

# The Pandemic and the Rush Hour, p. 8

FREE



## The Quest for Wisdom, p. 6

Parker Griffith, p. 6

*"People have the right to call themselves whatever they like. That doesn't bother me. It's other people doing the calling that bothers me."*

- Octavia E. Butler



Friday

April 2, 2021

Vol. 7, No. 30

ValleyWeeklyllc.com



## Huntsville Breaks Ground on Metronome

City of Huntsville officials were excited to break ground recently on the Metronome at MidCity, a new development that will feature 296 residential units and ground-floor retail

when complete, according to HuntsvilleAL.gov.

Credit for pushing the project forward was given to MidCity District, RCP Companies and Revolution Capital's Rise of the Rest.

For additional information on the city's progress, visit HuntsvilleAL.gov.



## Symposium to Focus on Racism

The Future & Beyond Diversity, Equity & Beyond Inclusion Symposium will be held as a free forum to confront racism, hate and divisiveness April 8. Register now for this one-day Symposium, and reserve your spot today for free at: [https://whova.com/portal/registration/fabde\\_202104/](https://whova.com/portal/registration/fabde_202104/) and [www.diversityhsv.org](http://www.diversityhsv.org).

Register now for this one-day Symposium, and reserve your spot today for free at: [https://whova.com/portal/registration/fabde\\_202104/](https://whova.com/portal/registration/fabde_202104/) and [www.diversityhsv.org](http://www.diversityhsv.org).

## LRC to Honor Six During WHM

Alabama A&M University's J.F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center will hold a virtual panel discussion, "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced," on Wednesday, March 31, at 11 a.m.

Six panelists will include Dr. Tonya Perry, Dr. Jeanette Jones and Erica "Fox" Washington (all from AAMU); AAMU alumna Shelia Nash-Stevenson, NASA; Libby Crawford, Faith & Community Alliance Cincinnati; and Dr. Wendy M. Wilson, Chief of Staff, Albany State University. For more information, contact Thedis Bryant at [thedis.bryant@aamu.edu](mailto:thedis.bryant@aamu.edu)

The Valley Weekly

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## The Legacy Center Announces Appointment of Executive Director



Saintjones

The Legacy Center, Inc. is proud to announce the appointment of Morgan Saintjones as its new executive director of the nonprofit devoted to serving the disabled and older adults in Northern Alabama.

Saintjones has been with the company for over a year, most recently as the Program Director. She brings a wealth of knowl-

edge, experience, and a core understanding of the organization's values and mission.

"This opportunity is rewarding for it allows me to pour into a community that has richly poured into me," Saintjones said. "I look forward to forging new partnerships because I truly believe there is no competition in God's kingdom. My

vision is to use connectivity to serve our aging population and work tirelessly to be a good neighbor. This will be a community effort to uplift each other together."

"Our team and board members are enthusiastic about having Ms. Saintjones as our Executive Director," stated Chanda Crutcher, founder and board chair

of The Legacy Center. "She brings a rare outcome-driven commitment to the community. We anticipate a more tangible impact on the lives of older adults and underserved populations throughout the Tennessee Valley."

As executive director, Saintjones will work closely with The Legacy Center's Board of Directors and

community partners to ensure the organization can serve people well through this pandemic and beyond.

She is an alum of Alabama A&M University, The American University and the Diversity Leadership Colloquium.

To learn more about The Legacy Center, please visit its website: [www.LiveYourLegacyHere.com](http://www.LiveYourLegacyHere.com).



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The Valley Weekly, LLC

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the belief of the editorial staff and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.

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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 recess for the next 2 weeks. Last week, the Senate approved H.R 1799 by a vote of 92-7, which would extend Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans from their current sunset of March 31 through June 30, 2021 (the House passed the bill on March 16), thereby sending the bill to the President for his signature.

