

Friday

May 8, 2020

Vol. 6, No. 35

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

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"God is a comedian playing to an audience too afraid to laugh." - Voltaire

The Valley Weekly

Local Parks Begin Re-Opening Process

The City of Huntsville's Parks & Recreation Department began the process of re-opening facilities and returning to normal operations, to the extent allowed under State Health Officer orders, on Monday, May 4.

However, all activities must adhere to limitations of no more than 9 persons in a gathering and ensure 6-foot social distancing separation between indi-

viduals not from the same family unit.

Park visitors are encouraged to wear masks or facial coverings.

New guidelines will be strictly enforced by City of Huntsville staff.

Included in the permissible activities will be access to parks, greenways, outdoor archery, disk golf, dog parks, skateboarding at designated skate parks,

outdoor tennis and pickleball, and aquatics facilities.

For a complete list of what's open and what remains closed, download the Parks & Recreation re-opening guidelines or visit the COVID-19 Response, Parks & Recreation page at <https://www.huntsvilleAL.gov/COVID19Parks>.

- [huntsvilleal.gov](https://www.huntsvilleal.gov)

Community Foundation Pushes Emergency Relief Fund

The Community Foundation of Greater Huntsville is restarted its emergency relief fund, thanks to a donation of \$50,000 from Toyota.

The Foundation is asking the public to contribute \$5, \$50, \$500 or more to help support local nonprofits who are providing basic needs and health and wellness relief throughout the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Absolutely 100 percent of the money donated goes directly to local agencies helping those impacted the most.

Working together means strength and greater effectiveness than any individual, company, or organization can provide on its own.

In its first decade serving this community, the Community Foundation has raised over \$32 million dollars of charitable assets and has distributed, on behalf of donors, over \$17 million in grant funding to nonprofits, with more than 70 percent of all grants remaining in Madison County to meet community needs.

Chamber: There Are Still Some Employers Hiring

There are many local companies that are still hiring right now during the pandemic. The Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce compiled a list of those employers.

Search for jobs on ASmartPlace.com. For updates, contact Katelyn Sides Baker: kbaker@hsv-chamber.org.

Restaurants/Retailers/Delivery Services: Rent Sons, Big Lots, Aldi, Instacart, Fedex, CVS, PetSmart, Sonic, USPS, Home Depot, Cracker Barrel, Walmart, U-Haul, Target, Tractor

Supply Company, Sam's Club and Tazikis.

Healthcare/Medical: Syneos Health, Huntsville Hospital, Home Instead Senior Care, River Regions Psychiatry Associates, Help at Home, LLC

Manufacturing/Construction: Mazda Toyota, YKTA, WizeHire, EPSCO Staffing, Turner Construction, Thompson Thrift

Additional places hiring: U.S. Census, HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, Madison County Schools, Michael Page Employment

Agency, WAFF 48 News, PassionHR, ACR Service Inc., Alabama Lawn Masters, Sultry Adult Boutique

Government/Government Contractors: Dynetics, Abaco, Yulista, Raytheon, Boeing, Torch Technologies, Leidos, Radiance Technologies, Linquest Corporation, Northrop Grumman, Booz Allen, Lockheed Martin, Canvas Inc., SAIC, TriVector Services, Inc., KBR, Aerotek, Integrated Defense Systems, Sentar, General Dynamics Informa-

tion Technology, Exeter Gov Services, US Army Contracting Command, Allied Universal, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, ERC, Intuitive Research and Technology Corp, SigmaTech, Parsons, ASRC Federal, QuantiTech Solutions, ITAC Solutions, Quantum Research, JBS Solutions, Jacobs Intrepid, COLSA, Sirius Technical Services, Iron Mountain Solutions, nLogic, RUAG Space US, Georgia Tech Research Institute - Huntsville Research Center.

