

*"The revolution has always been in the hands of the young. The young always inherit the revolution."*

*- Huey P. Newton*

**FREE**

# The Valley Weekly

Volume 5 No. 36

[www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)

Friday, May 17, 2019

## HBC to Hold 26th Vision Banquet

The Huntsville Bible College will hold its 26th Annual Vision Banquet on Friday, June 7, at the Von Braun Center East Hall, 700 Monroe Street in Downtown Huntsville at 7 p.m.

A reserved table of eight is \$400. That amount increases by \$50 after May 16.

The guest speaker is Rev. Breonus Mitchell, Sr. Pastor Mitchell graduated a Distinguished Scholar from Donelson Christian Academy in 1991. He continued his education at American Baptist College, in which he received his Bachelor of Arts in

Pastoral Studies. He has studied at Regents Park of Oxford University Oxford, England, receiving a Certificate in Textual Exegesis, Hermeneutics, and Homiletics.

He received his Master of Theological Studies Degree from Lipscomb University Hazelip School of Theology in Nashville, Tenn., in December 2015.

Pastor Mitchell has commitments to various religious, social, civil, and political identities. He is a subscribing lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and current



*Rev. Breonus Mitchell, Sr.*

Board Member for 4:13 Strong. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of American Baptist College and Donelson Christian

Academy.

For tickets and additional information about the Vision Banquet, call (256) 469-7536

## Greene Street Market Opening Soon

The Greene Street Market at Nativity is now open. The Market is downtown Huntsville's producer-only, open-air market for fresh, locally-grown vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers. It's where some go to meet farmers with local produce, grass-fed beef and pork, free range chickens and eggs; to pick up freshly-prepared meals, gourmet popsicles, traditional-made relishes, cheeses,

preserves and breads. And, it's where local artisans offer their works.

The outdoor market (located at the corner of Greene Street and Eustis Avenue in downtown Huntsville) is open on Thursdays from the first Thursday in May through the last Thursday in October. The hours are 4-8 p.m. from May - August, 4-7 p.m. in September, and 3-6 p.m. in October.

## 9th Annual Car Show to Benefit ACS

St. Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church will host the 9th Annual Car Show on June 8 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is free to the public; however, the registration fee is \$20 (\$30 after 11 a.m.), and all proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Registration is open to cars and trucks (i.e., classic, customs or current vehicles).

The Top 20 judging by car entry owners will be included, along with a Pastor's Choice prize, First Lady's Choice, Best Work in Progress, People's Choice, and Best Car Club

Participation.

Trophies will be presented at 1:30 p.m., along with a \$50 give-away every hour and a \$250 Show Stopper Grand Door Prize. Attendees will also be able to bid on an Alabama Coach Nick Saban autographed football in the silent auction.

In case of rain, the activity will be held on June 15. For additional information, call (256) 783-6918 or (256) 682-5335 or visit [www.strebeccapbchurch.org](http://www.strebeccapbchurch.org).

St. Rebecca is located at 330 Grimwood Road, Hazel Green, Ala.

**FAMILY FUN**  
FESTIVAL & EXPO  
LIVE, LAUGH & LEARN

Family Fun Festival & Expo, which is set to take place on Saturday, June 8, at the Von Braun Center South Hall from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., is a FREE community event that offers face-to-face interactions with exhibitors that support families, fun and learning! This Expo offers FREE kids' activities and a variety of performances throughout the day. Food available for purchase.

The Valley Weekly

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE!**

From the Editor, *Page 2*  
Washington in a Minute, *Page 3*  
Valley Events, *Page 5*  
Millennial Thought, *Page 5*  
Valley Deaths, *Page 6*  
Serving with Our "Such," *Page 6*  
Honoring Elder John Branch, *Page 7*  
Help Kids Learn All Summer, *Page 8*

# From the Editor

Ahhh, Wednesday is D-Day!

