

# Drake State 60th Anniversary Kickoff, p. 8

FREE

Friday

April 23, 2021

Vol. 7, No. 33

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

## Growing Treasure in Heaven, p. 6

Vern Spearman, p. 6

"Those who commit the murders  
write the reports."

- Ida Wells Barnett



### TVW Senior Editor Pens "The Drake Song"

During the April 19 Kickoff Celebration for the 60th Anniversary of J.F. Drake Community and Technical College, President Patricia G. Sims thanked and acknowledged The Valley Weekly Senior Editor Jerome Saintjones for penning the words to the official "Drake Song" at the request of Drake staffer Andrea Bradford.

The work was performed at the Kickoff event and has been adopted as the historically black college's official school song, according to President Sims.

When a college senior, Saintjones also wrote the poem for Tuskegee University's Centennial year celebration in 1981.

### HHF Honors Noted Nurse

The Huntsville Hospital Foundation recently announced the establishment of a scholarship in memory of Daisy Pruitt Swinton, who served Huntsville Hospital patients for 40 years, working her way from housekeeping to ICU nurse manager.



Swinton was a trailblazer and the first African American to serve as an ICU nurse manager at Huntsville Hospital. Now, her legacy will support area students and health care workers who wish to pursue a nursing degree.

The official scholarship launch was held on what-would-have-been Mrs. Swinton's 83rd birthday, on April 14, 2021, at the Huntsville Hospital Plaza Resource Center. The program included a presentation of the commemorative portrait that will hang in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

The Daisy P. Swinton Scholarship opened for applications on Thursday, April 15. The event also served as the official launch

of Huntsville Hospital Foundation's 2021 Nurses Week campaign, where donations can be made in honor of local nurses benefiting the scholarship fund.

The Daisy P. Swinton Scholarship was initiated by her family and founded by Huntsville Hospital Foundation. It is fully funded by generous community donors.

The application is open to any employee of Huntsville Hospital or to outstanding high school or college students who have been accepted to a Nursing school or program.

To learn more about Swinton's trailblazing legacy or to apply, visit [huntsvillehospitalfoundation.org/daisyswinton](http://huntsvillehospitalfoundation.org/daisyswinton).

### Deltas to Host 'Crimson and Cream' Conversations with Councilmen

In its efforts to provide an opportunity for citizens to engage with elected officials, the Social Action Committee of the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta



Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is hosting Crimson and Cream Conversations.

During this event, Councilman John Meredith (top) and Councilman Devin Keith will share their vision, platform and achievements in the Huntsville districts.

All concerned citizens will have the opportunity to engage with our elected officials to share their hopes and expectations for their community and elected officials.

Join the conversation on Monday, April 26, from 7-8 p.m. virtually via Zoom. Interested persons must register at the chapter's website <http://www.dsthuntsville.org>.

After registering, expect

a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta

The chapter strives to provide quality programs to educate youth, to steer economic development within the community and to lead social action.

Ovetta



Hobson currently serves as President. To learn more about Huntsville Alumnae Chapter, visit the chapter's website at <http://www.dsthuntsville.org>.

[dsthuntsville.org](http://www.dsthuntsville.org).

The Valley Weekly

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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 session this week. Among other items, the House will vote this week to make Washington, D.C., the 51st state (an identical bill passed the House last Congress but was not taken up by the Senate), debate a bill rejecting the previous Administration's policy of banning arrivals from predominantly Muslim countries, and a bill to reaffirm immigrants' right to counsel during status hearings.

The Senate will resume consideration of the Covid-hate crimes legislation and will also vote on more Biden Administration sub-Cabinet nominees. Senators received a briefing from the Biden Administration on Tuesday regarding the President's announcement last week to remove all 3,500 U.S. troops from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021.

The House GOP will hold a retreat this weekend in Orlando, Fla.