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Called 2 Preach

by Pastor/Founder Michael D. Rice
Grace Gethsemane Mission Church

When the Vultures Come Down

Genesis 15:11

Vultures are naturally attracted to carcasses. When they descend upon one, they patiently and patently peck at it until consumed. God is Creator and He has right to rule and does so over everything He created. That means He can use it for whatever He desires, even when it is considered "out of the norm." That's why He can make donkeys talk, lame men walk; gnats and frogs and

locusts appear at the same address at different times; and employ birds as caterers and carriers of, not meals on wheels, but rather meals on wings.

God showed His sovereign singularity to Abram (Abraham), when He instructed him to bring together the carcasses of a three-year-old heifer, female goat, and a ram, in addition to a turtledove and a young pigeon. These were to



be divided in the middle and each laid opposite each other. These were the instructions and instruments used in God's covenant with Abram. Abram did what all believers must

do when preparing for God's promises and purposes in their lives; be obedient. When he did however, vultures came down, and Abram drove them away. That's the

only remedy for getting rid of vultures when they come down. Vultures are anything and anyone who knowingly or unknowingly seek to sabotage the sacrifices; even those petty

propensities and bothersome biodata found in the believer him/herself. It takes alertness and awareness and adamancy to drive them away "when," not "if" they come down.

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Alice Sams

Mrs. Alice Friend Sams was born in Madison County, Ala., where she attended public schools before earning undergraduate and MBA degrees from Alabama A&M University.

A graduate of Leadership Huntsville Madison County program in 2000, Sams served as program director for Project Former Offenders Changing for Unconditional Success under the auspices of the Madison County Commission District Six. She assisted with job and housing placement, GED preparation, restoration of voting rights and pardons from the State Pardon and Parole Board. With

partners, Project FOCUS provides workshops on anger management, financial stability, life skills, and counseling.

Sams is also a retiree of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, where she served for 25 years as contract specialist from 1982-2007. At NASA, she was chiefly responsible for soliciting bids and proposals, selecting vendors, negotiating, evaluating budgets and personnel assignments, which resulted in the awarding of purchase orders, grants and multi-million dollar contracts in support of space and missile systems. Her diverse career also includes



12 years of teaching middle and high school students, preparing lesson plans, reporting to local and state educational offices and evaluating students at the beginning and end of each year. Sams is the mother of a daughter, Donna, a son, Reginald; stepdaughter M. Jeneene; and four grandchildren.



MAY 8 - ROBERT LEROY JOHNSON - Legendary blues guitarist, songwriter Robert Johnson born in Hazlehurst, Miss. His landmark recordings in 1936-37 display a combination of singing, guitar skills, and songwriting talent that has influenced later generations of musicians.

- BlackinTime.info



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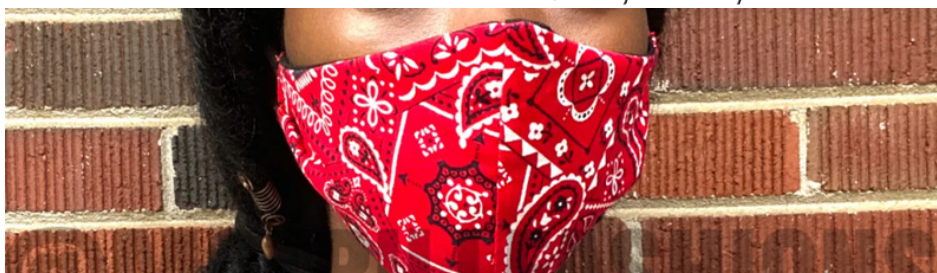
- A Madison County Resident*
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- Take medications daily for a chronic condition
- Meet pharmaceutical company maximum income requirements (differs by company)

Call 256-532-3345 for more information or to make an appointment.

2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines

250%	1/Household	\$31,900
	2/Household	\$43,100
300%	1/Household	\$32,280
	2/Household	\$51,720
400%	1/Household	\$51,040
	2/Household	\$68,960

Funding is provided by the Madison County Commission and the Alabama Department of Senior Services through the TARCOG/Area Agency on Aging



A&M Student Finds Need, Fills It

As an impending and tumultuous wave of COVID-19 cases forced Alabama A&M University to quickly push its courses online, many students embraced the change and its consecutive new bent on doing things.

