

The Valley Weekly

FREE

Volume 3, No. 25

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Friday, March 3, 2017

Toyota Achieves Manufacturing Milestone



If the 5 million engines that Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama has produced over the past 14 years were lined up side by side, they would stretch from Huntsville to Los Angeles!

“Five million, that’s incredible. You just don’t think in those terms,” says Theodore Bridgeforth, a group leader and original

team member who helped bring that first engine forth back in 2003. “It was special, seeing the first engine go from months of planning and design to actually coming off the line.”

To celebrate the milestone, Toyota will donate \$50,000 to the Huntsville Library Foundation, supporting the North Huntsville Library project.

J. Cole Sells Out Alabama Show



80’s band Foreigner rocked the Von Braun Center with their cavalcade of hits on February 21. The concert concluded with the Huntsville High School Choir joining them on stage for an encore performance of their smash hit “I Want to Know What Love Is.” Photo: Reggie Allen

HudsonAlpha Discovers New Gene Signature for Breast Cancer

Discovery could lead to new, targeted therapy for triple negative breast cancer

Huntsville, Ala. — Researchers at the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, a nonprofit genetics and genomics research institute in Huntsville, Ala., and collaborators from the University of Alabama (UAB) and the Huntsman Cancer Institute have discovered a new gene signature regulated by a specific transcription factor – proteins that switch genes on and off – that is involved in regulating processes active in triple negative breast cancer. Results from the study were published in

the journal *Oncotarget* last December.

The research was led by then graduate assistant Joy Agee McDaniel, PhD, who recently joined The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center as a postdoctoral fellow. McDaniel lost her best friend, who was only 24 years old, to breast cancer, and the loss motivated her to pursue graduate work at HudsonAlpha in breast cancer research, specifically triple negative breast cancer.

“My research is not only important to me because of my personal connection to breast cancer,” McDaniel said, “but also to men and

women around the world because learning more about the basic biology of triple negative breast cancer will put us one step closer to developing better therapies and saving lives.”

In her time as a graduate assistant trainee in the Myers Lab at HudsonAlpha, McDaniel took a significant step toward meeting her goal. She and her colleagues discovered a new gene signature regulated by the transcription factor STAT3.

“What we found,” McDaniel said, “was that therapies that target STAT3 could prevent metastasis in triple negative breast cancer.” In metastasis, can-

cer cells break away from where they first formed, travel through the blood or lymph system, and form new tumors in other parts of the body.

Triple negative is one of the least treatable and most aggressive forms of breast cancer because it does not respond to hormonal therapies and is usually diagnosed at a later stage. McDaniel points out that while African American women have lower incidence of breast cancer diagnosis compared to white women, African American women have disproportionately lower survival rates from breast cancer.

J. Cole is returning to the Magic City for an intimate set at Avondale Brewing Company on June 6., but only a small elect can rejoice in the special occasion. Those looking to purchase tickets to see the Grammy-nominated artist might want to keep an eye out for any upcoming radio contests.

Tickets for the general admission concert could only be purchased on Avondale’s website. Seconds after going on sale, the show immediately sold out.

Last week, Cole announced the “4 Your Eyez Only” tour, a 57-city trek across the world, supporting his album of the same name that was released last year. Unlike his previous tour, which had stops in Mobile and Birmingham, the Magic City will be his only

Alabama show.

Immediately following the tour announcement, Alabamians questioned whether the venue was big enough to host an act with a fan base as strong as Cole’s. Some fans have even gone far enough to create a petition, asking to move the act to a larger venue like the BJCC or Iron City Bham, where the 32-year-old performed a sold out show in 2015.

While Cole has sold out stadium-sized venues, the Rocnation artist said he likes to keep things miniscule and intimate. Hailing from Fayetteville, North Carolina, the “Work Out” singer once stated that coming from a small town encouraged him pay to homage to the areas that most artist usually overlook when touring. *by Reggie Allen*

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Your Washington Recap

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

1. The House and Senate are back in session this week after last week's Presidents' Day Recess. The House this week will take up another regulation-cancelling resolution (this time pertaining to a Labor Department rule on work injury records) and a bill to create a Regulatory Working Group at the White House that will coordinate all regulatory activities government-wide. The Senate will take up the nominations of Commerce Secretary-designee Wilbur Ross and Interior Secretary-designee Ryan Zinke.

