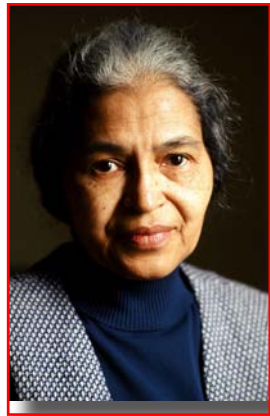


# Remembering Clinton “Jack” Parker, p. 7

FREE



## Become a ‘Superspreader,’ p. 5

Dr. Caples, p. 2

“No, the only ‘tired’ I was, was  
tired of giving in.”

- Rosa Parks



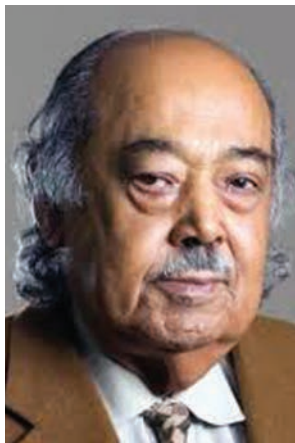
POSITIVE-INSPIRATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL

Friday  
February 26, 2021  
Vol. 7, No. 25  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#### Dr. Prince Preyer

Dr. Prince Preyer, Jr., is a native of Monroeville, Ala., but he is well-known throughout Huntsville and Madison County as a long-time educator and politician. He served 46 years in the field of education and public service. He received his B.S. degree in agriculture in 1958 from Alabama A&M University, his M.S. degree in agriculture from Tuskegee Institute (University) in 1971 and his Ph.D from Iowa State University in 1976.



ful advocate for social justice, equal education and was passionate about enhancing the political and philosophical concept that holds that all people should have equal access to wealth, health, well-being, justice, and opportunity.

While serving as Commissioner, Dr. Preyer was instrumental in starting several social programs that addressed the needs of at risk youth. He understood the grantsmanship language and was successful obtaining funding for District 6 through federal grants totaling over \$13 million to enhance and strengthen the various social programs.

Dr. Preyer served 12 years in secondary education, then joined Alabama A&M University and served 20 years (from 1970-1990) as a professor and eventually as chairperson for the Department of Agribusiness. After he completed his time at Alabama A&M University, Dr. Preyer, became the first African American elected to the Madison County Commission. He served four terms (16 years) as representative for Madison County Commission District 6. He officially retired from public service but continued to be a power-

#### Minister Completes LTS Degree

Rev. Dr. W. Temple Richie, Jr., has completed the requirements for the Doctor of Ministry degree awarded by Louisville Theological Seminary.

Title of Temple's Dissertation was “The Vital Role of the Laity in Clergy Succession in the African American Free Will Tradition.”

Dr. Richie earned the Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia State University and the Master of Divinity from Harvard Di-



vinity School. He is also an associate minister at First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala.

#### OU Sending Shout Out to Honor Classes

Oakwood University is sending a ‘shout out’ to all its Honor Classes this year.

The Division of Advancement, the Office of Alumni Relations, and the Alumni Council will celebrate the special reunion years and extend to each Honors Class member an invitation to engage during the Virtual Alumni Homecoming 2021 on March 27-April 4, 2021.

Some of the 2021 Honor



Class Presidents and officers have already reached out to their alma mater to plan their Alumni Homecoming engagement activities and goals.

Those Honor Class Presidents that have not already done so are urged to contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (256) 726-7039 immediately to get information that will help them get started.

#### AAMU Planners to Take on ‘Racial Justice in Planning’

The Department of Community and Regional Planning at Alabama A&M University is gearing up for its annual conference on Friday, February 26, at 10 a.m.

