doing everything we can to be a more just and equitable city," he said.

Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Multicultural Affairs Officer Kenny Anderson, who joined the City of Huntsville in 2013, is working with administration to make the transition to ODEI as seamless as possible.

Anderson said the restructuring shows that the City of Huntsville recognizes the importance of creating a community where all people feel valued and heard.

City 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).

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Focus on Dr. William Hooper Councill

Founder of Alabama A&M University

While William Hooper Councill founded Alabama A&M University in 1875, his list of other accomplishments is extensive. When Councill died in 1909, the *Montgomery Advertiser* described him as "the greatest Negro that the race has produced," although he was a contemporary of Booker T. Washington. His many successes include the launching of the Lincoln School in 1869, serving in the Alabama Legislature in 1873, being admitted to the bar for the practice of law in 1883, establishing the St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1885, and serving as publisher and editor of the *Huntsville Herald* from 1877 to 1884.



the Lincoln School. Soon, the Lincoln School became recognized throughout the county.

Councill was born July 12, 1848, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. His parents were slaves on the Councill plantation. His father escaped in 1854 to Canada, but William, his mother Mary Jane, and his brother Cicero were sold to D.C. Humphreys in Huntsville, Alabama, who during the war became known as a champion of Negro rights. Councill, with his brother and mother, was able to go north for the remainder of the war. When he turned at age 17, he returned to gain formal training in Stevenson, Alabama, at the Quaker freedmen's school.

He became a school teacher in 1868 and ran afoul of the Ku Klux Klan, who ran Councill out of Stevenson to Huntsville in 1869. He settled outside Huntsville and established

Over the next 35 years, Councill worked hard to establish the school he founded. The name changed to the State Normal and Industrial School, then to the State Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes. And, relocating the school in 1890, four miles north of Huntsville, helped to make "Councill's school" stronger. By 1898, the school offered college degrees and boasted an enrollment of 422. Today, it has 6,000 students and offers bachelor's, master's, specialist and doctoral (4) degrees.

In addition to serving as president of the school, Councill published and edited the *Huntsville Herald* between 1877 and 1884. He also studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1883. Councill wrote several books during his lifetime, including *Lamp of Wisdom* (1898). From 1883 to 1900, he was a minister of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Conference. After organizing the St. John A.M.E. Church in 1885, he reportedly preached the first sermon from a barber shop on the corner of Miller and West Holmes streets.

In 1872, he moved to the state capital and became an assistant enrollment clerk for the House of Representatives for two years. Prior to this job, at the Alabama State Equal Rights convention, he urged Congress to enact Charles Sumner's Civil Rights Bill without deleting its provision for integration. Councill said he "wanted all the rights that the white man enjoyed, for justice hath no color."

The legislature in 1873 created the Huntsville Normal School. The school was first opened in May 1875 with a \$1,000 appropriation. With Councill as the first president, the school was designed to educate blacks to teach black children. The enrollment was 61 students with two teachers.

On April 9, 1909, Councill died at age 61 at his home on the campus of his beloved university. A crowd of 5,000 attended his funeral, and special music, originally composed for the funeral of governor J.W. Clay, was sung at Councill's service by members of the governor's family.

"Men can starve from a lack of self-realization as much as they can from a lack of bread." - Richard Wright

Washington in One Minute



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

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The Senate is in session this week, while the House will have no floor votes—although House committees will meet. After pulling an all-nighter, the Senate passed the FY2021 Budget Resolution at 5:35 a.m. last Friday by a vote of 51-50 providing the fiscal framework for President Biden's proposed \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief plan under the budget reconciliation process. The House then approved the Senate's amended Budget Resolution 219-209 on Friday afternoon. House and Senate committees have until Feb. 16 to write reconciliation instructions. This week, 9 House committees will mark up their portions of the reconciliation bill, the vehicle for the coronavirus relief bill, toward a goal of having the bill on the House floor the week of February 22. The Senate begins the second impeachment trial of former President Trump, charged with incitement of the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, on Tuesday, which is expected to last about a week. Presiding over the trial will be Senate President Pro Tempore Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

2. **BIDEN 100 DAYS.** Last Friday, President Biden met with House Democratic leaders and the chairs of the House committees working on his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill. It was also announced on Friday that the Biden Administration will invoke the Defense Production Act to: (1) sign contracts with six diagnostic companies to make at least 61 million at-home or point-of-care

coronavirus tests available by summer 2021; (2) build plants to make 1 billion nitrile gloves per month; and (3) give Pfizer (which did not participate in the federal Operation Warp

Speed) priority access to two components it needs to significantly increase the manufacture of its Covid-19 vaccine ...

3. **BIDEN CABINET.** To date, the Senate has confirmed 6 out of President Biden's 23 Cabinet nominees, with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas getting the Senate's approval last week. Today, the full Senate will take up the nomination of Denis McDonough to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

4. **PENTAGON SENDING FIRST TROOPS TO MASS VACCINATION SITES.** Last Friday, the White House COVID-19 Response Team announced that the Pentagon will be sending 1,110 active-duty military personnel to support 5 initial coronavirus mass vaccination sites across the country, with the first contingent of troops to arrive in California to begin operations on Feb. 15. This is the first part of a larger plan, which ultimately proposes to have 10,000 active-duty troops at 100 sites around the nation.

5. **3rd COVID VACCINE.** Last Thursday, Johnson & Johnson officially asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for an emergency use authorization of its COVID-19 vaccine. The FDA has scheduled a public meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee for Friday, Feb. 26, to consider the request. Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine, which only requires a single shot and is stable for up to 3 months in a regular refrigerator, was shown to be

66% effective in preventing moderate and severe disease in a global Phase 3 trial and 85% effective overall at preventing hospitalization and death in all regions where it was tested.

6. **50-50 SENATE AGREEMENT + NEW COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.** Last Wednesday, after a full 2 weeks of negotiation, the Senate passed an organizing resolution that allows, among other things, the new Democratic committee chairs to assume power, sets the new committee ratios of D's and R's, and sets the procedures allowing bills and nominations to come to the floor even if they are deadlocked in committee.

7. **FEDERAL MASK MANDATE.** On Friday, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that passengers on planes, buses, and trains not wearing a mask will face a \$250 fine for first offenders and up to \$1500 for repeat offenders (and also applies to persons at TSA airport screening checkpoints and throughout the commercial and public transportation systems, including transit stations and port facilities). The order went into effect on Feb. 2 and will remain effective until May 11, 2021. See the TSA press release here: TSA mask fines.

8. **HOUSE EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE.** The House Education and Labor Committee, chaired by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), held a meeting to organize for the 117th Congress. The key issues facing the committee include the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

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