2. President Trump, having hosted a party for the nation's Governors at the White House, met them Monday to discuss the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. He also released details on his FY2018 budget proposal, which is expected to call for a sharp increase in defense spending at the expense of other agencies, including EPA and State (but he will not propose cuts to entitlement programs). On Tuesday, he addressed his first Joint Session of Congress - at which he was expected to press Congress to pass legislation on comprehensive tax reform, Obamacare repeal/replacement, regulatory reform, and an infrastructure plan. The Democratic response was delivered by ex-Kentucky Governor Steve

Beshear and the Democrats' Spanish-language response was given by Nevada immigration activist Astrid Silva.

3. House committees were expected to start work this week on the House Republicans' plan to repeal and replace Obamacare, which was leaked to reporters last Friday. It would repeal Obamacare's individual mandate requiring all Americans to purchase health insurance (instead, the draft bill would allow insurers to charge a penalty of up to 30% above the baseline when entering a plan for anyone who lets their coverage lapse). It would also eliminate the taxes used to fund Obamacare subsidies and the expansion of Medicaid and would eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood for one year. The tax subsidies and state expansion of Medicaid would remain in place until 2020 and, after that, individuals would receive tax credits - ranging from \$2,000 annually for the under 30s to \$4,000 for the over 60s.

4. The Supreme Court heard arguments in a North Carolina case in which a man was convicted of violating a state sex offender law by posting comments on his Facebook page about a dismissed traffic ticket, thereby violating the law's prohibition on using a social networking site that he knew was accessed by minors. Two years ago,

the Court struck down the conviction of a man who used Facebook to issue threats against his ex-wife.

5. On Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee will allow a vote on a resolution offered by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), which would compel the Attorney General to produce all documents and memos pertaining to foreign investment in the Trump Organization and any investigations targeting President Trump or his staff.

6. A new NBC/Wall Street Journal poll released Sunday finds President Trump's job approval rating still in negative territory (44% approve to 48% disapprove) after 5 weeks in office. However, he beats out Congress, which only has a 29% approval rating. The same poll, however, also found that 53% think the media has exaggerated the problems in the Trump Administration.

7. Senate Democrats are pushing Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos for answers about a new higher education advisory group - reportedly run by Jerry Falwell Jr. - and what role it will play in the administration. Finally, an interesting report on how student veterans, who often have to juggle education with jobs and families, outperform their peers has been released.

For more information, contact Ron Hamm at 202-596-8384.

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FMBC to Observe 40th Pastoral Anniversary



FMBC
First Missionary Baptist Church

The membership of First Missionary Baptist Church cordially invites the public to join in the celebration of Pastor Julius R. Scroggs's 40th anniversary on Sunday, March 19, 2017, during the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services.

The theme for this year's event will be "Celebrating God's Faithfulness for 40 Years." *Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.* (Hebrews 3:2).

For this year's celebration, the guest minister is the Reverend Don Darius Butler, who is the Pastor of Tabernacle Community Baptist Church in Milwaukee, WI.

Please come out and support Rev. Scroggs' 40th Pastoral Anniversary on March 19, along with the First Baptist Missionary Baptist Church congregation, where the goal is "to become one of the most loving churches in all the world."

For more information, please contact First Missionary Baptist Church at (256) 852-4318.

Sally Ride EarthKAM @ Space Camp

Educators around the world can sign up now for Sally Ride EarthKAM @ Space Camp Mission 57, which is taking place March 7-11.

Once signed up for the free activity, formal and informal educators and their students can request real-time images of a specific location be taken from a camera onboard the International Space Station.

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is home to the EarthKAM, a NASA mission administered by the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Teledyne Brown Engineering and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Sign up at www.EarthKAM.org, choose a location to photograph from the ISS, and then receive your free image once it's taken. It's that simple!