Willie Floyd Locke will appear before the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles on Wednesday, June 15. He is brought forth by the State of Alabama every five years. He murdered two people that evening, without remorse. The motive seems to have been to rob them for drug money. When he was apprehended by the Monroe County Sheriff's officials, he still had money from my dad's wallet in his possession.

It is our belief that one does not have to murder to rob an elderly person. Physically, he could have taken the money without killing our dad. As my siblings mature in age, it's difficult for us to travel every five years to Montgomery to attend the hearings. My oldest sister is in her 80s and cannot travel. My oldest living brother is approaching 80 and has indicated that he will not attend. Of the 13 children our parents had, only two can attend this year. How long is long enough to follow the decision of the Board of Pardons and Paroles? Shouldn't they know even when family members of the victims cannot appear, the crime was still committed? Why did a jury and judge give him life in prison, with the option for parole, which burdens families for a lifetime to pursue their decision?

I believe in redemption and hopefully, this man has been redeemed. The last time we appeared before the Board, Mr. Locke was having trouble in prison. Would that be the case this time? Five years from now? How long should we travel to Montgomery from all over the country to appeal to the Board to uphold the court's life sentence that he earned due to crimes he committed?

I'm the youngest of the siblings, so the question will eventually become, "how long?" Hopefully, Mr. Locke will repent, demonstrate some remorse and we can let it go. Recidivism in the United States, according to a 2011 Pew Research study is at a rate of 43 percent. According to a 2005 report of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, about 68 percent of prisoners released in 30 states were arrested for a new crime within three (3) years of their release and 77 percent were arrested within five (5) years. This could be related to a 'hardening' of the criminals due to a plethora of variables including, but not limited to, crime inside the prisons, and gangs that exist and flourish. But the system focuses on 'locking them up' which is easy. The real challenge is on the back-end of the system--how to decrease the likelihood of their return once they are finally released--in a word, recidivism.

This week, I am not sure where I stand on the death penalty for him or anyone else, for that matter; however, had he been given life imprisonment without parole, the system would have provided our family with justice and a sense of finality in that it would simply be a life sentence *without the possibility* for parole. Some criminals don't deserve the opportunity to ever be paroled, especially when the evidence is solid and one admits to their crime(s).

Do not mistake me: I am well aware of the fact that there are many people who are wrongly imprisoned, especially brown and black people. However, when there is absolutely no question of doubt, why should we be required to appear before the State Board to relive this family tragedy every five years, as well as to look the murderer in his face. It's not fair to us nor our children.

There must be a better way! Until next week ...



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).

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com). Items do not necessarily reflect the views of

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**The Valley Weekly**

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*Dorothy*

# Washington in One Minute



Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., for this week's edition.

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. The key bills on the House floor this week included the Equality Act, which would amend existing civil rights law to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics, and legislation to reverse a 90 percent funding cut by the Trump Administration (from \$100 million to \$10 million) to Obamacare advertising and outreach programs, which has contributed to a drop of 4.25 million enrollees between 2016 and 2019. Last week, the House passed a 2nd version of the FY2019 emergency supplemental appropriations bill to extend the National Flood Insurance Program through Sept. 30 and provide aid to Puerto Rico and other states hit by flooding and other disasters.

2. On Monday, President Trump signed an executive order on the economic empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and will host immigration hard-liner Prime Minister Viktor Orbán of Hungary at the White House. On Monday night, the President hosted an iftar dinner to recognize the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. On Tuesday, he traveled to Hackberry, La., to visit the Cameron liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility. On

Wednesday, as part of "Police Week" in DC, he spoke at the National Peace Officers memorial service.

3. Hours after President Trump raised tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods from 10-25% and U.S.-China trade talks deadlocked, the Trump Administration on Friday gave China one month to agree to a trade deal or face an additional 25% tariffs on a further \$325 billion in exports to the U.S.

4. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta heard arguments in a case in which President Trump has filed a lawsuit to quash a subpoena by House Oversight Committee Chair Elijah Cummings (D-MD) for financial records from the President's accounting firm, Mazars USA LLP.

