

The Valley Weekly

"If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive."

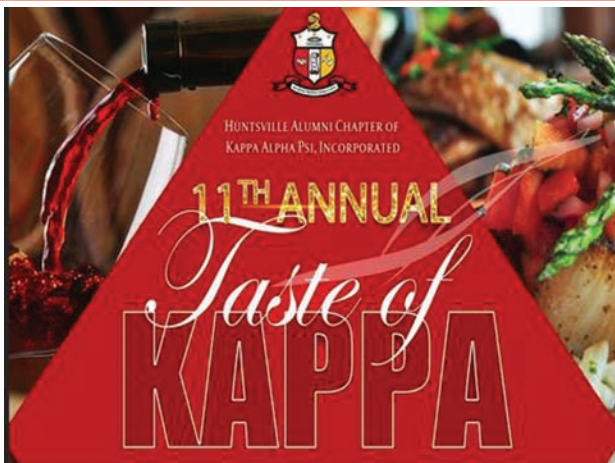
- Audre Lorde

FREE

Volume 5 No. 43

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, July 5, 2019



11th Annual Taste of Kappa at HMA

The Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., will host the 11th Annual Taste of Kappa event on Friday, August 9.

The event will be held at the Huntsville Museum of Art from 7-11 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person.

Proceeds will benefit the Fraternity's Guide Right Program.

For additional information, contact Roderick Mack at (256) 527-5951; Eddie Williams at (256) 508-2180; Michael Miller at (256) 656-7719; or (256) 797-6965.

Phoenix's Flag Contract Ends, Layoffs Expected

Due to a recent federal court ruling, Phoenix's interment flag contract will end on July 31st. The court upheld the U.S. Veteran Administration's Rule of Two, meaning that veteran-owned companies will be given priority over AbilityOne non-profits as bids are awarded.

"Phoenix has been producing interment flags for Veterans Administration since 1994," said David Perez, Phoenix's President and CEO. "This is a very disappointing end to a long, productive relationship."

The AbilityOne Program has its beginnings in a 1938 law that allows non-profits to be awarded certain federal contracts as long as they meet quality and pricing requirements, and 75 percent of the employees are people with disabilities. Through its AbilityOne contracts, Phoenix employs 791 people, 75 of which are veterans.

Nearly two dozen people work on Phoenix's contract with the VA to manufacture interment flags, 95 percent of whom have a significant disability. Phoenix has produced more than 2.1 million flags since beginning the contract.



NSBE STEM Golf Tournament Set

The North Alabama chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Professionals will host the 5th Annual NSBE STEM Golf Tournament on Friday, July 26, at 8 a.m. at The Links at Redstone (4140 Goss Road SW).

Proceeds from this event will go to support local students within the Huntsville/Madison area to receive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) scholarships through the NSBE Scholarship Programs.

The schedule follows:
7 a.m. Hole Assignment/Check-in

7:45 a.m. Opening Remarks, Rules and Announcements

8 a.m. Shotgun Start
An awards ceremony will follow.

Team MULLIGANS purchased day of tournament (3 mulligans and 1 Power Drive)

Register at EventBrite.com or contact Anthony C. Lancaster at (256) 682-2909 or e-mail anthonyclancaster@gmail.com.

For more information our chapter, visit <http://www.nsbe-northalabamae.com>

United Way Announces 27 Partners for 2019-2022

The United Way of Madison County leadership and staff on Tuesday, July 2, joined to announce partnerships representing more than one million dollars in grant funding with 27 selected non-profit agencies.

Additionally, United Way leadership and board announced publicly community-established goals, consensus items from the

United Way Community Wide Needs Assessment, and plans for the upcoming campaign.

"We understand that, as a community, we can do more together than any one of us can do alone," said Clay Vandiver, United Way CEO and president. "That is why United Way stands as a vital connector, convening donors and volunteers, identifying

community needs, and investing dollars in solutions to those needs."

Since 1943 United Way Madison County has proudly partnered with the community to identify health and human service needs while bringing donors and volunteers together to im-

plement effective strategies and solutions. Throughout its 76-year history United Way Madison County has raised more than 200 million dollars in support of community needs. Nancy Vaughan (above) serves as president of United Way Madison County.