Publisher
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Editor-in-Chief
Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

**Editorial Consultant/
Senior Editor**
Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

Editorial Assistants
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- Contributing Editors -
Reggie Allen
Lamar A. Braxton, Jr.
Minister Preston Brown
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Melissa Wilson-Seloma

Website Administrator
Calvin Farier

Mailing Address:
The Valley Weekly
415A Church Street - Suite 100
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 651-9028
www.valleyweeklyllc.com
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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



Ahh ... Busy Weekend!

We hope you have been enjoying this February weather. Huntsville is one of those places where there is literally something to do all the time. Twenty-two years ago, when we moved here, I couldn't have made this statement. But now, some days there are two or more invitations to an exciting and innovative venue.

On last Thursday, we had the opportunity to spend some time with two of the smartest people I know: Dr. Paul Ruffin and Dr. Daryush Ila. It's always good to hear about the innovations on which they are working. Dan and I even found enough time to grab lunch with them. Thanks, guys!

On Friday, our other 'smart' friends, Dr. & Mrs. Larry Holland, along with Dr. Adelaide Zimmerman, were our guests for dinner. Always, we try to plan time with them when we can all get together and "chew the fat." Ah, what an evening talking about our trip last year to visit them in Brazil and how we must return and spend more time.

On Saturday, Reggie Allen caught up with Judge Greg Mathis at Oakwood University, while we shared the evening with the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville Foundation for their Mardi Gras Masquerade Gala, held at the Westin at Bridge Street. The Gala was enjoyed by all who attended, with a grand line-up of silent auction items, live music, dancing, Louisiana-styled cuisine, all in a casino-themed venue with loads of charm, masks and beads and such.

On Sunday after church, we were able to attend the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Phillips CME Church on Winchester Road. Congratulations to Rev. Keith Ellison and the Phillips Family on this historic move. Like Councilman Devyn Keith indicated, "We look forward to having you in District 1."

Stay safe until next week ...

Dorothy

Representative Reads to Children at Local Schools

An Alabama State House Minority Leader read Dr. Seuss's "Green Eggs and Ham" at Huntsville Elementary Schools.

Alabama State Representative Anthony Daniels read to students at five Huntsville Elementary Schools as part of the 16th annual National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America Day celebration.

"Children who read, and who are read to, perform better in school and in life," says Rep. Daniels. "We want to get children excited about reading and to strengthen childhood literacy in our elementary

schools."

According to the NEA more than 45 million readers are expected to pick up a book to celebrate Dr. Seuss's March 2nd Birthday and the joys of reading.

Rep. Daniels read to kindergarten and first grade classes at five Huntsville City Schools on Monday, February 27, and at four more Huntsville City Schools on Friday, March 3.

Following the reading, Rep. Daniels presented a \$200 donation to the library of each school.

"We're here to spark a lifelong love of reading," said Rep. Daniels. "By



coming to the schools and reading to children, we are making reading fun, and that's the goal. We want children to enjoy reading as much as their favorite video game."

AAMU Business School Co-Sponsoring Symposium

Alabama A&M University's College of Business and Public Affairs is among the visionary sponsors of an April 20 symposium focusing on the importance of cultivating diversity, talent and innovation within public and private organizations throughout the Tennessee Valley.

As a focal point, the symposium will provide strategies to build cultural awareness to enhance engagement and productivity in "Creating the Community" among Northern

Alabama organizations.

The main objective is to ensure organizations demonstrate a safe and inclusive environment for all employees.

Organizers says understanding the importance of diversity and inclusion enhances morale and provides organizations with a unique opportunity to attract and retain high-quality talent in Northern Alabama.

In addition to AAMU, other prominent event sponsors include the U.S.

Army Materiel Command, Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, City of Huntsville, Leadership Huntsville/Madison County, NASA/MSFC, Oakwood University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

The symposium will begin at 9 a.m. at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Ala.

For registration and additional information, visit www.futureandbeyondhsv.com

for businesses and individuals are \$75. For corporate sponsorship information, contact Anita Weathers at (256) 489-4297.

at the Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville, Ala., with a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start.

Two-person scramble (\$150). Hole sponsorships



Urban Living Expo 2017: Be Prepared for Disasters

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit will hold its first Urban Living Expo (ULE) Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Alabama A&M University Agribition Center, located at 4925 Moores Mill Road in Huntsville, Ala. The theme is "Plan, Prepare, Practice: Don't Get Caught Off-Guard When Disasters Occur."

