

The Valley Weekly

Volume 3, No. 42

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, June 30, 2017

FREE

*"A thing is mighty big when time and distance cannot shrink it."
- Zora Neale Hurston*

NSBE Slates Summer Golf Tournament

The North Alabama Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) will hold its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on July 14.

The two-person scramble tournament will be held at The Links at Redstone Arsenal. Check-in and hole assignments begin promptly at 7 a.m.

The fee is \$65 per player and \$130 per team. An awards ceremony will follow the tournament. Funds will be used for NSBE scholarships.

To pre-register, visit www.nsbe-northalabamaac.com or contact anthonyclancaster@gmail.com.

On Thursday, July 13, NSBE will hold "A Conver-



sation with Tommy Williams" from 10-12 noon at the Agricultural Research Center on the campus of Alabama A&M University. The retired professional golfer will discuss "Exposing the STEM Approach to the Game of Golf."

The free activity is open to coaches, parents, professionals and amateurs of all ages.

Anthony Lancaster, Alan Ballantine and Arthur Henderson will serve as facilitators. Visit golf@theMountainClimber.com.

Drake State Receives Reaffirmation of Accreditation

J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College has received reaffirmation of its accreditation through 2027 from the board of trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

The reaffirmation is attained through a rigorous peer-review process both on-site and off-site to ensure the fiscal and educational integrity of the institution.

This process began in early 2016 for Drake State, with submission of an off-site report to the Commission. An on-site review by a committee of personnel from peer in-

stitutions similar to Drake State was conducted in September of that year.



The visiting committee report and the institutional response was reviewed and recommendations for reaffirmation was made to the

Commission on Colleges. The Commission voted to reaffirm the College's accreditation for ten years.

Accreditation by SACS Commission on Colleges signifies that the institution meets or exceeds national standards and has a mission appropriate to higher education, has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that mission, and maintains clearly specified educational objectives consistent with its mission.

All general education courses taken at Drake State are accepted for credit in four-year colleges and universities.

AAMU Board Approves \$167m Operating Budget for FY2018

The Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees met on campus Friday, June 23, to approve a \$167 million operating budget for FY2018, along with a tuition increase and the removal of low enrollment and education certification concentrations from the program inventory. Clayton Gibson, AAMU

vice president for business and finance, said the slight tuition increase would amount to about 1 percent of yearly tuition and fees, or around \$45 per semester. Marginal increases to room and board, depending on the residence hall facility, could amount to a less than 3 percent increase, Gibson said.

The summer board session represented the first meeting for four trustees, including new SGA President Julian Griffith-Battle; Dr. William E. Cox of Fairfax, Va.; John Hackett, Jr., of Fairfield, Ala.; and Roderick Dewayne Watts of Gadsden, Ala.

Trustee Hackett moved (Dr. Hattie Myles second)

to delete low enrollment concentrations in the areas of fisheries, wildlife, interdisciplinary studies and art education, along with a slate of education certification programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. His motion to add concentrations in fish and wildlife science, forestry business, ambient

energy (Physics), criminal justice, sociology, political science and general music also carried.

There were no action items from the permanent committees of Development and Technology; Audit and Investment; Athletics; Student Affairs; and Special Committees. Moreover, work is ongo-

ing toward a report and recommendations from the Board's Presidential Review Committee, and Faculty Senate President Jeanette Jones and President Andrew Hugine, Jr., did not present at the session.

The Board will meet again October 25-27, 2017, in Birmingham, Ala.

by Jerome Saintjones

**Where to Find Your
FREE Copies of
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AAMU Public Relations Office

Albert's Flowers

Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

Briar Fork CP Church

Bryant Bank - Church Street

Chris' Barber Shop

Depot Professional Building

Dunkin Donuts

Eagles' Nest Ministries

Fellowship of Faith Church

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Health Unlimited

Huntsville Bible College

James Smith - AllState Insurance

Lakeside United Methodist Church

Lucky's Supermarket

Marshall England - State Farm Agent

Martinson & Beason, PC

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Washington in a Minute



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

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. This is their final week before they break on Friday for the July 4th Recess. The House is slated to vote this week on a bill to outlaw the activities of immigration "sanctuary communities" and restrict them from receiving certain federal funds, such as "Cops on the Beat" funds and Byrne/JAG grants.

