

# The Valley Weekly

"You are either part of the solution  
or part of the problem."  
- Eldridge Cleaver

FREE

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Friday, May 10, 2019



New DLC Graduates! It's graduation season, and Cohort XI of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium, coordinated by Georgia S. Valrie (1st left) and Dr. Dorothy W. Huston (1st, r), joins the ample numbers. Among the recent graduates of the eight-week program are: Harvey D. Long, Rev. Michael Rice, Ronald "Ron" Simon, Bobbi Maples, Tabitha L. Malone, E'Licia L. Chaverest, LaTisha D. Scott, Kimeko Farrar, Aubrey Jones, Heather M. Lewis, Reginald Pearson, and Luke McCain. (Photo by J. Saintjones)

## Former Commissioner Preyer Honored at Luncheon

A former Madison County Commissioner was honored by friends and family during a recent luncheon held April 27 on the campus of Alabama A&M University (AAMU). Dr. Prince Preyer, Jr., served 46 years in the field of education and public service. He received his B.S. degree in agriculture in 1958 from AAMU, his M.S. degree in agriculture from Tuskegee Institute (University) in 1971 and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University, in 1976. He began his college teaching at AAMU and

completed 30 years in the field of education before retiring.

After retiring from AAMU in 1988, he was elected to the Madison Commission and served as a Commissioner for District 6 for 16 years. He was the first African American to be elected to the Madison County Commission since re-construction.

As Commissioner, Dr. Preyer was instrumental in starting several social programs which addressed the needs of youth minorities at risk (COARM); and the Phoenix Program, which



focused on working with youth and their parents. The annual Job-a-Ton was a successful program that assisted over 5,000 youth in Madison County to find Summer jobs over several years.

During Dr. Preyer's tenure in office, he was successful in obtaining funding for District 6 through Federal Grants

totaling over \$13 million. These programs helped to enhance and strengthen the various social programs.

Through the Commission, under Dr. Preyer's leadership, District 6 contributed \$5 million to site work done at AAMU's Louis Crews Stadium and the Ernest L. Knight Center.

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## Bands Will "Jam" at Jemison

On Saturday, May 11, the Jemison High School Band Program will host the 2nd Annual Rocket City Gym Jam. This event will feature the Jemison High Mighty Sounds of the South Band, the Columbia High Mighty Marching Eagles, and the Lee High Marching Generals.

The Gym Jam will be held in the Jemison High Gymnasium. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and showtime will begin at 6 p.m.

This event is a fundraiser for the Jemison High School Band to attend the Chicago Thanksgiving Parade in November 2019.

Publisher

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Editor-in-Chief

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

Editorial Consultant/  
Senior Editor

Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

Editorial Assistants

Linda Burruss

Phyllis Chunn

Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Advertising Associate

Phyllis Chunn

Writer/Sales/Photography

Reginald D. Allen

- Contributing Editors -

Reginald D. Allen

tim allston

Lamar A. Braxton, Jr.

Minister Preston Brown

Ron Hamm

Pastor Michael D. Rice

Melissa Wilson-Seloma

Website Administrator

Calvin Farier

Mailing Address:

The Valley Weekly

415A Church Street - Suite 100

Huntsville, AL 35801

(256) 651-9028

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The Valley Weekly

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## From the Editor

### **Congratulations, Graduates!**

Forty-four years ago, I graduated from high school and from college four years later. From undergraduate, straight to graduate school for another four years. I'm not sure whether I liked school as much as I thought I did or I knew I didn't want to return to Monroeville, so I stayed in school for a long time. I figured after a Ph.D., there would be no return. What would I do in my hometown? The more I tarry and think about my past, I realize how truly blessed we were to escape the farm, poverty and some degrees of "isms," mostly reality that manifests themselves more and more each day as stark truths.

Graduation and Mother's Day typically run hand-in-hand. Thank God for our Mothers and for graduation. Graduations provide Mothers with a time of pride and accomplishment, whether it's from kindergarten, or high school or college. Graduations provide not only the graduate with a sense of pride and achievement, but Moms with the same. Beyond my graduation from the Mourner's Bench at Carrie Mount Baptist Church to accepting Christ, marriage to a wonderful husband, the birth

of three children, graduation is one of those signal events in our lives that provides us an unusual touch of exhilaration.

So, to all the graduates this month, you have made some folks proud, especially your Moms. Moms, we're so glad God gave us you. Through all of life's disappointments, we regret mostly when we disappoint you. Disappointing Mom is one of the things that keeps us up at night.

