"Don't let your dreams be dreams." - Jack Johnson



Volume 3, No. 29

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Friday, March 31, 2017



RUBY AWARD: Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) alumna Constance Tiller (r) receives the Ruby Award on March 21, 2017, from Nancy Kitchens (left) of Soroptimist International of Hunts-ville for her work to improve the lives of women and girls through Christian Women's Job Corps.

Huntsville Feminist Chorus Holding Spring Concert at UAH



The entire Tennessee Valley community is invited to Huntsville Feminist Chorus Spring Concert scheduled Saturday, April 1. The event will be held in the Roberts Recital Hall on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville at 7:30 p.m.

The Huntsville Feminist Chorus (HFC) is an a capella chorus specializing in songs that empower women, including many works by women composers. Our mission is to open hearts and minds with song. The Chorus performs several times a year, and it has been singing since 1993.

The activity is free and open to the public. For more information, call (256) 824-6190.

Union Chapel Celebrates Dr. Richard Showers: 28 Years of Service to City Council



Friday, March 24, 2017 (Courtesy UCMBC Photography Ministry)







The Valley Weekly

March 31, 2017

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Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



Washington in a Minute

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

1. The House and Senate were in session this week. Among other bills, the House was scheduled to take up a resolution to cancel an Obama-era regulation passed last October by the Federal Communications Commission that required internet service providers to ask customers' permission to collect, use and sell their personal information (the Senate passed the bill last week 50-48). The telecommunications industry was largely opposed to the new rule because they claimed it gave an unfair advantage to internet giants, such as Google and Facebook. The Senate will continue debate on the ratification of Montenegro as the newest member of the NATO alliance.

2. On Monday, President Trump announced a new White House Office of American Innovation, to be headed by his son-inlaw and senior advisor Jared Kushner. According to the Washington Post, Kushner's first projects will include reimagining the Veterans Affairs Department, modernizing the technology systems of federal agencies, remodeling workforce training programs, and developing transformative national infrastructure projects. Later this week, President Trump will appoint New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie to chair a commission on combating opioid abuse. On Thursday, the President met with Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen at the White House.

3. The Senate Judiciary Committee, after 4 days of hearings last week, met on Judge Neil Gorsuch's nomination to the Supreme Court. The Senate intends to bring Judge Gorsuch's nomination to the floor before the start of the Spring Recess on April 8. Last week, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said he would lead a filibuster against Judge Gorsuch.

4. Moving on after their defeat on a bill to repeal and replace Obamacare last week, GOP Members of the House Ways and Means Committee were slated to meet on Tuesday morning to discuss a strategy for comprehensive tax reform legislation, the No. 2 plank on President Trump's agenda. The GOP plan will reportedly include bringing the corporate tax rate down to 20% from 35%, cutting the top individual tax rate to 33% from 39.6%, and generous new write-offs for business investments.

5. On Thursday, the Senate Intelligence Committee waded into the fray on Russian meddling in the U.S. election with a day-long hearing entitled "Disinformation: A Primer in Russian Active Measures and Influence Campaigns." Last week, former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort agreed to be interviewed by the House and Senate Intelligence Committees as part of their ongoing probes into Russian tampering with the election.

6. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said last Friday that restoring eligibility for year-round Pell grants is "definitely on the plate to be considered" by the Trump administration. Speaking at Valencia College in Florida, DeVos said that the restrictions on Pell grant eligibility that prevent students from using them year-round reflect "the federal government trying to be a top down, one-size-fits-all solution to everything." She called for more flexibility to meet "the needs of students at their level. DeVos's remarks may give a boost to yearround Pell advocates, but it's still not clear how, if at all, the proposal will fit

in the Trump administration's budget. The "skinny budget" released earlier this month called for a "cancellation" of nearly \$4 billion of the estimated \$10.6 billion surplus in the program. Student aid advocates have proposed using the surplus to fund year-round Pell.

7. For all you cherry blossom watchers, the National Park Service announced peak bloom for this year's blossoms was reached on Saturday, although this year's crop was dimmed somewhat by cold weather that killed half of the blossoms on the famous trees just as they were reaching peak bloom.

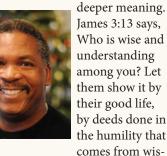
For more information, contact Ron Hamm at 202-596-8384 or rhamm@ hammconsulting.com. THE HAMM CONSULTING GROUP LLC 400 North Capitol Street, NW Suite 585 WASHINGTON D.C. 20001 V: 202-596-8384 M: 703-608-1906 RHAMM@HAMMCON-SULTING.COM WWW.HAMMCONSULT-ING.COM

Champion Game Plan for Life

Wisdom is to do now what you'll be happy

with later on in life. You see, wisdom thinks things through. If you read Proverbs, you see that wisdom involves "prudence,"

which means good management. It also involves discernment, which means that you look beyond the "surface " of the matter for the



dom. A proud person who thinks more of themselves than they should does not have one drop of wisdom in them. We will never have wisdom unless we desire and pursue wisdom on purpose. Wisdom comes from God, and He gives it freely if we ask for it.

