

# Happy Easter

The Valley Weekly

Volume 3, No. 31

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, April 14, 2017

FREE

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."  
- John 11:25-26

## The Links Sponsoring Multicultural Event

The Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, will host its 19th Annual Multicultural Extravaganza on April 22, 2017, at 1 p.m. in the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the campus of Alabama A&M University. The organization will celebrate diversity through song, music, food and artistic expressions through a

free, family-friendly event. The theme this year is: "Many Cultures – One Humanity." The public is invited. Founded in 1946, The Links, Incorporated, is one of the oldest and largest volunteer service organizations



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

of women committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the cultural and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry. The Links is an international organization

servicing every county in Alabama. Since 1997, the Greater Huntsville Chapter has focused on programs supporting and enriching the lives of all Alabama citizens. For additional information, please contact the chair for this event, M. Lynn Sherrod, at (256) 655-2016.

## Arts Huntsville Readies for Panoply 2017

Arts Huntsville's 35th Panoply Arts Festival returns on April 28–30, 2017, in downtown Huntsville's Big Spring Park.

Panoply kicks off at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 28th, welcoming back favorite local and regional musical acts as well as nationally-recognized and critically-acclaimed bands and musicians, the Art Marketplace presented by Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Alabama, STEAM Interactives, craft beer, festival food, select local food trucks and more.



Arts Huntsville will welcome more than 30 local and regional bands to #Panoply2017, including performances by Nashville's Humming House, North Alabama's The Secret Sisters, and five-time Grammy Award winners The Blind Boys of Alabama!

The organization will welcome The Blind Boys of Alabama to the Buffalo Rock/Rocket City Broadcasting Showcase Stage on Saturday, April 29. The band has the rare distinction of being recognized around the world as both living legends and modern-day innovators. They are not just gospel singers borrowing from old traditions; the group helped to define those traditions in 20th century and almost single-handedly created a new gospel sound for the 21st century.

The festival artwork, "Revenge of the Ducks," was created by local artist and muralist Logan Tanner.

A Panoply weekend pass is available online in advance for just \$18. The pass offers an affordable way to enjoy Panoply's diverse entertainment all weekend. Weekend passes are only available until 4 p.m. on April 28. Day passes are \$10 and can be purchased in advance online or at the event. Children 12 and under get in free.

## Former AAMU Professor Voorhees College President

The inauguration ceremony and investiture convocation to formally install Dr. W. Franklin Evans at president of Voorhees College took place on April 7. Evans took office in August 2016 as the ninth president of the South Carolina institution. The ceremony was officiated by Dr. Robert Satcher, Jr., chairman of the Board of Trustees, and included the

presentation of the presidential robe, medallion, citation, and seal. "I am honored to take on the prestigious title as president of a historical foundation such as Voorhees College. I will uphold the mission established by the founder, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, as I work to make Voorhees the premiere institution of excellence," Evans said.

Prior to being named the president of Voorhees College, Dr. Evans served as the interim president of South Carolina State University (SCSU). He also served as the provost and chief academic officer at SCSU. During his tenure in higher education, he has been employed at Virginia Union University, Elizabeth City State University,



Alabama A&M University, Tennessee State University, Vanderbilt University and Athens State University.

## African-American Chamber Meeting Slated

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (NAAACC) will hold its monthly member meeting on April 18 at 12 noon. The meet-

ing will be held at the Main Huntsville Public Library Downtown, 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville, Ala. Lunch is available for \$10. Please RSVP by 10

a.m. on April 17 to alfredg.adams@naaacchamber.org or call (256) 564-7574. Established in November 1993 in Huntsville, Ala., NAAACC is dedicated to

empowering and sustaining African American business and communities by fostering positive economic development and entrepreneurship.

## Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

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Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

## The Hamm Consulting Group



## Washington in a Minute

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

1. The House and Senate are out of session for a 2-week spring break. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) sent a memo to members putting them on notice that the House could be called back into session if a deal on the GOP health-care plan was reached. Before they recessed last week, the House Rules Committee approved an amendment to the GOP healthcare plan that would provide \$15 billion over 9 years to insurers to help them afford the costs of their sickest patients.

2. President Trump hosted a swearing-in event for confirmed Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch at the White House. Last week, the President and Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a 100-day plan for trade talks aimed at boosting U.S. exports to China and reducing the U.S. trade deficit with China.

