

# Seniors and Financial Abuse, p.8

**FREE**

## Keith Takes Part in Cleanup Effort, p. 4

Friday  
August 13, 2021  
Vol. 7, No. 49  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



**SALUTE!**  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Elaine S. Plank

*"We are mere journeymen, planting seeds for someone else to harvest." - Wallace Thurman*

## A&M Gets \$2.2 Million NSF Grant for STEM Enhancement

Alabama A&M University has received a \$2.2 million National Science Foundation grant to assist in the retention and graduation rates of its science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students.

The five-year project will simultaneously work to improve the mathematics skills of middle school-aged students and help them develop interest in STEM fields.

AAMU grant facilitators are calling INSPIRE (Introducing STEM to Provide Incentives for Research and

Education) "an innovative, focused approach" to enhance STEM education.

According to Dr. Marius Schamschula, who serves as the principal investigator (PI) for INSPIRE, the new STEM education and research program aims to enhance the quality of education.

To achieve their ambitious goals, the project team will develop recitation sessions in key STEM gatekeeper courses (e.g., introductory science, engineering and math courses)

and provide a Mathematics Outreach Program (MOP) for middle school students and teachers.

This effort will allow the team earlier intervention in students' math development by boosting math skills through tutoring at two key levels—college and middle school.

The middle school component will include the added component of attracting students to consider STEM disciplines.

In addition to PI Schamschula, professor of

physics, project team members include Dr. Mohamed Karim, professor of mathematics; Dr. Showkat Chowdhury, professor of mechanical engineering; Dr. Pamela Arrington, associate vice president, faculty and undergraduate studies, Academic Affairs; Dr. Johanna Massey, assistant professor of elementary education; and Dianne Kirnes, program manager.

The project's end date is July 31, 2026.



## Local 15-Year-Old Returns from Korea

Javon Z. Jennings is a 15-year-old home-schooled student who has recently returned from a two-month Seoul, Korea, visit on a National Security Language Initiative for Youth Scholarship. and will be a rising senior in the fall. Javon has been home school since first grade. Javon was not only serving as a student ambassador while in South Korea, upon his return home on August 6, 2021, he will be an ambassador with community outreach.

The students did four hours of rigorous language instruction and coursework each day. Students were required to complete language assessments at key intervals. Javon is the son of Keelan and Dr. Dorena Jennings and grandson of James and LaVon Jennings.

## HBC to Sponsor Golf Tournament

On Friday, September 10, Huntsville Bible College Scholarship will host its 16th Annual Golf Scholarship Tournament. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. Tee-Time will be at 8 a.m.

HBC is seeking support to help in its effort to train men and women in a Christian environment for ministry and life. Last year, the proceeds from the tournament and other entities helped to provide scholarships for 21 students to attend HBC.

With continued help, HBC officials believe they can once again provide funding for students throughout this community.

Sponsorship levels include: Corporate Level - \$500; Church/Community Group Level - \$250; Hole Sign, \$100; and Tee Toter at \$20. For additional information, contact Eloise McNealey at (256) 469-7536 or e-mail dev@hbc1.edu.

## NASA Supports Workforce Development at Drake

Drake State Community & Technical College is one of six colleges and universities to win NASA's Inclusion Across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (INCLUDES) award. INCLUDES awards are made possible through NASA's Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) and provide up to \$1.2 million for a three-year period.

Drake's winning pro-

posal builds on the work currently being done by the college's Frontiers Research Program, which was established in 2020 to support research in additive manufacturing and 3D printing for NASA's Moon to Mars Planetary Autonomous Construction Technology Project (MMPACT).

For more information about the Frontiers Research Program at Drake State visit drakestate.edu.