**2. BIDEN 100 DAYS.** On Monday, President Biden met with a bipartisan group from the House and Senate on his infrastructure plan. On Tuesday, he met with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. On Thursday and Friday, the President hosted a virtual international climate summit with 40 world leaders and Politico reported that the Biden administration is assembling a "Climate-Related Financial Risk" executive order ahead of the summit, which will direct White House economic and climate advisers to work with OMB on a government-wide strategy to measure, mitigate and disclose climate risks facing federal agencies.

Banking, housing and agriculture regulators are among those that will be asked to incorporate climate risk into their supervision of major industries and the lending of federal funds. Last Saturday night, the White House announced that Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry

had reached an agreement with China that the two countries would develop long-term strategies this year to reach carbon neutrality.

President Biden will address Congress on April 28 to mark his first 100 days in office. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki announced last week that South Korean President Moon Jae-In will visit the White House in May (note: President Biden met with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Friday at the White House).

**3. VOTING RIGHTS.** On Tuesday at 10 a.m., the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on voter suppression laws being debated in state legislatures entitled, "Jim Crow 2021: the Latest Assault on the Right to Vote." The hearing witnesses will include Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and 2018 Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams.

**4. PROJECT EARMARKS.** According to Fox News, Senate Republicans met this Wednesday (April 21) to debate allowing GOP Senators to request congressionally-added project earmarks, which have been banned since

2011. The House GOP caucus voted in a secret ballot to allow its Members to request earmarks on March 17 and both House and Senate Democrats are already moving forward with earmark requests, now known as "community project funding."

**5. SENATE WORK-FORCE HEARING.** On April 20 at 10 a.m., the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing entitled "COVID-19 Recovery: Supporting

Workers and Modernizing the Workforce Through Quality Education, Training and Employment Opportunities." Dr. Scott Ralls, president of Wake Technical Community College in N.C., will serve as a witness.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

## IS LIFE FAIR?

Matthew 20:12-15, one of the hired men said to the landowner, "These who were hired last, worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day. But the landowner answered one of them saying, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for one denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do whatever I want with my money? Or are you envious

*because I am generous?*

Does it ever feel like to you that life is not fair? As we read here in the text, we see that God blesses whoever He wants to bless, and there is no rhyme or reason to it. But the problem that so many of us have is we try to look at the fairness of it all. For example, how many of us felt like those who worked the longest should have been paid the most. Let's face it, most of us see life from our own limited experiences and our own perceptions. So, when we feel that life is not fair, perhaps we need to look at the reason we feel that



way. I believe that one of the reasons we feel that life is not fair is because of "comparisons". In other words, we are constantly comparing ourselves to other people. This is a trap by the enemy. He will always make you feel like what you did or what you have is not enough. I pray that you don't fall into this trap.

Now there is nothing wrong with trying to aspire to be like someone else, but that is completely different from the parable that is being explained in this scripture. When we

make comparisons, that will keep us from the blessings that God wants us to have. Remember, what God has for me, it is for *me*.

Also our pride will make us feel like life is not fair. Pride has always been the "downfall" of man. The pride of these hired workers made them feel like they were better than the people who worked for only an hour. Even though they agreed to the conditions and the pay.

I believe that whenever we feel that life is not fair, we may need to check our perspective and ask God for wisdom in this area. Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. You can purchase my book "A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE" on amazon .com or contact me at prestonbrown81@gmail.com

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS

## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Graveside service for MR. LOUIS JOHNSON ELLIOTT (b. 1932) was held Monday, April 19, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Pastor Emeritus Dr. Julius R. Scruggs as eulogist.

Graveside service for MRS. MELINDA YVETTE SATCHEL-ER-EWING (b. 1965) was held Saturday, April 17, at Valley View Memorial Gardens with Pastor Winford ("Mac") Manneice officiating.

Graveside service for MS. NAKIA MO'NAE FLINT (b. 1992) was held Saturday, April 17, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Pastor Carolyn Lucas officiating.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Graveside service for MR. DEXTER LAMAR TURNER (b. 1989) will be 12 noon, Saturday, April 24, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road Toney, Ala.) with Reverend Byron McGlathery officiating.