I have found that in my life, wisdom and peace are the most important things that we can have for our lives. Because with it comes the anointing that God wants for our lives.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

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The Valley Weekly

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rom the Editor

Ahhh ... Celebrating a Life of Service!

On Saturday, March 25, 2017, Friends of the Bradfords honored Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford. The Friends gathered in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center for the Inaugural Gala Banquet of the Friends of the Bradfords Scholarship Foundation, Inc.



The Foundation founders are Drs. Willie Cowan, G. Lynne Herring and Mr. Craig A. White. The Gala's theme was "Celebrating a Life of Service" which was executed with perfection via music by the Valley Conservatory under the direction of Dr. Renee Collins Williams and the legendary Alpha Ensemble, accompanied by Mrs. Mary Curry. The Welcome was extended by Ms. Vanessa K. Midgett, followed by the Invocation by Dr. G. Lynne Herring and a Word from the Foundation, which is a 501(c)3 recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

Dr. Anthony B. Stinson was the Master of Ceremonies, and Dr. Andrea Bradford, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Bradford, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Andrea Bradford is a human resources executive at the Ms Foundation for Women in Boston, Massachusetts (www.forwomen.org). During her keynote speech, Andrea articulated seven (7) inspirational lessons her parents have taught us over the years:

- 1 Be kind, loving, and compassionate
- 2 Be encouraging
- 3 Be generous
 - 4 Be respectful
 - 5 Be your best and do your best
 - 6 Be humble and grateful, and
 - 7 Praise the Lord at all times and serve him tirelessly.



In addition to Andrea, the Bradfords have one son, Dr. Henry Lane Bradford. Henry is director of podiatry at the North Alabama Medical Consortium, where he also serves as a surgical chiropody. Their only grandchild is a son, Henry Lane Bradford, Jr., who is a math teacher at a charter school in Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. & Mrs. Bradford were presented with the first Bradford Humanitarian Service Awards by the Foundation. The award was created by the Founders of the Bradfords Scholarship Foundation, Inc. In the future, this award will recognize individuals who exemplify humanitarian service in the community. Dr. Henry Lane Bradford gave the Bradford Family's response on behalf of their family for the formulation of the Scholarship Foundation and the Inaugural Gala. He expressed gratitude to the founders and the community for their support.

The Gala's Steering Committee included Ms. Vernessa K. Midgett, Rev. Barbara Clemons, Rev. Versey Jones, Ms. Nina Phipps, Mr. Lamont Reddrick, Mr. James Reynolds, Ms. Patricia Ward, Ms. Veronica Winston and Ms. Andrea Brandon.

It was an evening enjoyed by all in celebration of a dear couple, loved by all--Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford.

Until next week ...

Dorothy

Letter to the Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: The views expressed within the contents of this letter do not necessarily represent the views of The Valley Weekly; however, freedom of such expression is a cornerstone of American society and it is in keeping with the latter that we present this unsolicited item for our readership. -VW

Dear Editor:

On February 26, 2017, at the groundbreaking for Phillips CME Church, the new city councilman said – and the editor of The Valley Weekly repeated – "Welcome to District One."

It may interest Councilman Devyn Keith and Editor Dorothy Huston to know that Phillips Church is already in District One!

Phillips Church is leaving its downtown site because its ministers and member have sat silently over the past two decades while a cabal of rich men (Ed Crenshaw of Publix Grocery Stores; Christopher Nassetta of Homewood Suite by Hilton; William Stroud and Terry Shannon of Triad Properties; as well as Tom Hunts of PHD and Sam Yeager of Bristol Development Group, are the latest group) have turned a 150-year-old African-American neighborhood into a lily-white enclave of rich people. (Source: Lucy Berry, "Homewood Suites ... Open...," The Huntsville Times.AL.com. March 19, 2014@4:19PM; September 4, 2014@5:35PM) This weakness is not new to Phillips Church ministers and members. Almost half a century ago, they allowed another set of rich connivers to force them out of their historic Church Street home. And look at what replaced that sanctuary - a long-dead kiddie-park.