2) BIDEN 100 DAYS. President Biden travelled to Pittsburgh, Pa., Wednesday to announce Part 1 of a massive \$3 trillion (\$300 billion over 10 years) stimulus bill. Part 1, which will cost about \$2 trillion, will focus on improving roads, bridges, waterways and sewage systems, while also investing in technologies, including the next generation of Internet access and a wide array of clean-energy research and tools. Part II, slated to be announced in April, would

extend the child tax credits authorized under the \$1.9 trillion stimulus and allocate new sums toward child care, universal prekindergarten and free community college. It will also include more subsidies for health-care plans and more aid for students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities. On Thursday, the President will send his initial Fiscal Year 2022 Budget to Congress (referred to in the press as his "skinny budget), with a more detailed budget to be delivered in May. Last Friday, the President announced that he has invited Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping to the Global Leaders' Climate Summit, which will be held remotely on April 22-23, at which he plans to unveil a new carbon emissions target.

3) INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS. Last week, House Education and Labor Committee Chair Bobby Scott (D-VA) told

state education leaders at the Council of Chief State School Officers' Legislative Conference that he expects funding for school construction to be included in the forthcoming infrastructure legislation. He says that although this type of legislation usually focuses on roads and bridges, there is a commitment that the construction of education facilities be a part of the proposal.

4) STUDENT LOAN DEBT. According to officials at the Department of Education, the Biden Administration is planning to roll out several student debt actions this week. The Education Department is preparing to waive some of the paperwork requirements for borrowers who receive discharges because of their "total and permanent" disability. The department is also expected to ease some of bureaucracy related to how disabled borrowers must continue to prove they have a low income for the three years after their loan is discharged or else have their loans reinstated. Some consumer advocates have called for eliminating that monitoring period altogether and automatically wiping out the debt.

5) VACCINE PASSPORTS. On Sunday, The Washington Post reported that the Biden Administration officials, led by White House Coronavirus Coordinator Jeff Zients and

National Health IT Coordinator Micky Tripathi, are working with private companies to develop a standard way of handling credentials — often referred to as "vaccine passports" — that would allow Americans to prove they have been vaccinated against the coronavirus to be used for a growing number of companies — from cruise lines to sports teams — who say they will require proof of vaccination. The passports are expected to be free and available through smartphone apps, which could display a scannable code similar to an airline boarding pass.

6) POST OFFICE BILL.

Last Friday, House Democrats introduced a bill, the "Delivering Envelopes Judiciously On-time Year-round (DeJoy) Act," to block Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's plan to slow first-class mail delivery from 3 to 5 days, which is part of his proposal to trim \$160 billion from U.S. Postal Service over 10 years.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS

## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral service for MR. RICHARD BAYNES (b. 1952) was held Thursday, March 25, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Katherine Baker officiating.

Graveside service for MR. THADIOUS PLESS (b. 1965) was held Saturday, March 20, at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery (Highway 29 - Troy, Ala.).

Funeral service for MR. JOE BAKER (b. 1943) was held Saturday, March 20, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Derrick Langford officiating.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for MRS. MILDRED DOUGLAS OTEY (b. 1925) will be 11 a.m., Friday, April 2, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Deblearie Snell officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. BARBARA ELOISE DENT (b. 1931) was held Tuesday, March 30, at the Oakwood Memorial Gardens (1 H.L. Cleveland Way Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.

Graveside service for MS. FERN MONIQUE DOUGLAS (b. 1987) was held Saturday, March 27, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Minister Michael Brown officiating.

Graveside service for MR. RILEY ARTEMUS JONES (b. 1958) was held Saturday, March 27, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road Toney, Ala.) with Elder Billy Jones officiating.

## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Graveside service for MR. NOLAN LANGFORD (b. 1957) was held Saturday, March 27, at the Saint Ruth Cemetery Hazel Green, Ala.

