

# The Valley Weekly

"People who enjoy meetings should not be in charge of anything."

- Thomas Sowell

FREE

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www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, April 21, 2017

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The North Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force is bringing awareness to the perils of human trafficking with a program set for Sunday, April 23, at First Baptist Huntsville Life Center at 600 Governors Drive.

Guest speakers include Pat McCay and Lynn Caffery. McCay is founder/chair of the Huntsville-Madison County Human Trafficking Task Force. Caffery heads the Tennessee Valley Family Services.

Human trafficking, organizers say, is the second largest criminal industry in the world.

Attendees should use Entrance #7, off St. Clair Street.

## Diversity Theme of IMS Awards Dinner

The Interfaith Mission Service (IMS) will hold its Annual Celebration and Awards Dinner on May 2 at the UAH Exhibit Hall at 6 p.m.

Dr. Greg Barsh of the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology will be the keynote speaker. Barsh will speak on the theme: "The Genetics of Human

Diversity."

During the awards program, IMS will present four awards to the Temple B'Nai Sholom & the Huntsville Islamic Center (Rabbi Ballon Interfaith Harmony Award); Pat McCray of the Human Trafficking Taskforce (Ala.) (Charles L. Ray, Jr. Social Justice Award); Capt. Jeffrey Rice,

Huntsville Police Department, North Precinct (Marilyn Mabry Racial Harmony Award); and Phoenix Huntsville (Direct Service Award).

For additional information, call (256) 536-2401 or e-mail [ims@knology.net](mailto:ims@knology.net). Person can also visit the IMS website at [www.interfaithmissionservice.org](http://www.interfaithmissionservice.org).

## Ministry Training Set for HHCUC

Alzheimer's Association Ministry Training Caring for the Caregiver Series ("Be Aware Be Educated, Be an Advocate") will be held Saturday, April 22.

The program will be

held at Huntsville Hospital Corporate University, 109 Governors Drive, Huntsville, Ala., from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

On Friday, April 21, the Maitland Conservatory will

hold a public workshop on "Enhancing Dementia Care Through Music Therapy."

For more information or to register for the April 21 activity, call (800) 272-3900 or e-mail [mcain@alz.org](mailto:mcain@alz.org).

## Normalites Remember Revered AAMU Dean of Women

The Alabama A&M University Family and thousands of Normalites mourn the death of one of their most revered staff members.

Although born in Birmingham, Ala., Bettye Jean Jones Knowles was a graduate of Carver High School in Gadsden, Ala., and would later work tirelessly for the preservation of the school's history. She attended Alabama A&M University, where she earned a bachelor's degree (elementary education) and a master's degree (counseling).

Knowles began her career working for her Carver High as the school secretary and then for Nancy Oden Junior High School as a teacher and a counselor. Simultaneously, she worked the summer program for what is now known as the J.W. Stewart Head Start Center. During this time in history, integration was taking place and the schools for the African American communities were rapidly closing. After both these schools closed, she became a teacher and counselor at General Forrest Middle School.

Knowles eventually returned to AAMU, where she was the first associate dean of students. She advanced to the position of Dean of Women, serving for several years and until her retirement.

"She was one of my deans while I was a student at AAMU," commented Dr. Dorothy W. Huston of Huntsville, Ala.-based TMT Group, Inc. "She was a loving, caring and student-focused leader."

Beyond retirement, she remained active in many organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the SCLC Wills Creek District, the Etowah County Retired Teachers Association and others.



## Ninety-Eight and Counting

The dilemma of "what to do for one's 98th birthday" was solved by nine of Mrs. Evangeline Spillman's friends: "dinner at The Ledges as a pre-birthday celebration on Friday, April 14, 2017." Hosted by Mrs. Brenda Martin and Dr. Barbara Anthony, the evening started with an acrostic to describe the honoree. The results were as follows: E- elegant; V- vivacious; A- amazing; N- nice; G- great; E- effervescent; L- lovely; I- incredible; N- nostalgic; E- everlasting (a self-description that drew laughter).