The theme, “Racial Justice & Urban Planning,” will be addressed by Dr. June Manning Thomas, Mary Frances Berry Distinguished University Professor Emerita, and Professor Emerita, Urban and Regional Planning, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The conference will be moderated by Dr. Constance Jordan Wilson, retired planning faculty member. Among the slate

of five panelists are: Erica Itheme, a 2011 Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) alumna, southern director, Jobs to Move America; Aliyah Riley, MURP, 2000, local realtor; Laurretta Moore, planner II, community development, City of Huntsville; Traycee Chapman, MURP, 2009, lead installation community development planner, partner liaison, U.S. Air Force; and Dr. Joyce Ann Pressley, assistant professor, Department of Community & Regional Planning, AAMU.

For additional information, call the Department at (256) 372-5426.

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# CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## "In Wisdom He Made Them All"

### Psalms 104:24

This Psalm attributed to David captured him no doubt in a moment of reflection that caused him to rejoice in God's Sovereignty, His Providence, and Creation. As his mind and heart scanned the landscape of his life, he acknowledged that everything that his eyes could see, his ears could hear, his hands could touch,



and everything he could imagine, owed its existence to God. He opened the Psalm with an imperative to his own soul to "Bless the LORD!" This was vintage David because he had a holy habit of encouraging and imploring himself. Throughout the entire Psalm he acknowledged God as the *Majestic Maker, Molder, Mover, and Merry Maker*. What David said about all the things that God created was that *in wisdom He made them all*. Interestingly David used a word in Hebrew that carries the idea of *one who has skills and dexterity*. After all, only One with



skills and dexterity can make everything and not duplicate anything. David said that this God 'laid the

foundation(s) of the earth.' Mountains, valleys, oceans, seas, and their inhabitants; *in wisdom He made them*

*all*. Birds and the songs they sing and the branches where they perch themselves; *in wisdom He made them all*. Grass for the cattle, food for mankind, and wine that makes the heart merry; *in wisdom He made them all*. As I often respond to preachers preaching about this God, "That's Him!" "Bless the LORD O my soul!"

### Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Dr. Virginia Caples

The late Dr. Virginia Caples was a Doddsville, Miss., native who provided committed and dedicated service to Alabama A&M University for nearly 40 years in various capacities as interim president, vice president for academic affairs, associate dean, professor, provost and vice president for academic affairs, University Professor, and 1890 Administrator.

In those capacities, Caples provided effective leadership in areas such as strategic planning, academic program development and evaluation, faculty performance, institutional effectiveness, technology integration, meeting accreditation requirements, and

student learning outcomes.

Moreover, she was a lead facilitator for the University's strategic planning and SACSCOC accreditation efforts in 1984, 1994, 2004 and the current 2014 reaffirmation process.

Further, she was one of the principal individuals involved in the implementation of Knight, Sims, et al v. State of Alabama Higher Education Desegregation Lawsuit for Alabama A&M University.

In 1995, Dr. Caples stepped in for the first time to stabilize an AAMU presidency left vacant by David B. Henson, who subsequently assumed a post at Purdue University and later



became President of Lincoln University (Mo.). A decade later, on February 25, 2005, the Board of Trustees again entrusted Caples, then the school's provost and vice president for academic affairs, to assume the role of interim president once more.

**FEBRUARY 26 - ERYKAH BADU** - An American singer-songwriter, record producer and actress, who is influenced by R&B, 1970s soul, and 1980s hip hop. She was born in Dallas, Tex., in 1971 and attended Grambling University before dropping out to pursue her music career. - Wikipedia.org



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### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC CITY OF HUNTSVILLE

The City of Huntsville's Community Development Department will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 8, 2021** at 6:00 P.M. to receive input for the **2021 Action Plan Program Year** (7/1/20 to 6/30/21). The meeting will be held via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/99150050000?pwd=djZlQzRNWUV4Yk56UG05dWQ4R0Z6dz09> or 1-646-558-8656; Meeting ID: 991 5005 0000. The City of Huntsville does not discriminate based on disability for the admission or access to its programs or activities. If you have any questions, or will need special accommodations, please call Turkessa C. Lacey - Community Development Department prior to the Public Hearing at 256-427-5400; TTY: 256-427-7092.