Funeral Service for MRS. ANGENETTE B. HILL (b. 1951) was held Sunday, March 28, at the Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral Service for MS. STEPHANIE Y. ANDERSON (b. 1964) was held Saturday, March 27, at the Serenity Funeral Home Chapel.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

## WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

1 Corinthians 13:6-7 says, "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

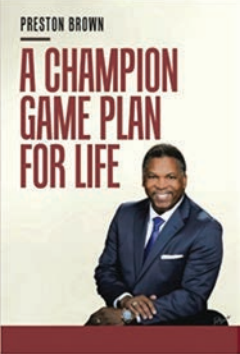
Remember, there was a song that was titled "What's Love Got to Do with It?" And, in this song, we find the words, "What's love but a second-hand emotion?"

The song goes on to say: "Who needs a

heart when a heart can be broken?" But when we look at 1 Corinthians 13, the apostle Paul has a different perspective about love. In this scripture you can't help but notice how simple it is to understand this description of love.

We all know what is being asked of us, but the problem that most of us have is the willingness to do what it says.

For example, when



you love someone, your intentions should never be meant to harm them. So, there is no need to worry about a "broken heart" because love

creates an atmosphere of trust.

It has been said that love prefers to be overly generous rather than overly suspicious. Some people are very suspicious, because they never

learned how to trust the other person. What a miserable place to be, because when we don't trust our partner, we allow the enemy to get a "foothold" in our lives, and that will take away our joy and our peace. So, we should always seek to build each other up and not bring one another down with our words or our actions.

Love is not a "second-hand emotion." Because love does not dishonor others ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and be safe.

Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, "A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE."

The publication is readily available at amazon.com<<http://amazon.com/>>

## 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).

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## SWAC Championship May 1

Alabama A&M's (2-0, 1-0 SWAC) lone home game on Saturday, March 27, was cancelled following COVID-19 protocols at Grambling (0-3, 0-3 SWAC). Slated for a 1 p.m. kickoff and to be aired on ESPN3, the game was the Bulldogs only home game in the Spring 2021 season following the cancella-

tion of the opener against Alcorn State following the Braves opting out of the season.

The game was cancelled as the Tigers have open dates on April 10 and 24 but A&M is scheduled to play each of the next four weeks through April 24. The following week is not available as the Southwest-

ern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship Game is set for May 1. With the cancellation, A&M will return to the field on Saturday, April 3, travelling to Prairie View A&M for a previously rescheduled contest. Visit [www.aamusports.com](http://www.aamusports.com).

*by Joshua J. Darling, SID*



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## Virtual Annual Black Tie Set

The Alabama A&M University Office of Marketing, Communication and Advancement have announced the next major fundraising event.

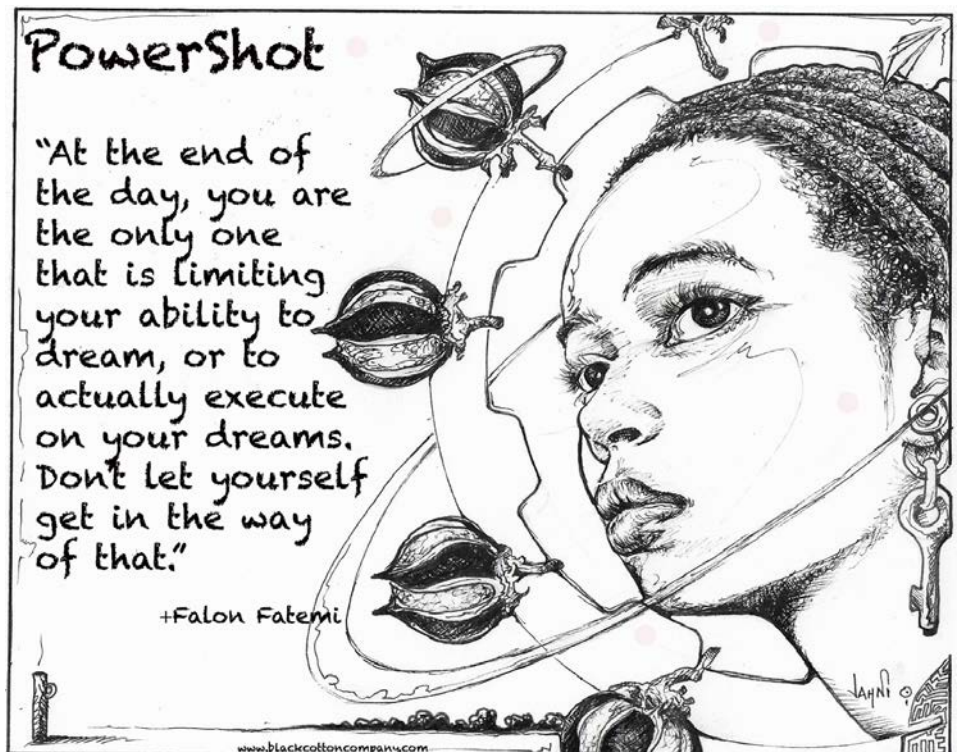
The 2021 Annual Scholarship Gala, presented by MT3 Properties, will be held on May 28 at 7 p.m. via online streaming.