One case in point is the Family and Consumer Sciences Department's Apparel, Merchandising and Design Area (AMD) in a Fashion Merchandising II course taught by AAMU alumna A. Renee' Heard.

Not only is the program's strength tied to how Heard urges her students to think out-of-the-box in terms of the many dimensions associated with apparel and interior design, production, distribution and consumption, but she also encourages them to channel their creativity into forming their own businesses.

For instance, through the attractive website motrill-fashions.com, AMD student Monique Copeland (see our Unique Monique) showcases her abundant talent, as well as reveals how in tune she is to the times and the impact of Coronavirus 2019.

Among her many creations is her genius fifteen-buck Cotton Bandana Mask. Its "double cotton layer mask filters approximately 50 percent of 0.2 micron particles," notes Monique, a rising senior and first-generation college student from Montgomery, Ala. The mask is lined with black cotton fabric that Copeland describes as "breathable, washable, fashionable and comfortable."

In addition to the classic red bandana, a click on the website's drop down bar reveals options in brown, black, pink,

fuchsia, navy blue, baby blue, yellow, royal blue and aqua blue.

"The idea for the bandana face mask came to me when I heard there were no masks available in stores," recalled Monique. "I did my research on whether it would be effective to make one; I proceeded to make one for myself, as well as my family; then, I decided to add it to my website so that others can have the opportunity to purchase."

Moreover, Monique's web 'store' also includes true-to-size stretchable 'Plaid Yourself' stacked tights; fleece jogger sets; and stacked sweats and tights in several colors. She said her items have been "selling like crazy," and she has been able to apply things she has learned from current and previous courses.

"One of the main things I like about the AMD program is the ability to work in the sewing labs outside of class time to work on garments," said Monique, "as well as to ask our design teachers questions and advice regarding our garments."

In visual merchandising, Monique has learned the

interplay of colors and seasons, as well as how to make a display in 3D from paper. She is appreciative of the guidance and accessibility she has received from instructors Wilke, Heard and Tibbs.

"I plan to expand my business and to build relationships with countless fashion individuals," responded Monique, when asked about post-graduation plans. "I also plan to design for a few companies and maybe even do a little bit of merchandising, if my business allows me the time."

While AMD classes make a wardrobe change to Zoom and as the COVID-19 pandemic looms on, student creativity, too, continues to blossom.

by Jerome Saintjones

A&M Seeks 1971 Grads for Reunion

Calling all Alabama A&M University graduates of the CLASS OF 1971!

Plans are being made for the 50th year reunion to be held in May 2021. Your support and input are needed.

For details and updates contact the reunion class agents - Mrs. Agnes Holley Smith at aeholley-smith@gmail.com or Rev. Jonell Yarbrough Calloway at jonellcalloway@att.net.

*What matters
isn't what a
person has or
doesn't have;
it is what he or
she is afraid of
losing.*

- Nicholas Taleb

Perspectives on EGO-holism

by tim allston

Citizens, Beware: "Captain Clorox" Strikes Again!

"Now David had been told, 'Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.' So David prayed, 'LORD, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness'" - 2 Samuel 15:31.

Summarily Ahithophel, one of King David's inner circle of counselors, betrayed him and sided with David's revolting son Absalom.

Once exposed by each side as a traitor, Ahithophel (translated, "brother of ruin or folly") "put his household in order, and hanged himself and died" 2 Samuel 17:23.

President Lysol's (excuse me, Trump's) April 23rd suggestion that persons seeking to fend off the coronavirus should self-inject bleach into their systems suggests, as in Ahithophel's case, that God has morphed Trump's counsel into foolishness.



As the New York Times noted, "Mr. Trump's typical name-calling can be recast to receptive audiences as mere "counterpunching." His impeachment was explained away as the dastardly opus of overreaching Democrats. It is more difficult to insist that the man floating disinfectant injection knows what he's doing" <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/26/us/politics/trump-disinfectant-coronavirus.html>.

