

FREE

“... That no matter what you had been, or ever hoped to be, a foot of greenish vomit hanging from your teeth would make you much the same as any other ...”

- Chester Himes

The Valley Weekly

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Friday, July 27, 2018



Madison Utilities Opens New Water Facility

The Water & Wastewater Board of the City of Madison (Madison Utilities) officially opened the new Terris Tatum Tennessee River Intake Facility on Friday, July 13.

Named for the long-serving Madison Utilities Board Chair, Terris Tatum, this first Tennessee River Intake Facility for the City of Madison will allow for the withdrawal and treatment of an initial four (4) million gallons of water per day for treatment to service the residents of Madison with clean drinking water, with capacity for later plant expansion.

Tatum was first appointed to serve as a member of the Water and Wastewater Board of the City of Madison on March 12, 1991, and has served as Board Chairman since 1998. Since he has served on the board, Madison Utilities has completed \$50 million in infrastructure improvements to serve the residents of the City of Madison.

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Local AKA Chapter Noted Globally

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated International Conference was held in Houston, Tex., on July 6-12, 2018, attracting over 19,000 members who attended business sessions, educational workshops and forums, and experienced Houston's hospitality, restaurants, and shopping.

Rho Chi Omega Chapter of Madison and Decatur, Ala., was recognized as the Launching New Dimensions of Service “Best of the Best” for its exemplary



AWARDED: (l-r) Pamela Bright, South Eastern Representative to the International Program Committee; Robin Miller, president, Rho Chi Omega Chapter; and Jasmine Adkins, chairman, International Program Committee.

CONTINUED, Page 8

Aeolians Win Big in South Africa

The Oakwood University Aeolians achieved highest scores in two categories to win big at the 10th edition of World Choir Games in Tshwane, located in the northern part of South Africa.

Competing in the categories of Spirituals, University and College and Musica Contemporanea, the Aeolians bested over 22 other choirs from around the world, triumphing not only with the highest score in two of the three categories entered, but winning three gold medals, of which two were championships at the biennial event. Their gold medal-winning scores were:

- Spirituals 97.88
- University and College Choirs: 96.88
- Musica Contemporanea: 91.00

The invited assortment of over 300 choirs this year hailed from around the world. Many came from South Africa, Sweden, Germany and beyond, as well as further-flung locales such as Singapore, Indonesia, Argentina, China and the United States.

INTERKULTUR, event



organizers, hosted the world's largest choir competition for the first time on the continent of Africa with Tshwane as the host city. This year marks the 30th year of the games and 11 days of competition.

“We are delighted to acknowledge, to the glory of God, the hard work, and sacrifice of the Aeolians and their leadership,” says

Dr. Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood University.

Dr. Pollard went on to say, “We express appreciation for our major sponsor, Kettering Health Network, and all of the generous supporters that made this opportunity possible. Thank you for believing in the global ministry of Oakwood University.”

The Valley Weekly
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Washington in One Minute



Here are the happenings in and around Washington, D.C., this week:

1. The full Senate will take up a package of 4 FY2019 appropriations bills: Transportation/HUD, Financial Services, Agriculture and Interior.

2. On Tuesday, President Trump traveled to Kan-

sas City, Mo., to address the 119th Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention. On Wednesday, he met with European Union President Jean-Claude Juncker at the White House. On Thursday, the President traveled to Dubuque, Iowa, for a roundtable event where, according to the Des Moines Register,

the price of soybeans has dropped 20% since retaliatory tariffs against Iowa farm products imposed by China took effect earlier this year. He will then fly 330 miles south to Granite City, IL, where in March 2018, U.S. Steel put 500 workers back on the job by restarting one

of two idled blast furnaces in response to the President's tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

3. On Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on how states may collect sales and use taxes on remote transactions in the wake of the Supreme Court's June 21 decision in South Dakota v. Wayfair which tossed out the 1992 physical presence doctrine, which allows states to expand their authority over online sales taxation.

4. On Wednesday, jury selection began in the trial of former Trump Campaign manager, Paul Manafort, in federal court in Alexandria, VA. Manafort was indicted in October 2017 on bank and tax fraud charges. According to Fox News, ex-lobbyist Tony Podesta, brother of Hillary Clinton's Campaign chair John Podesta, has been offered

immunity to testify against Manafort by Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

5. On Wednesday and Thursday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held the first Global Summit on Advancing Religious Freedom at the State Department with faith leaders and diplomats from the around the world. Vice President Mike Pence was expected to attend the event.

