

The Valley Weekly

FREE

Volume 2, No. 34

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, May 6, 2016

Former Rosetta James Scholarship Recipient to Enter Harvard

A former recipient of the annual Rosetta James Foundation scholarship was recently accepted into the Harvard Business School, ranked tops in the United States and the world. The Harvard Business School has a 12 percent acceptance rate.

Kevin Ferguson is a native of Gadsden, Ala., where he was Salutatorian of his class in 2008.

Upon graduation, Ferguson received an academic scholarship to attend Alabama A&M University, where he studied electrical engineering.

While at Alabama A&M, each semester he was on the Dean's List, Honor Roll, and was a President's Cup recipient. During his sophomore year, he joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. While an undergraduate, Ferguson won "Brother with the Highest G.P.A.," the "Belford V. Lawson Oratorical Contest," the "Keeper of the Light" award, and he was the 2013 Southern Region Brother of the Year.

At the 2011 Student Choice Awards, his peers voted him the "Most Outstanding Male Student" on campus. He has been a student representative, University Ambassador, and was a part of the Honors Program while in college. In January 2012, Ferguson was featured in *Source* magazine as a Historically Black College and University leader. He graduated summa cum laude from Alabama A&M in December of 2012.

The day after he graduated, Ferguson and his father launched The Ferguson & Son Scholarship Fund. Since its inception, nine students have been awarded scholarships to pursue collegiate education, and over 50 students have learned about engineering and technology careers through mentoring, workshops and tutoring. Ferguson currently works for Chevron Corporation as an electrical engineer.



Valley College Forms Partnership with LSCC

Alabama A&M University will take the best of "The Hill" to its two-year sister HBCU in the Magic City.

As the fall session rolls into place in late August, so too will AAMU's off-site campus at Lawson State Community College in Birmingham, Ala. AAMU@LSCC will sponsor evening and weekend classes leading toward degree completion for select undergraduate programs as well as complete curriculums for certain

graduate degree programs.

Slated at the undergraduate level are programs in computer science, criminal justice, social work and an online program in management. At the graduate level are courses leading toward the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and the Master of Social Work (MSW).



For additional information about this exciting new collaboration, AAMU@LSCC, contact AAMU's Office of Distance Education & Extended Studies at (256) 372-5753 or e-mail odees@aamu.edu.



Mayoral Discussion: Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle explains the intricacies of city government to political science, sociology and criminal justice students in Alabama A&M University's Drake Hall. The mayor's visit was coordinated by Dr. Craig Patton.

Where to Find Your
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The Valley Weekly

Diversity Leadership Colloquium Completion Ceremony

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com

- AAMU Public Relations Office
- Albert's Flowers
- Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law
- Big Oh's
- Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center
- Books a Million - N. Parkway/University Drive
- Briar Fork CP Church
- Bryant Bank - Church Street
- Burritt on the Mountain
- Chris' Barber Shop
- Depot Professional Building
- Dunkin Donuts
- Eagles' Nest Ministries
- The Favour Group
- Fellowship of Faith Church
- Fellowship Presbyterian Church
- Garden Cove Produce
- Health Unlimited
- Huntsville Bible College
- Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church
- James Smith - AllState Insurance
- Lakeside United Methodist Church
- Landers McLarty Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram
- Lucky's Supermarket
- Mamma Annie's
- Marshall England - State Farm Agent
- Martinson & Beason, PC
- Moe's - Village of Providence
- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home
- North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence
- Oakwood University Post Office
- Phuket's in Providence
- Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church
- Progress Bank - Madison
- Progressive Union Missionary Baptist
- Regency Retirement Village
- Rocket City Barber Shop
- Sam and Greg's Pizza
- Sav-A-Lot
- Sneed's Cleaners
- St. Bartley PB Church
- St. Luke Christian Church
- Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)
- Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



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The Valley Weekly

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10x10-inches \$1,000

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Vertical

10x5 inches \$400

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Classified 1 col.x1 inch \$6

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From the Editor

Ahhh! Celebrations and New Beginnings!

On Sunday, we had the opportunity to share in the Memorial Service of Mother Dorothy Louise Downing at True Light COGIC. Mother Downing was from Brundidge, Alabama, which became her final resting place on Tuesday of this week. The Downing Family is a beloved local family with tentacles that have touched so many young and mature lives through a life and legacy of godly living, sharing and caring, serving and giving. The day before she passed, I stopped by to visit with her and Mr. Downing. She affectionally called him "JD" and we followed her wise guidance, but I called him 'Mr. J D.' She loved herself some "JD." She used to say the funniest things ... something like, "That ain't no play pretty!" Every now and then, we laugh and say, "Mrs. Downing used to say that." Rest in Love, Mother Downing.