Frontiers student intern Joseph Green visits NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

*The Valley Weekly*

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**The Valley Weekly**

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## Washington in One Minute



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

1. ON THE FLOOR. The House has adjourned for the month, while the Senate is still in session. On Sunday, at 9:11 p.m., the Senate voted on cloture to bring debate to a close on the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, which passed by a vote of 68 ayes (including 18 Republicans) to 29 nays. The Senate completed action on the infrastructure and was then is expected to take up the \$3.5 trillion American Families Plan, which includes universal pre-K, paid family and medical leave, nutrition assistance, extensions of child tax-credit expansions, clean-energy tax incentives, federal procurement of clean energy technologies, a clean-energy accelerator, and the establishment of a Civilian Climate Corps. A last

minute wrinkle was a call from Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen over the weekend to include an extension of the federal debt limit in the reconciliation bill. There have also been reports that the Senate may take up a voting rights bill before it adjourns this week for the month of August.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. Last Friday, the White House announced that the Biden Administration is extending the COVID-induced freeze on federal student loans payments and interest through Jan. 31, 2022. Also on Friday, President Biden touted a better-than-expected June jobs report that showed that the economy added 943,000 jobs last month, the largest gain since August 2020 (economists had predicted 870,000 jobs). In more good news, data for May

and June were revised to show 119,000 more jobs created than previously reported and the unemployment rate dropped to a 16-month low of 5.4%. On Saturday, the President and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden met with members of the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team (which garnered a best-in-the-world 113 medals, including 39 golds) in a livestreamed virtual reception and invited the athletes to visit them at the White House this fall.

3. SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF 2020 ELECTION. Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Richard Durbin (D-IL) appeared on CNN Sunday and confirmed that the committee received 7 hours of testimony from Former Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen on Saturday as part of the committee's investigation into efforts by former President Trump's allies to interfere in the 2020 election results. Chair Durbin revealed that former President Trump asked Rosen to do certain things related to states' election returns, which he refused to do. In related news, the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol announced that it had hired ex-GOP Rep. Denver

Riggleman (R-VA) as a senior technical adviser.

4. STUDENT LOAN DEBT. On Friday, the Biden Administration extended the pause on student loan repayment until January 31, 2022. However, Congressional Democrats, including progressive members of Congress are hoping to force the administration to cancel tens of thousands of dollars' worth of debt, something the White House is not sure it has the power to do.

5. NEW POLL. A new poll by Quinnipiac University released last Wednesday (4 Aug) found that 60% of Americans think a 2024 bid by former President Trump would be bad for the country, although 49%

of Americans think Trump will run again versus 39% who think he won't. President Biden's approval number was down slightly to 46% (from 49% in May) and 54% of respondents thought that the current president would not run in 2024. The Quinnipiac University poll had a margin of error of 2.7%.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Memorial service for MRS. CELIA COMER COLLINS (b. 1943), a native of Huntsville and a 1961 graduate of William Hooper Councill High School, was held Saturday, August 7, at Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 2185 Winchester Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for MS. VETREA BREWTON (b. 1976) was held Saturday, July 31, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with the Reverend Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Graveside service for MR. GARY B. FEARN (b. 1971) was held Saturday, July 31, at Valhalla Memory Gardens.

Funeral service for ELDER BOBBY JOE HEREFORD (b. 1951) was held Wednesday, July 28, at Lewis Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Pastor Versey Jones officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Graveside service for MRS. FANNIE CAROLYN MILLINER (b. 1938) was held Saturday, August 7, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road).

Graveside service for MRS. EDITH FUQUA MILLER was held Saturday, August 7, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MS. EFFIE LEE WILLIAMS (b. 1941) was held Friday, August 6, at the Swan House Event Center (3921 Winchester Road, New Market, Ala.) with Reverend John Clay officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIAM DAVID BRUNDIDGE (b. 1954) was held Thursday, August 5, at Bridgeforth House (716 Brownsferry Street, Athens, Ala.) with Minister Keith Shoulders officiating.

Funeral service for MR. GREGORY EARL WILLIAMS (b. 1955) was held Wednesday, August 4, at the Royal Chapel of Memories with Dr. Harold Gilmore officiating.