Yes, we all make mistakes and commit verbal hiccups. But we were all taught that, once made aware of such guffaws, we should immediately right such wrongs.

But that starts with admitting error, which our president has routinely refused to acknowledge.

The above New York Times quote can be rather prescient toward November's presidential election. Trump is totally right in calling the coronavirus pandemic "the invisible enemy." He's fighting against an enemy that he cannot see.

Let's face it, he's a past master at fending off such visible opponents as impeachment hearings, Mueller Reports findings and financial disclosure inquiries.

However, he has shown a total incapacity at battling successfully an invisible enemy, and many believe that he is mislabeling his truest invisible enemy.

Life Coach tim allston is the author of the free book, *7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else,"* downloadable now at www.GetEgo-HelpNow.org.

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OU Prez Shares Detail of Plan that Will Enable Many to Graduate Debt-Free

April 20, 2020, is a day that will go down in history at Oakwood University because of a unanimous vote taken by the Oakwood University Board

to a lack of finance?"

The quiet, tearful response from the members of President's Council was a relieved "Yes" and "Amen!" Our working

On April 19, 2020, the completed proposed plan was presented to seven subcommittees of the Oakwood University Board of Trustees, and was voted

unanimously by each group. The reaction by then Board Chair, Elder Dan Jackson, North American Division (NAD) President, was felt by all: "Once again, Oakwood University

of Trustees. The story leading to the vote began months earlier—in August of 2019, when in a meeting of the Oakwood University President's Council, we members were kneeling in prayer and agonizing over the many students who could not return to complete their Oakwood education because they could not financially clear.

While we were returning to our seats after completing our prayer season, I felt an overwhelming impression of the Holy Spirit to ask a question that I had never asked our leaders before. In having to watch so many students burdened with financial clearance anxiety, I asked the group, "What if we were willing to step out in radical, revolutionary faith, in total dependence, and ask God to use us to create an Oakwood in which no student was ever turned away due

name for the effort was the "No Student Turned Away" Taskforce. The group -- Colwick Wilson, Sabrina Cotton, David Knight and David Richardson -- worked steadily, but quietly, and asked Prudence Pollard to serve as chair.

Their first formal meeting was September 10, 2019. They spent nine months in careful and prayerful research on trends in higher education and the socio-economic status of our principal populations, analyzing barriers to completion, and planning for how families can bridge the gaps in financing their education. The biggest driver was the Biblical imperative "And ALL thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children." Isaiah 54:13. Click here to read the rationale provided by the committee.

is looking into the future and moving its institution accordingly. Once again, this institution is not waiting—it is being proactive."

Our new Chairman of the Board, Dr. G. Alexander Bryant, Executive Secretary of the NAD, who chaired the Student Services subcommittee, where the plan was first vetted, said, "In my 20 years of chairing this committee, this is the most important thing we have ever voted. We have built buildings, and made other decisions, but nothing equals this. Families have been waiting for this. It is revolutionary, not just for Oakwood, but for all of Adventist education. It will have an impact not only on this generation but for generations to come." Many Oakwood Board Members expressed similar sentiments.

I am honored and excited to announce the

new Oakwood University Career Advancement & Readiness Education Program, also referred to as the C.A.R.E. Program. The OU C.A.R.E. work internship program was developed

to remove financial anxiety from the process of earning an Oakwood degree and to answer the age-old question, "How will I pay for college?" Beginning with our Fall

2020 first-time freshmen cohort, we want to provide a cleared financial path

to degree completion for all students who choose to pursue an Oakwood University education. We launch the pilot program in August of 2020.

As participants in the OU C.A.R.E. program, students will qualify for a matching scholarship. This bonus will allow new students and their families to focus on their studies and not their finances. Imagine

the relief of students and their families in knowing that they will not have the

overwhelming burden of high student loan debt after graduation. The C.A.R.E. program is engineered to help students graduate in four years with 66% less debt than the average student. This ensures they will be ready to start their first jobs, enter graduate studies, or step into entrepreneurship opportunities with a low-to-no debt financial obligation. Graduation will truly be a celebration. Believe. Be Ready. Be Here at Oakwood University!