The event aims to engage the public through a series of interactive displays and to provide a variety of Extension information about disasters to individuals, families, local businesses and organizations.

Organizers says the Expo will be of special importance to community leaders, first responders, educators, students, emergency and health officials, waste management authorities, senior citizens,

as well as to public and private organizations and the general public.

While admission is free, planners are prepared to accept donations of non-perishable food items. Registration is required for all participants and exhibitors.

For additional information, contact Dr. Karnita Garner at (256) 372-8331, Dr. Robert Spencer at (256) 372-4983 or visit www.aces.edu/urban.

A Good Read by Jerome Saintjones

Ben Jonson's "Volpone"

In a conniving way to get even more money, childless Volpone uses his servant Mosca to trick his dastardly associates into giving him even more money.

Volpone schemes a lengthy illness and has Mosca secretly tell

each of three rascals that he alone will be the heir to Volpone's vast fortune. There is Voltore ("Vulture"), a lawyer; Corbaccio ("Crow"), a scrooge; and Corvino ("Raven"), a conniving merchant.

The greedy men rush to the ailing Volpone and parade him with gifts to win his favor. One of the men even offers his wife.

However, there are a hardships along Volpone's path to the easy life of riches and pleasures.

The prospect of being outsmarted by his very own servant leads him to spill the entire devilish plot in the hallowed walls of court. Thus, Volpone and the greedy rats with whom he has long associated all all destined to get their just desserts.

Academy Sponsoring Tournament Fundraiser

The Union Chapel Christian Academy will hold its Second Annual Ambassador Classic Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 8,



HUNTSVILLE BLOOMS

The Huntsville Botanical Garden (HBG) invites the Tennessee Valley area to its seasonal wonder--Huntsville Blooms--Tuesday, March 14, through Saturday, April 29.

door spaces take center stage during March and April. Spring-blooming trees, shrubs, and perennials are highlighted by colorful bulbs and special flowering displays.

ite spring events, such as Night of 1000 Flowers, Spring Plant Sale, and Bunny Bonanza. Plant walks, classes for adults and children, and home school programs add to the fun.

HBG's beautiful out-

Join HBG for favor-

Calendar of Events

March 4
Community Kite Festival
John Hunt Park
Jaycee Building and Fields
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Huntsville, Ala., 5 p.m.

March 12
Spelman College Glee Club
Sponsor: Huntsville Area
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Arts - \$25
4800 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, Ala., 5 p.m.

March 25
Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. and
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March 11
The Rosetta James Founda-
tion "Honoring Our Elders"
Celebration
The Jackson Center, 5 p.m.

March 25



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City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Meetings 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 6 p.m.

City Council work sessions also held in the City Council 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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ValleyScopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

GEMINI With the moon having recently placed an emphasis on your 9th house of in-laws and long distance travel, others may feel more inclined to welcome your views and give in to a sense of intrigue when it comes to such matters.

ARIES You may feel a powerful impulse, to do something a little bit differently, with Mars being conjunct to Uranus, which offers a great chance to use your energy in an extra positive manner.

TAURUS You're apt to find that your professional arena is currently ripe and ready for you to inject the specific examples of transparency and coherence that you find to be an invaluable cohesive force. Bravo!

LEO Job enhancement has catered to the hard working mentality that you've embraced within your career, as you level up and grab the opportunity to share jubilation.

CANCER Your introspection may be in the process of giving way to a daring activity or creative venture which is likely to add on to your finances.

VIRGO You may feel inclined to propose some sort of a swap or encourage others to adapt your views on a delicate matter, which won't be surprising to those around you as long as you guard yourself from presuming too much at the moment.

LIBRA Although you may be quick to clarify any fuzzy focal points that others may have surmised about any particular issues at hand, it has become obvious that the main element of your agenda now is lighthearted fun.

SAGITTARIUS With the moon gracing your 3rd house of education, you're apt to keep everyone around you up on their toes and ready to hit the brakes so to speak should they entertain any notions to swerve. The skills that you've chosen to embark upon displaying, undoubtedly qualify as some of your best assets, right now.