### AVISO A LA CIUDAD PÚBLICA DE HUNTSVILLE

Le Service du développement communautaire de la Ville de Huntsville tiendra une audience publique le lundi **8 mars 2021** à 18 h .M pour recevoir les commentaires de l'Année du Programme du Plan d'action 2021 (7/1/20 au 6/30/21). La réunion se tiendra via Zoom à: <https://zoom.us/j/99150050000?pwd=djZlQzRNWUV4Yk56UG05dWQ4R0Z6dz09> or 1-646-558-8656; ID de la réunion: 991 5005 0000. La ciudad de Huntsville no discrimina en base de la inhabilidad para la admisión ni tiene acceso a sus programas o actividades. Si usted tiene cualesquiera preguntas, o necesita comodidades especiales, llame por favor Turkessa C. De encaje - departamento del desarrollo de la comunidad antes de la audiencia pública en 256-427-5400; TTY: 256-427-7092.





THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

## "WHY WE NEED GOD"

Psalms 37:7 says, *Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when evil people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

There is a song that goes, "If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need him now." In Psalms 37, David makes the case as to why we need God in our lives today.

In this scripture, David talks about the contrast between the wicked and the righteous. In other words, those who seek to know God and the ones who don't. Today, we live

in a society where most people don't seek to know God and study His word. I believe that this will continue to produce a generation of spiritually uneducated people, which will lead to not being able to distinguish from what is morally and spiritually right and from what is morally and spiritually wrong.

Now I know that I may be "preaching to the choir," but for those that don't know why we need God in our lives, here are a few things that I put together to remind us.



The first thing we need God for is to change the quality of our lives by realizing that we are all sinners. That's why we need the love of Jesus to change the very nature of our lives and give us all the power of forgiveness. Just think about it: "How can anybody not realize that we are all sinners?" If you don't believe me, just look at how many people that commit crimes everyday. Look at all the law enforcement officers that we have. Look at all the prisons and jails that we have in this country. Look at all the materialism and greed and

self-seeking people that are all around. Human nature is sinful. Romans 3:10 says, "There's no one righteous, not even one." That's why our hearts and minds need to be changed.

We also need God to change the "ruling spirit" of our lives. The spirit of Christ and the spirit of the world are the exact opposite. The spirit of the world is to hate. The spirit of Christ is to love. So until we change this mindset, we will continue to stay spiritually blind. That's why we need Jesus to save us from our own sins, so that we can grow in His grace, which will lead to a heart that forgives, instead of a heart that condemns!

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and be safe. Make sure you purchase a copy of my book "A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE" at amazon.com.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS

## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

*Funeral service for MR. JAMES OTHA STEGER (b. 1956) was held Thursday, February 18, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.*

*Graveside service for MR. ERSKINE VALRIE (b. 1946) was held Friday, February 12, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.*

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

*Graveside service for MR. SEBASTIAN LESHAN "Lee Lee" BUSH (b. 1967) was held Wednesday, February 24, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road Toney, Ala.) with Elder Larry James Bush, DLAP officiating.*

*Graveside service for MR. WILLIE WALTER "Maine Shine" JAMAR (b. 1954) was held Sunday, February 21, 2021 at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road Toney, Ala.) with Pastor Jerry Russell officiating.*

*Graveside service for MR. ANDREAL LAMONT ELLISON (b. 1980) was held Sunday, February 21, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Robert Pearl officiating.*

*Graveside service for MR. BARON EDMUND COWAN (b. 1939) was held Sunday, February 21, at the Oakwood Memorial Gardens (1 H.L. Cleveland Way Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.*

*Funeral service for MR. A.C. PINCHON (b. 1931) was held Saturday, February 20, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Marvin L. Pinchon, Sr., eulogist and Reverend Walter Peavy officiating.*