Some of the words could have also been used to describe the ambience, service and delicious food that was enjoyed as the group reminisced with vignettes of their times with "Van". We are looking forward to the 99th.



**Pictured:** (l-r): Mrs. LaRonice Fleming, Dr. Bernice Richardson, Mrs. Dawn Ashley, Mrs. Sonya Dillard, Mrs. Brenda Martin, Mrs. Spillman, Mrs. Adrienne P-K Washington, Dr. Barbara Anthony, Dr. Wilma Ruffin, and Mrs. Maureen Davis Cathey.



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- N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence
- 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



## Washington in a Minute

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

1. The House and Senate are out of session this week and will reconvene next week.
2. President and Mrs. Trump hosted up to 21,000 children and their parents on the White House's South Lawn for the annual Easter Egg Roll. On Friday, he nominated ex-Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ) to head the Export-Import Bank. Garrett, who was defeated in November by Democrat Josh Gottheimer, has been a vocal critic of the bank.
3. According to the Politico website, senior Trump Administration officials met Tuesday to decide whether to recommend that the U.S. withdraws from 2015's 194-country Paris Climate Agreement, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Expected to be in attendance are National Economic Council director Gary Cohn, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, National Security Adviser LTG H.R. McMaster, EPA administrator Scott Pruitt, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, senior adviser Jared Kushner, and chief strategist Steve Bannon.
4. Vice President Mike Pence was in South Korea over the weekend – including an unscheduled visit to the Demilitarized Zone – on the first leg of a 10-day trip, which included stops in Japan, Indonesia and Australia.
5. Newly-confirmed Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch took his seat on the Supreme Court Monday to give the court its full complement of 9 justices. On Wednesday, the justices heard the case of Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia (MO) v. Comer, in which the church is challenging its exclusion from a state program that provides money to use ground-up tires to cushion playgrounds. Missouri is among roughly 3 dozen states with constitutions that explicitly prohibit using public money to aid a religious institution.
6. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Democratic National Committee Chair Tom Perez started their 6-day, 8-state tour across the country as part of their “Come Together and Fight Back” tour. The tour included stops in Portland (ME); Louisville, Miami, Dallas, Omaha, Salt Lake City, Mesa (AZ), and Las Vegas. Sanders supported Perez’s opponent, Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), in the recent DNC Chair election.
7. During his campaign, President Trump took a slightly populist approach to student loans, calling student loan debt an “albattross” around the necks of borrowers. He proposed a repayment plan that was in some ways more generous to borrowers than Barack Obama’s and even echoed Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s refrain that the govern-

ment shouldn’t “profit” off its student loan program. However, since becoming Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos has taken over the \$1 trillion-plus federal student lending operation and has rolled back Obama-era policies aimed at protecting student loan borrowers. Last week she rescinded policies aimed at standardizing and improving customer service from student loan servicers. She has also taken steps to rehire four debt collection firms fired by the previous administration over allegations of misleading struggling borrowers about their options. Finally, she repealed Obama’s ban on certain fees that debt collectors may charge borrowers who default on student loans guaranteed by the federal government.

For more information, contact Ron Hamm at 202-596-8384 or rhamm@hammconsulting.com.

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## MDA Manager A&M Founder’s Day Speaker

The software acquisition manager for the Missile Defense Agency will be the speaker for the Founder’s Day observance on Friday, May 5, in the T.M. Elmore Building at 11 a.m.

Pamela Moore McDonald began her professional career in 1983 with United Space Booster, Incorporated. in Huntsville, Ala., after graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering technology from Alabama A&M University.

In 1987, after completing electrical engineering equivalent course work at the University of Alabama Huntsville, McDonald began her federal civil service career at the U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMRDEC). She was assigned to the Research Engineering Development Center Software

Engineering Directorate as an Electronics Engineer.