Graveside service for MR. JEREMY MARQUEZ ALLISON (b. 1989) was held Sunday, April 18, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Pastor Calvin King officiating.

Graveside service for MR. WILLIE DORICE BONE (b. 1932) was held Sunday, April 18, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Edward Anderson officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAMES LEEARTIS BURGESS (b. 1982) was held Saturday, April 17, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Maurice Wright officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. ELNORA WATTS TURNER (b. 1934) was held Wednesday, April 14, at the Chandlertown Cemetery (2929 Bobo Section Road, Hazel Green, Ala.).

## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral Service for MS. DOROTHY SUGGS HOWARD was held Sunday, April 18, at Serenity Funeral Home with Pastor Waymon Moore officiating.

## MHI Sets Watch

The Meadow Hills Initiative, Inc., will hold a Community Watch Awareness & Membership Drive on Thursday, April 29, at 4 p.m.

Offices are located at 2448 Shepherd Drive, Huntsville, Ala. The activity will include fun, prizes, surprises and free food.



by Kimberly Ferguson

Available on Amazon.com



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# D6 Commissioner Calls Vaccination Clinic Successful

The office of Commissioner Violet Edwards has announced the successful results of a mobile vaccination clinic held on April 13, 2021, at the Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center.

The pop-up clinic was a partnership between the District 6 office and Huntsville Hospital, and it served

approximately 200 people.

The District 6 COVID-19 Initiative focuses on three central tenants: safety, education, and COVID-19 relief. Commissioner Edwards has prioritized the safety of her constituents during this pandemic, and this clinic is her most recent commit-

ment to the fight against the virus.

"I am thrilled to have Huntsville Hospital at our facility. We have worked hard to educate the community about the vaccine and its importance. Now we are making it convenient for them to protect themselves and their families. Together, we can win



against COVID-19," Commissioner Edwards said. Huntsville Hospital has been instrumental in providing outreach throughout the region.

"More than 81,730 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine have been admin-

istered at the Huntsville Hospital Community Vaccination Clinic at John Hunt Park. We commend Commissioner Edwards' effort in helping educate people and assisting us to reach eligible people through community centers and churches," said Tracy Doughty, Senior Vice President of Operations at Huntsville Hospital.

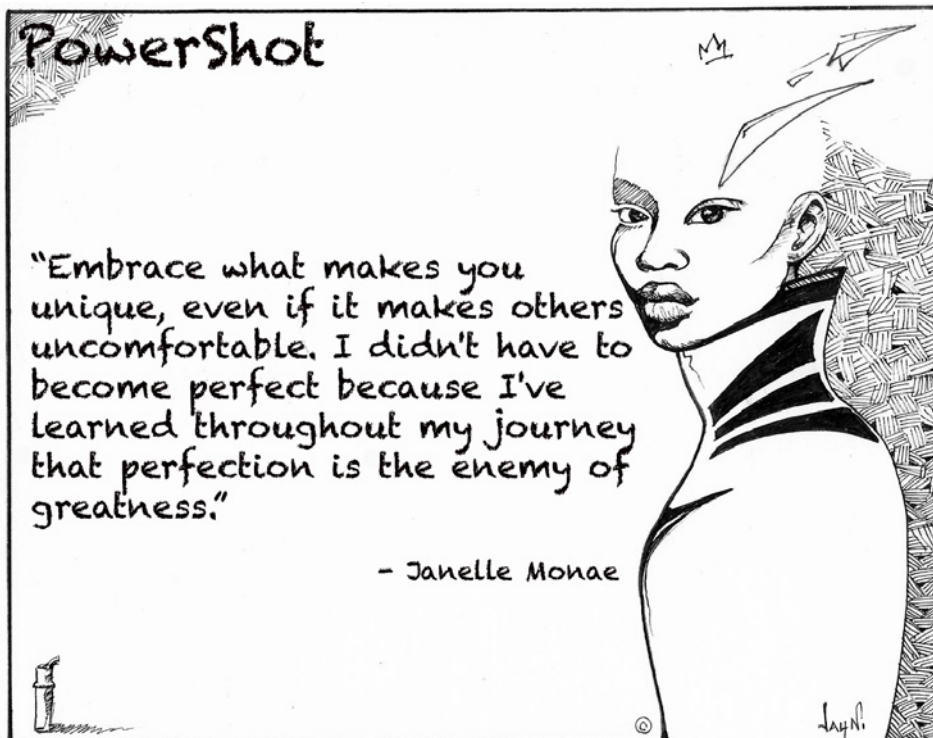
This is the second partnership between the District 6 and Huntsville Hospital. In January, Huntsville Hospital, along with Thrive Alabama, provided COVID-19 testing.