6. On Thursday, talks resumed in Washington with Mexican, Canadian, and U.S. officials attempting to complete the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Mexican President-Elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador released a 7-page letter on Sunday that he sent to President Trump asking for swift conclusion to the NAFTA talks.

7. On Thursday at 11 a.m., the Senate Committee on Health, Education,

Labor and Pensions held a full committee hearing on "Modernizing Apprenticeships to Expand Opportunities."

8. Last Thursday, President Trump signed an executive order establishing the National Council for the American Worker, an advisory board of administration officials, state and local leaders, and industry executives, to address urgent workforce issues. At the same event, a group of major employers, including FEDEX, Walmart, IBM, Boeing, and Apple, pledged to train (or retrain) thousands of American workers over the next 5 years.

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Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Ms. Lettye A. Boyd

Lettye A. Boyd, a native of Auburn, Ala., is the daughter of the late Lois D. Boyd and the late J. D. Boyd. She graduated from Lee County Training School in 1957 and attended historic Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.

In 1961, however, she received the B.S. degree in elementary education and music from Alabama A&M University. She pursued additional studies at Alabama A&M University, Grove City College, Virginia State University and Jackson State University.

Boyd's 33-year professional career includes teacher, 2nd grade and music, 1961-63, Laney Elementary School, Waverly Hall, Ga; teacher, music and other, 1963-1970, Councill Senior



High School, formerly Councill Training School, Normal, Ala.; teacher, music and other, Four Summers, Madison County Headstart Program, Madison County Schools; and teacher, music and other, 1970-93, Madison Cross Roads School, Toney, Ala., (established the school's first organized music program).

Ms. Boyd has served as

a choral director, 1978-80, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; minister of music, 1980-2000, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; director, 1988, Alabama A&M University Alumni Choir, Normal, Ala.; choral director, 2000-Present, First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; and office manager/bookkeeper (1993-2011) Rocket City Charter Service, Harvest, Ala.

She is affiliated with several professional, community and civic organizations, among them several education associations, First Missionary Baptist Church, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and many others.

MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE. ALLSTATE IS NOT.



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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

There are few couples—outside the glitzy realms of Hollywood perhaps—who command the admiration and respect of a more than 40-year throng of followers quite like Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford.

The Bradfords, now legendary faculty and husband-wife retirees whose lives are synonymous with a 'golden age' of music and music education at historic Alabama A&M University, were fiercely devoted to a higher education career that spanned from the 1940s through the 1980s. In fact, during my college years at A&M in the late 1970s, Dr. Bradford served as my chaplain.



While there have been countless honors and recognitions to the Bradfords for decades, both individually and as a couple, each musical tribute to the duo is an event all to itself.

A case in point is the much-anticipated Friends of the Bradfords' 2nd Annual Bradford Scholarship Gala. The 6 p.m. musical treat will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2018, at the Von Braun Center North Hall Salon 3, with tickets priced at \$50 each.

Designed to benefit the worthwhile Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford Scholarship Foundation, Inc., the Gala will feature Dr. Anthony B. Stinson and the Nell Lane Bradford Legacy Choir. Dr. Stinson has been a long-time advocate of The Bradfords. Moreover, he was an integral part of the Bradfords' portrait unveiling program held in J.F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center on the AAMU campus in 2014.

The Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford Scholarship Foundation, Inc., provides individual scholarships, paid directly to the educational institution, to students who qualify and apply yearly, note local media sources.

With the generous donations of persons and organizational sponsors, the Bradford Foundation is able to carry out its mission of providing students the opportunity to succeed in education.

Again, the festive event takes place at the VBC North Hall Saturday, July 28, from 6-9 p.m. All attendees can expect to hear a talented, live choir, additional music and a dinner. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Patricia Ward at (256) 603-6926. Additional information about the Gala can be found at www.bradfordscholarship.org or info@bradfordscholarship.org.

Until next week ...

Dorothy

Alabama Actress Stars in Controversial Series

Body positivity groups are calling for the boycott of "Insatiable," Netflix's newest comedy series that stars Huntsville actress Debby Ryan.

Last week, the trailer made its rounds across the Internet and not many people are here for it. Premiering in less than two weeks, the show is already in hot water due to its controversial premise.

The series follows Patty (played by Ryan), a bullied, obese high schooler who dramatically loses weight after having her mouth wired shut over the summer. Returning to school with her newly-obtained physique, Patty plots revenge against those that previously wronged her.

