

"Life is an unfoldment, and the further we travel the more truth we can comprehend. To understand the things that are at our door is the best preparation for understanding those that lie beyond."

- Hypatia

FREE

The Valley Weekly

Women's History Month

Volume 4, No. 26

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, March 9, 2018

AKAs Announce 110th Founder's Day Celebration

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® will soon celebrate 110 years of Service to All Mankind.

Local chapters Epsilon Gamma Omega (Huntsville), Rho Chi Omega (Madison), and Omicron Zeta (University of Alabama in Huntsville) are inviting the public to join them on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 3 p.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church, 3409 Blue Spring Road, in Huntsville, Ala., as they celebrate the leadership, dedication, and foresight of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's visionary founders.

The guest speaker for this grand occasion is Dr. Dorothy Buchanan Wilson, International President of



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

The theme for this special celebration is "Service, Sisterhood, and Scholarship: A Legacy of Excellence."

Redstone Federal Credit Union® will host free seminars on "Preparing for Natural Disasters," "Aging Care" and "Fraud Prevention" during the month of March.

March is the start of severe weather season in Alabama, and preparation is the key to protecting oneself, family and finances.

Redstone Federal Credit Union is hosting seminars

during March to help Tennessee Valley residents plan for natural disasters, minimize fraud, and aging care.

All seminars are free and are held in The Atrium, 220 Wynn Drive in Huntsville -- Redstone's main branch location.

- Preparing for Natural Disasters is March 8, 2018, at 6 p.m.



- How to Minimize Your Exposure to Fraud is March 13, 2018, at 3 p.m.

- Caring for Aging Parents is March 20, 2018, at 11:30 a.m.

A panel of experts will

be available to answer questions and provide additional resources as needed.

Reserve your seat today at redfcu.org/seminars or call 800-234-1234 for more information.

A&M, Jack and Jill Aim to "SAVE" Community

A local university and youth organization are teaming to help improve the community by strengthening a bond with area law enforcement.

The Greater Huntsville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and Alabama A&M University will present Strides Against Violent Encounters (SAVE) on Saturday, March 17, in the T.M. Elmore Gymnasium on the Alabama A&M campus at 9 a.m.

SAVE coordinates a series of activities designed to instill the notion that law enforcement and the neighborhoods they serve can work together for the

best interest and improvement of the community.

A basketball tournament and workshops begin at 9 a.m. The entrance fee is \$20 for three-point shoot out and \$150 for team

tournament play (adult and teen brackets).

The awards include trophies and medals and various monetary awards of up to \$500 based on participation levels.

Register teams by March 10, 2018, at the Alabama A&M University Student Health and Wellness Center, 4011 Meridian Street (on AAMU campus), or e-mail saveasapjjghc

AAMU Ribbon Cutting:
Joining Alabama A&M University President Andrew Hugine, Jr., (l) at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony for a \$34 million residence hall are (at ribbon, l-r): SGA President Julian Griffith-Battle, Board President Pro Tem Jerome B. Williams, Congressman Mo Brooks, Nichelle Nix of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs, Councilman Will Culver and Councilman Devyn Keith. (2nd row): AAMU Trustees Dewayne Watts, Kevin Ball, Chris Robinson, Ginger Harper, Jeanette Jones and Perry Jones.



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Washington in a Minute



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

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. House and Senate appropriators are nearing a deal on the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill--reportedly only about \$3 billion in differences remain to be solved before they can close out the FY2018 appropriations cycle. The current deadline to pass the bill is March 23.

2. On Monday, President Trump hosted a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House. On Saturday, he will travel to Pittsburgh to host a campaign rally 3 days before the special election for Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District, said to be a dead heat between Democrat Conor Lamb and Republican Rick Saccone in this one-time safe GOP seat. Last week, First Lady Melania

Trump opened a White House summit on opioids that brought together leaders from the Trump Administration and from around the country to discuss education and prevention, treatment and recovery, and law enforcement and interdiction relating to opioids.

3. Following a Senate hearing last week, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao appeared Tuesday before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee at a hearing on the President's infrastructure proposal.

4. Last week, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) announced that on March 14 the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the Feb. 14 high school shooting in Parkland, Fla., that killed 17 students and faculty members.

5. President Donald Trump is poised to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and possibly European cars this week, despite threats of retaliation from around the world and opposition from within his own party. On Sunday, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and White House trade officer Peter Navarro stated that there will be no exceptions. Some Republican lawmakers and strategists fear the president's proposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum imports will undermine their effort to maintain their majorities in Congress.

6. Democratic and Re-

publican Senators have listed campus safety as a top priority in the rewrite of the federal law governing higher education that they're working on meaning that, for the first time, the Higher Education Act could include rules for colleges dealing with allegations of sexual harassment and assault.