Funeral service for MS. MARSHA PRECIOUS TURNER (b. 1992) was held Sunday, August 1, at the New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (3912 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor David Lee officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for MS. CARLOTTA DOSS (b. 1958) was held Saturday, July 31, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for MS. FELECIA MACHELL WILLIE (b. 1988) was held Thursday, July 29, at Serenity Funeral Home.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

MAKING DISCIPLES

Matthew 28: 19-20 says, *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

You know, one of the things that we need to understand is that we can't make disciples of other people if we are not a disciple ourselves. In other words, it takes one to make one. Now a disciple is a personal follower of Jesus. And, according to scripture, there are several things that a person must do to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Jesus explains in Luke 14:26-27 that a disciple must love Jesus more than anyone or anything. Now, I realize that for most of us



this seems impossible. But remember that with God all things are possible. When we learn to love Jesus more than anything, He will give us the capacity to love others more. Also, to be a disciple, we need to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily. Matthew 16:25 says: *For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.* You see, it's not about "finding yourself." Being a disciple of Jesus is about denying yourself, which means not being prideful but willing to help others. And, when we take up our cross, it can mean different things to people. For some, it means resisting the temptation to do what everyone else is doing. It could mean swallowing your pride and telling someone about Jesus. It could mean doing



what God wants you to do instead of doing what you want to do.

Being a disciple means that we fully surrender our lives to Jesus in a way that brings forth spiritual fruit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the very things that we are called to do. When we do these things, we will be able to go and make disciples of other people that we come in contact with ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE, at amazon.com or at prestonbrownministries.com <<http://prestonbrownministries.com/>>



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A New Generation Of Service



## Councilman Takes Part in Cleanup

Huntsville City Councilman Devyn Keith recently took part in community project, using the Richard Showers Center as a base.

According to District 1 Councilman Devyn Keith: "I was proud to take part in the District 1 Cleanup Day & Community Art Installation Painting this past weekend in northwest Huntsville."

Volunteers met at the Dr. Richard Showers Center on Blue Spring Road to pick up trash, remove graffiti, clean sidewalks and participate in a paint-by-numbers project.

Big thanks were extended to Operation Green Team, Arts Huntsville and Lowe's Home Improvement for their support of this effort.

"As a D1 native, I'm excited about another piece of art North Huntsville and the community can enjoy for years to come," said Keith

- HuntsvilleAL.com



## Council Meetings

Huntsville 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 5:30 p.m., Downtown Huntsville.

Watch the meetings live via [HuntsvilleAL.gov/HSVTV](http://HuntsvilleAL.gov/HSVTV) or on the City of Huntsville Facebook page (@huntsvillecity).

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



This is to give you a BIG SHOUT OUT for continuing an outstanding local Newspaper with photos large enough to tell who it is focused on. Thanks for all that you do for our community and the Tennessee Valley. Please give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Brother Saintjones, as well.

*Warm Regards,  
Sister (Katie) Byrd*



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from Our Readers

## PowerShot

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+Aldous Huxley



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*"They condemn what they  
do not understand."*

- Cicero





## July's Recap: Some Name- But All Game-Changers

Four July newsmakers reminded us that game- and name-changes are coming. Or, are already here:

"The Cosby Show"'s Attorney Claire Huxtable tweeted July 1, that Bill Cosby's prison release was "FINALLY!!!! A terrible wrong is being righted . . ."; her new boss Howard University, however, said the tweet "lacked sensitivity."

Therefore the former actress Phylicia Rashad retweeted an immediate apology, as this new Dean of HU's fine arts college was probably reminded that fundraising and friend-raising were her new Dean roles;



On July 20, Jackson State University football coach Deion Sanders abruptly exited a press conference, declaring to a reporter, "You don't call Nick Saban, 'Nick.' Don't call me Deion," a reference to his now-elevated status as a coach over his former pro football and baseball identity;

When her vaccination-averse-now-COVID-infected patients changed their minds and begged for the shot, Alabama's Dr. Brytney Cobia reminded them July 20, "I'm sorry, but it's too late."

Alabama's 33.7% full vaccination rate ranks #50 nationally; and

Cleveland major league baseball owner Paul Dolan announced July 24 that after 106 years his team would no longer be called the "Indians," but now the Cleveland Guardians; this is to remind fans of renewed sensitivities to changing racist stereotypes.

The Apostle Paul exhorted the Philippians: "... but there's one thing I am doing: I'm leaving my old life behind, putting everything on the line for this mission" Philippians 3:13.



As you and I move into the second half of 2021, what changes do we need to make before we are told, "I'm sorry, but it's too late"?

tim allston is the two-time Amazon best-selling author of U.S. Politics: The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders (now on Amazon), and the author-narrator of The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the "Silver-Mettle" Leaders audiobook, with a free sample chapter, when you click on <https://bit.ly/3xiZhP9>.