The Tennessee Valley community is invited to join organizer for a "virtual evening" of celebration benefiting Alabama A&M University scholars.

The event will feature a performance by Musiq Soulchild (Taalib Johnson). The Philadelphia-born singer and songwriter pos-

sesses a style that blends R&B, funk, blues, jazz, gospel influences merged with hip hop. He recorded two No. 1 albums ("Juslisten" and Luvanmusiq") in 2002 and 2007.

For more information, visit [www.aamu.edu/blacktie](http://www.aamu.edu/blacktie), e-mail [blacktie@aamu.edu](mailto:blacktie@aamu.edu) or call (256) 372-8344.



*"Reconciliation is a part of the healing process, but how can there be healing when the wounds are still being inflicted?"*

*- N. K. Jemisin*



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## 2021: Already, The Year of the Successful #2 Persons

*“What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth, . . .” - Exodus 4:14,16*

Here, God began the Children of Israel’s journey to freedom by appointing Aaron as the leader Moses’ spokesman and #2 person.

It struck me that 2021’s first three months are showcasing a series of number two persons as successful leaders.

### From the White House, . . .

In January, Joe Biden became the first vice president-turned-president in more than 30 years. He was elected because he was an effective #2 person for Barack Obama; more importantly, however, he defeated the incumbent Trump who had no experience, empathy, or sensitivity towards #2 persons, which most of us are.

### . . . To the Border, . . .

On March 24, Biden assigned the decades-long Central American immigration issue, which could easily determine a successful Biden-Harris term, to Kamala Harris, his #2 person.

This former number-two person said of the current number-two person, “I think the best thing to do is put someone who, when he or she speaks, they don’t have to wonder about, ‘Is that where the president is?’ When she speaks, she speaks for me, doesn’t have to check with me. She knows what she’s doing,”

### . . . And now, off the Book Racks

The new book, “Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes” details producer Ira Rosen’s memoir of 25 years at TV’s award-winning news show. Although Rosen referred to Mike Wallace as the “Picasso of interviews,” Washington Post reviewer Lisa Page noted “but his producer (Rosen) had to be the master of landing them in the first place. Without them, the lifeblood of the program would be gone, . . .”



Women’s History Month celebration ends with another new book: “The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation” underscores further the below-the-radar influence and relationships made by these three mothers on their famous sons, each of whom ironically they outlived.

As we move into 2021’s second quarter what #2 persons, or leaders from the middle, are you helping to cultivate and grow - which might be you yourself?

These previous silver-mettle leaders are good role models to start with.

*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).*

# AAMU Expands Engineering Offerings at Graduate Level

When next fall rolls around, Alabama A&M University officials will introduce new classes for two master’s level programs in engineering, according to approved submissions by Provost Daniel K. Wims to the institution’s accrediting body.

The Office of Graduate Studies will add program curricula for a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (MSEE) and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME). Planning for the high-demand programs began at the departmental levels more than two years ago.

Offered under the guidelines of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the University’s accrediting body, both programs are designed to meet the needs of industrial and government agencies for highly qualified and diversified engineering professionals.