For more details about the OU C.A.R.E. program, click here. To invest in the OU C.A.R.E. matching scholarship, visit <https://give.oakwood.edu/ou-care/>

- Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D.



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Champion Game Plan for Life by Preston Brown

“LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

1 Corinthians 13:6-7 says, “Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”



You know, when we look at this scripture, the apostle Paul has a perfect description of how love should be.

In this scripture, you can't help but to notice how simple it is to understand how to love. For example, we all know what is being asked of us,

but the problem is the willingness to do what it says. You see when you love someone, your intentions should never be meant to harm them. So, there is no need to worry about offending someone, because Love creates an atmosphere of agreement. Even when we agree to disagree, this is having an attitude of love. In 1 John 4:7 it says, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.” 1 John 4:8 goes on to say, “Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love.” You see, love prefers to be overly generous rather than overly suspicious.

Some people are very suspicious because they never learned how to love anybody. What a miserable place to be. When we don't love people, we allow the enemy to get a “foothold” in our lives, and that will take away our joy and our peace, because we are constantly complaining about them.

During this time of “social distancing,” we should seek ways to build each other up and not to bring them down with our words or our actions. Love does not dishonor others ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. And, make sure you purchase your copy of my book, *A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE*, on amazon.com.

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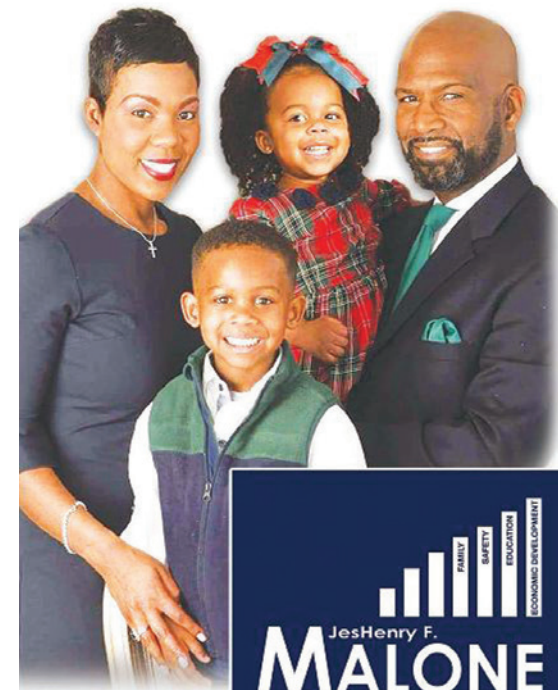
JesHenry Malone Commissioner District 6

Paid for by Friends of JesHenry Malone, P.O. Box 724, Normal, Al 35672

As Commissioner, JesHenry Malone:

- Secured the funding for the first road built in 20 years in District 6 and will continue to fight for our fair share for roads and infrastructure .
- Is working to recruit additional industries to the North Huntsville Industrial Park to provide jobs for our community.
- Will continue to fight to move our commission forward and to keep our streets safe and lower our crime.
- Moved our county forward by helping to bring Mazda Toyota to our county.
- Will continue to fight for our quality of life including our schools and recreation.
- Will continue to support Alabama A&M University, Oakwood University and University of Alabama Huntsville.
- Led the effort for the new service center to be located in District 6.

**VOTE
TUESDAY
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14th!**



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Valley Deaths

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME -

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

Graveside service for MR. MARSHALL JAMES COWSER was held Saturday, May 2, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with The Reverend Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. ESTHER RIGNEY (b. 1940) was held on Saturday, May 2, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Brother Alex Seay officiating.

Funeral service for MS. KYLNN K. BROOKS (b. 1990) was held Saturday, May 2, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with The Reverend Leon Gray officiating.

Graveside service for INFANT D'OR TREMELLE JAMAR HAYES (b. 2019) was held Friday, May 1, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Elder Dennis Green officiating.

Funeral service for MR. LANCE GRIFFIN (b. 1965) will be Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

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

Graveside service for MR. TED RAY BURRUSS, SR., was held Wednesday, May 6, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road Toney, Ala.) with Pastor Maurice Childress officiating.