However, the Senators are divided on how schools should handle allegations, and leaders of the Senate education committee have repeatedly said they plan to produce a bipartisan Higher Education Act.

Still, there could be a way to find some common ground around a totally new model for handling assault

allegations: independent regional centers - in addition to colleges or police departments - that investigate complaints.

7. SPRING IS HERE. The National Park Service announced last week that peak bloom for Washington's cherry trees will be March 17.

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Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Butch Damson

Mrs. Butch Kohler Damson was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., and moved to Huntsville, Ala., in 1953. She is the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Otto Philip Kohler. Mrs. Damson attended Huntsville High School and graduated in 1957. She pursued her college education at the University of Alabama, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961.

Mrs. Damson could easily be characterized as an organizer, inciter, motivator, or even "Wonder Woman", because she possessed a pleasing personality and always knew the right words to say to lure one to her team.

As a volunteer in the community, she served as

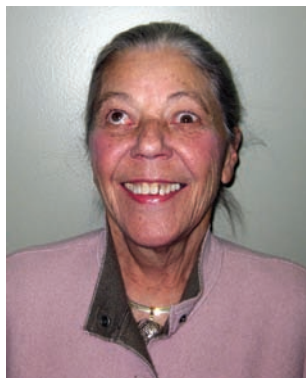
a board member and committee member for numerous organizations: chairman of the board, Burritt Museum; founding member, Greater Huntsville Humane Society's Advisory Council; member, Huntsville Hospital Foundation; president, Botanical Gardens, Board of Directors; Cancer Society; Board of Directors, The Land Trust; and others.

While serving as a member on many of the organizations' boards, she was the initiator of

many programs and activities, such as the City of Huntsville Beautification Awards in 1975, The Clean Community Program now called The Green Team, the Botanical Gardens' Welcome Center, The BMW Brunch, Burritt's Barnyard and the Master Plan for Burritt City.

In recognition of her contributions to the community and service to humanity, she received scores of awards and honors.

Damson married Mr. Jerry L. Damson, and they have two children, Deke and Susan.



Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Matthew 18:21-22 says, Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times.'

Peter was probably not expecting this response from Jesus. And, many of us today are not prepared for this response, either. Because it's hard to forgive people who have hurt you even "one time," but Jesus is telling Peter that we need to forgive our brothers and sisters "seventy seven times". But let's face it, when someone hurts you or does you wrong, it's hard to forgive. Especially when the pain is so deep that it's hard to speak about the issue without getting upset. Whether it be in your distant past or immediate past, forgiveness is hard. So how can we forgive people? I believe



that there are a few things we have to understand about forgiveness as it relates to this scripture. First, we have to understand that it's hard to forgive from an earthly perspective. Because the one who forgives is the innocent person who allows the guilty person that did wrong to go free. This is not normal and that's why it's hard. We see here in the text that this king showed his servant mercy and not the "justice" that the circumstance called for. So forgiveness starts with showing the same mercy that God shows us. Secondly, forgiveness is revealing, because it shows our weaknesses. Here again, we find in this text

that the King forgave a debt that his servant couldn't pay and yet this servant did not forgive a man that owed him a debt that was a "considerable" amount less. In this comparison, we see God's amazing grace is revealed. Because the King represents how God forgives us of our debt, no matter how much that we owe. That's why God demands that we look at others through the eyes of mercy, not justice. But the best thing we need to understand about forgiveness is the freeing power that it gives us. Because when we forgive, it sets us free from the pain of the past. But when we choose not to forgive people we release a negative spirit in our lives that robs us of our peace and our joy. That's why we need to get free from the hurt and the pain of the past that unforgiveness brings ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Regency Retirement Community Expansion, Elders, Etc.!

Regency held a grand opening ceremony on Thursday, March 1, for the expansion of its 30-acre campus to include a new wing

to serve Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

The staff have been providing retirement living experiences for Huntsville area seniors for over three decades. Regency provides care that expands through the seasons of life. Regency offers everything from independent retirement living, assisted living, and memory care, as well as skilled nursing and rehab services.

My association with Regency began during their early years. Invariably, when Bill and I would come to Huntsville for Alabama A&M University's Homecoming, we would stop by to visit the now late Miss Mozel Davis. Miss Davis was a beloved instructor at the University during my tenure as an undergraduate student. She was more than a subject-matter expert, she taught and reinforced in me many life lessons, including patience, respect for others and excellence.