The graduate program in electrical engineering, for instance, will enable students to pursue careers in electrical, electronics and computer engineering industries, while also providing a foundation for doctoral pursuit. Similarly, the mechanical engineering master’s degree program will prepare graduate students for the needs of such varied engineering sector employers as aerospace, automotive, communication, control, computer, defense, electronics, energy, power generations and many others.

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According to Dr. Zhengtao Deng, professor and interim dean of the College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences, both programs will leverage the faculty within the current respective and successful undergraduate curriculums, and the new graduate programs will address “a clear and present need” for advanced training in Huntsville and throughout Alabama.

“This is an exciting time for our engineering programs at A&M,” commented Deng. “Our success in this endeavor was made possible by campus-wide support, and we are grateful for it. We are committed to providing the best graduate education and opportunities for our students.”

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# CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

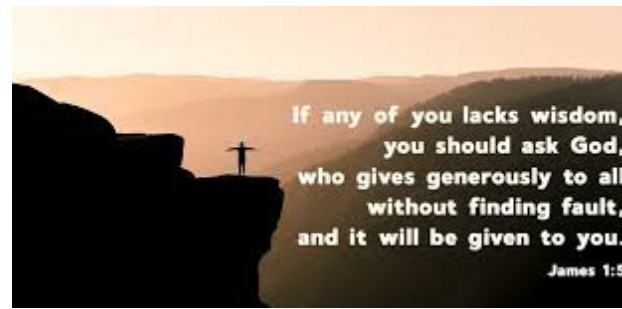
## He Will Not Rebuke You for Asking

James 1:5 (NLT)



I am writing this as one who has been guilty of rebuking someone for making a request. I admit that it was on a not-so-good-day, but that is not excusable. Whether as a parent, teacher, pastor, or sibling (all of which I am), it is not good practice. James knowing human nature as he did, when he wrote

to his first readers about “continuously” asking God for wisdom, the Holy Spirit led him to put in this clause, He will not rebuke you for asking. As humans, we have the tendency to tire easily of requests that seem either frivolous or frequent. What the Spirit was doing through James was letting us know that God is not like mankind. He welcomes requests for wisdom. After all, He is wisdom. He knows all and His knowledge is so exact that the very “number” of hairs on our heads are known to Him. This is not counting; this is God



knowing the “literal” number of the hair that either falls out or gets caught in

the combs and brushes or clippers that are used for grooming. God does not

desire that we walk around being ignorant of how life works, especially as the context suggests, when we are dealing with trials and tribulations. His goal for His children is spiritual maturity. Therefore, next time you are hesitant to ask God for wisdom. Go ahead; He will not rebuke you for asking.

### Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Parker Griffith, M.D.

Born August 6, 1942, Dr. Rolf Parker Griffith, Jr., is an American retired physician, entrepreneur and politician in Huntsville, Ala., who served in the Alabama State Senate from 2006 to 2008 and then as the U.S. Representative for Alabama's 5th congressional district from 2009 to 2011.

Griffith was born in Shreveport, La. He taught 7th-grade arithmetic for less than a year at T.H. Harris Junior High School (later Middle School) in Metairie in Jefferson Parish in suburban New Orleans prior to being admitted to medical school. He received his medical degree from the Louisiana State University Medical School in 1970 and served in residency at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

After serving at the LSU Service Charity Hospital in New Orleans and a year of neurosurgery at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, Griffith began preparing to become a radiation oncologist, one who specializes in using radiation to cure cancer, training in radiation oncology through a

combined program between UTMB and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He served as a Medical Corps captain in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1970 to 1973, while continuing his medical training at the LSU Service Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

Griffith was recruited on a “cold call” to Alabama and established the Huntsville Cancer Treatment Center. As a physician, he provided discounted care to patients who lacked insurance. Griffith also conducted several clinical trials in conjunction with the University of Alabama School of Medicine, and partnered with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Griffith retired from medicine in December 1992, though he still holds a license to practice in both Alabama and Texas. Griffith unsuccessfully ran for mayor of Huntsville against the three-term incumbent, Loretta Spencer in 2004. He then won a seat in the Alabama State



Senate, representing the 7th district. He carried 66% of the vote to his opponent's 34%.

