

The Valley Weekly

FREE

"I believe that Christianity in the United States has been dragging its feet, and I don't think there's any other force in America that has been more detrimental to the solution of our racial problems than Christianity."
- Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

Volume 3, No. 33

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, April 28, 2017

Golden Age Returning to Valley Via "The Four Tops"

Known throughout the world, The Four Tops are slated to perform in the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Ala., on Thursday, May 11.

The Four Tops (formed in 1953) is a highly respected American soul, R&B and Motown vocal quartet hailing from Detroit, Michigan, U.S.

In 1953, the four sang together for the first time at a friend's birthday party. Sensing that the group had something special, they decided to stick together and named themselves The Four Aims before signing with Chess Records who suggested a change to avoid confusion with The Ames

Brothers. The Four Tops were born although over seven years with Chess, Red Top, Riverside Records and Columbia Records, the group failed to produce any hits until signing with Berry Gordy Jr.'s Motown record label subsidiary Workshop in 1963.

After appearing as backing vocals for the likes of The Supremes and Martha and the Vandellas, The Four Tops experienced their first hit single "Baby I Need Your Loving" in 1964. Narrowly missing out on the Top Ten the single made way for a string of other hits including "Ask the Lonely", the No. 1 "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar



Pie, Honey Bunch)" and the Top Five single "It's the Same Old Song". The '60s proved to be the Four Tops' height of musical creativity with the 1966 singles "Something About You", "Shake Me, Wake Me (When It's Over)" and one of Motown's greatest ever singles "Reach Out, I'll Be There".

- songkick.com

Rep. Daniels Among Nation's Top Pro-Growth Progressive Leaders

Representative Anthony Daniels (District 53, Huntsville), the Alabama House Minority Leader, was selected as one of 14 leaders from across the country to join the New-DEAL (Developing Exceptional American Leaders), a selective national network of state and local leaders working to enact pro-growth progressive solutions in a diverse array of communities.

"We congratulate and applaud Anthony, who has shown a dedication to developing pro-growth, progressive policies that increase economic opportunity for everyone," said Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) and former Delaware Governor Jack Markell, Honorary Co-Chairs of the NewDEAL. "More than ever, we need to support outstanding state and local leaders who have innovative ideas that address the most important issues facing Americans in our new economy. We are committed to highlighting their work, while giving them the chance to learn from each other and replicate solutions that make government work better."

The NewDEAL brings together leaders focused on expanding opportunity, helping them develop and spread innovative ideas to spur economic growth that is broadly-earned and sustainable. Most importantly, the organization

facilitates the exchange of ideas among its members and connects them with other pro-growth progressive political, policy, and private sector leaders.

NewDEAL leaders have found broad support for their work, with 98 percent of members winning elections last November, across red, blue, and purple states, including eight elected to higher office. Four members were elevated to statewide office, including in the swing states of Pennsylvania and North Carolina. With today's announcement of new members, the organization includes 152 officials from 46 states.

"The NewDEAL provides a unique and valuable opportunity for state and local leaders to learn from each other and develop policies that make today's economy work better for everyone in our communities," said Mayor Pete Buttigieg from South Bend, IN, who joined the network in 2012. "It's clear that we need new voices with fresh ideas and an ability to get things done to reinvigorate the Democratic Party and address the challenges that have the greatest impact on our constituents - in education, job creation, and more effective government services. I'm

thrilled that Anthony will join this effort to keep our country moving forward."

A former elementary school teacher and current small business owner first elected to the legislature in 2014, Daniels has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ensuring all residents of Huntsville and those



across Alabama can thrive, including his focus on ideas to attract quality jobs in the new economy and to strengthen the social safety net. He recently sponsored the 21st Century Manufacturing Act, which was signed into law to boost manufacturing and business recruitment by encouraging greater partnership between industry and local governments.

"I am excited to be part of NewDEAL's impressive network of public servants across the nation who are dedicated to expanding opportunity for everyone in the new economy while making government work more effectively," said Daniels. "Joining this organization is a great way to discover policies that are working across the country, and I believe the lessons we have learned in Alabama have something to offer to other leaders looking to improve their communities."