It will also vote on a bill known as "Kate's Law," named for Kate Steinle who was killed in San Francisco in 2015 by an undocumented immigrant. The bill would impose a mandatory two-year minimum sentence on aliens who illegally reenter the country and up to 25 years for criminal offenders reentering the U.S. The big news in the Senate this week is whether Republicans can round up enough GOP votes to pass its version of the Obamacare replacement bill before the end of the week.

According to the Politico website, the Number 2 GOP Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) told donors at

billionaire Charles Koch's 3-day gathering in Colorado Springs on Sunday that the Senate may not get to the bill this week and that the real deadline for the Senate to pass the bill is August 1, 2017.

2. President Trump met with Indian Prime Narendra Modi on Monday at the White House--both, according to the Washington Post, are avid Twitter users: Trump has 32.7 million Twitter followers to Modi's 31 million. He also met with South Korea's newly-elected President Moon Jae-in at the White House on Thursday.

3. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) was expected to release its cost and coverage estimates for the Senate's Obamacare replacement bill as early as Monday. Politico reports that CBO will find that between 15-22 million Americans will lose their healthcare coverage under the Senate bill over 10 years.

4. Monday was also the final day of the Supreme Court's 2016-17 term. The justices took the bench at 10 a.m. to issue their opin-

ions on up to six (6) cases which are still outstanding, involving everything from cross-border shootings to the death penalty and public funding for playgrounds at religious preschools (note: three of the cases were argued



before then-federal Judge Neil Gorsuch, so these cases may have to be reargued next term). The justices are also expected to rule on President Trump's appeal to reinstate his travel ban.

5. On Monday in Miami, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced a \$200 million "American Cities Initiative"

to help cities cope with funding losses from state and federal sources on mega issues such as climate change, but also with more immediate problems, such as removing abandoned buildings. One part of this initiative will be the 2017 Mayors Challenge competition open to cities over 30,000 in population that advance innovative solutions to urgent problems.

The first 300 responders will receive a visit by an "in-person idea accelerator workshop" and up to 35 finalists will receive \$100,000 each to test their ideas and build local support. The 5 finalist cities will each get \$1 million each for their proposals - with the top city getting \$5 million. Check out the competition at: www.mayorschallenge.bloomberg.org

6. Nearly three quarters of voters oppose the Trump administration's proposal to cut education funding by more than 13 percent, according to a poll commissioned by the

American Federation of Teachers and conducted by Hart Research Associates. According to the poll, 74 percent oppose the budget proposal, with more than half of them - 54 percent - strongly opposed. The poll also found that nearly half of Trump voters (48 percent) opposed the proposal.

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

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"WE KNOW THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND POLITICS"

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

For many of us, it's not so much about what we have, but more about how we use what we do have. So many people have so much potential and do not know what they are capable of until God reveals them to us. And, the way He reveals it to us through prayers and our circumstances. You see, if we are walking in faith, everything that we need is in our reach. In Exodus 4:2 God says to Moses, "What is that in your hand?" A

staff, Moses replied. So God is saying to Moses you have what you need in your hand, just "handle it." When you begin to think that you don't have what you need, you will begin to believe it. But we have to believe in the promises of God, which is "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." In Exodus 4:1, Moses says: "What if they



don't believe me or listen to me." But God is saying to Moses and to all of us: Don't let the "what if's" keep you from your destiny. Don't let the "what if's" keep you from being all that God has called you to be. Don't let the "what if's" keep you from your blessings from God ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



Governor Kay Ivey Joined Federal and City Leader to Announce Blue Origin Facility in Cummings Research Park

The Valley Weekly was available for the announcement that Blue Origin would be locating to its 200,000 sq. ft. BE-4 Manufacturing Facility in Cummings Research Park. The announcement was made on Monday, June 26, at the US Space and Rock Center. Blue Origin announced plans to manufacture its BE-4 engine in a state-of-the-art production facility to be built in Huntsville, Alabama — the Rocket City.

The new facility will begin construction once an engine production contract with United Launch Alliance is awarded. The BE-4 is America's next rocket engine and will power United Launch Alliance's Vulcan rocket. Alabama Governor Kay Ivey indicated that she is excited to welcome Blue Origin to Alabama and commended Blue Origin's founder Jeff Bezos and company President Robert Meyerson for choosing to make Alabama its home. Gov. Ivey indicated the the company would employ about 350 employees, with average salaries of \$75k. The company will make an approximately \$200 million capital investment in the state.