"Insatiable" has a full-season order and it appears that the popular streaming service has no plans to remove the show. No stranger to controversy, Netflix received backlash for their involve-



ment with "13 Reasons Why," another show that focuses on a high school following the suicide of a student. Based off Jay Asher's 2007 novel, the series got flack for its depiction of mental illness, suicide, and references to gun violence.

Marketed as a comedy, many organizations are accusing "Insatiable" to be a form of "fat shaming," calling the show "toxic." However, actress

Alyssa Milano, who plays Patty's mother responded to naysayers stating, "We are addressing (through comedy) the damage that occurs through fat shaming."

The leading lady has yet to make an official statement regarding the show's backlash, but she did re-post an article that bolsters her T.V. parent's views. Ryan is best known for her tenure on the Disney Channel, appearing in popular programs "The Suite Life on Deck," "16 Wishes," "Radio Rebel" and "Jessie."

Ryan Seacrest and show-runner Lauren Gussis are executive producers. The controversial series stars Debby Ryan, Alyssa Milano, Dallas Roberts, Kimmy Shields, Irene Choi, Erinn Westbrook, Christopher Gorham and Michael Provost.

"Insatiable" premieres August 10 on Netflix.



Millennial Thought

by Josh Alex Baker

Was There an Easier Way to Grow?

Artist and activist Tupac Shakur offers up one of the greatest symbols of defiant strength: the rose that grew from concrete. Shakur paints an image of life occurring where it previously seemed impossible. Despite logical expectation and prevailing against all odds, the rose emerges still.

This poignant image serves as a reminder that even in the most barren phases of our lives, we can grow. It calls on the most cunning and daring parts of ourselves to valiantly push forward and survive

our worst circumstances.

But the more I thought about the symbolism of this rose, the more I began to see a deeper implica-

... all who rise defiantly do not always bask in this defiance ...

tion. As we think of the figures in our lives that we consider "strong," we so often synonymize their existence with their ability to survive. It becomes our simple logic that people who have adapted to fighting for what they have are naturally inclined to do so.

However, all who rise defiantly do not always bask in this defiance.

If we may be fully transparent for a moment, there are so many invaluable riches that our darkest moments take from us.

Time and time again, after enduring hardship, we are expected to rebuild. Of course. That's what "strong people" do. But this rebuilding is not done

without mourning. The loss of what we had. The loss of who we were.

Our ability to grow defiantly doesn't cancel out our desire to grow gently. Without strain. Without trying to prove that the pain made it worth it.

Today, as we check in on our "strong friends," may we ensure that we are truly seeing them for all that they are.

Huntsville Says Goodbye to Another Centenarian

Alabama A&M University's oldest alum, Mr. Robert Coleman "R.C." Adams, transitioned on Monday, July 16, 2018, at age 104.

Born in the town of Linden in Marengo County, Ala., Adams began his earthly journey on May 5, 1914. Following his primary and secondary education in Linden, Adams served in the United States Army during World War II.

Upon his return from the military, he made his home in Huntsville, Ala., in 1949. He earned his undergraduate degree in building science in 1955 and started Adams Construction Company.

His career and entrepreneurial endeavors led him to Huntsville's Community Action Agency and as owner of his own taxi cab company.

A faithful and dedicated member of Progressive Union

Missionary Baptist Church, Adams was well known for his community and civic involvement.



During the 1960's, he participated in the civil rights movement and followed Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., around the state of Alabama

and was present at the Selma to Montgomery march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965.

Additionally, he served as one of the organizers of the Huntsville/Madison County Branch of the NAACP and served as president.

In his vast lifetime, Adams received scores of honors, accolades, commendations, citations and proclamations for recognition for his life work and service to the greater Huntsville area as one of the oldest members of the community.

The celebration of life service was held on Friday, July 20, 2018 at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist with Dr. Wayne P. Snodgrass as officiant. Terri L. Ray and the staff of Nelms Memorial Funeral Home assisted the family.

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

PEYD Brings Summer Fun to Edmonton Heights



As part of Par Excellence Youth Development (PEYD), two days were spent introducing golf to youth attending the Edmonton Height summer program.

Yes, it was hot, but out of 26 kids, only a couple complained about the heat. The adult staff complained more than the kids did. The neighborhood playground was turned into a mini driving range, using SNAG golf equipment.

The kids enjoyed themselves and learned to be

safe in golf, how to have fun, while applying the words *respect* and *patience*. They also learned how to grip the clubs, how to stand and how to swing the clubs. Of course, they only had two lessons, but they did what was asked of them and they did their best.