The great news for graduates is that the unemployment rate is at an all time low. I only know what I know, and that is that I know a score of people who are looking for gainful employment with benefits. If any of our readers have some of all those jobs that are available, I have some resumes for you. When this 'trickles' down to the rest of us, that will be good news indeed.

Happy Mother's Day to all of my Moms. You know who you are. My dear Mother passed away too soon from cancer. She was on the sweetest, positive spirits I have known. I'm pretty sure I couldn't have been her. Frankly, I wouldn't have survived. With that said, Mother Rosetta James, Aunt Catherine Willis and Mother Earnestine Hall, Happy Mother's Day to each of you - godly ladies. I thank Him for blessings me with a plethora of great women who lives are worthy of respect and honor.

Take time this week to congratulate a graduate and to thank a Mom! I leave you this week with two words from the great Shirley Caesar, who once said, "No Charge."

Until next week ...



*This is my mother, Lucinda Williams Williams*

*When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at [www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com).*

*Dorothy*



# Huntsville Happenings



by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

tional efficiency in trash removal further improves the quality of life for the entire community. Excited about the advancements coming into the community, Commissioner Malone stated, "As Madison County continues to benefit from economic development growth bringing new jobs and residents, District 6 wants to be ready to provide the essential services that existing residents deserve and new residents expect." The addition of the new truck, which is fully automated, replaces the former manual process of trash removal.

"Building a stronger community within my district has been a top priority and replacing our old trash truck supports that goal. Our old truck had become operationally inefficient and unreliable.

As the commissioner for District 6, it is imperative that I continue to be a good steward of our fiscal resources and ensure that our tax dollars are used to advance our community so that everyone can see the true beauty of our strong community," says Commissioner Malone.

## District 6 Increases Operational Efficiency

Madison County District 6 Commissioner Jes-Henry F. Malone increases operational efficiency with the addition of an automated trash truck. Outfitted with the latest technology

and hydraulic controls, it is now ready to serve the residents in the community.

For District 6 residents who reside in the unincorporated area surrounding North Huntsville, opera-



**Remembering Nigel:** Family and friends paid their final respects during the homegoing services at The Rock Family Worship Center in Huntsville, Ala., recently for 15-year-old Nigel Shelby. (Photo courtesy of Serenity Funeral Home)

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## The "Barr Boomerang"

Read Numbers 32:23

### Then, . . .

Approximately 2300 years ago, Moses forewarned the Children of Israel against misdeeds and false claims (Numbers 32:32) - an object lesson played out last week. Publicly.



### . . . and Now

Hours before U.S. Attorney General William Barr was scheduled to testify before both the Senate (Wednesday) and House (Thursday) Judiciary Committees, media leaked Special Counsel Robert Mueller's letter refuting claims which Barr offered publicly before the investigative report's public release.

Mueller charged Barr's "summary letter did not fully capture the context, nature, and substance of this office's work and conclusions."

### " . . . only a Matter of Time . . ."

House committee chair Jerry Nadler responded immediately: "The Attorney General should not have taken it upon himself to describe the Special Counsel's findings in a light more favorable to the President. It was only a matter of time before the facts caught up to him."

Numbers 32:23

" . . . be sure your sins will find you out." Just as our parents taught us about misdeeds' consequences, sooner or later they and we will be exposed and future credibility eroded.

By starting truthfully even if unpopular then family, co-workers and friends will brand you and me dependable, positively.

### Remember the Boomerang, Barr?

This curved flat L-shaped piece of wood once flung upward, will return uncannily to its thrower - e.g., last week's Barr experience.

Jerry Nadler: Perhaps AG Barr should've seen the pun-ny, yet accurate T-shirt I saw recently: REAL EYES REALIZE REAL LIES.

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tim allston is the author of the free book, 7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else," free and downloadable now at [www.GetEgoHelpNow.org](http://www.GetEgoHelpNow.org).

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## Deadline Nears for The Ivy Center Scholarship Applications

The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Incorporated, will present scholarships (up to \$1,500 each) to single parents planning to begin or continue their education at an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational, or technical school (in fall 2019).

The application is now available to download at [www.Ivycenter-foundationhsv.org](http://www.Ivycenter-foundationhsv.org).

The deadline for submission is May 18, 2019. Please call (256) 457-1020 for info.