McDonald currently serves as the Software Acquisition Manager for the Missile Defense Agency. She is the senior software acquisition management advisor to the MDA Director, the Director for Engineering and the Program

Executives. She provides leadership and direction to the MDA, Director of Engineering Independent Assessment (DEA) Software Acquisition Management (SAM) Office, ensuring a consistent, standardized methodology for the acquisition of software throughout the MDA.

McDonald also holds a Master of Science degree in management science from the Florida Institute of Technology, and she is a graduate of the Defense Management College.



## Champion Game Plan for Life by Preston Brown

1 Peter 1:3-4 says, praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. As we read this text, we should all realize that Peter has a new level of praise. Remember, Peter was the one who denied Jesus three (3) times before the rooster crowed. And since Jesus died on the cross, there was no

way for him to tell Jesus just how sorry he was for doing that. I can’t imagine the pain and the hurt that he must have gone through. But the good news to Peter and for all of us is that Jesus did not perish on the cross. He lives, Christ Jesus lives today. And, because he lives we can face tomorrow. You see, Jesus forgave Peter, and now, has a new level of praise ...



Also, there is a different kind of praise that you give when you are on the other side of the pain and the hurt that you have been through and God is still faithful. Remember your faith can not be proven if you never go through any storms in

your life ...  
Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

# AAMU Plans Tech Transfer Program for Small Businesses

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## The Valley Weekly

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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 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), as well as all Minority Serving Institutions, to start com-

peting 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).



## Annual Bilderberg Conference Scheduled for June

The 2017 annual meeting of Bilderberg Conference participants is likely to return to U.S. soil between June 1-4 at Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Va.

Since its inaugural meeting in 1954, Bilderberg has been an annual forum for informal discussions, designed to foster dialogue between Europe and North America. Every year, between 120-150 political leaders and experts from industry, finance, academia and the media are invited to take part in the meeting. About two thirds of the participants come from Europe and the rest from North America; one third from politics and government and the rest from other fields.

According to the organization's website, the meeting is a forum for

informal discussions about megatrends and major issues facing the world. The meetings are held under the Chatham House Rule, which states that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s) nor of any other participant may be revealed.

Thanks to the private nature of the meeting, the participants are not bound by the conventions of their office or by pre-agreed positions. As such, they can take time to listen, reflect and gather insights.

There is no detailed agenda, no resolutions are proposed, no votes are taken, and no policy statements are issued.

- [bilderberg.org](http://bilderberg.org)

## Huntsville Hospital Opens New Employee Health Clinic

Huntsville Hospital CEO David Spillers, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong, and the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County celebrated the grand

opening and ribbon cutting of the new Huntsville Hospital Employee Health Clinic.

The event was held at 7047 Old Madison Pike, Suite 330, Huntsville, Ala., on Monday, April 17.

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# Award-Winning Film Screened at Lowe Mill

by Reggie Allen

The Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment Center hosted the Alabama premiere of "The Atoning" on April 14. Organized as a red-carpet event, the screening featured appearances from the cast and the film's additional staff. The screening capped off with commentary from the director, Michael Williams.

Directed and written by Williams, "The Atoning" is an 84-minute horror-thriller that stars Virginia Newcomb and Michael LaCour as Vera and James, a married couple trying to protect their son Sam (Cannon Basarge) from demonic spirits haunting their home. But the super-



natural isn't the only thing that torments the family of three. They must also combat the demons from within and unearth the secrets of their dark past.

While Williams has

worked on various projects, "The Atoning" is his second feature film. In 2014, he made his directorial debut with OzLand, a horror-thriller based on the L. Frank Baum classic

"The Wonderful Wizard of Oz."

The film made its debut at the Oxford Film Festival in February. Over the next few months, it would go on to receive multiple accolades, including Best Home Grown at the Magnolia Film Festival and Best Feature at the Azalea Film Festival.