Funeral service for MS. NEKIA LaSHAWN LANGFORD READUS (b. 1975) was held Saturday, May 2, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Pastor Theodis Acklin officiating.

Public viewing for MR. KENNETH JEROME MURRAY was held Saturday, May 2, at the Royal Funeral Home.

Public viewing for MR. DERRICK WAYNE PALMER (b. 1981) was held Thursday, April 30, at the Royal Funeral Home.

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

Farewell celebration for MR. CRAIG "IKE" BAILEY was held Wednesday, April 29, at Serenity Funeral Home. Burial took place on Thursday, April 30, at The Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, Ala.

Calhoun Students Recognized at PTK Convention

The Calhoun Community College Sigma Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) recently participated in the Annual Catalyst International Convention.

This year's event was held virtually and featured members from PTK's 1,300 chapters worldwide. According to Dana Burton, Calhoun's PTK Sponsor, Students are honored and recognized for accomplishments from the previous school year.

Those accomplishments include PTK scholarships, leadership, fellowship, and service to the organization.

The convention was originally scheduled to take place in Grapevine, Tex., but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision to

move the event to a virtual platform would ensure the safety and well-being of the PTK members, advisors, donors, and their family and friends.

During the conference, the college's chapter received two international awards which included Morgan Christ being named the Distinguished Chapter Officer, as well as the Distinguished Officer Team which included the following members: Will Lawrimore, Daymara Ayala, Madeline Anne See, Andrew Escobar, Tamara Thomas, Carly Brady, Ashleigh Starks, Tristan Mariani, Nina Fortier, Morgan Lands, Tatayana Rice, and Morgan Christ. Additionally, Calhoun's

chapter was recognized as one of the top 100 chapters in the world.

"The Calhoun administrators, faculty and staff continue to pour out support for our PTK students. As sponsors, we are so proud of the great things our students continue to accomplish for our school's chapter," commented April Nunn, Calhoun's PTK Sponsor.

"Our PTK students work exceptionally hard all year long, they attend weekly meetings over the summer and they plan and execute events and projects prior to the Catalyst Convention," said Burton. The chapter will begin its new year in May using an online format.

COVID-19 Assistance

UNITED WAY COVID-19

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www.uwmadison-county.org

Get Assistance: Call 211

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(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

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Making a Real Valley Impact Almost Staying Intact



(BPT) - Whether it's a reprieve for families in self-isolation, support for those on the frontlines of health-care and essential businesses, or keeping at-risk populations safe, now is the time to come together - while staying apart - to support one another.

Here are four simple ways that communities can take care of each other - all from their phones, computers or other devices.

1. Gaming and virtual hangouts: Board games, video games and puzzles are a great way to bring friends and family together - even with hundreds of miles in between. Set up a virtual game night with a friend or send your online buddy a few extra digital gaming rewards for your favorite game together.

And, with families now on extended spring breaks, it's the perfect time to surprise kids with an e-gift card to add funds to their favorite online games.

2. Grocery delivery good will: With so many facing uncertainty with their job in this challenging time, lack of time to shop or concerns about being inside of grocery stores, consider

finding a way to bring the groceries to them. Gifting grocery delivery to your friends and family allows them to purchase what they need while staying out of harm's way. Sending a grocery gift card or digital gift card to the people in your life gives them the freedom to shop when they can - even when stores are closed. If you're going grocery shopping for a friend in need, or want to help a time-strapped healthcare worker, consider including a special gift card that you can find at check-out or the retailer's Gift Card Mall so that they have some additional resources to pick up essentials, or treat themselves to keep their spirits up.

3. Supporting restaurants and supporting others: As your favorite local restaurants shift to take-out, curbside and delivery-only models, there's an opportunity to not only support restaurants, but also to provide support for those in need. When placing an order for yourself, think about others in your life that could use a meal or gift card for takeout and perhaps send one or two

to a friend on the hospital frontlines, first responders or someone you know in an essential retail role who could use a ready-to-eat meal after a long shift.

