

## Countdown to Small Business Awards

- The Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce will celebrate small businesses and individuals that have helped Huntsville grow on August 15 at the VBC North Hall.
- Businesses and individuals will be honored in the following categories:
- Business/Professional Services Business of the Year
  - Culinary Business of the Year
  - Emerging Business of the Year
  - Government Contracting
  - Business/Professional Service of the Year
  - Technology Business of the Year
  - Medical Practice of the Year
  - Nonprofit of the Year
  - Retailer of the Year
  - Service Business of the Year
  - Etc.

## Freda Payne to Headline Alabama Women in Jazz Festival

Are you ready for some great jazz?

Doors will open to the 3rd Annual Alabama Women in Jazz Festival on Saturday, August 5, at 1 p.m. at the Insanity Complex in Madison, Ala. Alabama

Women in Jazz Festival is kicking off its lineup with some sassy women performers, including the stellar, multi-talented Freda Payne. Payne is best known for her singing career, yet she has also performed in musicals and acted in movies



over the years, and she was briefly the host of her own TV talk show. Born Freda Charclia Payne in Detroit, Mich., Payne developed an appreciation of music at an early age (due to such sultry jazz singers as Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, and Billie

Holiday). One-day indoor festival, will include bazaar vendors, cash bar, food, dance floor. The event will be preceded by a Student Jazz Workshop conducted by Paula Atherton at Columbia High School on Friday, August 4. For more information, call (256) 262-7911.



## AMC Bids Farewell to General Wyche

In a retirement ceremony that paid tribute to more than four decades of service, the Army Materiel Command and Tennessee Valley community said farewell to Lt. Gen. Larry Wyche, whose 42-year Army career began as a private cavalry scout in 1975.



Lt. Gen. Wyche was honored as a master logistician and exemplary leader with three Ruffles

and Flourishes, a 15-gun salute and a surprise induction into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame. He also received the Distinguished Service Medal and the General Brehon B. Somervell Medal of Excellence.

Wyche, who has been married to his wife, Denise, a retired DA civilian, for 37 years, was joined at the ceremony by several family members, including his son, Maj. Da-

vid Wyche, and his father, Richard Wyche.

Wyche thanked his family for their support, and AMC employees for their commitment.

Wyche said it took a bit of time for him to figure out his life's purpose, but with the support of his family and particularly his wife, he came to realize that being a Soldier; serving the nation and defending the U.S. flag; and serving the Army and its Soldiers, civilians and organizations have been his life's calling.

- AMC Public Affairs



**I'm Missing You:** R&B veteran Case performed a free show at the Envy Entertainment Lounge on July 30. The intimate performance came months after last minute health concerns forced the "Touch Me, Tease Me" singer to cancel his scheduled appearance at the Von Braun Center with Donnell Jones and Monica. Ticketholders from the previous show were granted V.I.P access, which included a meet & greet with Case. Photo by Reginald Allen.

## Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

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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 your top issues in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. The Senate is in session this week, while the House is in recess until September 5. According to the Politico website, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Dean Heller (R-NV) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) are working on yet another healthcare proposal, which could be voted on this week. The proposal would block grant federal health care funding to the states and keep much of the Obamacare taxes in place, while reportedly scoring far better than previous efforts, which CBO analyses projected would cause millions of people to lose their health insurance

and cause spikes in premiums. The 3 senators met with President Trump at the White House on Friday to discuss the proposal.

2. President Trump announced Friday that he will sign a bill that Congress passed last week that will increase sanctions against Russia and block him from being able to lift the measures without congressional approval. On Sunday, in retaliation, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered 755 U.S. diplomatic mission staff to leave the country by Sept. 1 and ordered the seizure of two U.S. embassy properties in Moscow. This week, President Trump will host events for

his "American Dream" week, which included a Medal of Honor ceremony Monday for former Army medic James McCloughan credited with saving 10 lives in his company

during the Battle of Tam Ky in Vietnam in May 1969; a small business event on Tuesday; a rally in Huntington, W. Va., Thursday; and a visit to FEMA headquarters today (Friday) to get a briefing on hurricane season. He is scheduled to leave D.C. Friday for his resort in Bedminster, N.J., where he will stay until August 20. This week, Vice President Mike Pence will travel to Tallinn, Estonia; Tbilisi, Georgia; and Podgorica, Montenegro to meet with foreign leaders.