## 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](https://www.huntsvilleal.gov/HSVTV) or on the City of Huntsville Facebook page (@huntsvillecity).

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

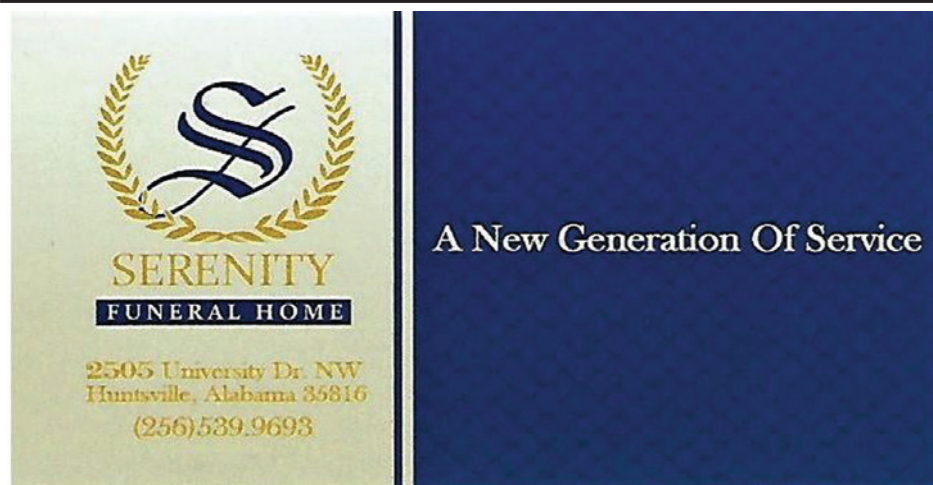


*"Powerful people cannot afford to educate the people that they oppress, because once you are truly educated, you will not ask for power. You will take it."*

- John Henrik Clarke

*"When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world."*

- George Washington Carver



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## Remembering England's Prince Philip (1921-2021): The OG of "Stand by Your (Wo)man"

"It isn't good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs" Genesis 2:18.

Here, God created Eve, the companion for Adam, to complement him in his responsibilities.

While this principle of companionship remains fixed, the times are flipping the script increasingly with men and women.

As married women assume top leadership positions increasingly, Prince Philip's silver-mettle leadership role served as the OG (Original Gangster) for husbands to "stand by your woman."



### Two Paces Behind (British Protocol), yet Quantum Leaps Ahead (Servant Leadership)

Martin Palmer noted that his friend Philip "wore the trousers so that she could wear the Crown."

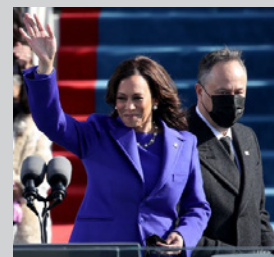
Philip: "When the Queen succeeded we sort of chatted about who would do what and I thought that if I could relieve her of the management of the estates it would save her a lot of time." It worked.

With her husband of 73 years two paces behind her, Queen Elizabeth's 69-year monarchy ranks her as world history's longest-serving female head of state, oldest living monarch, longest-reigning current monarch, and oldest and longest-serving current head of state. Fittingly, she memorialized him as "my strength and stay."

Prince Philip's role modeling "crossed the Pond" and recently, landed in the dictionary, . . .