5. On Wednesday, the House Aviation Subcommittee held a hearing on the "Status of the Boeing 737 MAX," which will feature

FAA Acting Administrator Dan Elwell and NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt as witnesses.

6. The House Appropriations Committee continues

its work on the FY2020 appropriations bills this week with subcommittee markups of the Defense, Energy & Water, and Interior appropriations bills, although there is still no deal among House, Senate, and White House officials about raising the discretionary spending caps for FY2020 (if at all).

7. Last Friday (May 10), Republican legislators in Ohio and Michigan filed emergency applications to the U.S. Supreme Court for stays of lower-court rulings which struck down partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts in those states, asking the court to put the decisions on hold while they appeal.

8. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) headlined a rally at Howard University in D.C. to support the Green New Deal resolution.

9. Most Democrats have gotten behind some form of tuition- or debt-free college, but there's disagreement about how much of the tab should be covered.

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## DLC Accepting Applications for 12th Cohort

DLC



Applications are being accepted for Cohort XII of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium until August 27.

Classes will begin September 3 and end October 22, running 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Graduation

will be held on October 29.

Applications are available online at [www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com). Questions should be emailed to Mrs. Georgia Valrie at [gvalrie1971@gmail.com](mailto:gvalrie1971@gmail.com) or call (256) 656-4698.



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## Smokey the Bear Lied. Kinda

Read Genesis 50:20

*FYI: 7,091 wildfires have scorched 171,207+ U.S. acres this year.*

### Q1: Can anything good come from forest fires?

A1: Yes, but only when they're prescribed and managed.

*Alabama Outdoor News Magazine's* Mike Bolton: "Prescribed burns are a good thing . . . conducted by people who know what they are doing.

"Despite what Smokey might have led you to believe, fire is a natural and much-needed process in the forest. Those burns are a valuable tool in managing a forest, and oddly, actually reduce the risk of forest fires by eliminating the buildup of leaves, fallen dead trees and other debris."



### Q2: Can anything good come from our "ego-holism forest fires"?

A2: Yes, but only when we turn to God for co-management, partnership.

God created us with a sense of self (ego) but when left un-controlled (e.g., ego not prescribed/directed by God, co-managed with us), Satan stokes it to flame up uncontrollably into self-ishness, arrogance (big) as well as low-esteem and insecurity (little), etc. - i.e., ego-holisms.

Only God's "prescribed burns" can orchestrate our riches-to-rags-to-riches journeys.

### Right, Joseph?

The once-Pampered/Pitted/imPrisoned/Potiphar-ed/re-imPrisoned/Passed over/now Prime Minister Joseph relayed God's prescribed burn to his once-enslaving brothers, declaring, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today" Gen. 50:20.

### Q3: What are your dead fallen debris, inhibiting your life's new positive growth, which God and you can burn away prescriptively?

A3: The prescription is called the Bible.

-----  
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).

# Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

## "PURE JOY"?

James 1:2 says: "Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds."

You know, one of the things that used to "bug" me when I was in school was an unexpected test. I can still remember my teachers or professors coming into the classroom with test papers in hand and a quirky smile on their face. And they would always say something like, "This is not intended to discourage any of you or to make you nervous; it is simply to see what you know. It's just a learning experience."

In our text, James draws a close comparison to this illustration with his view of "spiritual test". And he opens up with the strangest statement when he says,

"consider it pure joy" when tests and trials come into our lives. So, what does this mean to us as believers? Obviously, we should not seek out trials, but we as Christians should know what the outcome of our trials will produce. In other words, what will we profit from our trials.

When we look at this scripture, there are three things that we will profit from when we go through our tests and trials.