The BE-4 is America's next rocket engine, and it will power United Launch Alliance's Vulcan rocket, once down-selected. The production of this engine would end the nation's dependence on Russia for access to space for critical national security space systems. Two BE-4s would be used on the Vulcan booster rocket. The BE-4 will also power Blue Origin's New Glenn reusable launch system with seven BE-4s on the reusable first stage and a vacuum-optimized BE-4U on New Glenn's second stage. Blue Origin awaits the final public approval processes of the local package by the City and County governments during their respective July meetings.

"Alabama is a great state for aerospace manufacturing and we are proud to produce America's next rocket engine right here in Rocket City," said Robert Meyerson, President of Blue Origin. "The area's skilled workforce and leading role in rocket propulsion development make Huntsville the ideal location for our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility."

"This announcement today is excellent news for our state. I am pleased to see Blue Origin investing in Alabama, and I look forward to working with them and other businesses to continue boosting economic development opportunities," commented U.S. Senator Richard Shelby.

Many economic development partners contributed to the effort to successfully recruit Blue Origin to the state. These partners include the Governor's office, the Alabama Department of Commerce, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the City of Huntsville, Madison County, and the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber.

"Blue Origin's decision to locate its BE-4 engine manufacturing center in Huntsville reflects the deep and long-standing capabilities in the city that became the cradle of the nation's rocket program," said Greg Canfield, secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce. "Huntsville is a hub of innovation in every facet of aerospace, making it the perfect home for this Blue Origin facility."

Blue Origin chose Huntsville, Alabama for this project because of the high-tech aerospace manufacturing workforce and ecosystem, including NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, nearly 300 private aerospace and defense contractors, and the University of Alabama in Huntsville, number 14th in NASA research funding in the nation.

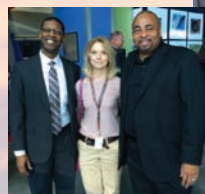
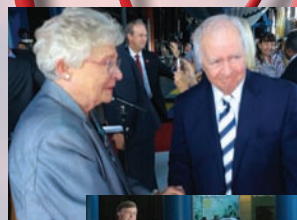
"Huntsville is proud to be the nation's propulsion center of excellence, and we couldn't ask for a better partner than Blue Origin to join our team. When you look at NASA's visionary work at the Marshall Space Flight Center, the talent and capacity of Huntsville's space industry partners, and our expertise in research and development, engineering, and manufacturing, Blue Origin is joining a truly remarkable environment," said Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

"Today's announcement ensures that our community will continue to be at the center of the world's rocket propulsion development. Jeff Bezos and Blue Origin will build on the legacy of the German rocket team and the Marshall Space Flight Center to power the growing commercial rocket business that will be a critical part of our nation's future space program," stated Madison County Commission Chairman Dale W. Strong.

In support of Blue Origin, the City of Huntsville, City of Madison, and Madison County have provided funding for their three school systems to launch an experiment on a Blue Origin rocket in Summer 2018. The school systems will determine how to select teams, and then they will work with the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber and Dream Up, an organization that supports space-based learning, to design and develop their payload.

"Blue Origin reinforces our regions' place as the Rocket City, and a center of excellence for rocket propulsion. Blue Origin's presence will have a positive impact on our State, our region and our community," said Chip Cherry, President and CEO of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber. "This is an important development for Cummings Research Park's next era of expansion and we look forward to a long and productive relationship with Blue Origin."

For more information about this announcement, Huntsville/Madison County's propulsion expertise, and local job opportunities, please visit www.hsvchamber.org/rocketcity and follow #rocketcity on social media.



Dorothy

State's Poverty Line Edges Toward Million

P O V E R T Y

Alabama Possible released its 2017 Alabama Poverty Data Sheet, which highlights statewide poverty rates and data related to educational attainment, employment, and food security. Nearly 900,000 Alabamians live below the poverty line, which is just \$24,257.

Although Alabama's overall poverty rate slightly declined, and the median household income is up, there is still much work to do.

The rest of America recovered from the recession at an even faster pace, and the gaps between Alabama and the nation's poverty rate and median household income are bigger than ever.