Florence Hosting First 'Reader Riot' Book Festival

Reader Riot book festival is April 28-29, 2017. Let us show you how excited we are about books and stories, the characters in them, and the characters who write them. Located at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, 350 North Wood Avenue. This is the first book festival in Florence.



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Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Abigail Leigh Daniels' 1st Birthday Party

Parents: Rep. & Mrs. Anthony Daniels

PARTY: April 15, 2017 - 12-3 p.m. - Brahan Spring Park

Attendance: Approximately 75

BAPTISM: St. John AME Church, April 16, 2016 - Easter Morning



Monica, Donnell Jones, Case to Perform at the VBC

The Grammy Award-winning artist will headline "Monica and Friends," a star-studded show at Von Braun Center on April 29 at 8 p.m.

Presented by Bronz and Brainz Productions, the songstress will be joined by fellow R&B veterans Donnell Jones and Case for a night of entertainment.

With 25 years of experience under her belt, Monica Brown has established a name for herself as one of R&B's most celebrated voices.

Beginning her musical career in a traveling gospel choir, the Georgia-born singer caught the attention of Arista Records and quickly rose to fame, later releasing her debut album

Miss Thang in 1995.

Over the years, Brown has yielded eight (8) studio



albums and an endless catalogue of hits, including "Angel of Mine," "Everything to Me" and the Grammy Award-winning "The Boy is Mine" with singer and actress Brandy. Last year, Brown's hit "So

Gone" resurfaced on the internet with the success of the "So Gone Challenge,"

a quick fad that encouraged people to freestyle to the song's instrumental track. The challenge spiked sales and streams by 200 percent.

Donnell Jones was accidentally discovered by

Eddie F, CEO of Untouchable Entertainment Group, who happened to catch his then group performing to strangers on the street. The fateful encounter led to a recording contract with LAFACE and his eventual debut, "My Heart."

Jones received strong praise for sophomore album "Where I Want to Be," which pushed chart-topping singles "U Know What's Up", featuring the late Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes and title track ("Where I Want to Be").

A talented songwriter, Jones has penned songs for the likes of Usher and Madonna.

Case Woodard, professionally known as Case,

got his start writing and singing backstage for some of R&B's biggest heavy weights. The Grammy-nominated artist struck gold when his song "Touch Me, Tease Me" was featured on "The Nutty Professor" soundtrack. As of 2015, the 41-year old has six studio albums among his arsenal.

Local artists DMR and Joi Tiffany are slated to open for the featured performers. DMR's song Tickets are still available for the show for \$45 and \$75 at the Von Braun Center box office, online at ticketmaster.com or by calling 800-653-3000.

by Reggie Allen



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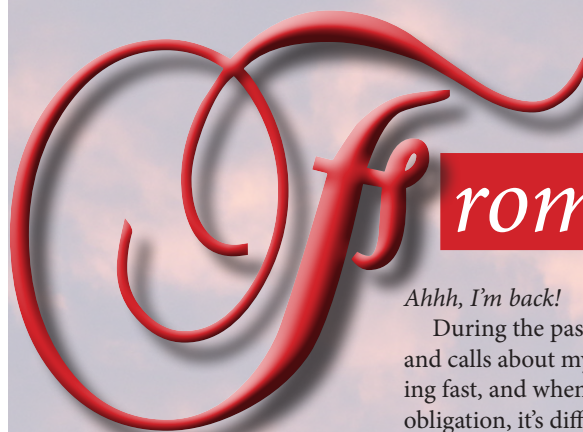
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The Valley Weekly

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**From the Editor***Ahhh, I'm back!*

During the past two weeks, I have had a number of e-mails, texts and calls about my editorials and TVW. I often say, life is moving fast, and when we commit to something that requires a weekly obligation, it's difficult to imagine how challenging this can be. I've always been quite assertive with opinions, so sharing them is not the challenge. The rate and speed at which we are moving are.