In the early 1990s, Phillips Church members allowed city housing authorities to evict their next-door neighbors from the Drake Towers senior apartments, though it had been built in 1964 for African-Americans and was still occupied mostly by them. Phillips ministers and members then turn around today and say with a straight face that they have to move because no black people now live in The Grove. How can Phillips Church stand for Christ when they have not stood for self or for neighbors?

Moreover, the long-time chair of the Redstone Federal Credit Union, Charles Ray Jr. (now deceased), would not have allowed that once-esteemed institution to dirty its name by funding this current phase of Huntsville's halfcentury-long Negro Removal Campaign.

Five thousand African-Americans who lived downtown have been banished, while Mayor Tommy Battle continues his smiling-campaign to erase every vestige of African-American bodies and buildings. Less than two weeks after his resounding August 2017 reelection victory, Battle celebrated by tearing down the newest and oldest parts of Councill High School - after apparently promising school alumni officers that he would save the building. Battle then said that the building was too dilapidated to be saved. His predecessors said something similar when they demolished Drake Towers ("unstable"), the southern part of Searcy Homes ("in a flood-plain"), the neighborhood surrounding Phillips Church ("too many poor people concentrated in one spot") and the Negro Main business district ("downtown workers need parking lots").

Even more galling, Battle had campaigned to save "historic" structures, getting three African-American women to pose in a campaign photo

The Valley Weekly

with him as he made his pledge. Next up for Mayor Battle's wrecking-ball are Scruggs Community Center and the 1950s Negro Swimming Pool. No Black Bodies allowed, as Battle continues to turn over black properties to his developer-cronies. Expect a sign any-day downtown: No Negroes allowed!

How then can the members of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity then anoint Battle as Grand Marshal of the 2017 Martin Luther King parade? The same King killed fighting for black and poor people! How could the officers of the Grand Reunion of Councill High

School – all members of Old Huntsville! – invite the mayor to speak at their affair? Have they looked at his history? Are they suffering from Post-Traumatic Slavery Syndrome, in which they believe that black people have to take whatever is dished out to them? Battle showed his gratitude by tearing down parts of Councill High.

Battle now proposes to build a new city-hall, fifty-years after his predecessors forced black and white residents out of their houses to build the present one. City leaders even propose to construct a new federal courthouse on Lowe Street at Gallatin in The Grove on top of the former homes of evicted African-Americans residents. This proposal comes eighty-years after black professionals and businesses were forced off the southeast corner of the U-shaped Negro Main Business District to build the present federal courthouse. In 1935, Huntsville officials bulldozed the black picture-show; the drugstore of Mr. Andrew Herndon; the offices of dentists Henry Fearn and John Cashin Sr.; and the blacksmith shop of Bill Fearn, along with insurance offices and cafes. All this destruction was necessary, they claimed, to build the present federal courthouse, which opened in 1936.

In March 1961, Huntsville officials unveiled a "new" plan to show the residents of The Grove how they proposed to "redevelop your neighborhood." Voila, the Medical District was born and black people were banished! It was déjà vu all over again. People made to move for no good reason. City officials then seized the substantial and well-maintained homes of Dr. Cashin, Dr. Fearn, and druggist Herndon. Mayor Battle's proposed new federal courthouse will sit on the former home-site of the very Bill Fearn whose blacksmith shop was razed to build the present



courthouse. Déjà vu, all over again, indeed. Moreover, Bill and Fanny Fearn were long and faithful members of Phillips Chapel CME Church, as were Dr. Henry and Helen Fearn. When will Phillips Church ministers and members declare that enough is enough?

Regions Bank has put its back-office systems on the home of Dr. Henry and Helen Fearn (the stone-wall of their adjoining rental house is still there in 2017). Regions Bank has recently hopped across what-is-now Fountain Row and razed the fine Californiabungalow-style home of druggist Herndon for a new back-office addition. This is the same Regions Bank that originated in American Slavery. Known in the 20th century as First National Bank, it was started in 1819 or so as Planters and Merchants Bank. These are synonyms for the American slaveholders of that day. The 1836 bank building is still standing on the west-side of the Madison County Courthouse. Its two-story rear-wing was "the slave-quarters" of the kidnapped victims of the

bank president and cashier. Its basement cells held kidnapped victims who had been used as collateral for bank loans. When the borrower defaulted, the Bank then "sold" the kidnapped victims to repay itself the money it had loaned the original kidnappers. Planters and Merchants Bank building does today business as Downtown Huntsville, Inc., which is itself the fount of these newest schemes to turn downtown Huntsville into a lily-white enclave.