Early Saturday Morning, we received a call that State Representative Anthony Daniels' brother passed away. Dr. Gregory Graves was the Associate Executive Director of the Alabama Education Association. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Rep. Daniels and his entire family during this very difficult time. In our conversation on Saturday with AD, we told him that he "still has much work to do and impact to make. So, be strong and know that you are loved." We serve an awesome God!

So, as we celebrate the blessings we have enjoyed through the lives of Mother Louise Downing and Dr. Gregory Graves, we are thankful for fresh starts, wonderful opportunities and new beginnings. Some of us will have the opportunity to witness the graduation of family members and friends during this season. We will enjoy ceremonies--from kindergarten to graduate and professional schools. Congratulations to all as we celebrate one accomplishment after another. To all the graduates - Go forth and do as my mother advised me: "Respect your family's name (unless you change it, it will be with you forever) and make something out of yourself; become a contributing member of society, and trust in God." In my translation, she was simply trying to say, we are proud of you so proud of who you are, work hard and earn a living, and keep God at the forefront of your life.

Each new generation should seek to contribute something more than the last. None of us knows what tomorrow will bring. Let's grab each new opportunity and beginning with poise and passion. Let's accept them as the blessings they are intended! Whether we are experiencing seasons of endings or beginnings, all of us will get a chance (Pastor O. Wendell Davis).

Ah, just keep living!

Until next week ...



Dorothy

Remembering Farmers Capital School



Farmers Capital School in the New Market, Ala., community was remembered on Saturday, April 23, 2016, 4-7 p.m. during the first school reunion since its closing.

The reunion celebrated the years of 1952-1982. Highly respected during those years was the school's longtime retired princi-

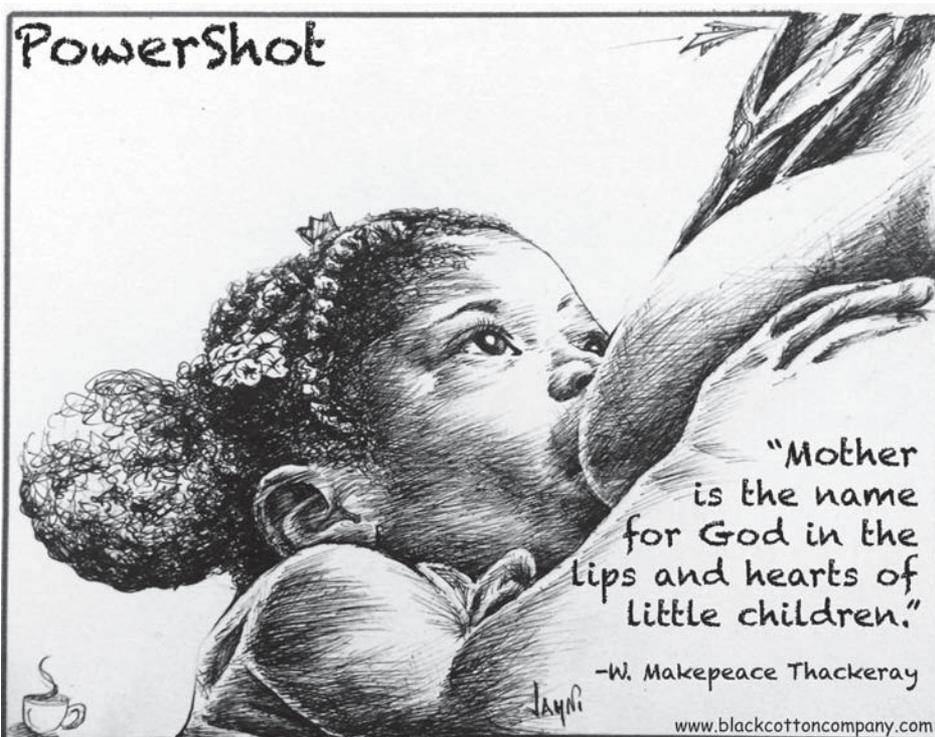
pal, Homer H. McCraw (pictured).