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# The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

**May 17**

Community Free Clinic  
Inaugural Golf Tournament - The Links at Redstone; 4-Person Scramble \$60/\$240 - (256) 337-1662

**May 18**

2019 North Precinct Annual Block Party  
*Sponsored by HPD, Alabama A&M University and Huntsville Community Watch Association*  
(Fun and games for children, free food, free bike giveaway)  
AAMU Grounds Next to North Police Precinct  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**May 18-19**

The League of Women Voters of Alabama  
Annual State Convention  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Thru May 19

Chinese Lantern Festival  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
*Boasting more than 1,000 illuminated lantern displays of wildlife from around the world (and dinosaurs!), this festival offers a stunning visual exhibition of Chinese art and culture.*

**June 7**

Huntsville Bible College

26th Vision Banquet  
"Celebrating Centennial Churches" - Von Braun Center East Hall  
Huntsville, Ala., 7 p.m.

**June 15**

13th Annual White Linen Brunch  
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## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

**FULLY COMMITTED**

Luke 14: 25 -26 says: [Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them He said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters-yes, even their own life-such a person cannot be my disciple.]

When we look at this scripture, we need to understand and realize that Jesus was at the "peak" of His ministry. So, everywhere He would go, He would draw large crowds, because everyone wanted to see the greatest preacher/ teacher to ever come along.

Just recently, we all witnessed Tiger Woods win his 5<sup>th</sup> Green Jacket, by winning the Masters tournament. And everywhere he went he had huge crowds following him. And they were all trying to get a look at

perhaps one of the greatest golfers of all time. Now the crowds that they both drew, were probably similar in size; however, there were major differences.

One was strictly for entertainment, while the other one was much more serious. You see, it's easy to follow the crowd when we are being entertained. But Jesus wanted people to follow Him for the right reasons. So He makes this very shocking statement that we find in our scripture. And when He does, the crowd begins to "thin out".

Jesus wants us to be fully committed to Him at all cost. Jesus wasn't looking to be entertaining. He was looking for disciples who would be fully committed to Him. Jesus wasn't looking for popularity, He was looking for certain kinds of

people who would be fully committed.

How do we become fully committed? Well, it all starts with placing Him first in our lives.

Next, we need to take ourselves off the "throne" and replace our wanting to be first with Jesus being first. And we do this by saying no to our will and yes to His will. Also we need to count the cost for following Jesus so when trials come, you won't give up. always remember "quitters never win" and it's always too soon to give up. Jesus wants all of us to be winners, especially in our spiritual lives.

That's why we need to be fully committed when we decide to follow Jesus....Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!



**MADAM PRESIDENT:** Dr. Patricia Gordon Sims (c) was inaugurated as the fourth president of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College as part of an installation ceremony and inaugural scholarship luncheon on Saturday, April 27, at the Von Braun Center in Downtown Huntsville. She is pictured above with her husband, Themika Sims and her daughter, Kirsten Sims. Judge Sybil Cleveland served as the installing official, while Jimmy Baker, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, presented the Presidential Medallion, Mace and Presidential Charge.



## Millennial Thought

by Josh Alex Baker

### Load Lightening 101

I remember having a good car conversation with a friend. The kind that creates an alternate universe where no matter how bad things might seem in the moment, you have an inextinguishable hope for better. The kind where each of you can bring your own baggage and there's enough room for the both of you.

After a semester of unexpected hits, we found ourselves exhausted. And

in that moment, we were accountable to nothing greater than the truth. We yielded to our vulnerability. We made space for our hurt. And we allowed the silence to do what it does best—heal.

It was then that my friend expressed with frustration that she was so over it. And, as if by divine providence, something quickened in my spirit. I told her not to be over it but to be in it.

So often in our adversity, it becomes our goal to bypass the difficulty as vehemently as possible. But

sometimes, our problems are like the common cold. By the time you experience the symptoms, the cause itself has moved on. And as with the cold, the body needs time to catch up. Our irritation with the cold doesn't cause it to cease. But our approach to healing eventually does.

So, fortify your emotional immune system. It has some tough work to do. Allow yourself to feel the full weight of what has been weighing you down.

And slowly, but surely, the load will get less heavy.

*Josh Alex Baker is a graduating senior social work major at Alabama A&M University.*

# Valley Deaths

## - Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Memorial service for MRS. ELVERA FRYE (b. 1953) and MR. ALTON CHISHOLM (b. 1961) will be announced later.