Because poverty is so common in Alabama, it can be hard to see. These families are relatives, friends, co-workers, and our neighbors. But they face numerous barriers that result from not having enough money, food, shelter, health care, educa-

tion, or other necessities of life.

Here's what the latest data shows:

- Alabama is the sixth poorest state in the U.S., and 18.5 percent of Alabamians live below the federal poverty line - a noticeably larger percentage than the national average of 14.7 percent.
- 14 of Alabama's 67 counties have a poverty rate higher than 25 percent. Nine counties have a poverty rate higher than 30 percent.
- 26.5 percent - or nearly 300,000 - of Alabama's children live in poverty.
- Alabama's median household income is \$44,833, which is nearly \$11,000 less than the national median of \$55,775.
- African American households in Alabama earn far less than white households. According to the data, white Alabamians earn \$50,402, whereas African Americans



earn \$29,180.

• The risk of hunger is closely tied to poverty. Alabama has a notably high food insecurity rate at 17.7 percent, while the U.S. stands at 13.4 percent.

• The child food insecurity rate stands 24.1 percent, which is higher than the national average of 17.9 percent.

Please use the data sheet to guide your policymaking efforts by convening stakeholders, focusing attention on the need, cultivating high aspirations, and supporting work that effectively removes barriers to prosperity in Alabama.

Download the data sheet and join the conversation by sharing your stories and reactions in social media posts by tagging us at @alabamapossible or using the hashtag #beyondpoverty.

ValleyScopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

LEO

As the moon conjuncts Jupiter, there's a sense of vitality that you're expressing through your gratuitous mood.



knowledge, as you handle something that you consider to be a "moral obligation".

SCORPIO

The sun's square of the moon is apt to find you over-doing something that you find captivating in an effort to get it right.

SAGITTARIUS

Pluto's conjunction is managing to bring a subconscious inclination that you have to the surface.

PISCES

Jupiter's square of Pluto means that the feelings of urgency that you are experiencing will deter a general sense of complacency that you've had.

CANCER

Mercury's square of Uranus finds you in a welcoming frame of mind when it comes to a relationship, as you emerge from a relatively unchallenged mindset and you courageously celebrate a sense of cerebrally enhanced originality.

AQUARIUS

The study of heavenly cycles indicates that Mars' trine of Neptune is bringing together your confident drive and an ideal situation for you to relish--which might even feel somewhat like a reward, whether you choose to avoid extremely creative pursuits at this time or not.

GEMINI

Venus' trine with Pluto finds you in an accepting frame of mind when it comes to someone who has obsessive behavior or perhaps has a tendency to take you for granted--as you, instead, focus on love and/or monetary concerns.

LIBRA

Mercury's square of Jupiter, is likely to cater to your active seeking of insight, through

ARIES

The Uranus trine of Pholus, which is between Saturn and Uranus is opening a door of discovery for you, after a time where you may have felt rebellious, without a major cause.

TAURUS

Mars' square of Jupiter finds you in a circumstance, where good fortune is paired with your confident streak--as you face any perceived uncertainties or issues of divided loyalty.

VIRGO

If you're feeling pressure, it's definitely there. Mercury, in opposition to Pluto, has set the stage where someone feels that cajoling and inveigling you will help him or her to get something accomplished.

CAPRICORN

Mercury's trine with Neptune is bringing together elements of comfort and an ideal scenario for you to enjoy it all in which should help you, if you're putting forth the effort, to release/become devoid of any recently held inner discontent.

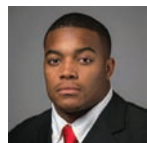
Celebrated Athlete Honored at Country Club

by Reggie D. Allen

The Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame will honor Robert "Trey"

Flowers III at Huntsville Country Club, June 30, at 4:30 p.m.

Flowers, a defensive lineman for the New England Patri-



ots, played a key role in their victory against the Atlanta Falcons last February. A sack to Matt Ryan aided in the team's 25-point-comeback and overall win.

The public ceremony, which will pay tribute to the Huntsville native's

recent athletic accomplishments, marks Flowers' second post-championship celebration in the Rocket City. Last March, the 23-year-old's jersey was retired at his alma mater, Columbia High School. While a student, Flowers excelled in academics and sports. Letter-

ing in basketball and football, he was a two-time All-State player.