The Valley Weekly

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CELEBRATION AND CONFLICT

The Fourth

Even nearly 250 years ago, the fact that America could dare celebrate its “independence” from England while holding thousands in slavery must have been seen as *the most blinding hypocrisy* in the eyes of those who suffered from and were vehemently opposed to slavery in the latter 18th century. For some African-Americans, the conflict implicit in Independence Day amid a sea of cries for reparations—no matter how much delayed—remain difficult to stomach.

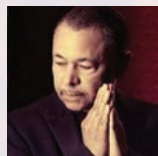
Perhaps one brief distraction from the dilemma can be gleaned from simply pausing one minute to celebrate a few African-Americans who were actually born on July 4, and who likely feel the pain on their supposed day of celebration.

Harvey and Horace Grant (twins) are retired American National Basketball Association basketball players. Horace played with the Chicago Bulls and Lakers,

while Harvey played with the Washington Bullets, Portland Trail Blazers and the Philadelphia 76ers.

Alex Hibbert is perhaps most widely known for his portrayal of the young boy in the hit movie “Moonlight.” He also played in “Black Panther” and “The Chi.”

Ralph Johnson is an American singer, songwriter, musician, drummer and producer. Johnson is a longstanding member of the band Earth, Wind & Fire. Johnson



also went on to perform as a percussionist on Blue Magic’s 1978 album “Message from The Magic” and Stanley Turrentine’s 1981 album “Tender Togetherness.” As well, he worked as a producer on The Temptations 1984 album “Truly For You” and Howard Hewett’s 2008 album “Howard Hewett Christmas.”

Terrance Knighton is a former American football defensive tackle. He was drafted by the Jacksonville Jaguars in the third round of the 2009 NFL Draft after playing college football at Temple. Knighton is nicknamed “Pot Roast” and “Mutton Chop” by his teammates.

Derek Kevin Loville (NFL player) is a former American football running back who played nine years in the NFL for the Seattle Seahawks, San Francisco 49ers and Denver Broncos from 1990 to 1999.

Childish Major (Music Producer) In the ever-evolving world of hip-hop, securing a name for oneself as a rapper or producer can be tough.



Malia Obama is the oldest daughter of former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama. Malia was afforded numerous opportunities to see and experience the world, including a lengthy trip to Bolivia and Peru, as well as Spain and Liberia. In 2017, she began attending Harvard University.

Safaree Lloyd Samuels is a Jamaican-American rapper, songwriter and television personality. Samuels started his musical career in the group the Hoodstars. After the group split, Samuels became known as a solo artist, and has released four mixtapes.

Fredo Santana - Derrick D. Coleman, perhaps better known by his stage name Fredo Santana, was an American rapper. The older cousin of Chief

Keef, Santana began recording music in 2011, releasing a series of mixtapes throughout 2012 and 2013.

William Raymond Smith III was an American football defensive end in the National Football League. He played college football for Ohio State and was drafted by the New Orleans Saints in the first round of the 2004 NFL draft, where he played for the entirety of his career.



Bill Withers (above) is an American singer-songwriter and musician who performed and recorded from 1970 until 1985. Withers recorded several major hits, such as “Lean on Me”, “Ain’t No Sunshine”, “Use Me”, “Just the Two of Us”, “Lovely Day”, and “Grandma’s Hands”. Withers won three Grammy Awards and was nominated for four more. His life was the subject of the 2009 documentary film “Still Bill.” He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2015.

- Compiled by J. Saintjones



The Valley Weekly

Publisher
The Valley Weekly, LLC

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

- Contributing Editors -
Reginald D. Allen
tim allston
Lamar A. Braxton, Jr.
Minister Preston Brown
Ron Hamm
Pastor Michael D. Rice

Website Administrator
Calvin Farier

Mailing Address:
The Valley Weekly
415A Church Street - Suite 100
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 651-9028
www.valleyweeklyllc.com

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The Valley Weekly
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Washington in One Minute



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

1. The House and Senate are out of session for the 1-week July 4th Recess. To date, the House has finished 10 of the pending 12 FY 2020 appropriations bills (with Leg Branch and Homeland Security unfinished). Senate Appropriations Chair Richard Shelby (R-AL) may start considering appropriations bills in his committee as early as next week. He has said that if there is no agreement on an overall FY2020 budget ceiling, his committee will “consider assuming some numbers to keep the process moving; hoping that there’s a breakthrough later,” according to a report in Congressional Quarterly.