*Graveside service for COLONEL EARNEST CHARLES "E.C." SMITH, SR., (b. 1932) was held Friday, February 19, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road Toney, Ala.) with Dr. Karnie C. Smith officiating.*

## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

*Funeral service for MS. BARBARA ANN WASHINGTON (b. 1963) was held Monday, February 22, at the Alabama National Cemetery, 3133 Hwy. 119, Montevallo, Ala.*

## 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).

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



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

## Black History Month February 1-28

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 25**  
HBCU Entrepreneurship & Innovation Workshop  
Alabama A&M University  
College of Business and Public Affairs; Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Economic Development (CEIED), and NSF EPSCoR  
Contact: Dr. Teresa M.

Orok, (256) 372-5603  
4 p.m.

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: 11 a.m.

100 Black Men Black History Scholarship & Mentoring Virtual Fundraiser  
(Hosted by Kenneth Anderson)  
www.100bmogh.com  
1 p.m.

AAMU vs. Alcorn State Football - Louis Crews Stadium

**March 4**  
28th Scholarship Awards Program  
North Alabama NSBE Professionals Chapter  
www.NSBE-NorthAlabamaAE.com

## SISTER DEBORAH

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## Huntsville Has Top 10 'Small Airport'

USA Today recently announced the Top Ten Small Airports in the U.S.

Huntsville International Airport was among the top contenders. It is the only airport in Alabama to have secured a spot in the top twenty.

Nominees were chosen by a panel of experts which included editors from USA Today, editors from 10Best.

com, expert contributors, and sources from other Gannett media properties.

Finalists were chosen by an online public vote that took place over the course of four weeks.

The top ten winners in this category are as follows:

1) Myrtle Beach International Airport; 2) **Huntsville**

**International Airport**; 3) T.F. Green Airport; 4) Long Island MacArthur Airport; 5) Piedmont Triad International Airport; 6) Paine Field; 7) Bradley International Airport; 8) Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport; 9) Buffalo Niagara International Airport; and 10) Des Moines International Airport



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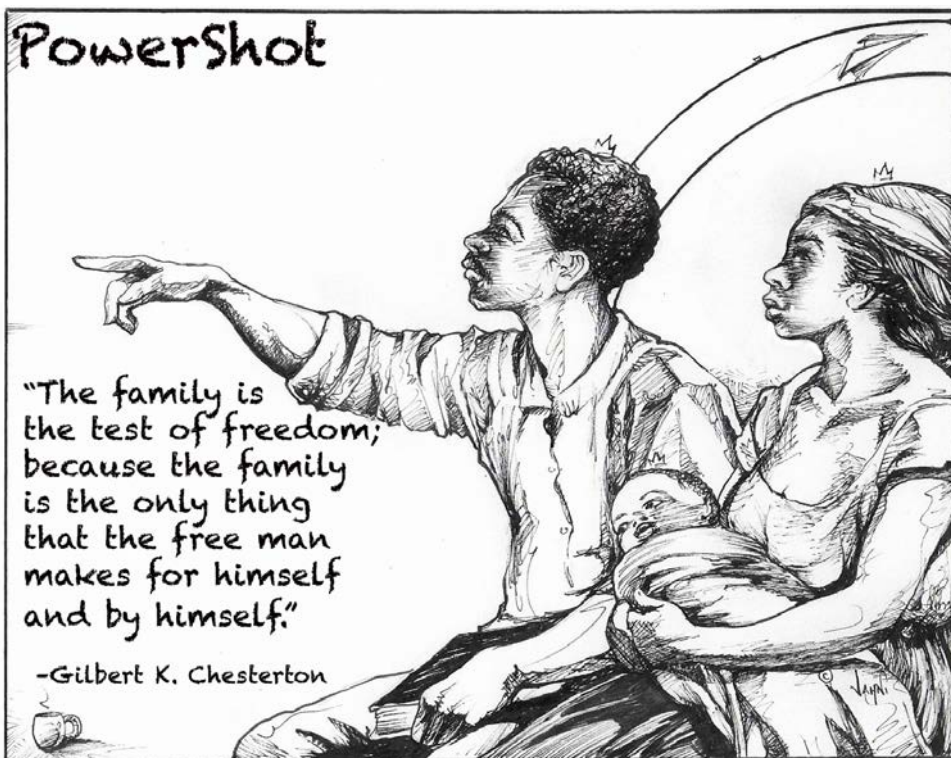
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"The family is the test of freedom; because the family is the only thing that the free man makes for himself and by himself."