Originally committing to Georgia Tech, Flowers would later renege his decision, picking the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to secure spot on a team in the SEC. A pow-

erhouse in college, the then junior almost registered for the 2014 NFL draft, but later decided to finish his senior year and apply the next time around. In 2015, Flowers was drafted by the Patriots in the fourth-round. However, an unforeseen shoulder injury

left the six-foot-four lineman on the bench after one game. Despite an ill-fated rookie season, Flowers dominated in overalls sacks the following year, ultimately leading to his championship win.

For additional information, call (256) 859-3000.

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Valley Calendar of Events

June 30-July 2

Comedy Featuring
Bruce Bruce

Stand Up Live Comedy Club
Huntsville, Ala.

July 8

State of the District
Masquerade Ball

Sponsor:

Councilman Devyn Keith
The Depot Roundhouse
7:30 p.m.

July 9

Huntsville Community
DrumLine
"iDrum"

1800 Jordan Lane, NW
3-4:30 p.m.

July 12

Dancing with the Stars - Live!
Von Braun Center
7:30 p.m.

July 13

Dick Gregory

Stand Up Live - Huntsville
7 p.m.

July 13-15

Space Camp SummerFest

July 14

NSBE Professionals Golf
Tournament

The Links at Redstone Ar-
senal
7 a.m.

July 21-30

W.C. Handy Music Festival
Florence, Ala.

Thru August 13

Dinosaur Uproar Alive
Huntsville Botanical Garden
Presented by: Toyota Ala-
bama

October 10-15

Motown - The Musical
VBC Concert Hall
Huntsville, Ala.

Mississippi's Flagship HBCU Moves to Ease Hemorrhaging

Jackson State University (Miss.) will borrow about \$6 million to boost its cash flow and trim its budget by 8 percent to offset a certain downward financial spiral.

The Magnolia State's largest historically black university recently sought to apply pressure to itself to stop the fiscal bleeding in light of decreased state appropriation.

According to press accounts, funding to Mississippi state universities will plummet more than \$100 million to start the budget cycle with \$667 million, down from \$773 million.

JSU's board also cut nine departments through mergers and downgraded the School of Journalism and Media Studies to a



department. The cutbacks go hand in hand with the lay offs of more than 40 laying off 42 non-faculty employees, temporarily suspending the golf teams, and dismantling a branch campus in suburban in Madison.

State sources says spending in Jackson State's main budgets will fall by \$12 million to \$143 million next year. That's supposed to produce a surplus add-

ing \$3 million to reserves.

"We've stopped the bleeding," Turner said.

College Board officials said there could be more budget changes in August after an accounting firm ensures revenue and spending projections are accurate.

Former president Carolyn Meyers resigned last year, days after trustees intervened in Jackson State's finances, citing dwindling

cash reserves, according to local reports.

Former Mississippi Valley State University President William Bynum was selected by JSU trustees last month as the new president, although doing so placed them at odds with some inner constituents comprised of student, faculty, staff and alumni. Bynum is scheduled to take over on July 1.



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Reflecting Way, Way Back on July 4th

1776 - Declaration of Independence adopted.

1802 - U.S. Military Academy (West Point) opens.

1817 - Construction starts on the Erie Canal.

1827 - Slavery abolished in New York.

1881 - Booker T. Washington opens Tuskegee.

1886 - France offers Statue of Liberty to the United States.

1900 - Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong was born in New Orleans..

1910 - Boxer Jack Johnson denies Jim Jeffries a chance to win back boxing title for "the white race," sparking race riots.

1938 - Soul singer and song writer Bill Withers born in Slab Fork, W. Va.

1941 - Sergio Oliva, Cuban-American body builder, was born in Guan-tanamo, Cuba.

1966 - Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Freedom of Information Act into U.S. law.

1991 - National Civil Rights Museum is dedicated in Memphis, Tenn.

1994 - Rwandan genocide ends following capture of the capital city of Kigali.

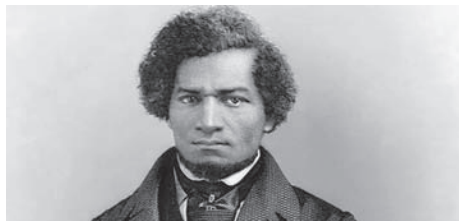
2002 - Four-Star General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., leader of the Tuskegee Air-men, died in Washington, D.C., at 89.