2. On Monday, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos repealed the “gainful employment” regulation, dismantling one of the signature policies of the Obama administration’s efforts to crack down on for-profit colleges. The Education Department will publish in today’s Federal Register its final regulation that completely scraps

the policy, which targeted low-performing programs at for-profit schools and other career colleges. The repeal of the rule will officially take place July 1, 2020. However, the Trump administration also announced that it was exercising its authority to permit “early implementation” of the repeal, effectively freeing schools of the regulation immediately. Democrats contend that it’s an important safeguard for students and taxpayers. The for-profit industry and congressional Republicans loathed the rule, arguing that it unfairly held for-profit colleges to standards that nonprofit and public institutions didn’t have to meet. The Trump administration estimated that repealing the regulation would cost the government \$6.2 billion over the next decade primarily driven by an expected uptick in Pell Grants and federal student loans flowing to programs that would have been ineligible if the rule stayed in effect.

3. After a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday during the G20 Summit in Japan, President Trump an-

nounced that the 2 countries would restart trade talks and the U.S. would not impose new 25% tariffs on \$300 billion in Chinese imports (he also agreed to allow U.S. companies to sell limited equipment to Chinese tech giant Huawei). On Thursday, the President will make a speech at the Lincoln Memorial in honor of Independence Day and then spend the weekend at his resort in Bedminster, N.J.

4. Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan announced last week that Mark Morgan, previously the Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), would be the new Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) after the sudden resignation of Acting Commissioner John Sanders on June 25. Morgan led CBP’s Border Patrol during the Obama Administration. Replacing Morgan at ICE is Matthew Albence, who is currently ICE Deputy Director for Deportation Operations.

5. Last Thursday, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Fred-

die Mac) announced that mortgage rates hit their lowest levels since November 2016, with the 30-year fixed-rate average falling to 3.73% percent from 3.84% a week ago and 4.55% a year ago.

6. On Sunday, a new poll by Politico/Morning Consult of 2,407 Democratic primary voters on Thursday and Friday, June 27 – 28 (immediately after the 2-day Democratic debate) found that California Senator Kamala Harris received a 6-point bump in favorability, moving her to a tie for 3rd place with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). Former Vice President Joe Biden lost 5 points from last week’s poll but was still in the lead at 33%. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) held steady in second at 19%,

but the poll found he was the only major candidate to see a measurable drop in his favorability, which fell 7 points to 67%. Here are the top candidates per the poll results:

- o Joe Biden: 33% (-5)
- o Bernie Sanders: 19% (0)
- o Kamala Harris: 12% (+6)
- o Elizabeth Warren: 12% (-1)
- o Pete Buttigieg: 6% (-1)
- o Cory Booker: 3% (0)
- o Beto O’Rourke: 2% (-2)
- o Andrew Yang: 2% (0)

Happy Fourth of July!

Hamm Consulting Group
400 North Capitol Street,
NW Suite 585
Washington D.C. 20001
T: 202-596-8384
rhamm@hammconsulting.com
www.hammconsulting.com

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. People can sign up for notices of Council meetings and special sessions online at <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1825550/1780821/>. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

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Lucky's Supermarket

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N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

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Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Robert Mueller ... vs. Trump's "fig leaves"?

Read Genesis 3:7,11

June's final week's top news story was not the presidential debates, but the president's debasing Robert Mueller's July 17th congressional testimony - three weeks before the former special counsel utters a single word!

After his and his surrogates' "no-collusion/obstruction of justice" declarations, the self-exonerated Trump still felt compelled to bash both prosecutor and process.

"In the beginning, . . ."

On May 17, 2017, when first informed of Mueller's appointment, Trump profaned perhaps prophetically, "This is the end of my presidency. I'm f**ked."

Furthermore, he gags current and former staffers; stone-walls releasing financial records; devalues contrary facts and expertise; and belittles insider-whistleblowers.

Q: What's Trump trying desperately to hide?

Like Original Father, like Son?

Trump's mimicking the exposed (and evicted) Adam in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:7,11), . . .
. . . but "45's" not alone with "fig leaves."

Stripping away our F.I.G. L.E.A.V.E.S.