Funeral service for MRS. MONETTE DEVINE WATTS (b. 1939) was held Friday, May 3, at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church with Father Bryan Lowe officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIE CHERRY (b. 1947) was held Saturday, April 27, at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church (Tupelo, MS). Mr. Cherry was the father of Mrs. Nicole Cherry Wilson and the father-in-law of Mr. Carl Wilson of the Nelms staff.

Funeral service for MS. BRIANNA S. ROBINSON (b. 1993) was held Wednesday, April 24, at Taylor's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Lorenzo Moore officiating.

## - Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. ANTHONY JAMAL SMITH (b. 1999) will be held at 12 noon, Saturday, May 11, at Syler Tabernacle Church (904 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, AL 35811) with Pastor Trevor Briggs officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. LELIA YVONNE WOODS (b. 1950) will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 11, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church (759-A Pine Grove Road, Harvest, AL 35749) with Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. NANCY REBECCA HORTON (b. 1931) was held Wednesday, May 8, at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church (380 Indian Creek Road, Huntsville, AL 35806) with Pastor Timothy Rainey officiating.

Funeral service for MR. HARPOLE HOPSON was held Sunday, May 5, at New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (3912 Pulaski Pike, NW, Huntsville, AL 35810) with Pastor Nelson Stokes officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. THELMA C. STEVENSON (b. 1925) will be held at 12 noon, Saturday, May 4, at Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Avenue, NW, Huntsville, AL 35816) with Pastor Jaymes Mooney officiating.

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT J. LESLIE (b. 1945) was held Wednesday, May 1, at Madkins Chapel CPCA with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for MR. LINDSAY G. FIELDS, JR. (b. 1921) was held Wednesday, May 1, at Lakeside United Methodist Church (3738 Meridian Street, Huntsville, AL 35811) with Pastor Tomasi Muhomba officiating.

Funeral service MRS. ESTHER BONNER KING (b. 1932) was held Tuesday, April 30, at Bright Hope CPCA (35611 Mooresville Road, Athens, AL 35613) with Pastor Willie James Mangruem officiating.

Funeral service MRS. LASONJA BELL KING (b. 1969) will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, April 29, 2019 at Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ (313 Beirne Street Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Dave Draper, Jr., officiating.

## - Serenity Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. RANDALL RICE (b. 1992) was held Saturday, May 4, at Bethlehem P.B. Church in Madison, Ala..

# Called 2 Preach

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

## Pouring Out or Showing Out

### Matthew 26:6-8

It is an unfortunate truth that what is often pushed as genuine praise and worship is nothing more than pseudo-theological theatre.

In other words, people are sometimes simply "showing out" in a fleshly way and labeling it as being "anointed."

Matthew records that there was a woman who did not think it robbery to "pour out" the contents of her alabaster box on Jesus' head as He reclined at the table as the Guest of Simon the leper. Because it was so expensive, it was not expected to be poured out.

Unfortunately, it was Jesus' own disciples that were critical of this woman's ex-

travagant expression of her love for Jesus. However, she did not see it as extravagant at all. While everyone does not have an alabaster box of expensive perfume, they do have something that is seen as having extreme value to

themselves.

What this woman teaches us is that everything diminishes in value in the Presence of Jesus and that if our gifts and talents are given public exposure, we should see that as an opportunity to pour out rather than show out.

Our hearts are the proverbial alabaster boxes that hold the precious perfume

of our praises that should be poured from our lips and lives in God-honoring ways.

James says that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Therefore, let this thought govern our public displays of praise and worship; let's pour out, not show out.



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## Huntsville City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council's 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. Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

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Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Gladys L. Branch

When Gladys L. Branch received her diploma as a Top 20 student at Birmingham's Hooper City High School in 1964, she knew that there were still plenty of opportunities during a turbulent time in America during the 1960s. She entered historic Alabama A&M University, where she received the Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and general science in 1968. She returned to obtain her Master of Science degree in guidance and counseling.

Over the years, Mrs. Branch has developed an impressive career that has spanned more than 40 years. For some five years, beginning in 1969, Branch was an elementary and middle school teacher for the Athens (Ala.)

City School System, where she prepared and carried out lesson plans for second graders and later for math and science students at the middle school level.

In 1974, she served one year as a counselor for the Huntsville Sickle Cell Center before returning for a final year of mathematics, teaching at Westlawn Middle School. She remained at Westlawn for an additional 20 years as a general counselor and then as a vocational counselor until 1996.