3. Retired Marine Corps General John Kelly started his new job as White House Chief of Staff, replacing Reince Priebus. Kelly will reportedly bring top Homeland Security staffer Kirstjen Nielsen with him to the White House. The

firing of communications director Anthony Scaramucci soon followed.

4. On Wednesday, the Senate Commerce Committee approved a list of Trump Administration nominees, including Mark Buzby to be Administrator of DOT's Maritime Administration and Ronald Batory to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

5. Last Thursday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, White House National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) issued a one-page joint statement on tax reform. The big news from the document is that the parties agreed to eliminate the controversial border adjustment tax (a destination-based, cash-flow tax on imports). The statement said that tax reform legislation would "move through the congressional committees this fall, under regular order, followed by consideration on the House and Senate floors."

6. Also last Thursday, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers published step 1 of its two-part repeal and replace plan for the 2015 "Waters of the United States" rulemaking in the Federal Register, initiating a 30-day public comment period (although a provision in last week's four-bill minibudget appropriations bill passed by the House would eliminate the need for public comment). The first step is to rescind the 2015 rule and it will be followed by a new rule redefining the definition of "Waters of the United States."

7. Last week, Reuters published the results of a new poll showing President Trump's overall job approval rating is down to 35%, although the same poll showed that 73% of Republicans polled still approve of his performance (albeit a number that has fallen 6 points from a July 15 poll).

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

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# Huntsville Power Couple Featured in Alabama Publication

Melody and Martell Holt, the husband and wife team behind Holt & Holt Entrepreneurship, LLC, were named iPush Magazine's Power Couple of the summer.

The two met during their time at Alabama A&M, where they were both studying to be educators. Martell popped the question on Melody's graduation day and the two have gone nowhere but up. In 2011, Melody and Martell ultimately took a leap

a faith when they resigned from the full-time teaching positions in the Huntsville City School district to focus on their then small business. Launched in 2009, Holt & Holt Entrepreneurship, LLC began as a lawn care service but gradually expanded into a multi-million-dollar empire. Their services include property demolitions, acquiring foreclosed residences and rebuilding and remodeling homes. Martell serves as founder

and COO with Melody as the company's CEO.

In the article, the two discuss how they simultaneously juggle a successful multi-million-dollar business, keep the romance alive and raise three young children.

"Because at the end of the day, before there was Holt & Holt, before there was Holt custom homes, before there were these three children, there was Melody and Martell," Melody told iPush Maga-

zine. "So you have to make sure the foundation is always on point. You have to make sure the foundation is strong."

In addition to iPush, the Holts have been featured in Sheen Magazine and the Magic City Radar.

The Summer issue of iPush Magazine is out and can be found throughout the city of Birmingham. The story was written by *The Valley Weekly's* Reginald Allen.





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If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
' Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,  
if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

uest Column

Hovet Dixon

On May 26, 2016, the world that I knew career-wise came to a screeching halt. I was hand-delivered a letter suggesting my one year probationary contract would not be renewed. No verbal or written reprimands throughout my entire career. No meeting with the Superintendent. No e-mails returned from my asking *why*? Nothing. Absolutely no reason given whatsoever. I was sent back to the classroom after almost ten consecutive years of being a well-respected administrator. Humiliation at its finest. Monthly salary cut in half. Had to say 'no' to my kids when they were used to hearing 'yes'. Had to smile when I felt like frowning or crying. I still had to wear the crown ... be 'Head of Household'.

I went to God in intensive prayer, and I read and recited the attached poem morning, noon, and night. There's more to this story, and I have been planning carefully on how to tell it in memoir form in hope to heal other 'victims'. But, until that appropriate time arrives, I'll simply say: Thank You, Lord!!!