Just like Adam and Eve's response once self-exposed, each of us, when feeling the need to hide some vulnerability(s), dons aprons of figleaves - self-tailored, but not God-fashioned. I've acronymed FIG LEAVES as:

Forgotten or
Ignored
God-voids, in our
Lives, that we cannot
Escape or even
Avoid, because we're
Vulnerable to them, until and unless
Emmanuel (translated, "God with us")
Saves us!



New Wardrobe

What are your figleaves? What are you trying to hide behind - more academic degrees? Bigger adult toys? Flirtatiousness, more revealing clothes to mask our insecurities?

In his 1987 devotional book, His Healing Love, Dick Winn opined, "I believe that virtually everything we do that is either illegal, immoral, unkind, unethical, insensitive, or otherwise sinful, we do in a frantic and futile attempt to bolster our self-worth, protect our self-image, or defend our self-esteem. In varying degrees, we are all lonely, frightened people, trying to cling to our little scraps of self-worth."

God's all-embracing, never-out-of-style love is more than all the covering you and I will ever need.

Make an appointment for alterations. Today.

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.

DLC Accepting Applications for 12th Cohort



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. Questions should be emailed to Mrs. Georgia Valrie at gvalrie1971@gmail.com or call (256) 656-4698.



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Millennial Thought

by Josh Alex Baker

"Grey Matter"

Let's

hypothetically say I form unhealthy attachments to fictional characters and *Grey's Anatomy* is the latest show to exploit this fact. (Oh, Shonda. Oh, Shonda.) Besides the hearts dropped, tears jerked, and occasional sleepless nights anticipating the next episode, the series leaves its viewers with a world of life implications. In addition to confirming with unequivocal certainty that becoming a medical doctor was *not* in the stars

for me, it provides me with an even greater truth. Adaptability is one of our greatest superpowers.

Truthfully, we exist in the grey more than we ever exist in the black or white. Daily, our knowledge is expanded and our ideas of absolute truth challenged.

Sometimes you'll follow the blueprint only to watch the events delve into a completely new deviation. The only certainty you can bank on is change. So, how are you preparing? How dedicated are you to critical thought? If you're performing

surgery on a patient and find an unforeseen curveball has been thrown your way, what do you do next? The life of this patient has been entrusted to you. *You* are a patient who has been entrusted to you. Embrace the life you live with an open-mind and a hunger to know more. Don't submit to routines simply because they're comfortable. Simply because they maintain the status quo. Be willing to wade into the grey.

Because, ready or not, here it comes.

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

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

WHAT IS LOVE?

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."

Remember, there was a song that was titled "What's Love Got to Do with It"? And, in this song we find the words, "What's love but a second-hand emotion?" The song goes on to say, "Who needs a heart when a heart can be



broken?" But when we look at 1 Corinthians 13, the apostle Paul has a different perspective about love.

In this scripture you can't help but notice how simple it is to understand this description of love. We all know what is being asked of us but the prob-

lem that most of us have is the willingness to do what it says. For example, when you love someone your intentions should

never be meant to harm them. So there is no need to worry about a "broken heart."

Love creates an atmo-

sphere of trust. It has been said that love prefers to be overly generous rather than overly suspicious. Some people are very suspicious because they never learn how to trust the other person. What a miserable place to be.

When we don't trust our partner, we allow the enemy to get a "foot hole" in our lives, and that will take away our joy and our peace.

We should always seek to build each other up and not bring them down with our words or our actions.

Love is not a "second-hand emotion," because love does not dishonor others ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

July 4
Independence Day

July 5-6
Huntsville Loud Festival
Sidetracks Music Hall
\$5/night

July 11
"The Growth of African-American Music: Black Gospel Music in Madison County - From Redstone Arsenal to Plummer Road" (An Alabama Bicentennial Event)
Contact: Howard Bankhead, (256) 604-8172
Center Grove UM Church
185 Plummer Road
Huntsville, Ala.
6 p.m.

July 13
Rocket City Burger Battle
Campus 805
Stone Event Center
Huntsville, Ala.
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Beaullion Information Session
Sponsor: Fun-Set Social and Charity Club
Huntsville Public Library
Huntsville, Ala.
3-5 p.m.

July 27
CAFY 2019
"The Four Pillars of Success"
Sponsor: City of Huntsville Office of Multicultural Affairs
Calhoun Community Col-

lege
Huntsville Campus
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

August 9
11th Taste of Kappa
The Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Huntsville Museum of Art
Contact: Roderick Mack at (256) 527-5951; Eddie Williams at (256) 508-2180; Michael Miller at (256) 656-7719; or (256) 797-6965 - \$40
7-11 p.m.