During his term in the State Senate, he sponsored bills to promote investment in alternative fuels, cut taxes, and establish a Statewide Trauma Care System to speed critical medical care.

Griffith and his wife Virginia have five children and 11 grandchildren. He co-founded the Griffith Family Foundation, which awards cash grants to elementary school libraries in northern Alabama. The Foundation also provides scholarship grants to the Rosetta James Foundation for diverse, local college students.

**APRIL 2 - MARVIN GAYE was an American singer, songwriter, and record producer. He helped to shape the sound of Motown in the 1960s, first as an in-house session player and later as a solo artist with a string of hits, earning him the nicknames “Prince of Motown” and “Prince of Soul”. - Wikipedia.org**



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## OU Partners with Huntsville Hospital on New Clinic

Health System CEO David Spillers (foreground, left) and Oakwood University President Leslie Pollard, safely bump fists after signing a lease agreement to open a new primary clinic at Oakwood University's Community Health Action Center, currently under construction on Sparkman Drive.

Huntsville Hospital's "The Scope" publication featured the news of the plans "for a new Huntsville Hospital (HH) primary care clinic serving about 2,000 Oakwood University students, faculty and staff,

as well as the surrounding community.

The Sparkman Drive clinic will be part of the HH Physician Care network and is expected to open this summer. HH Health System CEO David Spillers and Oakwood President Dr. Leslie Pollard signed the lease documents at the construction site on February 24 – and then sealed the agreement with a fist bump.

The partnership between HH and Oakwood is designed to improve the health of underserved residents of northwest

Huntsville. A new walking path will connect the clinic to the heart of the Oakwood campus.

Huntsville Hospital and Oakwood are among the oldest community institutions in Madison County. The hospital traces its beginnings to the summer of 1895. Oakwood, founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to educate the descendants of African-Americans emancipated by President Lincoln, welcomed its first students on November 16, 1896."

- The Scope, Huntsville Hospital

## April Is Jazz Appreciation Month

Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) is a music festival held every April in the United States, in honor of jazz as an early American art form.

According to a compilation on Wikipedia.org, JAM was created in 2001 by John Edward Hasse, curator of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. It became a national extension of the original Jazz Awareness Month created by the Louisiana Jazz Federation in New Orleans in 1980.

Jazz Appreciation Month was created to be an annual event that would pay tribute to jazz as both a living and as a historic music.

Schools, organizations,

and governments celebrate JAM with free concerts and educational programs. Its first year was 2001, with funding provided by the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation.

In 2012, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings obtained permission from the Louis Armstrong estate to release the recordings on the album Satchmo at the National Press Club: Red Beans and Rice-ly Yours and timed the release as part of the annual Jazz Appreciation Month.

In 2018, JAM celebrated the relationship between jazz and justice. The featured artist was Norman Granz.

This year, the Museum's

jazz program enhanced its efforts to recognize contributions of women in jazz, from the genre's earliest development to present successes and challenges.

In 2021, Jazz Appreciation Month will both recognize and explore the historical legacy of pianist, singer, songwriter, storyteller, and civil rights activist Nina Simone. The Museum will add historic content to its website and online programming, marked visually by an illustration of Nina Simone on this year's poster by Duke Ellington School of the Arts sophomore visual arts student Naa Anyele Sowah-de Jesus.

# MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE. ALLSTATE IS NOT.



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# COVID-19 Pandemic Has Changed the Rush Hour

(BPT) - It is an indisputable fact that the COVID-19 pandemic changed a lot about Americans' daily lives, including relationships with vehicles.

While Hankook Tire's latest Gauge Index found that 60% of Americans are driving every day, as opposed to only 19% in April 2020, many habits behind the wheel have shifted in light of the pandemic, too.