On Friday evening, July 28, 2017, God proved He is indeed God all by Himself. I was placed back where I belong. Salute to all of my supporters who moved with me in silence this past year, as well as to those who stood with me unwavering as 'Mr. Dixon the Principal' and 'Mr. Dixon the Teacher.' 'The Work' never stopped. It never will, as long as there is oxygen in my lungs. This is God's work!

The same school district [minus every single entity of the old regime] 'Board Approved' Mr. Dixon as the new Assistant Principal of Highlands Elementary School this evening (7/28/17). To God be the glory!!! Thank You, Homeboy!!! I Love You!!! I'm humbled. Let's do work, kinfolks! Salute! Life's a breeze. Be easy.



- Hovet Dixon



# Scenes from Town Hall: Rep. Anthony Daniels and Rep. Laura Hall

## Oakwood University - Tuesday, July 25, 2017



Rep. Anthony Daniels,  
Nichel Nix and Rep.  
Laura Hall

Alice Sams, Dr. Annie Savage  
and Michelle Watkins.



Howard Bankhead, Samuel Greene  
and Gary T. Whitley.



Justice Valrie, Patrick Fitzgerald  
and Mecca Musick



Delois Smith and Councilman  
Devyn Keith.

*"What we achieve inwardly will change outer reality."*

- Plutarch



August 4 - BARACK OBAMA - Born in Hawaii, Barack Obama is the 44th and first acknowledged black American President Of The United States, elected on November 4, 2008.

- BlackinTime.info

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## Omeegas Hold 'Vegas Night' Benefit

The Xi Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., will hold "Vegas Night" on Friday, August 4, at the Von Braun Center North Hall, 7 p.m.-1 a.m.

Proceeds from the activ-

ity will benefit The Scholarship Foundation and the Harris Home for Children.

The semi-formal event will feature DJ Dre Smoove.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door.

For additional information, contact Rick Suttle at (256) 655-6769 or Dawood Muhammad at (205) 757-7375.

Make tax-deductible contributions to: Omega Men of North Alabama.

## Champion Game Plan for Life by Preston Brown

Proverbs 3:6 says: "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." You know, your life is headed somewhere with a purpose and it could be good or bad--the choice is yours.

There are two things that we all possess--time and the choices that we make. No matter who we are, or what our social status is, or our ethnicity, we all have 24 hours in a day. We also have the ability to make choices.

I heard someone once say that there will always

be the "three C's" of life. First, the challenge, then the choice, then the consequences of the choices that we make. So, our goals should be to make the best of our time, as well as making good choices. It's important that we understand and realize that the choices that we make every day will lead us to a path of righteousness or destruction, the choice



is yours.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

## HCCNA Celebrating Day with Krishna

The Hindu Cultural Center of North Alabama (HCCNA), located at 14840 Smith Drive in Harvest, Ala., will observe "A Day with Krishnu" to include a painting and exhibition sale and a food festival.

Hosted by Art by Amita, the fundraising sale will run from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., while the food festival is scheduled between 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Art by Amita is a Florence, Ala., business that displays painting,



sculpting, and the creation of paintings and art work from her heart and in

thoughts which comes from the world around her.

## First Stop Event to Feature Bill Searcy

First Stop, Inc., will hold a program, "Go Back to School and Empower the Homeless," on Saturday, August 19.

The event will be held at the Stone Middle School facility (Stone Event Center) at 6:30 p.m. A VIP suite and wine reception will begin at 5:30 p.m.

A reserved table of 8 costs \$500, and an executive table (premium seats, VIP suite and wine reception, and recognition) is \$1,000. Individual seats are \$70 each.

The Tennessee Valley area is invited to join First Stop for a night owth Bill Searcy, author of *High Tides: A Story of Football, Freefall and Forgiveness*.

First Stop, Inc., paves a continuous path from homelessness to independent, sustainable living for its clients. Many of its clients have endured enormous amounts of pain, including sexual, emotional and physical abuse, rape, human trafficking, mental health issues and substance abuse.