The site of the reunion was the familiar, renamed location, on the same sight on Moores Mill Road. The name has been changed, and it is presently Lynn Fanning Elementary School.

Several teachers returned to reminisce with

the more than 150 students, teachers, staff and support personnel.

The reunion organization was led by Minister Trevor Bowens Briggs, Peace of Jesus Ministry and a Reunion committee (pictured). Plans are to continue future reunions because of the first-time responses.



The Hamm Consulting Group



Your Washington Recap

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

1. The House and Senate are in recess this week. The Senate did not finish work last week on the Fiscal Year 2017 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, getting hung up on a GOP amendment by Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) to prohibit the U.S. from purchasing excess nuclear heavy water from Iran (which led to a semi-humorous exchange between Cotton and the White House on the difference between heavy and sparkling water). The Senate also failed to take up a supplemental appropriations bill which would provide over \$1 billion for the U.S. to fight the Zika virus.

2. On Friday, President Obama announced that he will host this month a 50-State Gun Violence Prevention Convening at the White House, bringing together state and local elected officials who have been leaders in the fight to save lives from gun violence. The agenda will focus on state and lo-

cal efforts to prevent gun violence through legislative and executive actions, including those focused on reducing gun violence in domestic abuse incidents and furthering research and development of smart gun technologies.

3. On May 2, a group of practitioners, administrators and thought-leaders released a policy brief on student-centered learning and hold a moderated panel discussion examining student-centered learning at the levels of practice (traditional K-12 and Alternative Education) and policy on Capitol Hill.

4. Last Friday, the Supreme Court declined to block the use of a Texas voter-ID law in the November elections – which opponents have said will disenfranchise 600,000 potential voters – but indicated that it may act if the lower court has not ruled by mid-Summer (the 5th Circuit Federal Appeals Court will hear arguments on the law on May 24). Separately, a federal district judge last week upheld a similar North Carolina voter-ID law last week, which is being ap-

pealed to the 4th Circuit.

5. The 704-passenger Adonia, owned by Carnival Cruise's Fathom Line, finished its 17-hour journey from Miami to Cuba at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time, becoming the first U.S. cruise ship to dock in Havana since President Jimmy Carter briefly eliminated restrictions of U.S. travel to Cuba in the late 1970s.

6. 2016 Presidential Watch. Tuesday was the Indiana primary. A new NBC/Wall Street Journal poll of Indiana voters had Trump at 49% to Cruz/Fiorina's 34%.

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Calendar of Events

May 6

Founder's Day Convocation
Alabama A&M University
Speaker: Ronald McIntosh
T.M. Elmore Building, 11 a.m.

Spring Commencement

Alabama A&M University
Speaker: Rosalind Brewer, President/CEO
Sam's Club
Von Braun Center Propst Arena
6 p.m.

May 20

Food Truck Street Festival

Sponsor: Jerry Damson Honda
Acura
Downtown Huntsville
The Lumberyard Parking Lot, 108
Cleveland Avenue, 5-9 p.m.

May 21-22

Dance Theatre of Huntsville
"Aladdin" - \$10-15
1 & 6 p.m. (5 p.m.-May 22)
Lee High School Main Stage

May 28

Old School Blues Festival
Huntsville Dragway
502 Quarter Mountain Road

Harvest, Ala., 11 a.m.

June 17

Food Truck Street Festival
Sponsor: Jerry Damson Honda
Acura
Downtown Huntsville
The Lumberyard Parking Lot, 108
Cleveland Avenue, 5-9 p.m.

July 15

Food Truck Street Festival
Sponsor: Jerry Damson Honda
Acura
Downtown Huntsville
The Lumberyard Parking Lot, 108

TVCWRT to Discuss 'Embattled Emblem'

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table presents "The Confederate Battle Flag: America's Most Embattled Emblem" by Leland Free, on Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 pm at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Huntsville. The presentation presents flags in American history that are best known as projecting identity, possession and/or defiance. With the first flags

English colonists held fealty for, to selected flags of rebellion of the colonies, to selected flags of Texas' move toward independence. Flags use by Southern men and women in military service during WWII, the Korean War, the Viet Nam War, Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq will be discussed.

Leland Free is a resident of

Moulton, Ala., who earned a B.S. degree from the University of North Alabama in public administration and urban planning in 1979. He is currently employed with the US Postal Service. Flags have always fascinated Mr. Free --their origins, their symbolism, their use and their mystique. Visitors are welcome. Call (256) 278-5533 for more info.