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Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. LAWRENCE O. ONVEAHIALAM (b. 1958) was held Tuesday, July 2, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIE LEE BURTON, JR., (b. 1966) was held Saturday, June 29, at Union Hill CP Church in America with The Reverend Dr. Edward L. Anderson, Pastor and Officiant and Pastor Clifford Malone Hollins, Eulogist.

Funeral service for MS. LAVERNE DENISE CAMPBELL (b. 1966) was held Saturday, June 29, at Owens Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. H. Wendell Thompson, Sr., Pastor and Officiant.

Funeral service for MR. BENNIE FLETCHER (b. 1956) was held Saturday, June 29, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with The Reverend Corey Thomas officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. ORA B. FRANK was held Saturday, June 29, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MRS. JUANITA WILSON was held Saturday, June 29, at the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church - Crawford, MS. with The Reverend Marvin Rice officiating.

Visitation for MR. DREVION VALDEZ WATKINS (b. 1996) was held Friday, June 28, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. EARL DRAKE, JR., (b. 1968) was held Sunday, June 30, at Saint James Primitive Baptist Church (1093 Fairbanks Street NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Billy Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MR. ERIC McCRARY (b. 1977) was held Saturday, June 29, at Saint Mark Baptist Church (6475 Moores Mill Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Jeremiah Chester officiating and Pastor James Battle eulogist.

Funeral service for MRS. ELLA MAE GOODLOE (b. 1926) was held Saturday, June 29, at the Round Island Creek Mission Center (13829 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens, Ala.) with Pastor Harold Goodloe officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAMES TAYLOR, JR., (b. 1938) was held Friday, June 28, at the Saint Joseph Catholic Parrish (2300 Beasley Avenue, Huntsville, Ala.) with Father Joseph Lubrano officiating.

- Serenity Funeral Home -

Service arrangements/commemorative dinner will be held for MRS. JACQUELINE HOLLIS TATE (b. 1963) on Saturday, July 6, at Calvary Hill Friendship Center, 2900 Fairbanks St. NW, Huntsville, Ala. 35816.

Service arrangements for MR. DEWAYNE MOORE (b. 1963) are currently incomplete and will be announced at a later date.

Huntsville Happenings



by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Utilities Boards Bid Farewell to Dr. Wall

Following 24-years of as a member of HU's Natural Gas & Waterworks Boards, Dr. James "Jimmy" S. Wall, Jr., is rounding out his family's 95-year affiliation with the City of Huntsville as his board appointment ended on July 1, 2019.

Appointed to the HU's Natural Gas and Waterworks Boards in July 1995, following the death of Harry M. Rhett,

Dr. Wall previously served as a member of the Huntsville City Council from 1970 until 1994. A native Huntsvillian, Dr. Wall's familiarity with Huntsville began while his father, James S. Wall, Sr., served as Superintendent of the Huntsville Waterworks from 1924 until 1964 and later as a member of HU's Natural Gas & Waterworks Boards from 1964 until his November

6, 1990 demise.

During Dr. Wall's extensive board service, Huntsville's Natural Gas & Waterworks systems grew at exponential pace. From 1995 to present, the Gas Department has added 21,500 customers for a total of 55,700 and the Water Department added 33,500 for a total of 98,200 customers served. Having served in the capacities of Chair, Vice-Chair and or Secretary during his many years of service, Dr. Wall's leadership contributed to many economic development projects that help to sustain the vitality of Huntsville.

As a capstone nod to his service, in 2017, the Waterworks Department opened the Southeast Water Treatment Plant in Grant, Alabama and co-named it in honor of for



Huntsville Utilities former President & CEO Anthony "Tony" F. Owens, former Waterworks Board member Mr. Stanley "Shot" Statum, and the statesman of the boards Dr. James "Jimmy" S. Wall, Jr.

In recognition for his stellar public service to the greater Huntsville/Madison County community Dr. James "Jimmy" S. Wall, Jr., has been appointed by the Huntsville City Council, Resolution 19-414, as Harry M. Rhett, Jr., Board Member Emeritus for the Huntsville Utilities' Natural Gas and Waterworks Boards.