Moreover, First Stop's clients are as diverse as the trauma that plagues them, which is why the organization does not believe in a one-size fits all approach. It provides individualized case management that creates a path to independence.

For more information, visit [www.firststop.org](http://www.firststop.org).

## 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.

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## Calhoun, UAB Form New Partnership

*New partnership with Calhoun Community College extends successful UAB Joint Admissions Program*

The University of Alabama at Birmingham today announced a partnership with Calhoun Community College through the UAB Joint Admissions Program, launched in 2013. The initiative offers many benefits to participating students, as well as UAB Presidential Full Tuition Scholarships for two Calhoun graduates each year, continuing the institution's commitment to attracting top Alabama students.

"We are very pleased with the success of our Joint Admissions Program since its inception, and we are excited to extend its ben-



efits to Calhoun students," said UAB President Ray L. Watts. "It is important that our institutions of higher education work together to remove barriers and create opportunities to help students receive the necessary support to realize their fullest potential and go on to rewarding 21st century careers."

Students who are not immediately eligible for traditional UAB admission

can enroll in a Joint Admissions Program partner institution, and students can also self-select into this program during their first year at Calhoun. As students pursue an associate degree at a partner institution, they have access to UAB facilities, libraries and campus events. Students also have access to a UAB admissions counselor on-site at their community college who will help

ensure that they meet the requirements necessary to transfer to UAB.

Participating students are admitted to UAB when they earn an associate degree, and they receive a \$2,000 annual scholarship for their junior year and senior year if they maintain eligibility.

*"... You cannot rob a people of language, culture, mother, father, the value of their labor - all of that - without doing vast damage to those people."*

- Randall Robinson



**PROMOTIONS:** The Alabama A&M University Department of Public Safety held a program at the Ernest L. Knight Center to recognize promotions and additions to the department. Nadis E. Carlisle (2nd row, center) serves as Chief of Police. Above, officers and DPS staff members. (Photo by J. Saintjones)

## A Good Read



**Padgett Powers' "Wayne in Love"**



by Jerome Saintjones

versations without even speaking their language, all because of their being in sync with one another.

Wayne also simultaneously carries on an affair with an older and frank woman, who finds him physically attractive and invites him into her home, working their session around the schedule of her 19-year-old son.

Will she be the one, or will she simply be among the ones? Is he willing to submit himself as a student in her classroom? Is this that strange thing people call love?

Ever wonder what so many women find in worthless men? That's probably the question that will immediately spring to mind when reading the story of Wayne, a man who has abandoned his wife and kids. Yet, miraculously, he is able to return at will to, as well as to make love to, the wife he left.

A loser, he secretly longs for an exotic life in a land with plenty of exotic women. He imagines that he could carry on beautiful con-

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## Valley Deaths

Funeral service will be announced later for **Barbara Jean Humphrey Brewton** (b. 1945).

Funeral service for **Mrs. Mae Frances Kelley** (b. 1963) will be announced later.

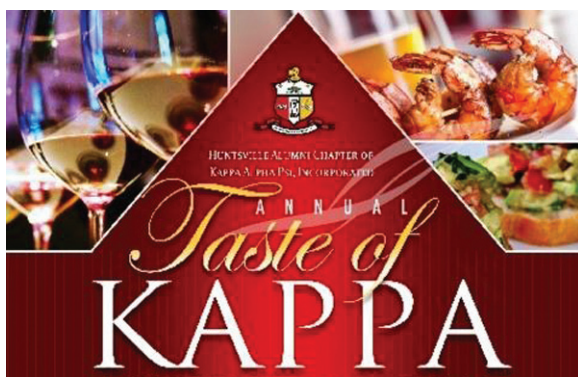
Funeral service for **Mrs. Dianne Alexander Tyler** will be Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church (292 Cemetery Road - New Market, Ala.) with the Reverend Larry Davidson officiating. Interment will be in Meadowlawn Garden of Peace.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Elmira Battle** (b. 1929) was held Tuesday, July 25, at Union Hill PB Church with Rev. Oscar L. Montgomery officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Ezekiel Briggs** (b. 1992) was held Saturday, July 22, at Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church (14944 Dupree Worthey Road - Harvest, AL 35749) with Pastor Theodis Acklin officiating.