## Back to School Safety

School Resource Officers (SROs) like David Jones are busy helping students get settled into their school routine.

The officers are assigned to every Huntsville City School campus as a resource for students, teachers, faculty, parents and guardians, and they keep everyone safe, although their job involves much more.

SROs are encouraging students to stay aware, to give space, to slow down, to keep calm, and to communicate.

## NAAACC Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

*"The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated."*

- William James



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# **CALLLED 2 PREACH**

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## **Obstacles, But Not Options**

When Jesus was led to the wilderness by the Spirit for a time of testing and preparation for the inauguration of His ministry, this was specified as an intentional confrontation with the devil.

We know from the story that this diabolical destiny killer tried three times to get Jesus to choose another

option than the one that had been providentially chosen for Him before the foundation of the world.

Jesus' use of the word of God teaches us that on this journey as believers, we will always have obstacles, but when it comes to doing God's will, there are no options.

Every word, Jesus

noted, from the word of God gives life to the soul just as food does to the physical body.

While we do have options when it comes to foods, there are no varieties when it comes to the

word of God. We see that fact in the story of Jesus in the wilderness because He met each test with the word.

Even though there was a different scripture used each time, there were not

three different options for the three different tests.

Too often believers choose options, when faced with obstacles; however, the word of God is clear that it is a lamp unto our feet and light unto our

pathway.

So, when we face obstacles, our Elder Brother has taught us that we are not to look for options, but rather we are to obey the word and will of God.



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# **VALLEY EVENTS**

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

### **Thru August 19**

LearningQuest  
Downtown Huntsville  
Library

### **Thru September 14**

Free Computer Refresher  
Course  
Huntsville Bible College  
906 Oakwood Avenue NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5-6:30 p.m.

### **August 14**

Shoals Southern Soul  
Festival  
McFarland Park  
200 James M. Spain Drive  
Florence, Ala.  
shoalssouthernsoulfesti-  
vals.com  
(256) 457-9663

Craft Beer Trail Fest

The Camp at MidCity  
5909 University Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.

### **August 17**

Faculty-Staff Conference  
Alabama A&M University  
10 a.m.

### **August 19**

The Village of Promise  
Presents  
"Manny Scott"  
Calvary Hill Theatre  
2800 Poplar Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.  
11 a.m.

A Summer Night in So-  
noma

445 Providence Main Street  
Suite 101  
Huntsville, Ala.

6 p.m.

### **August 21**

North Alabama Twicken-  
ham Doll Show Sale  
Jaycee Community Build-  
ing

2180 Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, Ala.

### **September 3**

ROTC Golf Tournament  
Bulldog Brigade of Military  
Alumni Association  
Sunset Landing Golf  
Course  
346 James Record Road  
SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8 a.m.

### **September 30**

Kenny G  
Concert Hall  
Von Braun Center



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**AUGUST 13 - DAWN LEWIS** - Dawnn Jewel Lewis is an American actress, singer, voice actress and songwriter. Lewis is best known for her role as Jaleesa Vinson-Taylor on the NBC television sitcom "A Different World."

- [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com)







Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Mrs. Elaine S. Plank

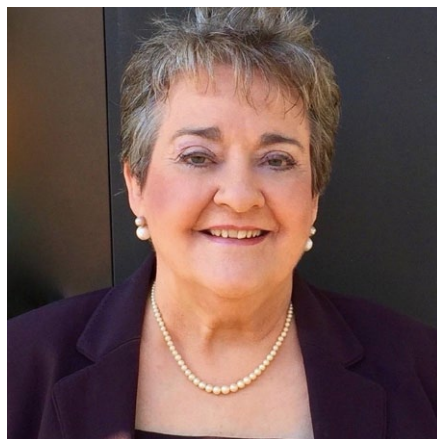
Elaine S. Plank is a healthcare innovative entrepreneur, founder, owner, president and CEO of SafeHealth, Inc., a provider of occupational health and safety services, and integrative holistic healthcare.

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.

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



## Environmental Program Earns ANREP

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Alabama A&M University (Alabama Extension at AAMU) received a program award for work in environmental education. The Urban Environmental Science Education Program (UESEP) earned the first Outstanding Youth Education Program Award.