Most of them will never make it on a sports school team, but (if it's up to me) they will be able to play golf for a lifetime. Each kid that hit the target bullseye, earned a quarter. I had more fun than they did!

PEYD, afterschool program focuses on character building, academic development (i.e., science, reading and math, and life & golf skills).

Thanks to the following for their support including: Dwight U. Cole, from Florence, Ala.; Representative Anthony Daniels of District 53; Representative Laura Hall of District 19; and Joseph Lee, Edmonton Height executive director and staff.

by Howard Bankhead

Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

- 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
- House of Hope and Restoration
- 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

Valley Scopes
by Melissa Wilson/Seloma



LEO - With the conjunction between the sun and Mercury, you're bound to be in the company of your companions now enjoying yourself tremendously.

GEMINI - You're likely to feel terrific about any upcoming travel and/or career moves.

VRIGO - Your true feelings about some issue is the basis of your current soul psychodynamics. Your 12th house comprehension is directly interrelated with your contemporaneous experiences.

SCORPIO - You're likely, having a fantastic time communicating the concepts of a vision that you've had.

CAPRICORN - You're able to justify a rapid decision that you've made that turned out

awesomely.

PISCES - With the sextile between Neptune and Pluto, there's ample cooperation-- wherever need-be--for a situation to move along at breakneck speed. Reorganization can be a plus.

ARIES - A semisquare between the sun and Venus could raise your eyebrows when interdiction comes up within a relationship.

LIBRA - With a square, between Mercury and Jupiter in your 2nd house, you're bound to be on the verge of getting your point across, as far as it relates to your views concerning images that are being portrayed or your perspectives on lavish spending.

CANCER - Your current

level of awareness may feel mostly comprised of ideas, which will tend to affect a bracket of people with whom you're currently dealing. The role that you've attained within your community is where much of your attention is likely being pulled at present.

AQUARIUS - With the trine between the moon and Venus, your emotions are probably all revved up concerning a captivating love or monetary issue.

SAGITARIUS - Celestial happenings are evoking visions of a hectic schedule or, rather, a period where you remain quite busy. Additionally, the sesquiquadrate between the moon and Pluto indicate an area that you've decided to stand firm in-- come what may.

TAURUS - With a quintile between the moon and Mercury, there's an opening, available to you to benefit from a creative outlet that you have. And, chances are that someone wants to discuss that with you.



HU Officers Attend Utilities Conference in Portland

Huntsville Utilities (HU) President/CEO Wes Kelly, with Stephen Mayfield from City of Tallahassee, and Dorothy Huston, chair of HU Gas and Waterworks Boards, accepts SOAR Award at the 57th Annual Meeting in Portland, Oreg., on July 23.

This year, 18 members

of APGA participated in the System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) Program.

Now in its sixth year, SOAR encourages excellence in four operational areas, including worker safety, system integrity, system improvement and workforce development.

Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

July 26
Boys & Girls Club Leaders and Legends
Featuring Charles Barkley
Von Braun Center North Hall
www.bgcna.com/lld, 5-8 p.m.

July 27-28
Eagles' Nest Ministries
Church Uncommon Worship
"Mask Off: Uncut: Revealed"
2nd Annual Dance Conference, 7 p.m.

July 27-29
Stand Up Live Huntsville
Featuring

"Earthquake" - 7 p.m.
July 28
8th Annual CAFY Event
Calhoun Community College
Huntsville Campus
Wynn Drive, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Friends of the Bradfords 2nd Annual Bradford Scholarship Gala
Featuring the Nell Lane Bradford Legacy Choir in Concert
Von Braun Center North Hall, 6 p.m.

August 10
10th Annual Taste of Kappa

Huntsville Museum of Art
\$40/person
HuntsvilleNupes.com

August 11
4th Annual Nella White STEM Scholarship Banquet
David's Temple M.B. Church
Tickets: \$30 - (256) 651-8553
Tanner, Ala., 6 p.m.

August 23-25
Saved in the City Conference
www.thewomensexpo.org
Von Braun Center - Huntsville, Ala., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



BIRTHDAY - July 27 - **PLUMMER BERNARD YOUNG** was called the "Dean of the Negro Press." Born in Littleton, N.C., he published *The Norfolk Journal and Guide*, which became the largest selling Black newspaper in the South, and one of the most influential Black papers in the United States.. -*BlackinTime.info*

FRIENDS OF THE BRADFORDS PRESENTS

2nd Annual Bradford Scholarship Gala

IN HONOR OF THE
DR. HENRY BRADFORD JR. AND MRS. NELL LANE BRADFORD
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC

Featuring
DR. ANTHONY B. STINSON
AND THE NELL LANE BRADFORD LEGACY CHOIR

Saturday, JULY 28, 2018
@ 6:00 P.M.