3. According to The Hill newspaper, this week OMB Director Mick Mulvaney will send a memo to all federal agencies instructing them to prepare for future cuts to funding and staff, which will include eliminating programs, laying off staff, and selling federal real estate.

4. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was set to meet in Russia with Russian Foreign

Minister Sergei Lavrov and perhaps President Vladimir Putin (in 2012, President Putin personally bestowed Tillerson with Russia's Order of Friendship).

5. Last week, Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Chris Coons (D-DE) sent a letter signed by 61 Senators to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) seeking to preserve the filibuster for legislative matters in the wake of the GOP eliminating the filibuster for Supreme Court nominees on Thursday. Notably absent from the letter were Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Ted Cruz (R-TX), and Rand Paul (R-KY).

6. New York will become the first state in the country to offer tuition-free public higher education for middle-class families after Governor Andrew Cuomo and state legislative leaders reached a budget deal late on Friday. New York would be the first state to go tuition-free at the four-year university level. Under the agreement, students from families earning up to \$125,000 eventually won't have to pay for tuition at one of the state's community colleges or four-year colleges or universities. Governor Cuomo, who proposed the plan earlier this year, called it "a national model for access to higher

education." The adoption of the program, known as the Excelsior Scholarship, would be phased in over three years in New York and could help jumpstart the tuition-free college movement across the country. Advocates of such programs have been pushing their agenda at the state and local levels as the idea remains a no-go in Republican-controlled Washington.

7. It's 2018 already. The Politico website reports that House Democrats are aggressively courting new candidates for the November 2018 election, meeting with 255 potential candidates in 64 districts across the country. According to the item, they are targeting veterans with small business experience and women with no prior government experience.

For more information, contact Ron Hamm at 202-596-8384 or rhamm@hammconsulting.com. THE HAMM CONSULTING GROUP LLC  
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## TVW Welcomes YP Writer/Photographer

The Valley Weekly welcomes Reginald "Reggie" Allen as a writer and photographer.

Allen is a 2015 graduate of the University of Alabama, where he earned a degree in journalism and a minor in creative writing.

Hailing from Long Beach, Calif., the 24-year-old entrepreneur now calls the Rocket City home and attended Columbia High School. An accomplished entertainment journalist, Allen has been featured in the Birmingham Times, the Tuscaloosa News, iPush Magazine, and Huntsville Event Magazine.

Moreover, he was a writer with Planet Weekly and freelanced with The Lantern Post. Known widely as Birmingham's celebrity photographer, he



has captured the images of some of the most notable individuals on the planet, as well as founded Gatsby Media Productions..

In addition, he is a member of Cohort VII of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium.

Read his story in this week's Valley Weekly on Page 6 ("Huntsville Native's Life-Changing Experience Goes Viral").

For more information, visit ReggieDAllen.com.

## Champion Game Plan for Life by Preston Brown

Do you appreciate the gifts that God has given you or do you always see the wrong things in your life? You know, God wants us to be thankful for the gifts and talents that He has given us. That's why we can't afford to sit around and compare what we have to what others have. It will only make us miserable. So, it's important that we like ourselves, as well as the gifts that God has blessed us with. When we

do this, we can begin to like and appreciate other people, as well. Also, we need to learn to enjoy the people that are in our lives--our friends, our families and our co-workers ... the people that we interact with on a daily basis. And, the only way that we can do this is to stop focusing on everything that is wrong

with them. We all need to make a "mental" list of the things that we like about people that are in our lives instead of constantly thinking of all the bad stuff. It's time to make a change and be part of the solution instead of part of the problem ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



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**The Valley Weekly**

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## From the Editor



*Ahhh, Mother High!*

“Compassionate, steadfast, spirited and virtuous.” Those were the opening words of the short biography that appeared in the Rosetta James Foundation Honoring Our Elders printed program in March 2014. Those few words captured a woman of remarkable gifts, a love of life and laughter, and “high” energy.

As her bio continued ... “Being a virtuous woman is not about being ‘perfect.’ It’s about living with purpose.”

Indeed, Mother Pinkie High possessed a passion that was first instilled in her when she decided to do whatever she could to improve the lives of others. As time progressed, “helping others” became her life’s mission. Mother Pinkie High was always thinking of others, involved in church, always reaching out, and always finding ways to freely help her community.

A native of New Market, Ala., she was born to the late George and Emma Petty, the eldest of 10 siblings. Assisting with various responsibilities and household demands for a large family helped her to develop both leadership and organizational skills. Additionally, she enjoyed 60 years of marriage to the late Alphonso “Boots” High and nurtured 10 children with the love of Christ and disciplined them with care and wisdom.