"The Atoning" also stars Dorothy Weems, Alex Zuko, Sherrie Eakin, Ashlynn Lopez, Jessie Hughes, Kyle Wigginton, Nikki Caruso and Bryan Benfield. The premiere was sponsored by the Alabama Film Co-op.

(Photo courtesy of Michael Williams)



## 19th Annual Multicultural Extravaganza

"Many Cultures - One Humanity"

Presented by:



Greater Huntsville Chapter  
The Links, Incorporated

Saturday, April 22, 2017  
1:00-3:00 p.m.

The Ernest L. Knight Center - Alabama A&M University  
4900 Meridian Street, North  
Huntsville, Alabama

Refreshments - Artistic Expressions  
Art - Music - Poetry - Dance

Admission: Free

# Real Fathers Car & Bike Fest Saturday

Real Fathers Making a Difference and Wheel Fix It will hold the annual Car & Bike Family Fest on Saturday, April 22, from 12 noon- 5 p.m. at the Jaycees Fairgrounds at 2180 Airport Road in Huntsville, Ala.

Registration for the rain or shine activity will begin promptly at 11 a.m. and continue through 3 p.m. The program's awards component will start at 4 p.m.

Day of entry fee/donation is \$25 per entry. There is also a \$10 entry fee for non-judging cars, trucks and/or bikes.

All donations are tax deductible and will support the Augustea Bolden College Scholarship Fund for outstanding students celebrated by the organization each year. Additional contributions also strengthen education and mentoring programs.

Admission is free, and the event will feature door prizes, custom trophies, food trucks, business and non-profit vendors, a gaming truck, moon bounces, live performances by Huntsville Community Drumline and Prima Dance, and more.

For more information, call (256) 830-9992 or (256) 517-8395.

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## A RAY OF HOPE EVENT 2017

Country of Focus: UGANDA

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## Burritt on the Mountain to Hold 2nd Annual Celtic Day

Burritt's second annual Celtic Day (May 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.), celebrating the history and culture of Ireland, Scotland and Wales, is an event many won't want to miss.

In conjunction with Clan Davidson Society, USA and the Irish Society of North Alabama, Burritt will host a day of blarney stones, Scottish harpers, dance, music and arts of Celtic countries. Come see lacemaking and blacksmithing demonstrations, discover how to trace your genealogy, and enjoy creating children's crafts.

Children will want to join in our Junior Games while adults get a kick out of watching a caper toss with swim noodles, potato and spoon relays, and a modified stone put competition. Feicfidh mé ann thú! (See you there!)

Admission is included in general admission prices.



**SMAC!** Oakwood University student Elijah Rashad is congratulated by Dorinda Clark Cole after winning the category for singing at the 19th annual Singer, Musicians, and Arts Conference (SMAC), which was held at Oakwood University Second-Day Adventist Church on April 8. (Submitted by Reggie Allen)

## ACES Holding Earth Day Events

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit (Urban Affairs) will participate in two upcoming Earth Day events.

The first event is the 47th Annual Earth Day Festival and Farmer's Market that will be held at the Monte Sano State Park Picnic Area located at 5105 Nolen Avenue SE, Huntsville, Ala., Sunday, April 23, from 12-5 p.m. The Flint River Conser-

vation Association is hosting more than 50 earth friendly exhibitors. There will also be a farmers market, a raptor bird show, a family mountain bike ride, music, food trucks, hands-on activities for kids, solar telescopes, geocaching, and much more.

For more information, visit [aces.edu](http://aces.edu). Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs also plans to participate in Operation Green Team's 2017 Earth Day Festival at Hays Nature

Preserve on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located at 7161 Hays Preserve Trail Southeast, Owens Cross Roads, Ala. For the past three years Urban Affairs has been a sponsor of the butterfly release, one of the most anticipated Earth Day activities taking place at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

This event is free and features more than 70 organizations and businesses with various activities and demonstrations.

### AAMU Takes Part in Earth Day Observance

Alabama A&M University participated in the "Get on the Bus" Earth Day celebration event.