Von Braun Center North Hall
Salon 3

Tickets \$50.00

WEBSITE: WWW.BRADFORDSCHOLARSHIP.ORG
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BY GODS GRACE, ALL WILL BE WELL

Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MS. CAROLYN BRADFORD was held Monday, July 23, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MS. GRACE JUDE was held Sunday, July 22, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MS. DEBRA FLETCHER ATKINS was held Saturday, July 21, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT COLEMAN ("R.C.") ADAMS (b. 1914) was held Friday, July 20, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brantontown Road - Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Wayne P. Snodgrass officiating.

Celebration of Life for MR. ALLEN K. ROBINSON (b. 1959) was held Friday, July 20, at Saint James Primitive Baptist Church (1093 Fairbanks Street NW - Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Billy Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MS. JALISSA R. GARNER was held Monday, July 16, at Solid Rock Christian Center with Pastor Eric Robinson officiating.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Memorial service for MR. THEODORE RONALD JEFFERSON (b. 1935) will be 10 a.m. Sunday, July 29, at the Oakwood Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Ala., with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.

Funeral service for MS. GEORGIA A. MILLER (b. 1936) will be 12 p.m., Saturday, July 28, at the Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church (759 Pine Grove Rd, Harvest, Ala.) with Pastor C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Memorial service for MS. HELEN BRIDGEFORTH was held Thursday, July 26, at the Lakeview United Methodist Church (9130 Lucas Ferry Rd., Tanner, Ala.).

Funeral service MR. MARVIN PARKER (b. 1962) was held Monday, July 23, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Anthony Stewart officiating.

Funeral service for MR. DYLAN CORDELL "TENKA" PRIDE (b. 1967) was held Saturday, July 21, at the Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (2403 Oakwood Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Endia J. Scruggs officiating.

- Serenity Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. RYAN BAKER (b. 1977) was held Tuesday, July 24, at Union Chapel MB Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Called 2 Preach

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

Nugatory Negatives

The Hebrew writer says that Jesus discounted the shame of the Cross because of the joy that was set before Him. In other words, He made the negatives of the Cross nugatory or insignificantly inconsequential by the higher calling of His purpose and the joy of pleasing His Father.

That is what every believer must learn to do in navigating through the negatives of his/her journey. Without this resolve that is grounded in complete confidence in the providence and promises of God, faith will wither and die like an unkept plant void of sunshine and water needed to keep it alive. This resolve must be both informed and inspired by being cognizant and conscious of a purpose that is rooted and grounded in something and Someone that is larger

than one's own life. One might say, "Well that's Jesus and He was expected and empowered to be able to face Calvary's horror.

However, it was the Apostle Paul who voiced

this same kind of consciousness when he said in his parting words to the Ephesian elders that even with knowing that his future included negatives such as "chains and tribulations," that he was not moved by any of them, because his goal in life was to "finish his course



with joy." A life of faith and purpose cannot be lived without the presence of the nemeses of negatives that are designed to divert destiny. The only way to avoid that is by making those negatives become nugatory negatives.

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.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



Experience 

The View

at Burritt on the Mountain

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

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

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

For The View event details and tickets, visit burrittonthemountain.com!

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New York Life "The Company You Keep"



Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown



James 4:1-3 says, *What causes fights among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives.*

You know, looking at this scripture made me think about something that is currently going on. Just recently the National Football League selected the players that will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. People like Randy Moss, Ray Lewis and Brian Urlacher, to name a few.

They also selected Terrell Owens, but he has decided not to attend the ceremony because he feels perhaps he wasn't selected soon enough. Now to be fair, "T.O." as he is called, certainly had the statistics for him to be a "first ballot" Hall-of-Fame selection. But since he was not, he is skipping the ceremonies. Now this is hard for a lot of people (me included) to understand. Because it is such a

great honor to be selected, no matter how long it takes.

You know, anytime we seek self-gratification it comes with a cost. In T. O.'s case, it will cost him a "memory" of an event that he will never get back. Now when we look at our own lives from a spiritual perspective, seeking to be number one on an individual basis can put the Christian man or woman in the middle of a great tension. In other words, part of us wants to please God, while the other part wants to please ourselves and the world. So, whenever we find ourselves in such a "bind," I believe that there are a few things that we need to pay attention to.