For over two-centuries, there have been new schemers in Huntsville proposing to get rich off slavery. Never

> mind that abolitionist Theodore Weld came to town in late 1832 warning slaveholders of the nearimpossibility of ever eradicating the effects of slavery once established. (Kidnapped victims were by then

half the population of Huntsville.) The clarity of Weld's insight is seen with almost each new proposal of Mayor Battle. The only difference between Battle's actions today and his predecessors of yesterday is that he has hired black people to front his racism. It is part of Battle's equal-opportunity, affirmative-action campaign. But his hirelings are almost all outsiders, nary a one native to Huntsville and its particular history.

Paris officials have recently banned cars from the French capital that are over nineteenyears old. In Spain, Madrid authorities have designated alternating days for car drivers. Both these decisions will burden the lives of poor people. But the reversal of Global Warming will likely require a century of these and much more severe measures. The smiling Mayor Battle, servile city councilmen and the rich corrupters of City Hall have forced Councill Court residents seven miles out of downtown to, among other exurbs, Blake Bottom and Rideout Roads. Think of the inefficiencies and hassles

March 31, 2017

of getting to work, as these present-day schemers enrich themselves while impoverishing the poor. Councill Court residents once, very efficiently, walked across the street to work at the largest employer in the county, Huntsville Hospital. This simple proximity saved the health of the workers, the city and the globe. It also helped prevent racial turmoil.

But when Mayor Battle and his developer-cronies forced Councill Court residents into Fleming Hills in southwest Huntsville, they riled the white residents of that neighborhood. This maneuver then provoked fears of "racial block-busting." This racial animosity has been stoked by Battle and his developer-cronies: Ed Crenshaw of Publix Grocery Store, Christopher Nassetta of Homewood Suites by Hilton, William Stroud and Terry Shannon of Triad properties; Tom Hunts of PHD; and Sam Yeager of Bristol Development Group.

The evicted Councill Court residents, forced into Fleming Hills against their will, now have their own private swimming-pool within their luxury complex. This further riles their neighbors. On the other hand, the new residents of Councill Court, now known as Twickenham Squared, have their own private, gated swimming-pool, too. All this, while Mayor Battle hands the public swimming-pool in The Grove over to an new set of private developer-cronies, RSCP, who themselves again propose to live off slavery. It is a two-hundred year-old joke chasing a joke.

Mayor Battle's motto: no black bodies or buildings allowed within Fortress Twickenham, their new name for downtown Huntsville. A generation or two hence, Phillips Church-members will greatly regret the day that their money-worshipping leaders led them into the Wilderness of District One.

> Yours truly, Michael David Smith

The Valley Weekly

Valley Calendar of Events

April 1

Serving the City as One Alabama A&M University The Quad www.servingthecity.org, 7 a.m.

African American Experience Celebration (Music, Poetry, Dance and Artwork) Fellowship Presbyterian Church Huntsville, Ala. 4 p.m.

April 8

2017 Blue Revue Luncheon "Showcasing Crowns and Talents - A Touch of Class" Sponsor: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Delta Omega Zeta Chapter The Jackson Center 6001 Moquin Drive Huntsville, Ala. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Xi Omicron Chapter of

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Sons of Royalty Mentoring Program: A Royal Experience III Gala

Intergraph Corporation, 305 Intergraph Way, Madison, Ala. 6 p.m. \$30 Semi-Formal For tickets and ads contact: Frederick Windham at (205) 246-2031 or Jason Boddie at (256) 714-9099 or sonsofroyalty1911@gmail.com

April 13

39th Annual United Negro College Fund Gala Guest Artist: Jonathan Butler Special Award: Tom Joyner VBC-North Hall 7 p.m.

April 20

Huntsville: The Future and Beyond Symposium

Von Braun Center www.futureandbeyondhsv. com, 9 a.m.

April 27

Harris Home for Children Charity Concert Featuring: Kool and The Gang Von Braun Center Arena \$25 8 p.m.





Edith Pearlman's "Chance"

The narrator tells the story from the point of view of a daughter who watches a group of Jewish religious leaders converge in her parents' kitchen for a weekly game of poker.

She learns the men's style of play and merges these with their unique character flaws and shortcomings.

Meanwhile, her synagogue will be the site for the placement of a special torah, the last remnant of a fallen community in Czechoslovakia. A special celebration has been planned, but sand-

wiched between other dates. Nonetheless, a large ceremony is set, although the document is being stored some two weeks prior in the synagogue's basement.

As the narrator mentally strips away the religious men's garbs and titles, we see a group of human beings simply playing with the cards they have been dealt.

One has a wife with a drinking problem. The daughter catches the rabbi eyeing her mother. Another is entrusted as the synagogue's treasurer, but is called "the usurer" by his own daughter.

It's a world of chance, even among the chosen.