This award was bestowed by the Alabama Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (Alabama ANREP).

UESEP is delivered statewide under the direc-

tion of Alabama Extension Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources Specialist Karnita Garner.

It provides educational strategies to improve environmental awareness and stewardship.

"I am grateful to Alabama ANREP for this award that acknowledges our new youth environmental programs and the outstanding work that urban regional Extension agents are doing," Garner said. "This award will certainly help to increase program visibility as we

continue to educate students about environmental stewardship and prepare them to pursue natural resource management careers."

The UESEP team includes Garner, Mary Dixon, Tyler Mason, Roosevelt Robinson, Allyson Shabel and Kerry Steedley. Contact Garner about implementing UESEP in your country.

Please visit Natural Resources on the Alabama Extension website for more programs offered by Alabama Extension at AAMU.

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*"Art must discover and reveal the beauty which prejudice and caricature have overlaid"*

- Alain LeRoy Locke



# Helping Valley Seniors Protect Themselves from Financial Abuse

(BPT) - An often-overlooked aspect of elder abuse in the Tennessee Valley is cybercrime - and it's a problem that's getting worse.

In 2020, the FBI reported a record amount of cybercrime complaints - nearly 800,000 - adding up to over \$4.1 billion in losses. More than half of those losses were suffered by people aged 50 and older.

The FBI data shows that, on average, Americans aged 50 and over lost nearly \$5 million every single day, or nearly \$3,500 per minute, to cybercriminals.

To protect your loved ones from financial cybercrime, the first step is awareness. What are the scams?

While fraud can come in many forms, some criminal schemes are targeted at the senior population, including:

\* Romance scam: Fraudsters present themselves as potential

romantic partners online to exploit their targets' desire for companionship - a desire that has grown for many who have felt isolated through the coronavirus pandemic - and eventually get access to their money.

\* Person in need scam: Criminals pretend to be a loved one (e.g., a grandchild) in immediate trouble and need of money right away.

\* Investment scam: Outreach with phony investment opportunities.

\* Fraud investigation scam: Criminals pose as law enforcement officials, asking for personal information or even money to help with their investigation.

\* Technology scam: Fraudsters appear to be a technology support team member or someone from a trusted financial institution asking for remote access to fix a fabricat-

ed technical or account issue.

*Who are the perpetrators?*

When we think of fraud-



sters, we tend to think of nameless, faceless people sitting in the dark, halfway around the world. In reality, a report by the Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans found that in 36% of cases, the victim knows the

perpetrator personally.

This is why caregiving should be a **group effort**. Bring other

loved ones into the conversation, instead of leaving it in the hands of just one person. Lean on the financial institutions you keep your money with to

be an extra set of eyes and ears for you. For instance, at Charles Schwab, we have teams dedicated to identifying and dealing with fraud attempts.

*How can caregivers protect senior loved ones?*

For caregivers, if you're

worried about your loved ones, start with this checklist to protect them:

\* Talk about it. Have a conversation about common scams. Discuss your loved ones' investment goals and attitudes toward money so that you can recognize irregular behavior.

\* Designate trusted contacts. Make sure financial institution reps know who to contact on your loved one's behalf in the event of suspected exploitation, fraud or health issues.

\* Get organized. Locate and safely store important financial documents, such as wills, trusts, powers of attorney, account statements, insurance policies and beneficiary designations.

*Even after you put things in place for your loved ones, be vigilant:*

\* Check in. Regularly review and update important financial documents.

\* Listen. Pay attention to what your loved ones are saying and listen for worrying key phrases, such as "people are asking me for money," "my bills are confusing to me" and "I don't understand financial decisions that someone else is making for me."

\* Watch. Look out for red-flag behaviors, including unusual or unexplained financial activity, abrupt changes to documents, unpaid bills or mail piling up, new friends or sweethearts or confused behavior.

For more information on ways to educate and protect yourself and senior family members from fraudsters, visit [schwab.com/schwabsafe/security-knowledge-center](https://www.schwab.com/schwabsafe/security-knowledge-center).

Progress  
Looks Like  
Taking The Small  
Steps That Make  
A New House  
Home



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Birmingham  
Daphne  
Decatur  
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