I had the good fortune of living in the Home Management Residence for one semester. Miss Davis was that Home Director. That semester was one of the most challenging and most rewarding semesters I experienced as a college co-ed. When Miss Davis left Regency and went to the Friend's Home, I had the opportunity to visit with her there. She was the first person I knew who had her own furnishings in the 'nursing' home. So, her apartment was a lot like her home. That was fairly trendy then, but very commonplace now. Miss Davis was a trailblazer! We loved her.

Speaking of elders, we will be honoring a group of local elders on Saturday, March 10. These elders are at least 70 years old and are still living and giving in this community. The Rosetta James Foundation has been sponsoring the "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration annually for 12 years now. The proceeds from this dinner celebration are used to award scholarships to students who give of their time and volunteer in the community.

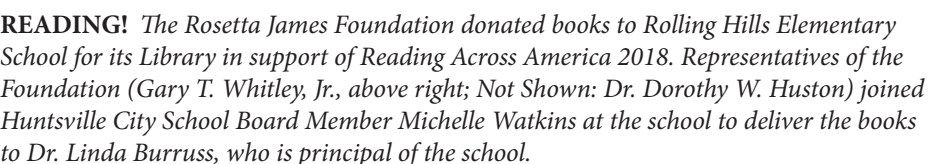
This year, we are awarding \$25,000 in scholarships. Mrs. James is 92 years old and was honored by the 100 Black Men of America-Huntsville Chapter in December 2017, and by the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance in January 2018 for her work in the local community. I was taught as a child to honor and respect the elders of our community. Teachers like Miss Davis and individuals like Mrs. James reinforced my love and respect for elders, thus explaining my passion and personal preferences regarding elders.

Last week, we attended the Legislative Update hosted by State Representatives Laura Hall and Anthony Daniels. Attendance was strong, and for two hours local citizens were able to engage and ask questions about issues ranging from education funding, to budget priorities, to health care to sentencing/prison reform. Citizen participation and engagement were robust.

March is Women's History Month. My earliest memories in life are related to wonderfully, strong women who motivated and encouraged me, including my own mother, women in our small-rural community, teachers throughout the life-cycle, traditional and contemporary leaders who continue to make and impact differences. We honor and celebrate you!

Until next week ...





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On behalf of our faculty, staff and administrators,
I proudly welcome you to Florida Tech.

Harry L. Hobbs, DBA
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doi:10.1017/S002229240000199



NACEE Offers Assistance with Federal Student Aid

Federal Student Aid, an office of the US Department of Education provides more than \$150 billion in grants, loans and work-study funds each year to help pay for college or career school.

The North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence at 513 Sparkman Drive in Huntsville is open on Saturday to assist you in finding this money to pay for college.

We are open this Saturday, March 3, and Saturday, March 17, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Seniors in high school, Class of 2018, please take advantage of this opportunity.

Huntsville City Council Meetings

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



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

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Rocket City Hosts 3rd Annual Comic and Pop Culture Expo

The Huntsville Comic and Pop Culture Expo held its third annual convention at the Von Braun Center, Feb. 24-25.

Attendees were treated to a bevy of interactive panels ranging from Harry Potter-themed discussions to introductory cosplay tutorials.

Special guests included "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys" lead Kevin Sorbo, Comedian Funnymaine and Power Rangers veterans Johnny Bosch Young and Austin St. John.

Tickets included a complimentary comedy show from Funnymaine, who is best known for his viral college football skits.

Pictured above: Actor Kevin Sorbo signs a piece of memorabilia while speaking with a fan.



Called 2 Preach

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

Dismissing The Diabolical Ventriloquist

The Bible speaks of that disgusting and disguised ability of Satan to turn himself into "an angel of light." The Apostle Paul warned his Corinthian readers of this menacing method of the enemy. He spoke this warning in the context of his teaching about the fact and fate of false teachers.

There is however, an even more subtle sound that believers must be mindful of; the sound of the diabolical ventriloquist. Only Jesus can teach us how to dismiss, define and discern that voice. Those who are really good at ventriloquism are so because

they can "throw their voices" into a character that they are manipulating and do so without moving their lips. Satan is always seeking to do just that.

Jesus confronted that cleverly concealed voice when Satan used the lips of Peter to rebuke Jesus when He told His disciples that His salvific purpose and purchase included suffering many things from the elders and chief priests and being killed. As soon as those words came from Peter's lip, Jesus immediately dismissed and discerned who it was; "Get behind Me, Satan!" He



then defined the voice so that all believers can discern it; "You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." That's the choice that every believer has and must make. The only way to make the correct one is by doing what Jesus did; dismiss, discern, and define.

St. John AME Hosting Gospel Explosion

St. John AME Church Music & Christian Arts Ministry will sponsor the "Gospel Choir Explosion" on Sunday, March 25, at 5 p.m. The event will be held in the Lee High School Auditorium, located at 2500 Meridian Street, Huntsville, Ala.