Mrs. High was a proud member of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church of 80 years, where she served on several committees, as youth choir director and on the Usher and Mothers’ Board. Born into the heart of Mother High was a strong commitment and dedication to take a group of 20 young women and excel to the glory of God, making disciples for Christ through missionary work.

Because of her desire, the church’s Matrons organization was born into existence. Through this group, she was allowed an opportunity to train the young members with outreach activities to better the community through service and fundraising efforts. Member bonding continued with her participation in and the making of floats for local parades (20 years) and winning first place awards on at least six occasions.

Mrs. High’s most enduring roles came from positions she simply took on. For instance, the original church had been constructed around a central log cabin that was built before the Civil War. It desperately needed replacing. Church leaders looked for numerous ways to fund this new endeavor. Mother High came up with a wonderful fundraiser called a “block rally,” which was more than a successful event. The now modern structure houses the congregation of about 700 people.

As a way of giving back to the community, volunteering was most valuable to her, including working the food bank, as well as organizing and delivering food boxes. She spent months of her time working for Christmas Charity, making it possible for families to receive gifts and clothing. Additionally, her prison ministry consisted of feeding inmates during the holiday season in her home, as if they were her family. Moreover, Mother High proudly took on the need for visiting and caring for the sick at nursing homes, planning trips for senior citizens and daily activities, and organizing political activities for Councilman Richard Showers. These longtime community volunteer efforts led to opportunities to meet and engage with many people in surrounding areas.

Throughout the course of her active life, Mother High traveled to more than 15 countries, including Aruba, Greece, Honduras, Jamaica, Israel, Italy, Turkey and many others. She received numerous honors, awards and distinctions, ranging from outstanding leadership to Mother of the Year to Oldest Living Member. She was blessed with 29 grandchildren, 69 great-grandchildren and 31 great-great-grandchildren.

We will truly miss her advice, wit and warm spirit. Rest in peace, Mother High, knowing that you were loved and will long be remembered.

Until next week ...

*Dorothy*



## A&M Planning Technology Transfer Conference

The Alabama A&M University College of Business and Public Affairs' Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Economic Development (CEIED), in cooperation with the AAMU-Rise Foundation, announces the SBIR-STTR Conference on April 23 -25 on the AAMU campus.

Prospective participants still have an opportunity to help shape a conference that meets their unique interest, according to Dr. Teresa M. Orok, CEIED executive director. The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is a highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in federal research/research and development (R/R&D) that has the potential for commercialization.

Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the nation's R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial



spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs.

Additionally, the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) expands funding opportunities in the federal innovation research and development (R&D) arena. Key to this program is expansion of the public/private sector partnership to include the joint venture opportunities for small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. However, the unique feature of the STTR program is the requirement for the small business to formally collaborate with a research institution in Phase I and Phase II.

Funding for research and development is moving away from grants, says Orok. Instead, it is becoming essential for Histori-

cally Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), as well as all Minority Serving Institutions, to start competing for government and private industry contracts.

The AAMU-RISE Foundation and the AAMU Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, & Economic Development are hosting this conference to bring together experts from government agencies, leading R&D companies, and academic institutions. They will be sharing their expertise, thus enabling HBCUs and MSIs to partner with the government and its contractors as they develop and commercialize innovative technologies.

For registration and other information, contact CEIED at (256) 372-5603 or e-mail [teresa.orok@aamu.edu](mailto:teresa.orok@aamu.edu).

## Athens State Trustees Scheduled to Meet

The Board of Trustees of Athens State University are scheduled to meet April 21 in Founders Hall Chapel from 2:30-4 p.m.

The site is located at 300 N. Beaty Street in Athens, Ala.

The public is invited.



For additional information, contact Jackie Gooch, special assistant to the president for board relations and policy analyst at (256) 233-8211 (3rd Floor - McCandless Hall) or visit [www.athens.edu/board-of-trustees](http://www.athens.edu/board-of-trustees).

## OU Tom Joyner School of the Month

On the third Thursday morning in the month of April, Tom Joyner will announce (on his syndicated radio program, "The Tom Joyner Morning Show") another young man selected by the staff at Oakwood University.

Each scholar will be designated a Hercu-



les Scholar in honor of Joyner's father, the late Hercules Joyner, who had a passion for education. In

addition, each scholar will receive a \$1,500 scholarship from TJF in recognition of his academic achievements, leadership skills and community service.