-Gilbert K. Chesterton

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## COVID-19 Assistance

### UNITED WAY COVID-19

Assistance Fund

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[www.uwmadison-county.org](http://www.uwmadison-county.org)

Get Assistance: Call 211

### SMALL BUSINESSES

[disastercustomerservice@](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

[sba.gov](http://sba.gov)

(800) 659-2955

### COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department of Labor

(866) 234-5382

[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

### MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(256) 539-3711

### LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

### TAKEOUT/DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

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

## Local Author's Work Caps COVID's Anniversary

To commemorate the first anniversary of the U.S. COVID-19 pandemic, Huntsville author-publisher tim allston will distribute for a limited time a discounted priced The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the

Rise of The Silver-Mettle Leaders, he announced today.

The special commemorative discounted eBook price of \$.99 will run from February 19 to March 5, 2020.

Digital book publishers Apple Books, Barnes & Noble/Nook, Rakuten/kobo, tolino, vivlio, and [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com) will be its distributors; [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com) will also publish the paperback version, along with Amazon Books.

"We are pleased to now

distribute this seminal book to an even larger audience of digital and print readers," explained allston.

The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis recaps that, during the pandemic's earliest months when the federal government failed to respond quickly, how five state governors - whom allston labeled "silver-mettle leaders"

- seized the national leadership initiative and saved many American lives.

For more information, check out <https://book-s2read.com/u/mgzQZq>.



## Become a "Rosa Parks/Kamala Harris Superspreader"

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16*

In concluding his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encouraged his listeners to be more intentional in their Christlike actions. Positive actions affect others positively.

Negative actions conversely will produce negative results. A recent The Times-Picayune/New Orleans Advocate newspaper story illustrated that.

### "One COVID Carrier, 50,000 Infections"

This headline and article cited that a 2020 New Orleans Mardi Gras COVID-infected reveler who traveled from Texas probably infected nearly 800 fellow Carnival attendees.

Those 800 then seeded most of Louisiana's 50,000 confirmed cases throughout the next few months. That Mardi Gras' virus strain raced throughout Mississippi, Texas, and Alabama.

In much the same way that a person's actions can have a negative, widespread and long-lasting impact, so too can a person's actions have an equally positive impact upon future generations.

Just like Mrs. Rosa Parks and Vice President Kamala Harris.



### Become a "Rosa Parks Superspreader," . . .

When Mrs. Parks refused to surrender her Montgomery bus seat in 1955, it led to the Civil Rights protest movement that changed positively the United States. But it didn't stop there, . . .

During the 1960s alone, her resistance ignited the Anti-Vietnam War, Free Speech, Women's Liberation, Gay Liberation, and Black Power protest movements. But it didn't stop there, . . .



### . . . And now a "Kamala Harris Superspreader"

Following her election victory, the VP-elect noted that "While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last, . . . Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities."

You and I need to become more aware of the effects that our actions have upon others.

We need to aim now to become less like the Texas superspreader and become more like a Rosa Parks/Kamala Harris superspreader.

tim allston is the author of The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the "Silver-Mettle" Leaders, available now at [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com).





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	(4 col. in. minimum=\$24)	
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## Author Recounts Bouts of Depression

Third-generation Bulldog Taylor Comer wrote "Hard Sips Through Hardships," which was just published last month.

"The story highlights a time in my collegiate career at Alabama A&M when I faced adversity that led to anxiety and depression. My response to my anxiety and depression was poor and ultimately put me in a terrible place.