In August 1996, Branch decided to use Westlawn as a base for a position in administration and served as Westlawn's assistant principal for four years. She was acting principal for a year



at McDonnell Elementary School before culminating her career as principal of Rolling Hills Elementary School.

She and her husband, Elder John Branch, have two children and three grandchildren, along with another couple of adopted children, who also have three children of their own.

**BIRTHDAY - MAY 10 - HENRY BIBB** - Born in Shelby County, Kentucky, Bibb was an educator, author and abolitionist. Established Canada's first Black newspaper, Voice of the Fugitive. He returned to the United States and lectured against slavery.

- BlackinTime.info

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## 4-H Students Take Part in AAMU STEM Day

Alabama A&M University recently held its 13th Annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Day. The theme-- "Ushering in a New Era of STEM"--was chosen as a result of the innovation that is taking place around the country in the area of STEM. STEM disciplines are needed to help the United States to create innovative products and services in a competitive global market.

According to United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, science and engineering jobs are expected to grow more steadily than other occupations within a decade. That's why events like STEM Day are critical in introducing middle and high school students to STEM college students, professionals, and interactive activities that spark STEM

interest.

This year 191 Alabama Extension urban 4-H youth development students and 26 volunteers visited the Alabama A&M campus from Lawrence, Madison, Tuscaloosa, Colbert, Lauderdale, Montgomery, and Mobile counties. The middle and high school event was coordinated by the Urban 4-H Youth Development Specialist Dr. Angela Williams and Urban Regional Extension Agents Apriell Burgess, James Fountain, Pam Irby, Chante Myles, Tabitha Malone, and Danielle Rudolph.

Youth actively participated in a number of STEM-related demonstrations ranging from DNA extraction to the dangers of alcoholism and its effect on the brain. Partner representatives from Hudson Alpha, Nexus Energy Center,

Huntsville Police Department and the Tennessee Valley Bureau of Investigations facilitated several sessions.

Sponsors for 2019 included Alabama State Senator Arthur Orr (District 3), Madison County Commissioner Jeshenry Malone (District 6), Madison County Commissioner Craig Hill (District 3), Alabama State Representative Rex Reynolds (District 21), Representative Mike Ball (District 10), Mobile County Commission, Montgomery County Commission Office, Nucor Steel of Tuscaloosa, and Redstone Federal Credit Union.

Contact Dr. Angela Williams for more information regarding urban 4-H youth development programs at (256) 372-5713 or [arw0033@aces.edu](mailto:arw0033@aces.edu).

by Wendi Williams



## Henry's Mustang Café

### 1st Annual Mother's Day Brunch

Hosted by Cathy Anderson, Woody Anderson Ford

Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Kayla Parino, General Manager and the culinary team at Henry's Mustang Café invite you to celebrate the mother in your life on this Mother's Day with a beautiful brunch. Kayla is known by her employer and employees for her intense compassion and dedication to excellence in the culinary arts. Trained in fine dining, she has prepared an array of brunch dining choices. Kayla and her staff are excited to treat your Mom to a special meal – like Shrimp & Grits, and made-from-scratch pastries, all while relaxing in our friendly and comfortable dining areas.

Our brunch will allow your family to celebrate mom with the family and friends who matter most to her. Call (256) 517-1288 to make your reservations, (but not required). Henry's Mustang Café, 2500 Jordan Lane. Huntsville, AL 35816.



Adult \$14.95 | Children \$8.95 | Children Under 6 eat Free

**FREE**  
(DINE-IN)

**APPETIZER OF THE DAY**  
4PM TO 9 PM

**BIG BOWL**  
Thai Cuisine

6125 University Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35806

A Few Doors Down  
From Class Act II

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POLITICS AND TECHNOLOGY

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**BURRITT**  
ON THE MOUNTAIN

## The View

at Burritt on the Mountain

Cocktails at *The View*  
Every Wednesday evening 4:30-8. Bring your friends and watch the sun go down on our NEW overlook. Seating provided, Full cash bar and gourmet food items for purchase.

Lunch & Experience at *The View*  
Enjoy a presentation by one of our expert guest speakers, followed by a delicious catered box lunch from The Chef Next Door. Tickets are \$25 in advance.

2Chefs at *The View*  
Join us at our table for an exclusive evening of exquisite dining and wine pairings under the stars. Reservations are limited and prices vary depending on menu.

For The View event details and tickets, visit [burrittonthemountain.com](http://burrittonthemountain.com)!

3101 Burritt Drive • Huntsville, Alabama 35801 • 256.536.2882