On January 28, Merriam-Webster dictionary added "second gentleman: the husband or male partner of a vice president or second in command of a country or jurisdiction." This refers to Doug Emhoff, husband of VP Kamala Harris, the highest-ranking woman in U.S. political history.

To support her, Emhoff closed his California law practice, and now teaches a Georgetown Law School entertainment law class.



Prince Philip set and Doug Emhoff is setting the standard for silver-mettle leadership - "leading from the middle" for husbands.

Husbands: we need to prepare ourselves for elevating our wives, by managing many of those household duties traditionally assigned to them, to help crush outdated stereotypes.

Brothers: Let's become these OGs in our homes!

tim allston is the author of U.S. Politics *The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders*, which will be available on April 29th. Pre-order now on Amazon.

## GIS App Provides Tons of Info on Local Properties

Huntsville's GIS team has developed a search tool to help users learn details about any piece of property in Huntsville/Madison County.

According to Lucy Berry DeButy of HuntsvilleAL.gov, the online app gathers data from 72 different sources, including parcels, zoning, demographics, permits,

government, districts, etc. Thus, it allows people to have more public information at their fingertips.

In addition to helping residents and prospective buyers, the new GIS offering is a great asset for developers and engineers.

Dennis Madsen, manager of Urban and Long-Range Planning for the City, said

the tool is a valuable source of information on properties in and around Huntsville.

"It allows people to have more of their publicly owned information at their fingertips, especially when talking about our developments, our growth and the way Huntsville's going to change in the coming decades," he said.

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November–March: Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 4pm & Sunday: noon – 4pm

## COVID-19 Assistance

### UNITED WAY COVID-19

Assistance Fund

Donate:

www.uwmadison-county.org

Get Assistance: Call 211

### SMALL BUSINESSES

disastercustomerservice@sba.

gov

(800) 659-2955

### COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department of Labor

(866) 234-5382

labor.alabama.gov

### MADISON COUNTY

HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
(256) 539-3711

### LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
cdc.gov

### TAKEOUT/DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/



# 6 CALLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

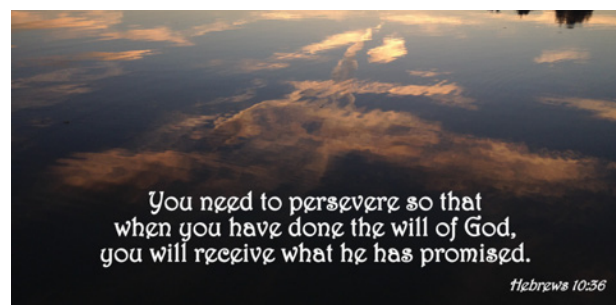
## Our Growing Treasure in Heaven

**Hebrews 10:34b-35**

Faith in God and in a future with Him has always been under attack. There have been those who describe it as *pie-in-the-sky-by-and-by*. The truth of the matter however is that there is no greater reality and remedy for life's assaults on the soul than the Christian faith. In His pre-ascension word to His disciples, Jesus spoke



with both authenticity and authority about the fact that this life is filled with tribulations. His revolutionary response to that reality was "Be of good cheer." The reason for this exhortation was that He had overcome the world. He has rendered everything else powerless that would seek to cause believers to *throw away their confidence*. The reason the writer gave for this exhortation was because of what we as believers *possess*, not will possess but what we have right now; *a growing treasure in heaven*. When I was a boy my father took me



to his bank and opened a savings account and I was given my little book that

the teller would record my deposits and interest that accrued. I was able to take

out my little bank book and see how my deposits were *growing*. By faith I can now do the same. My little bank book has been replaced with another book which says this to me; *You know there are better things waiting for you that will last forever. So do not throw away your confidence, which has great reward.*

**APRIL 23 - Granville T. Woods was born on this day in Columbus, Ohio. He is known as the "Black Edison." He was the first African American mechanical and electrical engineer after the Civil War. Woods invented many devices to improve electric railway cars. - Wikipedia.org**



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### Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Minister LaVern Spearman

Minister LaVern Spearman has served the scouting community in various capacities for more than 30 years. For the past 30 years he has served as Scoutmaster (SM) of Troop 102, sponsored by First Missionary Baptist Church, Blue Springs Road, Huntsville, Ala.