Above, Dr. Tim Mc-Donald and Stacia Wright are honorary co-chairs for the program.

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Presentation by Tonya Stafford- her personal experiences

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# Space Camp SummerFest:

## Save the Date

Valley residents should 'Save the Date' for the third annual Space Camp SummerFest, which takes place July 13 through 15.

This is the perfect time to relive your Space Camp and Aviation Challenge experience or check it out if you've wondered what Space Camp is all about.

In addition to the camp activities, the event includes the annual Space Camp Hall of Fame induction ceremony and dinner Friday, July 14, with the 2017 recipients: NASA astronaut Dr. Serena Aunón-Chancellor; Dr. Jennifer Heldman, a NASA research scientist; U.S. Marine Maj. John Hecker; and Dr.



Michelle K. Christensen, a propulsion engineer at Blue Origin.

Also on the agenda is the Concert in Shuttle Park Saturday, July 15, featuring "Party of the Year," a high-energy band from the producers of The Black Jacket Symphony. Come enjoy hits from the 1960s to today in a one-of-a-kind location.



**BLISS:** Maggie and Marvin Small recently celebrated their 45th anniversary with family and friends at the Von Braun Center Saturday, April 8, 2017. (Photo by J. Saintjones)

## 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.



# Valley Calendar of Events

**April 13**  
"MakerFaire"  
AAMU Learning Resources Center  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

**April 20**  
Alabama A&M University  
STEM Day  
Health and Wellness Center

Huntsville: The Future and Beyond Symposium  
Von Braun Center  
www.futureandbeyondhs.com  
9 a.m.

**April 21**  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Athens State University  
Founders Hall Chapel  
300 N. Beaty Street  
Athens, Ala.  
2:30-4 p.m.

**April 22**  
Southeast Women's Expo  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
VBC East Hall

Real Fathers Making a Difference & Wheel Fix It 5th Annual Car & Bike Family Fest  
Jaycees Fairgrounds  
2180 Airport Road  
12-5 p.m.

**April 23-25**  
SBIR-STTR Conference  
Sponsors: Alabama A&M University College of Business and Public Affairs' Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Economic Development (CEIED), in cooperation with the AAMU-Rise Foundation  
Contact: teresa.orok@aamu.edu

**April 27**  
Harris Home for Children  
Charity Concert  
Featuring: Kool and The Gang  
Von Braun Center Concert Hall - \$25  
8 p.m.

Concert  
Featuring Styx  
VBC Propst Arena  
Tickets: \$49.50-\$79.50  
8 p.m.

**April 28-30**  
Panoply Festival of the Arts  
Big Spring Park  
Day Passes, \$10; Weekend Passes, \$18; Kids 12 and Under Free

**April 29**  
AAMU Open House  
Health and Wellness Center  
9 a.m.

Black Jacket Symphony  
Fleetwood Mac  
Cost: \$23 & \$32  
VBC Propst Arena  
5-7 p.m.

**May 5-6**  
Whistle Stop BBQ Festival

Huntsville Depot Roundhouse  
Downtown

**May 11**  
The Four Tops & The Temptations  
Presenter: Huntsville Hospital Foundation  
VBC Propst Arena  
\$20-\$25  
8 p.m.

**May 12-13**  
Rocket City Brewfest  
Huntsville Depot Roundhouse  
Downtown

**May 20**  
Untouchables Corvette Club Annual Scholarship & Charity Spring Fling  
Cahaba Shrine Center/1226 Blake Bottom Rd. - \$15  
Contact: 256-603-2441/256-684-2182  
8 p.m.-12 a.m.  
Please call Carolyn Lundy or James Lundy at (256) 852-2240 for more details

**May 27**  
Old School and Blues Music Festival  
Huntsville Dragway Grounds, 502 Quarter Mountain Road  
http://www.oldschoolandbluesfestival.com/

**June 17**  
Fun Festival & Expo  
Free  
VBC South Hall

**July 13-15**  
Space Camp SummerFest



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# Huntsville Native's Life-Changing Experience Goes Viral

A near-death experience has one Tennessee Valley resident offering a piece of advice: do *not* go to bed with your electronic device. It just might kill you.

On March 23, Wiley Day Jr., almost lost his life at the hands of his cell phone.