This book discusses that journey and learning how to healthily deal with anxiety and depression," says Comer.

Comer earned his marketing degree at AAMU in 2014 and his MBA in 2020.

"I was involved in MANUP, Inc., was the Toastmasters International (now defunct) president, worked on marketing and

video for Bulldog's Athletics, and was involved with several other organizations and events on campus. In this current climate, I think fellow Bulldogs may identify with what I went through and may face similar hardships. This self-help motivational short read outlines some healthy ways to cope."

Comer is from Marietta, Ga., and is currently an account executive in Meridianville, Ala. He is working to start his own digital marketing consulting firm.

"Hard Sips Through Hardships," is available on Amazon Books in print and as an eBook:

[https://www.amazon.com/.../ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_asin\\_title\\_o00...](https://www.amazon.com/.../ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00...)

From *Bulldog BottomLine*

## 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](mailto:faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com) or call 256-714-9399. Applications must be received not later than *March 19, 2021*.



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# Clinton “Jack” Parker and Parker Shoe Hospital

**Guest Columnist**  
by Ryan Patrick Parker

You’ve read my writings about my father who worked as a shoe repairman, but I’ve rarely shared a picture of him doing what he loved. Here’s a picture of my father taken in 1980 shining a pair of boots. Looking at this photo evokes so many emotions, and I’ve spent many minutes just sitting and starring at it... I remember the stool he’s sitting on. I remember the shirt he’s wearing. I remember the old school chair that’s cut off to the left of the picture. I remember...

I can’t help but imagine whose shoes he was shining... whose shoes those were in front of him that he had just finished shining. Perhaps, it was one of your fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers. I can’t help but wonder what he was talking about as he was shining those boots. Knowing my father, it was more than likely a discussion about the Bible as the Parker Shoe Hospital was a place you could regularly receive a word (or a debate) about his love for The Lord.

For more than 30 years, Parker Shoe Hospital was a landmark in downtown Huntsville, Alabama. Very similar to the Black barber shop and the Black beauty shop, Parker Shoe Hospital was like a community center where you were much more than a patron. You were known by name, your family was asked about, and you were very likely offered a Faygo to drink. As we are honoring the con-

tributions of African Americans this month, I realized that Parker Shoe Hospital’s story has not been told. I thought it was time I shared it.

Parker Shoe Hospital is an unsung hero for social justice. I imagine the Huntsvil-

lians who marched from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama probably took their tattered shoes to Parker Shoe Hospital after marching for freedom and the right to vote. I can see the Huntsvillians who participated in the March on Washington who made a stop by Parker Shoe Hospital after their journey back from Washington, DC. I suppose those who attended the funerals and protests in Birmingham, Alabama after the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church Bombing that killed the four little girls and injured the fifth little girl—my friend and Civil Rights giant Sarah Collins Rudolph—took their worn shoes to Parker Shoe Hospital when they returned from Birmingham. You see, \*shoes\* helped changed the course of history for a people, and Parker Shoe Hospital was right there.

So simple—yet, so profound—my Black History



imagination paints a vivid depiction of Parker Shoe Hospital’s untold story. As a child, I couldn’t see my father’s small—yet, potentially significant—role in shaping American history, but, today, I see it and my family is honored to have shared in his life’s work.

My father died December 31, 1990 at the age of 78. We attempted to maintain Parker Shoe Hospital, but his shoes were too great to fill, as we discovered that he did much more than repair shoes. Shortly after his death, we sold the business to a young man he had been mentoring in the business.

Just look at him... sitting there suited and booted—just as I remember him. A man who I never saw in jeans or sneakers. He was the original classic man in my book. I get it honestly.. Like father, like son. You may be surprised, but I actually know how to shine shoes, do half soles,

put taps and hills on men and women shoes. He was determined that his sons knew a trade. I’m grateful for those lessons—although, I didn’t understand it then.