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.



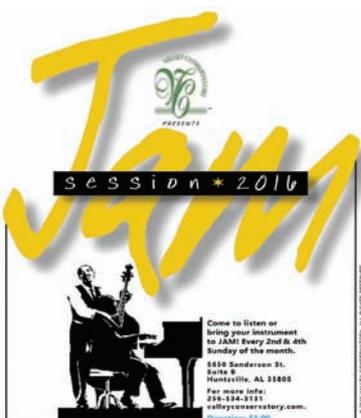
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ValleyScopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

Capricorn You're feeling more open and lighthearted, with the sun brightening your solar 5th house, of creative romance and play, a great time to sit back and take a short break, so that you can rejuvenate from recent challenges adequately.

Virgo The sun is currently in your exploratory region and you have extra drive, egging you on.

Cancer You have plenty of fresh ideas to share with those around you, if they're willing to take a quick, thoughtful glance; at the other side of the coin. Stay close to positive people.

Taurus Mars is moving backwards in your intimacy zone as you ponder an issue that you've experienced, like a nostalgia-filled fragrance, a flower re-blooming in the sun. Also, your appreciation of harmony continues to draw people toward you as new memories form.

Gemini As people near you strive to keep the pace with one another and establish understandings, with you, your skillful sensitivity can have a calming effect on the scene.

Aries Your pledge to show support for others is enhanced by the effort you put forth during routine endeavors, as well as your readiness, when it comes to "being down" or accepting of new exploits.

Libra As you hang out, with someone, you find yourself becoming closer, acquiring more information about a subject that interests you immensely.

Sagittarius As you go about the business of carrying out important tasks, keep in mind that some things will inevitably occur, like muscles, when large loads are carried--whether you lift away at the gym or not. Your concern for others helps construct bridges; just try not to over-exert yourself in the process.

Scorpio You and those around you will be able to offer one another beneficial feedback, of great emotional support, right now.

Aquarius After focusing with precision on career matters, there's no wonder that Mars, in your social section, is elucidating your basic urge to be around those who you are most familiar with.

Pisces With the Sun and Mars, at an odd angle, currently, there's something to be said for your strength of perception in a certain matter; something prophetic is happening with you now.

Leo Your assertiveness allows you the presence of mind to put forth sustained effort, finding ways to both vent your creativity and look for better paths.



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Tubman on the Twenty-Dollar Bill

A week ago, it was announced that Harriet Tubman will replace Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill! This news broke the Internet, exciting everyone for the progression of women and African-Americans.

There had been discussions that a woman would grace one of our dollar bills, but we weren't sure who it would be and which dollar amount. There was even a poll and survey that went around asking people who they would like to see on our currency, including women in history such as Susan B. Anthony and Rosa Parks.

After all, the US Treasury decided that Harriet Tubman will be the new face on the \$20 bill, a decision I so fully support. It is a big step in the right direction being that our currency has been around for centuries with limitations to white, male presidents. We are witnessing history in the making for it will be the first time a woman and an African-American will be recognized on American currency.

As we work, week to week, and collect our checks, it is going to be a great feeling to get our rewards with someone that represents women and African-Americans. Although we can take baby steps as a society when it comes to change and growth, we somehow seem to



make progress, slowly but surely. Progression is that underlying purpose for us getting up and working daily. We are working to make the world a better place for the future generation. If the world didn't progress we would still be living in huts and hunting our food. As a millennial, I'm one that couldn't imagine the world without cell phones and computers, however there are plenty of people living that can think back

on times without all of the technological advances that we have today. I am very thankful for the baby boomers, and the generations that came before mine that has built many businesses and companies which produce all the different products that we thrive on from food, shelter, transportation, technology, vitamins/medicine, cosmetology, entertainment, etc. If it wasn't for the driven, ambitious people that continuously pushed themselves, just like Harriet Tubman pushed herself and many slaves to freedom, we wouldn't enjoy all the luxuries that we have today. Therefore, it's our duty to continue progressing the world so that our children and grandchildren aren't confronted with the same struggles.

by Amoi Savage



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Valley Home to SWAC Outdoor T&F Championships

The Department of Athletics at Alabama A&M University will host the SWAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships May 6-8, 2016 at Louis Crews Stadium for the second year.

All of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) institutions will compete in the Championship. This list includes Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Alcorn State University, Grambling State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Prairie View A&M University, Southern University, Texas Southern University and University of Arkansas Pine Bluff.