Dr. Barbara Cooper told the graduates of the North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence last Thursday evening that we are spending too much time with our cell phones, iPads, computers, electronic games, social media, etc. So, like many New Year resolutions, commitments for the season of Lent become broken promises. I typically don't make resolutions for the year, but I will challenge myself throughout the year to "do-it-yourself" projects. This year, I committed to easing up on my gadgets and the time I spend on social media during the Lent season. Many of you know me and how quickly I will pull out this iPad to capture the moment. It's actually a really handy device for me because I can drop it in my handbag and be off to wherever I am going. Moreover, I love capturing the positive and simple things in life. We get enough of the other 'stuff' on television and radio, billboard, unsolicited mail via the postal service and through our webmail. Most of us spend more time than we desire dumping trash from our mailboxes, business and personal e-mail accounts each day. I do. Since we started publishing TVW, we have established a strong database of e-mails. Most of the time, we get it right. Every now and then, we get an e-mail from someone who wants to unsubscribe. Of course, we honor those requests. Sometimes, we miss the mark because we are mostly volunteers who try weekly to share what is positive, inspirational and educational (PIE). We believe in a free press, so we can be an outlet for self-expression. We try very hard to honor that commitment and sometimes it's hard.

With that said, Lent 2017 was March 1st through April 13th. I posted 11 times on FaceBook during that six-week period, mostly letting our readers know that TVW was available online each week. This was a time of reflection and meditation for me. All of us need that down time from time-to-time. During the season, I lost a dear friend and colleague, Elizabeth Sloan-Ragland and felt compelled to share my love for and association with her. Prior to then, I was posting daily, many times multiple times each day. I am a social person, so I like Facebook as a positive vehicle to be in touch with individuals I grew up with back home, college friends and associates and simply to see and hear about the 'buzz' around Huntsville, our state, nation and the world. It can be a delightful way to share with family and friends. However, when we use it or any other medium as a tool for hateful expressions and actions, we have taken it too far and way too seriously. The recent crimes that resulted from social media are shameful and disgraceful. As a civilized, progressive society, we should never condone or be complicit when this type of thing happens.

One post that I was moved to post during the Lent season was a portion of Psalms 37. I do not have space to print the entire 40 verses but would recommend that you read it for yourself when time permits. The first three verses are as follows: Psalm 37 King James Version (KJV): "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

During my childhood, we used to hear our elders speak a verse, hum a song, or simply just shake their heads. Now that I am eligible for membership in the AARP, I have grown to understand that a lot of what I thought were random, off-the-wall expressions actually did add up to a dose of human decency and good, common sense.

Life is moving fast! I have lived to see a lot of things, but six weeks of meditation and reflection proved to have been time well spent. Keep it on the road until next week ...

Dorothy

NACEE Holds First Senior Recognition Banquet

April 20, 2017

UAH Convention Center

Speaker: Dr. Barbara Cooper, Deputy Superintendent, Alabama Department of Education



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Valley Calendar of Events

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
Von Braun Center Propst
Arena
Huntsville, Ala.
Tickets: \$49.50-\$79.50
8 p.m.

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

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

Dr. Elnora Clay Lanier
Awards Breakfast
Presented by D.E.L.T.A Inc.
Cost: \$40
Contact information: (256)
489-4910
Huntsville Marriott Hotel
10 a.m.

Black Jacket Symphony

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

“Jazz in the Garden”
Alpha Phi Alpha Delta Theta
Lambda Chapter
Featuring Eric Essix and Move
Trio
Botanical Gardens
6 p.m.

Special Guest Spoken Word
Artist - Kimeko Farrar; Spe-
cial Guest DJ - Charlie Hustle
Hosted by - Marc Lacy

May 5
Founder's Day Program
Speaker: Pam McDonald
T.M. Elmore Building
11 a.m.

Alabama A&M University
Spring Commencement
Speaker: Tchernavia Rocker,
VP, Human Resources
Harley-Davidson Motor
Company
Von Braun Center
6 p.m.

May 5-6
Whistle Stop BBQ Festival
Huntsville Depot Roundhouse
Downtown

May 6

“Strides Against Violent En-
counters; Always Safe, Always
Prepared”
Jack & Jill of America and
Alabama A&M University
Contact: Dr. Yolanda Powell-
Friend, (256) 527-3005
Elmore Building, 12 p.m.