Needless to say, I’m reminded in a profound

way that I’m the son of this great man... A shoe repairman. A WW II Veteran. A 1953 Graduate of Alabama A&M University. A good man... A god-fearing man. And he was my father, Clinton “Jack” Parker. I come from a great legacy...

Yes, I’m proud to be his son ... very proud. Just thought I’d share a piece of Huntsville Black History.. My history.. My Dad. This is priceless... #HisLegacy #MyFathersSon #AngelDads #Huntsville #BlackHistory #AlabamaHistory



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## Washington in One Minute



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

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The House and Senate are in session this week. The House Budget Committee marked up the 591-page, \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill on Monday, with the plan to have it on the House floor probably Friday or Saturday. The House will also take up H.R. 5, the Equality Act, which would add sexual orientation and gender identity to federal law to ban discrimination in the workforce, housing, education, credit, and other areas for LGBTQ citizens. The Senate this week will vote on

the nominations of Linda Thomas-Greenfield to be United Nations Ambassador and Tom Vilsack to be Secretary of Agriculture.

2. **BIDEN 100 DAYS.** Yesterday (Sunday),

President Biden visited ailing former Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-KS) at his Washington, D.C., home. On Monday, the President, the First Lady, the Vice President, and the Second Gentleman commemorated the 500,000th U.S. COVID death at a ceremony at the White House. On Tuesday, the President had a virtual bilateral meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which also included U.S. and Canadian cabinet officials. On Thursday, he made remarks at the virtual National Governors Association Winter Meeting. The White House announced

that the President may visit weather-ravaged Texas this week, which the Biden Administration declared a major disaster area on Saturday, opening up federal funds to 77 of the Texas' 254 counties (he also declared Oklahoma and Louisiana disaster areas last week). Last Thursday, Congressional Democrats, led by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA), introduced President Biden's immigration reform bill, which would provide an 8-year pathway to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants.

3. **BIDEN CABINET.** Senate committees this week held hearings on the following cabinet nominees: (1) Attorney General-designate Merrick Garland, (2) HHS Secretary-designate Xavier Becerra, (3) CIA Director-designate William Burns, (4) United States Trade Representative-designate Katherine Tai, and (5) Interior Secretary-des-

ignate Debra Haaland. Senate committees will vote this week on OMB Director-designate Neera Tanden and Small Business Administrator-designate Isabella Guzman. To date, the Senate has confirmed 7 of 23 of President Biden's cabinet picks.

4. **FED CHAIR POWELL ON HILL.** On Tuesday and Wednesday, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell testified before the Senate Banking and House Financial Services Committees on U.S. monetary policy and was expected to predict that benchmark rates could remain near zero through 2023, while also tolerating an inflation uptick that averages 2% over time.

5. **CAPITOL RIOT HEARING.** On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Senate Homeland Security/Government Affairs Committee and the Senate Rules Committee held a joint hearing on the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol with witnesses that in-

cluded the Acting Chief of the D.C. Police, the former Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police, the former Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the former House Sergeant at Arms. The House Legislative Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on Thursday on security failures at the U.S. Capitol. Last week, House Speaker announced her intention to establish an outside, independent 9/11-type commission to "investigate and report on the facts and causes relating to the January 6, 2021 domestic terrorist attack upon the United States Capitol Complex ... and relating to the interference with the peaceful transfer of power, including facts and causes relating to the preparedness and response of the United States Capitol Police and other Federal, State, and local law enforcement in the National Capitol Region."

6. **BIDEN NOMINATES KVAAL FOR EDUCATION UNDER SECRETARY.** Presi-

dent Joe Biden has nominated James Kvaal for Under Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education. This position oversees education policies, procedures and programs for the department. Mr. Kvaal current serves as president of the Institute for College Access and Success. During the Obama Administration, he served as deputy domestic policy adviser at the White House, where he worked on a range of issues related to economic opportunity. He was also instrumental in developing the gainful employment framework for the Obama Administration.

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