Mr. Gripp Luther, local commercial real estate professional, has been appointed by the Huntsville City Council to replace Dr. Wall on the Natural Gas & Waterworks Boards beginning July 1, 2019.

Called 2 Preach

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

Living in the Misery of Memory

Luke 22:61-62

Memory is a priceless commodity. I speak as one who witnessed my parents being reduced by that progressive disability of dementia. In a very personal way, this observance was quite challenging as I watched two individuals who had served most of their lives and multiple generations of people with knowledge and skills that flowed from gifted minds such as theirs. I thank God for being one of those many who benefitted from those gifted minds. Thank God also that the deterioration of their memory did not corrode their personhood in any way.

Memories are marvelous when they are filled with the kind of thoughts that I entertain when I think of the contributions of my parents as they served with distinction. However, memory can also be miser-

able when they flash upon the canvas of our minds in movie-like sequence with frame after frame of failures that one may feel can never be overcome. Such was the case of Peter as he remembered Jesus' prediction of his thrice denial of having any knowledge of his Friend and Savior. When Jesus emerged from

having been beaten all night and looked at Peter, he went away and wept

bitterly, living in misery until he was set free on the shore of Tiberias as Jesus reinstated him into the ministry that he had been called to. Only the love-lift of Jesus can free us

from living in the misery of memory that is fraught with failure.



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Huntsville Edges into Top 30 Affordable Places for Retirees

GoBankingRates.com listed its "Top 30 Best Cities to Retire on \$1,000 a Month or Less," if mortgage is already paid off.

Although the state of Texas claimed seven of the Top 10 spots, Alabama made its presence known, too.

Coming in at No. 29, just barely making the list, was Huntsville, Ala., the Rocket City. Retirees could live tightly in Huntsville by pinching \$999.56 a month.

Other Alabama cities include Birmingham at No. 24 (\$786.77); the port city of Mobile at No.

17 (\$940.13); and Montgomery, Ala., at No. 8 (\$878.92).

According to the site, El Paso, Tex., is the most affordable city (\$893.25) for retirees. The study also considered expenses for groceries, health care and utilities.

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring Mrs. Elaine S. Plank

Elaine S. Plank is a healthcare innovative entrepreneur, founder, owner, president and CEO of SafeHealth, Inc., a provider of occupational health and safety services, and integrative holistic healthcare.

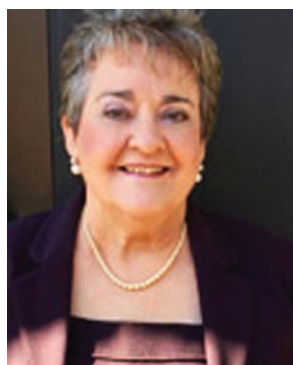
The Missouri native started SafeHealth, Inc., an S-Corporation, in December 1993. SafeHealth Health and Safety Services hold onsite and offsite schedules of professional nurses, physicians and other health and safety personnel for small and large domestic businesses, universities and at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park.

The U.S. Small Business Administration awarded Plank the U. S. Small Business Administration's "Alabama Women in Business Champion Award" in 2005.

She has a private practice of Body-Mind-Emotion-Spirit Healthcare, Holistic Nursing as a Certified Interactive Imagery Guide and was the very first professional in Alabama to achieve such certification. She was a District Delegate to the Alabama State Nurses' Conventions, 2017 and 2018, and remains affiliated with the American Nurses' Association and Alabama State Nurses' Association.

Plank is a founding chair of the Women's Business Center of North Alabama (WBCNA), an autonomous "Women's Center" for the Women's Business Council.

In 2003, she became the first president of WBCNA. Moreover, she is a founding member of the Christian Cancer Support Group; has



worked with Bosom Buddies, a breast cancer support group; as well as a Reach-to-Recovery Volunteer and Breast Cancer Survivors' Counselor for the American Cancer Society.

The mother of three and grandmother of five was married to the late Duane Plank for 56 years.

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AHF Grant Funds TVJS Oneness Project

The Alabama Humanities Foundation has approved a \$5,000 grant to the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society Oneness Committee for the "Evolution of African American Gospel Music in Alabama" project.

The project is part of The Evolution of Black Music in Alabama Educational & Concert Series, including Spirituals, Gospel, Blues and Jazz and their impact on the entire world arts and cultures.