Over 75 Scouts have earned Boy Scouts of America's highest achievement award, the rank of Eagle Scout, under his tenure. Over the years and along with other scout leaders, SM Spearman has seen over 6,000 scouts across Madison County and the surrounding Huntsville area become physically strong, morally straight and mentally awake.

He has served in various roles in the church as Deacon, Minister of Church School Education, and as teacher of various Church school classes. He is the president and founder of Body of Christ Ministries, which is a ministry designed to encourage men and women to take their rightful and God-given places in the church, family and workplace. This ministry orchestrates trips to

various Christian retreats, conferences and spiritual outreaches. He teaches an inner-city Monday Night Bible Study to men and women across social, racial and denominational lines. He works with the Neaves-Davis Youth Detention Center to deter all youth from becoming a statistic in the criminal justice system and to show them that "you cannot walk with God and run with the Devil."

Before his retirement in 2012, he taught and shared in a weekly mid-day lunch Bible class with men and women at Redstone Arsenal for over 15 years. In addition, he works extensively with the Kairos Prison Ministry International in strengthening the spiritual lives of prisoners in Limestone and other surrounding counties. He also serves with the Alabama Walk to Emmaus Community to inspire, challenge, and equip leaders for Christian action in their homes, places of work, and in their local churches and communities and has served as Lay Director of the Huntsville Emmaus Cluster.



Minister Spearman is a Board member of Marketplace Leadership Luncheon ministry with a primary mission of empowering the business community to recognize and fulfill their calling in the workplace, building God's Kingdom, impacting lives, and transforming communities through biblical principles in understanding the divine purpose for their lives.

Spearman was employed with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., as a senior physicist in the US Army Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, Engineering Division. He is an honor physics graduate of Alabama A&M University.



# Drake State Holds Kickoff to 60th Anniversary Year Events

## J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College (Dr. Patricia G. Sims, President)

(Photos by J. Saintjones)

Monday, April 19, 2021





THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**Thru May 23****"Encounters"**

Althea Murphy Price  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
hsvmuseum.org

**April 20 - July 4****Exhibit**

"Tell Their Story: Remembering the Scottsboro Boys"  
Sponsors: Burritt on the Mountain, Francis Tate with CEOTA, John Allison and the Morgan County Archives, and The Scottsboro Boys Museum Scottsboro, Ala.  
The Burritt Museum

**April 23**

Project Management Techniques  
Mooreville, Ala.  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Alabama Military Collectors Show  
Jaycee Community Building  
Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
1 p.m.

Spring Home and Garden Show  
Von Braun Center  
700 Monroe Street SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
1-7 p.m.

A Taste of Panoply Arts Festival  
Arts Huntsville  
700 Monroe Street SW  
#2  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

**April 24**

Alabama Military Collectors Show  
Jaycee Community Building  
Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
1 p.m.

**Travis Tritt**

Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center  
700 Monroe Street  
Huntsville, Ala.

**April 25**

Brahms, Beethoven & Blooms  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
3:30 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 1**

Family Fun Day and Classic Car and Truck Show  
Sharon Johnston Park  
New Market, Ala.  
8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Comedian Rickey Smiley  
Stand Up Live  
Huntsville, Ala.

**May 2**

Sunday Serenade Featuring The Robs

**Stovehouse**

3414 Governors Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.  
4-7 p.m.

**May 4**

Adult Bereavement Group  
The Caring House  
203 Longwood  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5:30 -6:45 p.m.

**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 15**

"The Scottsboro Boys Remembered"  
Lecture Series and Exhibit Tours  
Burritt on the Mountain and Rosenwald School

Senior Center's Spring 2021 Craft & Vendor Marketplace  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**May 23**

Sidetracks Music Hall  
415 Church Street NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6-8 p.m.

**May 27**

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