The writer James attempts to make the case for the problems that we can incur in search of self-gratification. First, we have to pay attention to the "desires that battle within us." You see, in the quest to be the best, you will find yourself comparing your situation to someone else's situation. And, when you do, pride and envy raises its ugly head, which causes hostility towards one another. It also damages friendships and weakens your witness for God.

So, we have to control the desires that battle within us. We also need to understand

that seeking self-gratification will affect our prayer life. According to the writer James, you end up with un-answered prayers because you ask with the wrong motives. Not realizing that we stand in the way of our own prayers. And finally when we seek self-gratification it affects our relationship with God. Because God dislikes those who seek to be number one at the expense of others.

Proverbs 29:23 says, *A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.* You see, we are not faithful to God when we constantly feed the desires of our flesh. So the remedy for all of these problems can be found in James 4:7, where it says, *submit yourselves to God and resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

When we put God first in our lives, there is no need for us to desire to be number one ... Stay encouraged my brothers and sisters.

And, remember you can purchase my book, "A Champion Game Plan for Life," at amazon.com. Thank you in advance for your support.

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AKAs Recognized Internationally

CONTINUED from Page 1

programs of service to Madison and Morgan counties because the chapter won on the regional level. At the 86th South Eastern Regional Conference held on March 1-4, 2018, in Nashville, Tennessee, Rho Chi Omega Chapter received regional and international program awards.

The chapter, under the leadership of Robin Miller, president, and Tonnesha Lewis, vice president and program chairman, won the following regional and international programs awards for graduate medium chapters (51 to 100 members):

- *Johnella Martin NAACP* - This award is given to the chapter that made the largest donation to NAACP since the last Regional Conference.
- *Target 1: Educational Enrichment ASCEND Signature Program* - This award is presented to the Graduate Chapter that has prepared students to transition from high school to college, a vocational/technical school or work. For the past four years, Rho Chi Omega prepared over fifty students for their transition by providing educational workshops, cultural outings, and HBCU tours.
- *One Million Backpacks Achievement* - This award



is presented to the graduate chapter that collected backpacks from its members and distributed them to their community partners such as Somerville Road Elementary School, and Decatur Youth Services. The chapter has donated over 1,000 backpacks.

- *Think HBCU Chapter Hall of Fame Achievement* - This program target focused on encouraging awareness, advocacy and financial support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities with over \$40,000 donated to HBCUs.
- *Think HBCU Individual Hall of Fame Achievement* - This award was presented to the chapter member who donated the most to HBCUs from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, in addition to participating in other campaigns and organizing or leading unique and innovative awareness activities.

This award was given to five individual members of the sorority. Congratulations to Robin Miller for receiving this award.

- *Global Impact Achievement* - This award was presented to the chapter that demonstrated the most unique ways in raising awareness of global issues, engaging ASCEND students, and educating our communities.
- *Technology—Best Practices* - This award was presented to the chapter who utilized Microsoft 365 that was provided to all chapter by Alpha Kappa Alpha's Corporate Office.

The chapter looks forward to continuing to serve the community under the 2018-2022 International Program theme "Exemplifying Excellence through Sustainable Service" under the new International President, Dr. Glenda Glover.

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2018 Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football

Date	Opponent	Site	Venue	Time
Sept. 1	Miles College	HOME	Louis Crews Stadium (Crews Classic)	TBA
Sept. 8	University of North Alabama	HOME	Louis Crews Stadium	TBA
Sept. 15	U. of Cincinnati	AWAY	Cincinnati, Ohio	TBA
Sept. 22	Southern University	Neutral	Mobile, Ala. (Gulf Coast Challenge)	TBA
Sept. 29	Jackson State University	AWAY	Jackson, Miss.	TBA
Oct. 6	Texas Southern University	AWAY	Houston, Tex.	TBA
Oct. 13	Alcorn State University	HOME	Louis Crews Stadium (HOMECOMING)	TBA
Oct. 20		OPEN		
Oct. 27	Alabama State University	Neutral	Birmingham, Ala. (Magic City Classic)	TBA
Nov. 3	U. of Ark. Pine Bluff	AWAY	Pine Bluff, Ark.	TBA
Nov. 10	Grambling State University	HOME	Louis Crews Stadium	TBA
Nov. 17	Mississippi Valley St. U.	AWAY	Itta Bena, Miss.	TBA