The first thing we get is a purified faith. Now to purify something means to remove contaminants from. God is trying to remove all of the things that hinder us from our spiritual growth. The next thing that we get is an abundance of pa-



tience. Because one of the problems that we all have when dealing with our tests is the "time factor". If we are believers, we know that good will come from bad circumstances; we

just wish it would hurry up. And, finally, our character is perfected. This means we become spiritually mature in our judgement and understanding. When we endure our tests and our trials, not only will it perfect our character but it will also make us complete. Being complete gives us the ability to fully serve God, not lacking anything ...

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!



# Millennial Thought

"Recurring" by Josh Alex Baker

Grief is not linear. It is cyclical. I wish I could tell you that there is a simple point "a" and point "b," but it doesn't work that way.

And, sometimes, the very feelings you believed yourself to be done with resurface.

Grief is not simply present for physical deaths. It comes with the loss of relationships. The loss of hope.

The loss of even yourself.

And, you haven't failed because you haven't found a way to "get over it". There is no simple *getting over it*.

Grief is laborious.

Healing is laborious. And, no matter how microwave-mindset we are, they take time. Be patient with yourself. Even if you feel you've talked about it "too much". Even if you feel you've thought about it "too much". Even if you thought you had finished completely.

You are surviving, and

that's a beautiful thing. Today might be heavier, but you are making it. Today might call on more of you than you feel you have to give, but you're making it. Today may pull you to a desperate place that you haven't been to in a while, but you're making it.

You've processed this before. I know you don't think so, but you have. It just looks different this time.

And, that's okay.

Josh Alex Baker is a recent graduate of social work at Alabama A&M University, where he is now pursuing the Master of Social Work degree..

## 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 The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Inc. For more info, please call (256) 457-1020

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## Promoting Unity in the Community 2019 NORTH PRECINCT ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, May 18, 2019

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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# Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. ROOSEVELT LOVE (b. 1926) was held Tuesday, May 14, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Emeritus Julius R. Scruggs as eulogist.

Funeral service for MR. CHARLIE RUCKER (B. 1951) was held Saturday, May 11, at the New Life Christian Praise and Worship Center (3815 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, Ala.) with Bishop G. Calvin Boone officiating.

Memorial service for MRS. FREDA MARIE BRIGGINS (b. 1959) was held Friday, May 10, at Saint Luke Christian Church (1800 Sparkman Drive - Huntsville, Ala.).

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.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. ANTHONY JAMAL SMITH (b. 1999) was held Saturday, May 11, at Syler Tabernacle Church (904 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Trevor Briggs officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. LELIA YVONNE WOODS (b. 1950) was held Saturday, May 11, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church (759-A Pine Grove Road, Harvest, Ala.) 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, Ala.) 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, Ala.) with Pastor Nelson Stokes officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. THELMA C. STEVENSON (b. 1925) was held Saturday, May 4, at Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Avenue, NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Jaymes Mooney 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

### Serving with Our "Such"

The story of the lame man who was laid at the gate called Beautiful daily, includes the boldness of two broke preachers who were brokers of a power that was far beyond what the lame man requested. He was asking for money, but they offered him might. The KJV translation records Peter as saying, "Silver and gold have I none, but "such" as I have, I give thee."

Every believer has a "such." That is, something that can be offered in the Name of Jesus that can change the life of someone who's "expecting" something from the church, as the lame man was from Pe-

ter and John. That is a perpetual potential that faces the church daily in some form or fashion. Being the church involves serving those expecting souls with "such" as we have. The

Bible tells us that every believer has spiritual gifts that have been given by the Holy Spirit to be used in such a way that, as Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:16, that the church builds itself in love when those gifts are in operation under the power of the Holy Spirit.

Individual believers have to discover their "such"



and offer that in the Name of Jesus. While money is necessary, it is only one tool that God uses to empower the church to minister to the lives of others. When we

are confronted with a situation where we are without money, we can serve with our "such."

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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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# Spring Scenes in the Valley!



## Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring Elder John Branch

Brother John E. Branch graduated from Greene County (Ala.) Training School in 1964 as Valedictorian of his senior class. He enrolled in Alabama A&M University, where he earned the Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical drafting and design technology in 1968. He pursued further study at Alabama Christian College (Faulkner University) in biblical studies.