The Rocket City native fell asleep with his iPhone 7 charging at his bed side. Overnight, while tossing and turning across the mattress, his phone charger managed to hook around his dog tag. The tag's chain acted as a conductor, sending multiple volts of electricity throughout his body.

Awakened by a strong stinging sensation, the 32-year-old yanked the chain from his jugular. His scream also alerted his

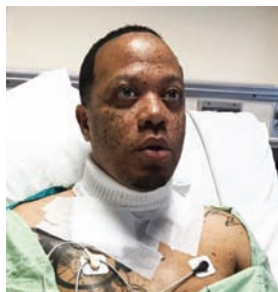
niece who lives on the opposite end of their home. The shock left his clothes singed and smoking with a red ring around his neck. Writhing in

pain, Day managed to drive himself to the emergency room.

In hindsight, many doctors have agreed that the night could've taken a fatal turn. Following the incident, Day's physician informed the media that it only takes 100 volts to kill someone. It was estimated that he was shocked with 110 volts.

Day, who works at McNair Junior High as a behavior specialist, is urging people to reconsider

making the mistake of following in his footsteps, especially his students. To his surprise, many adults have approached him,



stating that they, too, have been guilty of the seemingly harmless act.

Since Al.com first reported the story, Day's testimony has attracted national attention. Various outlets such as Buzzfeed, The Washington Post and Vibe Magazine have reposted the article.

The almost fatal experience changed his life forever, inspiring Day to use his platform to inform others on the consequences

of cradling with their electronics devices.

"From my experience to others, it is not worth your life charging your electronics in bed," Day told the Washington Post. "I mean, it's not worth it. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy."

While a survivor, the fiasco did not leave the Kappa Alpha Psi member unscathed. The shock resulted in various second and third degree burns around his neck and hands.

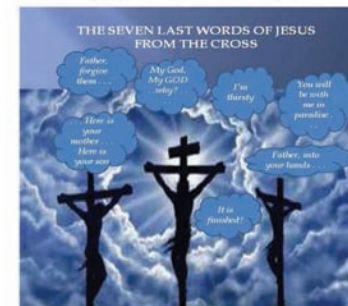
Friends and family have started a GoFundMe account to help pay his medical expenses. As an independent contractor in the school system, Day does not receive health insurance.

by Reggie Allen



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**WE INVITE & WELCOME you to worship with us**  
on  
Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – 12:00 p.m. (NOON)



- Saying # 1:** Reverend Kim Mitchell, Pastor  
New Market Presbyterian Church, New Market, Alabama
- Saying # 2:** Reverend Terence Haley, Pastor  
Chelieu Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, Huntsville, Alabama
- Saying # 3:** Reverend Miriam Smith-Klose, Associate Minister  
Trinity United Methodist Church, Huntsville, Alabama
- Saying # 4:** Reverend Michael Walker, Pastor  
Southside Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama
- Saying # 5:** Reverend Chantaye Knotts, Associate Minister  
First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama
- Saying # 6:** Reverend Joseph Fowler, Youth Pastor  
CrossPointe Church, Madison, Alabama
- Saying # 7:** Bishop Daniel J. Richardson, Senior Pastor  
Eagles' Nest Ministries Church, Huntsville, Alabama

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OPEN: April-October: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday: noon - 5pm  
November-March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm

## Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mrs. Lucille Smith Carr**; **Mr. Connie Ray Tuck**; **Mrs. Norma Ruth Collier**; and **Mr. Isaac J. Williams** will be announced later.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Emma R. Crawford** (b. 1942) was held Monday, April 10, at True Light Church of God in Christ with Evangelist Sylvia Moore officiating.

Funeral service for **Deacon Clifford King** (b. 1944) was held Saturday, April 8, at Owens Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. H. Wendell Thompson officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Mary E. Moore** (b. 1936) was held Saturday, April 8, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Elder Johnny Burrell officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Lucy Mae Betts** (b. 1950) was held Saturday, April 8, at the Consolidated Flint River and Running Water Primitive Baptist Church with Rev. Lester Baker officiating.

Funeral service was held Friday, April 7, for **Mrs. Martha Jolly Knox** (b. 1935) at Hurricane Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Gary Battles officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Pinkie High** (b. 1924) was held Thursday, April 6, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Larry Davidson officiating.

-Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

## Study Finds Parents Major Contributors to School Segregation

A recent study by sociologists at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles reports that White families with children tended to seek out neighborhoods where their children would attend public school that are predominantly White.