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

May 12-13
Rocket City Brewfest
Huntsville Depot Roundhouse
Downtown

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Champion Game Plan for Life by Preston Brown

Proverbs 3:8 says: Ac-
knowledge God in all your
ways, and He will guide
your steps.

I think that our lives
would be more enjoyable
if we knew how much God
wants to get involved in
our lives. We don't need to
settle for mediocrity when
God has called us to excel-
lence. The word *mediocre*
means to live halfway be-
tween success and failure.
You see, when we delight
ourselves in the Lord, he

will give us the desires of
our hearts, not the desires
of our flesh.

Because so
much of life is
all about the
choices that we
make, and there
are principles
that we live by
that allow us
to make those
choices.

And, one of the things
we can start doing is to
stop being miserable about



things we can't do anything
about. Let us all get the
spirit of “dread”
out of our lives.
Sometimes, we
dread getting up
in the morn-
ing or we dread
going to work,
or we dread
“working out.”
Remember:

dread is the opposite of
hope ... Stay encouraged,
my brothers and sisters

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DELTA, Inc. Impacts Community Through Youth and Health Initiatives

Awards and recognition to worthy causes making a difference

Diverse Educational Life Training Activities, Incorporated (DELTA, Inc.) will proudly recognize several programs that are making a difference in young people's lives and impacting the community during the 4th

Annual Dr. Elnora Clay Lanier Awards Breakfast on Saturday, April 29, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at the Huntsville Marriott Hotel. Tickets are \$40.

DELTA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that is on a mission to improve the quality of life and promote the social welfare of residents in the North Alabama area.

Money raised at the

breakfast will go specifically toward programs that honor high school students' achievements, promote literacy, promote health awareness, and programs that empower the youth.

Programs and activities receiving grants in 2016 will be recognized, along with the announcement of the 2017 Changing Lives award recipient. Breakfast attendees will also be treated to



the smooth jazz sounds of Mr. Tommy Friend.

DELTA Inc.'s awards breakfast is named for one of North Alabama's most respected and well-loved educators, Dr. Elnora Clay Lanier. Lanier, a native of Madison County, had a passion for education and was committed to improving the academic foundation of disadvantaged children for more than 30

years.

In addition to teaching, she served as an educator and administrator with the Child Development Center at Alabama A&M University--serving Madison, Jackson, and Limestone Counties.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Gladys Branch at (256) 489-4910.

Valley Welcomes Panoply Festival of the Arts

Panoply Arts Festival (April 28-30) welcomes more than 50 local and regional performers to three stages.

This year's featured per-

formers include Nashville's Humming House, North Alabama's Secret Sisters, and the Grammy Award-winning Blind Boys of Alabama.

Panoply is the Southeast's premier arts weekend, where Huntsville's innovative spark shines through a festival of art, music and more in down-

town's Big Spring Park. Day passes to the festival are only \$10, and weekend passes are \$18; kids 12 and under get in absolutely free!

Panoply 2017 will be held April 28, 29 and 30. Panoply hours are as follows:

Friday, April 28, from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 29, from 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 30, from 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m.

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Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mr. Berry Wayne Davis** (b. 1964) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Mr. Ruben L. Burruss** (b. 1963) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Mr. Charles Ray** (“Billy Goat”) **McKinley** (b. 1963) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Ms. Devan D. Hereford** will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **Mr. Posey Lewis Gurley** (b. 1922) was held Thursday, April 27, at M.J. Edwards Funeral Home Chapel in Memphis, Tenn.

Funeral service for **Mr. James Pleasure** (b. 1945) was held Friday, April 21, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

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

-Nelms Memorial Funeral Home



by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Huntsville Happenings

Huntsville’s Big Spring Park Re-opens with a \$2M Facelift

Following nine months of extensive renovations,

Huntsville’s “Crown Jewel” Big Spring Park officially reopened on Wednesday, April 19.

The \$2 million renovation to the City’s most popular park included a host of infrastructure

repairs and upgrades—replacing crumbling seawalls, improving pedestrian connectivity, new lighting and electrical, fountains, and more. To save money and time, the City performed half of the work with in-house crews.

The clock was ticking and the park needed to be ready in time for the annual Panoply festival of the arts, hosted by Arts Huntsville.