The Gospel fest will

feature the St. John AME Church Mass Choir, Hope Community Church Mass Choir, Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Unity Choir, St. Mark Baptist Church Choir, All Nations Worship Assembly Choir, Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church Mass Choir, St. Bartley Primitive

Baptist Church Mass Choir, and others.

Crystal Aikin, the season 1 winner of the reality television contest show "Sunday Best," will serve as the host.

For additional information, visit www.stjohname-hsv.org or call (256) 534-3265.

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Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Black Organization Urging Home Ownership

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) has convened the first of its four-part Mid-Winter Regional Conference series in Las Vegas, Nev., sparking some interest among African Americans that homeownership is the single most effective method to build wealth.

Conference attendees heard NAREB's national strategy to reboot and reset the dialogue that homeownership is still possible, desirable and the key to building wealth for Black Americans.

During the three-day

event, NAREB outlined and addressed the documented disparities in mortgage lending practices, along with government policies that have failed to support economic recovery in Black communities.

NAREB also is planning regional conferences in Charlotte, N.C. (March 9-11), Prince George's County, Md. (April 6-8), and Cleveland, Ohio (April 20-23). For more information, about NAREB events, visit www.nareb.com.



MIXER: On Monday, February 26, Ignite 2018 hosted an Entrepreneur Forum Mixer at the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce. It targeted business startups and growing small businesses. The forum brought together a panel of local entrepreneurs to offer insight on how to stay viable and successful through good and bad climates, followed by a Q&A session. Further, it provided the opportunity to network with local successful small business owners in a laid-back, atmosphere. Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, drinks and plenty of networking.

The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

March 8

NSBE 25th Scholarship

Awards

Speaker: Dr. Juanita M. Harris, SES, Executive Director Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) Holiday Inn Madison Square 6 p.m.

March 10

12th Annual Rosetta James

"Honoring Our Elders"

Celebration

(256) 536-9717; \$50

The Jackson Center 6001 Moquin Drive Huntsville, Ala., 5 p.m.

March 12-13

Youth Motivation Task Force Alabama A&M University Career Development Services (256) 372-5690

March 15

Info Session for UAH Adult Degree Completion Program Degree is designed for working professionals. Online options available.

UAHComplete.uah.edu or (256) 824-6673, 5:30 p.m.

March 17

Spelman College Glee Club in Concert

Sponsored by the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College Huntsville Chapter Academy for Academic and Arts, 5 p.m.

March 19

AshaKiran's Annual Cultural Competency Conference 2018

UAH Campus, CTC 1600 Ben Graves Drive Huntsville, Ala.

March 24

"Healing Workshop: Broken, Repaired and Usable" Healing and Purpose after the Brokenness

Hampton Inn & Suites, 7010

Cabela Drive, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Valley Conservatory Jam

Session

Featuring the Devere Pride Trio 5650 Sanderson Street, Ste. B Huntsville, Ala., 5-8 p.m.

March 31

Kirk Franklin in Concert Von Braun Center 7:30 p.m.

April 6

3rd Annual AAMU College of Business and Public Affairs Golf Tournament and Silent Auction Silent Auction Huntsville Country Club 2601 Oakwood Avenue

April 9

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH Spring Term (Adults 50+) Daytime and

evening courses. Details: Osher.uah.edu/Catalog or (256) 824-6183

FREE DENTAL CLINIC

"The Community Free Dental Clinic depends on continued community support to keep serving those in need. Please consider giving a tax deductible monthly donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, or whatever you can afford, in order to help us. Help from the community is critical to our continued financial stability." Checks made payable to the **Community Free Dental Clinic** can be sent to our address at 2341 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, AL 35801 or visit our website at www.hsvfreedental.org and click on the donation button.

AshaKiran's Annual Cultural Competency Conference 2018:

Improving Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities Experiencing Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking

March 19 2018 8:30AM UAH Campus, CTC 1410 Ben Graves Dr. Huntsville, AL



For more information: ceateashakiranonline.org (256) 509-1882

www.facebook.com/events/1981624252102036

- ✓ Identify & understand the dynamics of abuse among individuals with disabilities.
- ✓ Disability Etiquette: interacting with individuals with a disability.
- ✓ American Disabilities Act (ADA) presentation by keynote speaker: AL Asst. Attorney General Dr. Graham Sisson
- ✓ Interactive self-defense techniques for individuals with disabilities.
- ✓ Resources for caregivers, first responders & advocates of individuals with disabilities.

\$20 General Admission. Lunch Included.

UAH Students FREE with registration!

Registration Deadline March 5 2018. To Register: <https://goo.gl/forms/EbY1b2JOxN7sxSgI>

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