All students, faculty, and staff had access to ride the Huntsville Shuttle bus free April 17-21, 2017, with a school ID.

Support for the effort included a Mayor's proclamation, stressing the importance of participation by the campus and surrounding Tennessee Valley community.



Huntsville Parks & Recreation

Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center's  
**TIE ONE ON FISHING CLUB**

## First Annual Senior Fishing Rodeo

**Thursday, April 20**  
**Brahan Spring Park Lagoon**

**8 a.m.-9 a.m. Registration**  
**9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Fishing**  
**11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Awards**

**Free event for Seniors!**

**Awards for Heaviest Fish, Most Fish and Oldest Fisher to Catch a Fish!**

**Register for door prizes!**

**Lagoon will be stocked with fish!**

You must bring your own fishing equipment.  
Fishing license is required for all participants under 65 years old.

Call Parks & Recreation with questions at 256-564-8026.  
[www.HuntsvilleAL.Gov/ParksandRecreation](http://www.HuntsvilleAL.Gov/ParksandRecreation)



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## Sites List 20 Most Obese Cities in the U.S.

The popular websites BlackDoctor.org and Wal-lethub.com have released a list with the nation's fattest cities for 2017. Most of the cities that made the list are in the South.

On the state level, three of the cities are in Louisiana and Tennessee. The list includes:

1. Jackson, Miss.
2. Memphis, Tenn.
3. Little Rock, Ark.

4. McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Tex.
5. Shreveport-Bossier City, La.
6. Chattanooga, Tenn.
7. Mobile, Ala.
8. Lafayette, La.
9. Winston-Salem, N.C.
10. Knoxville, Tenn.
11. Columbia, S.C.
12. Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin, S.C.
13. Birmingham-Hoover, Ala.

14. San Antonio-New Braunfels, Tex.
15. Louisville/Jefferson County, Ky.-Ind.
16. Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, S.C.-N.C.
17. Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Tex.
18. Oklahoma City, Okla.
19. Augusta-Richmond County, Ga.-S.C.
20. Baton Rouge, La.

## Harley-Davidson Official to Address Local Grads

The more than 500 persons scheduled to receive degrees at Alabama A&M University's spring commencement exercises will receive words from a woman who once sat among them on her eventual climb through the corporate world.

After earning her degree in nursing from cross-town University of Alabama in Huntsville, Tchernavia Rocker received the Master of Business Administration degree from AAMU.

Now a certified senior professional in human resources, Rocker is vice president of human resources for Harley-Davidson Motor Company, where she supervises over 200 HR employees.

Rocker's extended role

includes employee and labor relations, talent management, training, organizational development, performance management, diversity, safety, occupational health and other functions.

She has performed similar HR duties at Goodyear Dunlop North America Tire, Inc., in addition to securing experiences in healthcare and scientific research at other organizations.

The administrator previously served on the boards of the Urban Economic Development Association, Progressive Community Health Centers, the Cripus Attucks Center and the South George Street Community Partnership.

Her current affiliations



include the Board of Directors for the Next Door Foundation; Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, Wis.; the Society for Human Resource Management; and the National Black MBA Association.

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## Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mr. James Pleasure** will be announced later.

Funeral service for **Mr. Isaac J. Williams** (b. 1939) was held Monday, April 17, at Oakwood University Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Lucille Smith Carr** was held Saturday, April 15, at Pentecostal Kighthouse Church with Pastor Johnny Burrell officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Norma Ruth Collier** (b. 1950) was held at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church Saturday, April 15, with Rev. Curtis Strong officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Leon Bobo** was held Friday, April 14, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Connie Ray Tuck** (b. 1967) was held Friday, April 14, at Fellowship of Faith Church with Pastor Troy Garner officiating.

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

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

-Nelms Memorial  
Funeral Home

# Thrice-Fired Oakwoodite Thanks Employer for Exposing Addiction, Pens Free E-Book

*Local Essence Magazine guest columnist shares own unique addiction struggles, God's rescue*

Q: Ever been fired, but thanked employer for busting you--for your addiction that's actually older than humans?