According to the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, one of the outlets

through which the new study was disseminated, researchers examined Census data from 100 metropolitan areas between 2000 and 2010. They found that while neighborhood racial segregation had decreased, the decline was slower for those families with children.

The study reports that

only 9 percent of the students in the Los Angeles Unified School District are white. But the average white child in Los Angeles lived in a neighborhood that was 46 percent White.

Ann Owens, the assistant professor of sociology who authored the study, noted that "White parents may be avoiding school

districts where black and Latino children live because they use racial composition as a proxy for quality of a school and neighborhood. As long as neighborhoods are demarcated by school district boundaries limiting enrollment options, parents will take these boundaries into account when making

residential choices, which may contribute to segregation between White and minority children."

The study, "Racial Residential Segregation of School-Age Children and Adults: The Role of Schooling as a Segregating Force," was published in the *Journal of Social Sciences* of the Russell Sage Foundation.

Visit [jbhe.com](http://jbhe.com).

## Local Organizations Team to Sponsor Business Symposium

Several organizations, including Alabama A&M University's College of Business and Public Affairs, are 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, 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 Univer-

sity 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](http://www.futureandbeyondhsv.com).

## Around Town with TVW!



Locals at Starbucks reading TVW



Assistant Principal Dawn Ward presents to Diversity Leadership Colloquium at UAH



DLC grads enjoying lunch at Commerce Kitchen



Councilman Devyn Keith shares smiles with fellow Sparkman High School graduates.



## Extension Targets Family Literacy

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit will hold the second Parent-Child Reading Enhancement Program's (PCREP) Family Day of Education and Fun on Saturday, June 10, 2017, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University's Agribition Center, 4925 Moores Mill Road in Huntsville.

Come and bring the entire family and neighborhood youth out for a day of fun, educational, and interactive activities, including exhibits, outdoor games, a water slide, pet-

ting zoo, food, music and much more.

"This year we will continue with the theme 'Celebrating Family Literacy' that focuses on activities and events showcasing the importance of family literacy programs and providing learning resources for families and communities," said Ronnie Humphrey, event co-chair.

In celebration of family literacy, kids will have a chance to earn PCREP dollars (play money) from each activity they participate in on June 10 to purchase books at an on-site bookstore. Also, while in the bookstore, participants can get their faces painted

by local volunteers.

The Family Day of Education & Fun is a PCREP activity that is designed to enhance reading among children ages 4 to 9 in grades K-4. This event is free and open to the public; however, vendors must pay a \$30 set-up fee. Also, please be sure to bring proper attire for the water slide.

For general information, please contact Ronnie Humphrey at (256) 372-4969, Dr. Dorothy Brandon at (256) 372-5458, or visit [www.aces.edu/urban](http://www.aces.edu/urban). Potential vendors may contact Nancy McCrary at (256) 372-4937.

by Wendi Williams

## Calhoun Community College Holds 'Let's Pretend' Hospital

Calhoun Community College on April 14 concluded a program that attracted over 1,400 area first graders to its Decatur campus to take part in the 17th Annual Let's Pretend Hospital.

Calhoun's Nursing and Allied Health departments, in partnership with Decatur General Hospital and Athens-Limestone Hospital, hosts this annual event, which provides first graders with 'friendly' and age-appropriate information about what actually takes place when someone is admitted to the hospital.

Let's Pretend Hospital was held in the college's state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center. Students and faculty from the college's nursing and allied health programs spend months planning and preparing for the event and transferring the building into an age-appropriate hospital setting, complete with games,



nursery rhyme characters, and a number of hands-on activities.

Dr. Lynn Hogan, Nursing department chair at Calhoun, says that over 1,400 students from public and private schools in Morgan County, Decatur, Athens, and Limestone County were expected to participate in this year's activity. The students toured the various areas of a hospital, learned about germs and hand washing, when to call 911, and what to do should their clothes catch on fire. The 'mock' hospital included an admissions office, ER, hospital patient room, operating room,

x-ray, and discharge area. Students also explored the College's ambulance and had a chance to test the siren.

"This annual project gives Calhoun's Nursing and Allied Health departments the opportunity to partner with two of our largest nursing employers, Decatur General and Athens-Limestone. It also gives our students firsthand experience in developing creative methods of teaching and to observe normal growth and development of first graders," commented Bret McGill, dean of Calhoun's Health Sciences division.

*There is no secret to success except hard work and getting something indefinable which we call 'the breaks.'*

- Countee Cullen

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