Excerpt from Frederick Douglass'

"The Meaning of The Fourth of July for the Negro"

(Delivered July 5, 1852 in Rochester, N.Y.)

"What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sound of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants brass fronted impudence; your shout of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanks-givings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy – a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour."



RECOVERING. Is Tim Allston egocentric? The Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) considers the question, responding with a "Yes, but ..." The global Christian TV network will be rebroadcast at 3 p.m. (CDT) Saturday, July 1. Check local cable services for channel listing.



2017 Leaders & Legends Dinner

featuring Emmitt Smith



brought to you by

HILEY
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Thursday, July 20th, 2017
Von Braun Center - North Hall
VIP Reception 5PM - Program 6PM

For more information, please call our office at 256-534-6060 or visit our Facebook event page [here](#).

City Council Meetings



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.

A Good Read

by Jerome Saintjones

John Updike's "My Father on the Verge of Disgrace"

A young man watches his family situation change when the Depression leaves his father as the sole bread winner

of the extended family in a small town in Pennsylvania. His father is a chemistry teacher in the local high school, who struggles to make ends meet for wife, son and in-laws. Sometimes he "borrows" from the school's ticket

money from athletic events, though always paying it back.

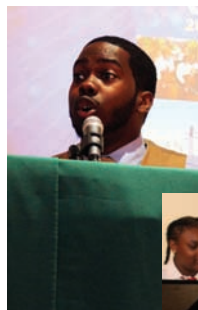
Somehow, the father keeps a quirky, upbeat attitude toward life, and he uses his ability to relate to people as a means to further provide for his family. Things finally get better for the family, and the father never falls into disgrace.



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Holding True to the Family Motto

Kerry Battle and wife Karen are particularly proud of their three youngest children who are doing exceedingly well in life as they live their family motto, "Keep God First." All of the kids are praise dancers at Ahav Love Ministries, pastored by their father, Minister Kerry Battle.

Ruth is a 2017 graduate of Bob Jones High School and will be attending UAH in the fall with a scholarship in track and field.



Ruth received the track and field gold medal this year. She has been in track for six years,

and holds school records in the 400m with a 58.14. Ruth broke the 4x4 and 4x1 records, as well.

Isaiah will be a senior this year at Bob Jones High School. Isaiah has the acting bug and is in the advanced production



program at Bob Jones. He has been acting for five years and has received

four state competition awards. He recently portrayed Tom Robinson in "To Kill a Mockingbird," and played in "Thoroughly Modern Millie" as George Gershwin. Isaiah speaks Hebrew and French.

Malachi Battle is the

youngest sibling and will return to Bob Jones as a junior next year. He has received 2017-18 awards from the National Honor Society, Student Government Association, Ambassadorship & Drum Major Assistant. Malachi is a proficient musician who plays the alto saxophone and has been in band since the 6th grade. He aspires to be an aerospace engineer and wants to go to the Georgia Institute of Technology.



by Phyllis Chunn

Church Street CPCA Planning 143rd

The spiritual leaders and members of historic Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, located at 228 Church Street NW in Downtown Huntsville, will observe the church's 143rd anniversary on Sunday, July 30.

The church is led by Pastor/Teacher Dr. Mitchell M. Walker, Sr. Pastor Walker is a native of Dyersburg, Tenn. He joined

the Church Street family in 2000, following 23 years as pastor of St. James CPCA in Cleveland, Tenn.

Church Street was established in 1874 as the first black Cumberland Presbyterian church in the nation and one of the first established black churches in Huntsville, Ala. In spite of many obstacles, the church grew rapidly because it provided for a religious and social stabilizing strength

in the community. The early church was characterized by its spirit of caring, sharing, and outreach to its members and the larger community.

Because of its size and influence, it was commonly referred to as the "Mother Church" in the General Assembly. The church's name evolved from "First Colored Cumberland Presbyterian."

HCDL Presents iDrum: Summer Rhythms & Beats

The Huntsville Community Drumline will present "iDrum: Summer Rhythms & Beats" July 9 at 3 p.m. at the Huntsville Drumline Percussion &

Performing Arts Center, 1800 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, Ala.

The mini-masters and stickmasters annual benefit/fundraiser offers free

admission with a non-perishable food item.

For additional information, visit www.huntsville-communitydrumline.com or call (256) 430-5566.



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