City Council Meetings

Page 5

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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The Valley We<u>ekly</u>

March 31, 2017

Councilman Devyn Keith Holds District 1 Town Hall on S.M.A.R.T. Policing March 20, 2017

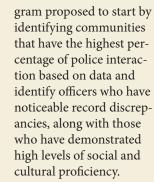








Huntsville City Councilman Devyn Keith facilitated a District 1 town hall meeting March 20, to focus SMART Policing: Specific, Measurable, Accountability, Recruiting, Technology-Centered Policing. The SMART pro-





Keith highlighted manpower needs, community involvement, recruiting and hiring practices and using public statistical data for community access to real-time crime stats combined with diverse surveillance measures.

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March 31, 2017

The Valley Weekly

Page 7

by Reggie Allen



Funeral service for **Mrs. Needa M. Cowan** (b. 1918) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Ms. Janis Gail Humphrey** (b. 1957) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Mr. Frank W. Horton, Jr.,** (b. 1939), who died in Fayetteville, Tenn., will be announced later.

Funeral service was held Sunday, March 26, for **Mrs. Mary "Tiny" Hayden Turner** (b. 1943) at Apostolic True Temple Church of God with Elder Jerry Townsend officiating.

Funeral service was held Saturday, March 25, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home for **Mrs. Minnie R. Stewart** (b. 1931) with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Elizabeth Sloan Ragland** (b. 1952) was held Friday, March 24, at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with Dr. Mitchell Walker officiating.

Funeral service was held Friday, March 24, for **Mr. Henry Jones, Sr.,** (b. 1920) at Greater ACOP in Gadsden, Ala., with Bishop Jewel Thomas officiating.

Graveside service was held Sunday, March 19, for **Infant Serenity Ivey-Gideon** (b. 2016) at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace.

> -Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

CCC Student Named to Coke's Academic Team

Korey Hardy, a student at Calhoun Community College, has been named a 2017 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars nationally and providing nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. As a Gold Scholar, Hardy will receive a \$1,500 scholarship and a special medallion.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Program. Student scholars receive local, state and





national recognition at Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, being held April 6-8, 2017, in Nashville, Tenn.

High-achieving students are nominated for the award by campus administrators. An independent panel of judges considers academic achievement, leadership, and engagement in college and community service in the selection process.

most celebrated contemporary artists. The Straight to Ale Brewery will host Namasdrake, a yoga class based around the collective works of Canadian singer-songwriter Drake, on March 28 at 7 P.M. Fans of the "Fake Love" singer might want to act fast as this is a one-night-only event. A byproduct of disk jockey TJ Petracca and yoga instructor Paul Schneider, the Hip

Residents of Huntsville and Madison can find nirvana to the beat of one of Hip Hop's

Yoga Class Centered Around Drake's Music

Comes to Huntsville



Hop-oriented course was created to offer a new spin on the popular stress-relieving exercise, while paying homage to the R&B artist. The hour-long class, which is based in Los Angeles, has gained so much traction that the creators decide to offer it in select cities across the country.

The class will also feature an appearance from Tasha Edwards, the Hip Healthy Chick and fellow Drake enthusiast. While the remixed yoga

class has plenty of material to work with, Namasdrake comes shortly after the 30-yearold released new music.

This month, the three-time Grammy Award winner released More Life. Marketed as a playlist rather than an album, the 22-track record featured the likes of Kanye West, Party Next Door, Young Thug and Quavo of Migos. Since its March 19 release, the playlist holds the Spotify and Apple Music record for the highest number of single day streams, respectively.

But Drake isn't the only high profile musician getting the yoga treatment. The touring yoga seminar will also have Namasbey, a class dedicated to Beyoncé, who recently announced she was expecting twins with her husband, Jay Z. Unfortunately, the sessions are only available in California and Oregon.

The Drake-themed event will not only help align the chakras, but contribute to a strong cause. A portion of proceeds will go to support the Huntsville Young Professionals, a program that encourages fitness for local adolescents.

Attendees are required to bring their own placemats as they will not be provided in the class. A bottle of water and a towel is recommended, but not mandatory. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased on www.Namasdrake.com



Marshall England, Agent 600 Franklin Street, SE

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On This Day - Friday, March 31 - JACK JOHNSON - Born in Galveston, Tex., he was the nation's first black heavyweight boxing champion.

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The Valley Weekly

March 31, 2017

Friends of the Bradfords Event a Success

Scenes from Saturday, March 25, 2017 Honoring Henry and Nell Lane Bradford

Photos Courtesy of Chris Dowdell Photography and TVW



















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BREAKFAST SERVED MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 6:30am until 11:00am

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