Oakwood University's thrice-fired Public Relations director Tim Allston's new free e-Book, *7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Somebody Else,"* [www.getegohelpnow.org](http://www.getegohelpnow.org), introduces ego-holism--"thinking too highly of yourself, and/or too little of our God, and then acting excessively upon those impulses."

In December 2002, then-AAMU Research & Development VP Dr. Dorothy W. Huston debuted Allston's "Welcome to the Twin Cities of Egos" seminar-workshop as a professional development training for her division's staffers; Essence Magazine's "Brothers" September 2003

column featured Allston's riches-to-rags-to-riches rollercoastering story, "I Was My Own Worst Enemy."

There's nothing wrong with having an ego, which every dictionary defines as "a sense of self," explained Allston; every person, organization, activity and event has an ego, or sense of self, the recovering ego-holic continued.

"Ego-holism, like alcoholism, results from an excess: when you and I don't partner with the un-defeated God in every situation. We either apply too much of ourselves (big ego-holism, or egotism) and/or too little of our God (low or no esteem, or little ego-holism); only He knows the exact amounts of 'God and us' to apply, for perfect balance."

*7 Steps* opens by posing questions about Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, NBA star Kevin Durant and Super Bowl MVP quarterback Tom Brady; Allston concludes, "the answers to those questions

and my personal problem all expose an addiction that is actually older than Planet Earth!"

When firing Allston in December 2013, OU president Dr. Leslie Pollard targeted and counseled his exiting PR director as a "genius ... with a problem. Get help. Now."

That Dear-John meeting led the self-identified "serial successful and celebrated failure" to deepen his prayer/Bible study life; to seek Dr. Calvin O. Matthews' professional counseling; to name his website after Pollard's directive, [www.getegohelpnow.org](http://www.getegohelpnow.org); and to write this e-Book--a one-sitting read--as the free introduction to an upcoming eight-book series, detailing the seven recovering steps.

Citing the U.S. Social Security Administration, Allston was:

- Fired 13 times;
- Most firing occurred after receiving top industry awards; and
- In 39 years of employment, never ever received a



job promotion . . .

"... But God, ..." Allston added.

In explaining his layman's insights on ego addictions/recovering, the 62-year-old Huntsvillian qualifies his unique opposite-side-of-the-desk perspective, declaring:

- "I'm not a doctor - instead, I'm the patient;
- I'm not a pastor - rather, I'm the sinner in the pew;
- I'm not a professor - preferably, I'm the student

advisee;

•I'm not a therapist - alternately, I'm the client;

•I'm not a lawyer - unfortunately, I'm the victim and too often, I'm the perpetrator. Yes and too often, I was the criminal . . .

"... But God, ..."

To get your free e-book, *7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-To Guide for "Somebody Else,"* download it at [www.getegohelpnow.org](http://www.getegohelpnow.org).

## Aerojet Rocketdyne Linked to 800 New Jobs

Aerojet Rocketdyne recently announced it will build its next-generation rocket engine in the Rocket City.

This brings a \$100 million capital investment and 800 new jobs to Huntsville with an estimated annual payroll impact of \$50 to \$60 million.

It is a big boost to Huntsville's already robust rocket economy and solidifies our position as the propulsion capital of the nation, and by default, the

world. Consider Huntsville's role in propulsion. The Marshall Space Flight Center has been named NASA's Center of Excellence for propulsion.

On Redstone Arsenal, the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space is headquartered here, performing 85 percent of our nation's missile defense work.

Companies like Boeing, Raytheon, Dynetics, Lockheed, ULA and many others are key players in

the propulsion field with significant operations in our area.

Aerojet Rocketdyne's propulsion portfolio includes a commercial satellite market as well as major support for the military. The company's decision to consolidate and move east and west coast operations to Huntsville shows the strength of our highly skilled workforce and something more.