“We are extremely proud of the teamwork involved in bringing this park back to the high standard our residents deserve,” said Mayor Tommy Battle. “Big Spring Park is the City’s living room. It is where



Mayor Tommy Battle speaks at park’s reopening.

everyone comes to show off Huntsville.”

The City renovated Big Spring Park East in 2016 and noticed dramatic increase in usage by residents.

The park project on the west side of Church Street was a joint effort between the City of Huntsville’s departments of Public Works,

Engineering, Landscape Management, General Services, and private contractor Miller and Miller.

The project was designed by OMI, Garver Engineers, and Tetra Tech with landscape design provided by Landscape Management.

Photo Credit: Amanda Kemp



Washington in a Minute

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

1. The House and Senate are back in session for a big week because: (1) the temporary funding measure that is keeping the federal government open expires on Friday, April 28, at midnight, and (2) the President wants a vote on a revised Obamacare repeal bill this week.

FY17 Appropriations Wrap-up. To avoid a government shutdown this week, the House and Senate leadership have been negotiating a relatively non-controversial FY2017 Omnibus Appropriations bill that would attract needed Democratic votes (especially in the Senate).

Reportedly, there are 5 issues left in play on the bill: (1) adding funds to build the Mexican border wall and for more immigration officers; (2) blocking federal funds to sanctuary communities; (3) a \$30 billion increase in funding for the military; (4) continued funding for the Obamacare subsidy program that helps cover costs for lower-income enrollees; and (5) extending health benefits for retired coal miners. It is now expected that Congress will pass a 1-week extension of the current stopgap measure to give it an extra week to get the final bill ready for the floor.

Obamacare Repeal. There is newly-revised bill lan-

guage for the Obamacare repeal bill – known as the “MacArthur amendment” by Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ) – that would allow states to opt out of many Obamacare requirements, such as what is included as essential health benefits by insurers (e.g., maternity benefits).

2. President Donald Trump hosted a lunch at the White House for the United Nations Security Council members. On Wednesday, he will make an announcement pertaining to his long-awaited tax overhaul plan. According to Bloomberg Politics, the plan will not initially contain the controversial 20% border-adjusted tax on U.S. companies’ domestic sales and imports. On Saturday, he will hold a campaign-style rally in Harrisburg, Pa., marking his first 100 days in office. The President announced last Thursday - during a signing for a presidential memorandum directing the Commerce Department to investigate whether steel imports into the U.S. should be blocked on national security grounds – that his administration would

release further information in the next two weeks about its plans for a possible renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

3. Today, President Trump and his daughter, Ivanka Trump, are hosting a video call this morning to congratulate NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson on her record-breaking stint aboard the International Space Station. The Education Department is using the event to highlight STEM education. The department last week released a guide to help state and local officials better use federal funding to support “innovative, equity-focused pre-kindergarten through grade 12 (Pre-K-12) STEM education strategies.” Read more.

4. On Tuesday, White House staffer Ivanka Trump made her first official trip as the guest of German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin at the W20 Summit, a women-focused effort within the Group of 20 nations. She will also tour a technical school, stop by the U.S. embassy and go to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.

5. Last week, Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley told a local audience in Iowa that he expects a Supreme Court justice to resign this summer, providing President Trump with another opportunity to nominate a replacement to the Court.

6. On Saturday, the White House Correspondents’ Association hosts its annual dinner at the Washington Hilton, billed in past years as D.C.’s “nerd prom,” full of hoopla and imported celebrities and attended usually by the President of the United States. This year, it’s a scaled-back affair with no President and fewer celebrities. Hosting duties this year go to comedian Hasan Minhaj, a senior correspondent on The Daily Show with Trevor Noah. A few blocks away on the same night at Constitution Hall, Samantha Bee, host of Full Frontal With Samantha Bee, will be hosting a competing event titled “Not The White House Correspondents Dinner.”

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

Scenes from Around the Valley



**Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 14, 2017
St. Joseph's Catholic Church**

**DLC Cohort VII
Biz Tech
Entrepreneur Larry Lewis Hosting**



**The Future and Beyond Symposium
Von Braun Center
April 20, 2017**