## 1) Americans are spending less money at the gas pump.

The COVID-19 pandemic quickly closed many regular driving destinations, including office buildings, schools, restaurants and retail, which in turn gave drivers fewer places to go. While the amount of driving expected over the next few months is still uncertain, the positive impact on wallets is still there: 70% of Americans say that they have spent less money on gas since the start of the pandemic.

And when they do need to fill up the tank, drivers are strategic about it. Since the pandemic, over three-fourths (77%) make a plan to get gas while running errands to limit their time out of the house.

## 2) There are designated errand runs - and designated runners.

Americans are also strategic with how and when they leave the house for essentials. Many are not comfortable making a quick run to the store to pick up

something they forgot for dinner. Nearly two-thirds (64%) say they now save all their errands for one day or do curbside orders to limit potential exposure to the virus. Another half (53%) have a designated errand

runner, so only one person must leave the house.

## 3) Rush hour is less rushed.

With more Americans continuing to work from home and students taking classes online, rush hour is proving less intense. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of drivers recognize that normal traffic patterns have shifted since the start of 2020. Another 65% confirm there is less traffic on their regular routes - though that largely depends on where you live. Hankook found that drivers in the Northeast saw the most significant impact on their regular traffic flow, where 71% of drivers say their daily routes have fewer cars on the road.

## 4) Comfort levels are shifting gears.

As a result of the pandemic, 75% of Americans are not comfortable using public transportation. However, confidence behind the wheel is down,

too - just over a third (36%) say they are less confident driving since the start of the pandemic, perhaps because they aren't doing so as often. Interestingly enough, men are almost twice as likely to say they're less confident behind the wheel as women ... 44% vs. 28%.

Additionally, people are careful about who they drive with. Two-thirds (66%) are not comfortable getting into a car that belongs to someone outside their household.

Another two-thirds (63%) are not comfortable having passengers from outside their household in their own vehicle.

## 5) Face masks are the new sunglasses.

2020 has not just changed when and where people use their cars, it is also changing what they keep in them. Most Americans (81%) keep a face mask in their car, the Gauge found. More than half (55%) have a designated spot for it in their vehicles - be it in the glove compartment, center console, rearview mirror or the gear shift. And 72% say they have hand sanitizer in their vehicle, too.

Which of these trends will stick around and which are more temporary reactions to a tumultuous year remains to be seen. However, one thing is for certain: The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted how Americans view, use and depend on their vehicles.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

### Thru May 23

"Encounters"  
Althea Murphy Price  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
hsvmuseum.org

### Thru April 4

Virtual Alumni Homecoming  
Oakwood University

### March 31

Spring Scavenger Hunt  
Burritt on the Mountain  
10-11:30 a.m.

### April 1

43rd Annual UNCF Virtual Gala  
"Building Bridges to Opportunity"

### April 2

2021 Virtual Mock Trial  
History and Political Science  
Department  
Oakwood University  
Meeting ID: 959 1873 1592  
Passcode: 568176  
11 a.m.

### April 5

Early Registration  
(Summer)  
Alabama A&M University

### April 13

Virtual Public Meeting Session  
on the Transportation Planning  
Processing Huntsville  
Zoom ID: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87008344351>  
5-7 p.m.

### April 15

Spring Plant Sale  
Huntsville Botanical Garden -  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### April 17

Magic City Classic  
Alabama A&M University vs.  
Alabama State University  
Legion Field  
Birmingham, Ala.  
6:30 p.m.

### April 30

Spring 2021  
Commencement  
Alabama A&M University  
10 a.m.-12 noon

### April 30 - May 1

Comedian  
Rickey Smiley  
Stand Up Live

Huntsville, Ala.

### May 8

Opening Day  
2021 Gala Art Exhibition  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### May 13

Opening Reception Huntsville  
Photographic Society 2021  
Members' Showcase  
5:30-7 p.m.

### May 27

Annual Black Tie Scholarship  
Gala (Virtual)  
[www.aamu.edu/blacktie](http://www.aamu.edu/blacktie)

## SISTER DEBORAH

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