# Miss Filing Tax by Deadline? IRS Might Have Your Back

Although April 18 was the tax-filing deadline for most people, some taxpayers in special situations qualify for more time without having to ask for it, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Taxpayers in Presidentially-declared disaster areas, members of the military serving in a combat zone and Americans living and working abroad get extra time to both file their returns and pay any taxes due. Here are details on each of these special tax relief provisions.

**Victims of Natural Disasters.** Taxpayers in several disaster area localities qualify for more time to file their tax returns and pay any taxes due. Currently, taxpayers in parts of Georgia and Mississippi have until May 31, 2017, to file and pay, while those in parts of Louisiana have until June 30, 2017, to file and pay. These extensions also apply to other tax-related actions, including the deadline for contributing to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA). The IRS automatically provides extensions to anyone living in these areas so there's no reason for these residents to contact the IRS to request an extension.

The IRS generally provides relief, including postponing filing and payment deadlines, to any area covered by a disaster declaration for individual assistance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Among other things, this relief includes extensions for relief workers, disaster area businesses and anyone whose tax records are located in the disaster area. For details on available relief and information on how to take advantage of it, visit the Around the Nation page on IRS.gov.

**Combat Zone Taxpayers.** Members of the military and eligible support personnel serving in a combat zone have at least 180 days after they leave the combat zone to file their tax returns and pay any taxes due. This includes those serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other combat zone localities. A complete list of designated combat zone localities can be found in Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide, available on IRS.gov.

Combat zone extensions give affected taxpayers more time for a variety of other tax-related actions, including contributing to an IRA.

Various circumstances affect the exact length of the extension available to any given taxpayer. Details, including examples illustrating how these extensions are calculated, can be found in the Extensions of Deadlines section in Publication 3.

**Taxpayers Outside the United States.** U.S. citizens and resident aliens who live and work outside the U.S. and Puerto Rico have until June 15, 2017, to file their 2016 returns and pay any taxes due. The special June 15 deadline also applies to members of the military, on duty outside the U.S. and Puerto Rico, who do not qualify for the longer combat zone extension. Be sure to attach a statement to

the return explaining which of these situations applies. Though taxpayers abroad get more time to pay, interest, currently at the rate of four percent per year, compounded daily, applies to any payment received after April 18. For more information about the special tax rules for U.S. taxpayers abroad, see Publication 54 on IRS.gov.

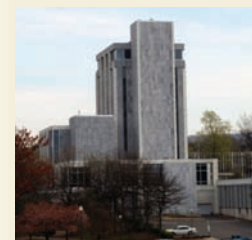
**Everyone Else.** Taxpayers who don't qualify for any of these three special situations can still get more time to file, but they need to ask for it. Automatic extensions give people until Oct. 16, 2017, to file; tax payments are still due April 18, 2017.

An easy way to get the extra time to file is through the Free File link on IRS.gov.

In a matter of minutes, anyone, regardless of income, can use this free service to electronically request an extension on Form 4868. To get the extension, taxpayers must estimate their tax liability on this form and pay any amount due.

Another option for taxpayers is to pay electronically and get an extension of time to file. IRS will automatically process an extension when taxpayers select Form 4868 and they are making a full or partial federal tax payment using Direct Pay, Electronic Federal Tax Payment System or a debit or credit card by the April due date. There is no need to file a separate Form 4868 when making an electronic payment and indicating it is for an extension.

## 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,

## Valley Recognizes Shred Day

Huntsville Shred Day will be based at Redstone Federal Credit Union on Wynn Drive on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Gather unneeded and outdated personal documents for the Better Business Bureau's free Shred Day event in Huntsville! Please note that there is

a limit of three garbage bags or bank-size boxes of documents per person and that cardboard and three-ring binders cannot be accepted.

*"Although slavery has long been a part of human history, American chattel slavery represents a case of human trauma incomparable in scope, duration and consequence to any other incidence of human enslavement."*  
- Joy DeGruy



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