Upon his graduation from AAMU, Branch served briefly as a design draftsman for the Sperry Rand Corporation in Huntsville, Ala., where he designed PC boards, schematic diagrams and wiring harnesses for instrument section of the Saturn V rocket. From 1969-1972, he made topographical surveys and designed roadways, runways and drainage ponds for the U.S. Army, 160<sup>th</sup> Engineer-

ing Command, at Fort Bragg, N.C. For nearly 40 years, Branch worked in Facility Engineering preparing design drawings for electrical modifications to NASA buildings and test stand structures.

He continues to give back to his community extensively. He assisted the Girl Scouts with electrical design modifications to their building on Sparkman Drive in Huntsville, Alabama. In the 1980s, he taught technical drawing night classes for two years at his Alma Mater, Alabama A&M University. Moreover, he served on the board of AGAPE of North Alabama for two years and as speaker for the "Words of Life" religious program on WEUP AM for the past 18 years.

Minister Branch has served as Pulpit Minister of Northwest Church of Christ since



May 1978. He has coordinated visitation outreach ministry to homeless shelters; supported mission efforts to churches in Monrovia, Liberia; served on the policy and procedures committee for Huntsville City Schools; and serves on the Advisory Board of the Robert "Bob" Harrison Advocacy & Wellness Center.

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## Delta, Inc., Holds Elnora Clay Grant Awards



The Diverse Educational Life Training Activities, DELTA, Inc., held its 6th Annual Dr. Elnora Clay Lanier Grant Awards Breakfast on Saturday, April 27, 2019, at the Huntsville Marriott.

This year's theme was *Encouraging to the Opportunities Ahead*. DELTA, Inc., presented the 2019 Changing Lives Award to the Bessie K. Russell Library Northwest Huntsville Capital Campaign project and on hand to accept was Kim Lewis, chairperson.

The program featured

Dallas Parker of WHNT-TV Channel 19 News as the Mistress of Ceremony, and the guest speaker was Dr. Ruth Jones, branch chief for industrial safety at Marshall Space Flight Center, who inspired everyone in attendance to go forth and do great things.

The music was offered by soloist Monica Phipps-Stewart, accompanied by Kevin Eberhart, with saxophonist Alex Banks performing smooth jazz.

Youth from several programs that DELTA, Inc., supports, such as

the Delta Academy, Delta GEMS and EMBODI, spoke on how these programs were making a real impact in their lives.

DELTA, Inc., thanks the family of Dr. Elnora Clay Lanier and the many sponsors, patrons and supporters who make the event possible each year.

The DELTA, Inc., board chair is Phyllene Washington and Breakfast co-chairs were Linda Fowlkes and Jayne Gold.

For additional information, please contact Phyllene Washington at (256) 603-2775.



## Local Students Experience International Jazz Day

The Tennessee Valley Jazz Society 2019 International Jazz Day (April 30) was a great success, due to support from AAMU CDC, Alabama State Council on the Arts and a grant from Jazz Education Network and the Herb Alpert Foundation.

Over 90 percent of the students had never heard or seen a live jazz band. The students learned that Jazz is America's true and original art form; the students and teachers (adults) learned that they can improve their reading, math and character skills

through jazz education. They also learn to clap after each solo.

Huntsville Achievement School is a school for youth with disabilities.

"One of my most enjoyable moments was when the band started playing, one of the younger kids began to clap in time with the beat, recalled Howard Bankhead of the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society. "Afterwards, all of the other students began to clap with the music. Very moving experience!"

Also, as part of the program, the students get the opportunity to ask

the musicians questions, spurring interaction between the kids and artists.

For the participants at the Edmonton Heights location, the students had the opportunity for more interactivity with the musicians. The next day during the after-school program, the kids were quizzed about the jazz program.

Many remembered the names of some of the tunes the Tennessee Valley Jazz Allstars played and recalled that International Jazz Day is always April 30.



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

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