- Nelms Memorial  
Funeral Home

## Taste of Kappa Event Next Week



The Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. hosts the annual Taste of Kappa event as a fundraiser for its many community outreach programs, including the Guide Right Program and the Kappa Foundation scholarships.

This year's event will be held Friday, August 11, at the Huntsville Museum of Art, 300 Church Street, Downtown Huntsville, 7-10 p.m.

Guests always enjoy a sampling of Huntsville's best local restaurants, along with the festive, relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere of downtown Huntsville and the Huntsville Art Museum.

The entire Tennessee Valley is invited to join the Kappas for the Annual Taste of Kappa!

For Ticket Information, please contact Michael Miller at (256) 656-7719 or Dell Cummings at (314) 518-2096.



**100 & Counting!** Friends and family were on hand at the Decatur, Ala., senior center on July 27. They gathered in full force to celebrate the 100th birthday of Etta B. Freeman, a retired, more than 50-year educator whose activities include working out with Zumba classes. A video of the Alabama A&M University graduate dancing with her Zumba class achieved more than 300,000 hits on Facebook. (Photo by Jerome Saintjones)

## Local Charity to Sponsor Casino Night

One of the Tennessee Valley area's oldest charities has scheduled a festive fundraiser on Friday, August 11, at the Stone Event Center at Campus 805 from 6-10 p.m.

Christmas Charities Year Round is sponsoring Casino Royale, a 007 themed night of fun and entertainment. Dinner, casino games and more will be combined with the sounds of JED-Eye performing live. This will be an awesome event!

Also, snap a few pictures on the red carpet after bidding on must-have Silent Auction items.

Tickets are only \$50 per person and are available for purchase through eventbrite.

Christmas Charities Year Round (CCYR) is a non-profit, charitable organization that has served Madison County, Ala., since 1949, providing

basic necessities year round, plus toys and food during the Christmas season, at no cost to clients.

CCYR provides emergency resources including free clothes, shoes & household

items, plus school supplies/uniforms to over 5,000 less fortunate children and adults annually.

For more information, call (256) 837-2373.



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## The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

### August 2

Bike Planning Downtown  
U.G. White - 115 Clinton Avenue East, Huntsville, Ala.  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

### August 3-5

Margaret Cho  
Stand Up Live Comedy Club  
Huntsville, Ala.

### August 4

Xi Omicron - Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
"Vegas Night" (Semi-Formal)  
\$30/\$40 at the door  
Von Braun Center-North Hall  
Downtown Huntsville  
7 p.m.-1 a.m.

### August 5

Alabama Women In Jazz Festival  
Headliner: Freda Payne  
Insanity Complex - 1-10 p.m.  
EventBrite.com

### August 11

Diversity Leadership

### Colloquium (DLC)

Networking Social  
Burritt on the Mountain  
Huntsville, Ala. - 6 p.m.

### "Taste of Kappa"

Sponsor: Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.  
Tickets: \$30/person  
Contact: Michael Miller, (256) 656-7719  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
7-10 p.m.

### Thru August 13

Dinosaur Uproar Alive  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
Presented by: Toyota Alabama

### August 21

District 4 Town Hall Meeting with City Council Member Bill Kling  
Meeting Rooms A&B, 6 p.m.

### August 31-September 3

Comedian Don "DC" Curry

### Stand Up Live Comedy Club

### September 10

Grandparents' Day Celebration  
EarlyWorks Children's Museum  
Tickets:  
\$35 adults; \$15 Children,  
Museum Will Be Open  
RiahRose Home for Children  
(256) 489-4358  
1:30 p.m.

### September 14

"2017 Speakers Series for the Village of Promise"  
Speaker: Ruby Payne, Ph.D.  
Von Braun Center-North Hall  
Downtown Huntsville  
11:30 a.m.

### October 10-15

Motown - The Musical  
Von Braun Center  
Concert Hall  
Downtown Huntsville



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