SCORPIO A friend, family member or co-worker, about whom you may have held previous reservations, is now hoping to re-enter your good graces, back you, and offer dependable assistance, in certain matters.

CAPRICORN With the moon having been in your 2nd house of material possessions, you may have recently acquired something new or possibly useful that could ultimately create some degree of opposition, from a family member; however, your amicable charm and desire to openly address the importance of everyone's opinion will prove advantageous.

PISCES With Jupiter having been opposite Uranus, expansion has, essentially, met unpredictability within either a family matter or your occupation, creating an awesome time for your choices to accentuate your individuality.

AQUARIUS With confidence-riddled Mars having been opposite fortune bestowing Jupiter; agonize no more: you could end up feeling compelled to entertain a soft spot and actually release a pinned-up declaration, or even spoil someone; with an act of impartiality. Go ahead, make someone's day!

Judge Greg Mathis

Oakwood University Church Presentation - February 25, 2017

Photos by Reggie D. Allen



"I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hates so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with pain."

- James Baldwin

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Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mrs. Mary E. Jones** (b. 1966) was scheduled for Saturday, March 4, at Syler Tabernacle (904 Oakwood Avenue) at 2 p.m.

Funeral service for **Mr. Curtis N. Noland** (b. 1945) was held Thursday, February 23, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Julius Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for **Elder James E. Mitchell** (b. 1952) was held Sunday, February 19, at Victory World Outreach Ministries with Pastor Bobby Sledge officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Tommy L. Burton, Jr.**, (b. 1952) was held Saturday, February 18, at 12:00 noon at the Apostolic True Temple Church of God (3000 Stringfield Road - Huntsville, AL) with Bishop Jerry Townsend officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Jonathan Lockhart** (b. 1989) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Ms. Gloria J. Lang** (b. 1961) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Mr. Jesse Winburn** (b. 1947) will be announced at a later date.

-Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

Notes from a Native Son

"Artists are the only people who know the truth about us."

- James Baldwin

by J. T. Moore

As an artist, father, educator, and a native son of my Grandcestors who stepped boldly onto this continent well before it was spattered with red white and blue, I stand in that truth. In that truth, I call on another quote by brother Baldwin, "The role of the artist is exactly the same as the role of the lover. If I love you I have to make you conscious of the things you don't see."


I came into the public school system as a little browned eyed hopeful well after the freedom way had been lined with the dreams of those whose blood, sweat and tears now greased the runway. I sat next to blue eyes, hazel eyes, green eyes, and all the rest of the eyes on the prize recipients. We were the products of a movement; the result of a dream and a nightmare that had left this Alabama red clay stained in our forbears' blood. How interesting it was that two children seated right next to each other could be worlds apart. Welcome to America.

We speak sometimes of two Americas, referring to an experience of one white and one black. In truth there are a millions shades and tints of grays sandwiched into a meal of constantly changing appetites. In the wake of the resurrection of James Baldwin in the award-nominated documentary "I Am Not Your Negro" (now playing; go see it!), we find ourselves facing the chill of a political regime selected by the puppet masters of the world stage. This stage had

been set some time ago and like trained circus canines all too many are falling into their supporting roles of being distracted by the rhetoric.

We've weathered many storms, keeping our heads above water, making our way as we could. With the Obama administration we glimpsed hope's rainbow. Now, however, the rough side of the mountain has come into full view. It doesn't seem to want to give us passage. By standing by in fear, we feed fear and the puppet masters' power. By spewing hate, we feed hate. By sitting around watching and reading media-spun discord, we become members in the band of thieves that seek to rob us of our very humanity. Where then do we go from here; past pain, past hope, past the past? I would be so bold as to point you toward an alternative, even in the midst of your wet lust affair with the drama.

Have you considered love? Not the sappy buttered-up sugar crusted pop film version, but a love that will tell us the freedom-road truth about ourselves. A love that will beat yo' ass to save you. A love that will not sit idly by and issue prayers to the devil known as complaints. A love that will get up and do, pull you up out of the pews and into the surrounding community. A love that will, by its divine nature, feed the giver and destroy anything that is against it. A love that will bring the fire next time.



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- Lorraine Hansberry

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