Bulldog supporters are welcome, as well as those closely aligned with other SWAC schools! This event will be filled with great competition and energy, says Bryan Hicks, AAMU director of athletics.

Cost of Admission FREE; however, Parking is \$5/day. For more information, visit www.aamusports.com or contact Dexter Sanford, Justin Wagner Dr. Renae Myles at (256) 372-4758/4759.

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On This Day - Friday, May 6, 2016

Gabourey Sidibe - Gabourey Sidibe is the award-winning actress who made her acting debut in the popular 2009 film, "Precious."

- BlackInTime.info

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Extension, SFRC Place Effort on Small Businesses

The Small Farms Research Center at Alabama A&M University and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) will host a small business workshop May 5-6 in the James I. Dawson Building on the AAMU campus.

The workshop will cover the importance of developing a business plan. A business plan is critical to ensuring that business or agribusiness owners have aligned their marketing, production, and financial strategies in ways that minimize risks. This course is offered to anyone considering starting a business or an agribusiness.

The two-day, 12-hour course will focus on the following topics: 1) Starting a Business from Scratch, 2) Business Economics: How to Make Money, 3) Short- and Long-Term Business Planning, and 4) Bookkeeping and Financing for Small Businesses. The in-depth course will provide on-hands and real-life examples to further illustrate the importance of developing a business plan.

After completing the coursework, eligible participants may be considered for the Individual Development Account (IDA) offered by United Way. The IDA program is an innovative matched savings program that allows families to build assets and to develop skills for financial self-sufficiency. Through the IDA, participants will benefit from financial skills development, including financial coaching with access to key financial services and training related to the participant's primary savings goals.

The IDA is a statewide program that provides opportunities for individuals with low-to-moderate income to:

- Purchase a first-time home
- Pay for college or job training
- Start or expand a small business

This program is partially

funded by AAMU's Small Farms Research Center in the College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences and the United States Department of Agriculture to provide training and technical assistance to Alabama's veterans and socially disadvantaged beginning farmers and



ranchers.

Holistic in nature, the project delivers products and services through workshops, group meetings, farm field days, on-farm demonstrations, farmer-to-farmer mentoring, farm and home visits, and one-on-one consultations. For more information, visit the Center's web portal at www.aamu.edu/smallfarmcenter or call (256) 372-4970 or 1(866) 372-4970.

For more information about this program and/or to register for the Small Business Workshop, please visit the Small Farms Research Center or call (256) 372-4970 or (866) 372-4970.

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

When we as Christians become self righteous, we can't meet people where they are on their spiritual journey. Sometimes it is because of our critical and judgmental attitudes. Jesus always met people where they were, whether they were educated with Bible knowledge or not.

We need to do likewise.

Making comparisons and trying to compete with other people is not the best thing for us. Our Christian journey is unique to us. God has a specific plan for your life like no one else's plan.



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3. Entrepreneurs must lead to make things happen
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5. Give before you get
6. Commit to both business development and a high quality of life for all
7. Be an active connector and introduce people who can benefit from each other

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- Every Other Friday Morning
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- Presenter Spots Available

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The London Shop	1597 Darby Dr	Florence, AL 35630	(256) 767-1880
Huntsville Dragway	502 Quarter Mtn Rd.	Harvest, AL 35749	(256) 852-4505
Alfred's Hair First	4820 University Dr NW #6	Huntsville, AL 35816	(256) 837-5843
Club Envy	200 Oakwood Ave NE	Huntsville, AL 35811	(256) 801-9015
Jamie Cut & Style	104 2nd St.	Muscle Shoals, AL 35661	(256) 381-0820
JB House of Fashion	1630 3rd Ave. West	Birmingham, AL 35208	(205) 788-4491
James Records	2422 Memorial Pkwy NW	Huntsville, AL 35810	(256) 270-9199
Mr Shoes	1020 Jordan Ln NW	Huntsville, AL 35816	(256) 536-2538
Zaids	1708 Jordan Ln NW	Huntsville, AL 35816	(256) 721-3366
Haddox Pharmacy	1508 Charlotte Ave	Nashville, TN 37023	(615) 329-3943
WZZA	1570 Woodmont Dr	Tuscumbia, AL 35674	(256) 381-1862

GATES WILL OPEN AT 11AM
THIS WILL BE OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

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