The Evolution of Black Music in Alabama Educational & Concert Series is being presented in four phases. Phase I was The Evolution of Black Spirituals Music in Alabama, presented in 2017 and 2018; Phase II is The Evolution of Black Gospel Music in Alabama to

be presented in 2019; Phase III will be The Evolution of Blues Music in Alabama, and Phase IV will focus on The Evolution of Jazz Music in Alabama, to be presented in the year 2020.

The Oneness Committee, next project is scheduled for July 11, at Center Grove United Methodist Church, 185 Plummer Road, Huntsville, Ala., at 6 p.m.

The theme is "Black Gospel Music in Madison County," from Redstone Arsenal to Plummer Road through song and spoken word, honoring the ancestors who lived on the land that is now Redstone Arsenal.

The Evolution of African-American Music in Alabama also recognizes Alabama's Bicentennial.

A Moment to Salute: Exhibit A ...

This opening scene played out on an unseasonably cool Thursday summer night, in Harvest, Ala., a group of creators met inside of a former music studio, currently a music school, to share in the listening experience from a local native, and the celebration of a person finally offering their voice, a long overdue statement. Huntsville's Norman 'Kwofi' Carrington recently released his first full body of work, entitled 'Crown,' a seven-song EP produced in its entirety by Kelvin Wooten, an active music veteran, also a native of Huntsville.

The private listening session, delivered between the hours of 8-10 p.m., was attended by some of the doers who operate within Huntsville's tight knit Hip Hop Soul music community. Recording artist, Deqn Sue, made her way from LA to show her support for Kwofi's

debut experience. The setting had the aesthetic of a house party function, a room filled with musical kinfolks, those who truly cared to hear the record, alongside the persons who created it, providing them with attentive ears, and authentic feedback.

The conversation, mainly led by Kwofi, was a gumbo of personal thoughts, intertwined with current event viewpoints, heavy reflection, an array of inner retrospect, bouncing off the external mirrors of the completion of the EP, paced by the beats per minute, on each of the digitally synchronized seven songs.

Black excellence is a term with a high usage rate, at first glance I thought that's what we were experiencing, but as the night continued I realized this was a bit different. It was black empowerment, with topics such as collaboration

New Recycling Division Formed

The Recycling Alliance of North Alabama (RANA) is a newly formed division of the Solid Waste Disposal Authority of the City of Huntsville (SWDA). The RANA division will oversee and manage recycling projects for SWDA. RANA's first mission will be to launch a new Curbside Recycling Program for all Madison County residents, including the cities and towns therein. This free, opt-in program will start August 1, 2019, with monthly curbside pick-up. Residents must REGISTER/SIGN UP for this new service.

The Recycling Collection Service Area will be extended to an additional 20,000 single family households located within Madison County that have historically been outside of the service area. Single Family Residents within the Madison County boundary, as well as City of Huntsville and City of Madison residents located in Limestone County, are all eligible to participate.

The most noticeable improvement will be the replacement of the 18-gallon bins with a much larger 95-gallon rolling carts. Moving to larger rolling carts will allow for automated collection by custom designed trucks which is much less labor intensive than the manual collection of the smaller bins.

Recycling continues to remain an integral part of our area's solid waste management system. Revitalizing this program is another significant step in making the City of Huntsville, City of Madison and Madison County more sustainable places to live.

The Recycling Alliance of North Alabama (RANA) is a free, opt-in service funded by the Solid Waste Disposal Authority of the City of Huntsville.

Foundation Funds Teacher Scholarships

The Schools Foundation (TSF) presented more than \$54,000 to the Huntsville City, Madison City and Madison County School systems to help local teachers obtain National Board Certification.

The check presentations took place at TSF's annual superintendent reception honoring the three local school superintendents at the home of architect Frank Nola and sponsored by Project XYZ. At the reception, TSF Executive Director Elizabeth Fleming, presented Christie Finley of Huntsville City Schools, Robby Parker of Madison City Schools and Matt Massey of Madison County Schools each a check for \$18,255.



being the concrete start point, finding one's voice being the fuel, and healing of self being the desired destination.

I saw a post online by Jillian Robinson that read, "I went to the gym today. And listened to Krit , and Tyler, and Kendrick, and Kwofi. (cause negro spirituals are still being made)" To me, this is the embodiment of a new hue, Royal Black.

by *Codie Global*

Photo: *Jillian Robinson*

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