4. Streaming together: Keeping your distance doesn't need to mean you miss out on watch parties. We all have a favorite show or movie recommendation, so send the gift of a digital movie download or surprise friends and family with the gift of a subscription to your favorite streaming service. Then, plan a night with friends and family to watch your favorite show, and gather around the computer for a virtual watch party. Don't forget the popcorn!

Online resources including retailer websites or GiftCards.com are convenient, easy ways to find gifting options that can reach your friends and family quickly. Many retailers and restaurants are seeing the benefits of gift options during this time.

To learn more about easy digital gifting, visit www.giftcards.com for more ideas.



Marshall England, Agent

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Washington in One Minute



Here are your top issues and events in Washington, D.C., for this week:

1. The Senate returned to session Monday after a five-week hiatus (the House remains in recess) and will take up various Trump Administration nominees and may also start debate on legislation to protect American businesses by creating a "safe harbor" from potential liability due to the coronavirus outbreak.

On last Friday, The Washington Post reported that 771 lawsuits have already been filed in state and federal courts around the nation against hospitals, nursing homes, airlines, cruise lines, fitness chains, and the entertainment industry in a first wave of litigation related to the pandemic.

Dr. Brian Monahan, the Attending Physician of Congress, issued a 7-page letter last Friday with pandemic guidelines for Senators and staff, recommending face masks, 6-foot social distancing, limiting staff and visitors, and the use of plexiglass

shields in front offices. Read his guidelines here: [doc letter](#).

2. After spending the weekend at Camp David, on Sunday night President Trump was at the Lincoln Memorial in DC participating in a 2-hour virtual town hall on Fox News called "America Together: Returning to Work." On Tuesday, the President will travel to Phoenix, AZ to tour a Honeywell plant that has hired 500 people to manufacture N95 masks.

3. On Sunday, the Small Business Administration announced that it had processed over 3.8 million small business Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans totaling more than \$500 billion since the launch of the program on April 3.

Since the start of the second round of PPP loans on April 27, SBA has processed 2.2 million loans, totaling \$175 billion. Congress has appropriated \$659 billion for the program to date.

Last Tuesday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin

pledged a full audit of PPP loans that are worth more than \$2 million and said borrowers will face criminal liability if they misled the federal government. Entities as varied as the Los Angeles Lakers (which took a \$4.6 million loan), Harvard University (\$9 million loan), Shake Shack Restaurants (\$10 million loan), and the 100-property Ashford Hotels and Resorts (\$69 million loan) have announced they would return their loans.

4. This week, three (3) Senate committees will host hearings related to the pandemic:

Wednesday, May 6, 2 p.m. - Senate Homeland Security/Gov't Affairs Committee on the newest COVID-19 information and setting policy based on it;

Wednesday, May 6, 2:30 p.m. - Senate Commerce Committee on the pandemic's impact on the aviation industry; and

Thursday, May 7, 10 a.m. - Senate HELP Committee on new tests for COVID-19.

At the hearings, Senators will be limited to one staffer and will be required to wear face masks at all times, per guidelines issued on Thursday by the Senate Rules Committee.

5. Despite being in recess, the House Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Subcommittee will hold a hearing on Wednesday (May 6) at 10:00 a.m. on the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, to which the subcommittee had invited NIH Infectious Disease Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, who was prohibited from testifying by the White House last week.

6. On Friday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization for the antiviral drug remdesivir, produced by California-based drugmaker Gilead, for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in hospitalized adults and children.

Gilead CEO Daniel O'Day said his company has donated its total current stock of 1.5 million vials of the drug for distribution by the federal government, which should reach patients this week. Read the FDA order here: [FDA letter](#).

7. On Sunday, President Donald Trump said that he's urging universities and schools to open in September.

At the same time, he expressed concern about the safety of teachers who are 65 and older in classrooms while there is no coronavirus vaccine.

Public higher education institutions will be under heavy pressure to open despite warnings from health officials of potential spikes in coronavirus during the fall.

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