

# A&M Film to Recapture '90s, p.4

**FREE**

REV. RICE: 'The Unusual Uber,' p. 4

Friday  
August 20, 2021  
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"But the way to be really despicable is to be contemptuous of other people's pain." - James Baldwin



**VALLEY COLLEGES WELCOME STUDENTS BACK:**  
*Area colleges and universities welcomed students back to their respective campuses, where they received much information to start off the new school year. For freshmen and new students, the August trip marked the first-ever visit to the Tennessee Valley. Above, during its Move In Day and New Student Orientation (NSO), August 4-8, Oakwood University welcomed its students as they arrived on campus, moved into the residence halls, and completed the steps of registration. Photo: Courtesy of Oakwood University*

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill Passes Senate

Last week, the U.S. Senate passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 69-30.

Among the provisions is the authorization of the I-14 corridor. This highway is slated to run from Texas to Georgia continuing through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, up to Augusta, Georgia.



According to media outlet AL.com, the Alabama portion of I-14 would stretch from the Georgia-Alabama border to Phenix City in eastern Alabama to the state capital of Montgomery through Selma to Demopolis and the Mississippi border. The highway also would contain a spur linking it to Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery.

## Public Artist Series Announced

Arts Huntsville has released a local Request for Proposals (RFP) for two temporary public art installations in conjunction with the announcement that registration is now open for its Public Artist Development Workshop series, "Taking Your Art Public." The series will allow local artists to develop their public art skills and the opportunity to formally apply and submit an RFP for the two upcoming installations.

The five-series workshop kicks off on Thursday, Sept. 16, with the RFP information introduced, and runs through the end of October 2021, with the two local artists being selected at the final workshop. To be eligible to apply, local artists and/or artist teams must attend the workshop either in person at Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment or via YouTube live streaming – as this learning experience will allow local studio artists to learn from public art professionals on how to apply and be selected for art commissions within the public art



realm.

"Huntsville is home to a dynamic art community, and we are seeing more public art opportunities emerge in both municipal projects and private development," said Allison Dillon-Jauken, Arts Huntsville executive director. "This workshop is designed to help Huntsville artists enter the public art field and compete for projects that match their expertise locally, regionally and nationally." "Taking Your Art Public" Series Information

**Session One** – Behind the Scenes, Thursday, September 16 – led by Allison Dillon-Jauken, executive director, Arts Huntsville:  
**Session Two** – Going for It, Thursday, September 23– led by Herb Williams, artist:  
**Session Three** – Public Art Collaborators, Thursday, September 30  
**Session Four** – Step- ping up the Public Ladder, Thursday, October 14 (note: no workshop

Thursday, October 7) – led by Teri Alea, public art consultant, former public art project manager:

**Session Five** – Presentation and Project Selection, Thursday, October 21:

The final workshop will include proposal presentations by workshop participants, jurying and selection for two \$2,500 commissions.

Arts Huntsville serves as the public art program manager for the City of Huntsville and is producing the series with support by Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment. The upcoming series was designed around local artists' response to a public art survey that was completed in fall of 2020. The two public art installations will be located in Huntsville, one at Lowe Mill and the other location to be announced during the series. Both installations will remain in place for approximately one year.

Interested local artists can learn more and register by visiting: <http://www.artshuntsville.org/public-art/public-artist-workshops/>

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 and Senate are in adjournment this week for the August Recess, but, in a surprise move, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) sent a memo to all Members last week calling them back to session on Aug. 23 to vote on the \$3.5 trillion FY 2022 federal budget resolution that was passed by the Senate last week, as well as the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Notably absent from the memo was any mention of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill also passed by the Senate last week.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** The President is spending this week at Camp David, but CNN is reporting that the President

will address the nation in the next few days regarding the situation in Afghanistan, where he announced over the weekend the U.S.

would send 2,000 more troops to assist with evacuating U.S. personnel and others, for a total of 6,000. Last Thursday, the President issued a statement in support of California Governor Gavin Newsom, who is facing a Sept. 14 recall vote, and Gov. Newsom announced on Friday that he has commitments from President Biden and Vice President Harris to visit the state in the upcoming weeks. Last week, the White House announced that the President would host a virtual "Summit for Democracy" on Dec. 9-10 with world leaders to defend against authoritarianism, fight corruption, and promote respect for human rights.

3. **COVID BOOSTER SHOT.** Last week, the Food

and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control updated their COVID vaccine emergency use authorizations, allowing the approximately 7.5 million Americans who are immunocompromised to get a 3rd shot of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The recipients would include recipients of organ or stem cell transplants, people with advanced or untreated HIV infection, active recipients of treatment for cancer, and people who are taking some medications that weaken the immune system. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was not included because there was not sufficient data on the issue.

4. **MASKS IN SCHOOLS.** The Biden administration is stepping up its criticism of Republican governors in states like Texas and Florida for bucking federal public health guidance by prohibiting school districts from requiring students to wear masks in the classroom as classes resume

in much of the country and as coronavirus case counts continue to surge. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics have both recommended that students wear masks on campus in to mitigate the spread of the Delta variant of Covid.

5. **TITLE IX RULES.** A coalition of sexual assault survivor advocacy groups will call on the Biden administration to speed up its plans to get rid of the Title IX rules finalized by former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. The Education Department has said it plans to overhaul those Trump-era regulations, something Biden pledged to do on the campaign trail. However, department officials have estimated that they do not expect to formally propose changes to the existing rules until May. In the meantime, the department has issued guidance about how schools and colleges must comply with the DeVos-era

rules that are currently on the books.

6. **FOOD STAMP INCREASE.** According to The New York Times, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a significant and permanent increase in the levels of food stamp assistance available to needy families—the largest single increase in the program's history. Starting in October, average benefits for food stamps (officially known as the SNAP program) will rise more than 25 percent above pre-pandemic levels. The increased assistance will be available indefinitely to all 42 million SNAP beneficiaries and the average monthly per-person benefit will rise from \$121 to \$157.

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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

*Congratulations to Dr. Dorothy Huston on the digital launch of The Valley News. As the founder and administrator for community-based health programming and Healthy Campus, Healthy Community (including our Community Health Action Center, Community Health Action Clinic, and the community Mobile Market to serve the six food deserts in the City of Huntsville), allow me to join the many hundreds sending congratulations your way. And, as a fellow alumna of Leadership Huntsville (class of 1995 and 2012), we see your commitment to community leadership and how it exemplifies the mission of Leadership Huntsville. Your stellar publication brings to Huntsville and Madison County a timely and informative community resource. Our Huntsville community has been in need of a community-based print and now digital news channel for many decades and with your visionary leadership eyes you saw the need and stepped up with the solution. Again, congratulations, Dr. Dorothy Huston; your leadership is exemplary.*

Prudence LaBeach Pollard, PhD, MPH, RD, SPHR  
Oakwood University

**ACCOLADES**  
from Our Readers



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

## THE BIGGER PICTURE

In Matthew 26:34, Jesus says to Peter: “Truly I tell you this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

Imagine for a moment that you knew all about the future. You knew when you would fail. You knew when something bad or catastrophic was going to happen. You even knew all about the “stock market”.

In other words, you knew which stocks were going to go up and the ones that would fall. Now, if we had all this knowledge, it would obviously affect the choices that we make. Having this kind of knowledge would help us make important decisions in our lives.

So, consider this: God knows the future, and he has a plan for our lives. Jeremiah 29:11 says, ‘I know the plans that I have for you,’ says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

God knows everything about us. He knows our shortcomings and failures, and yet He chooses us anyway. Remember, he

chose Peter and David and Sampson and so many others that had their share of ups and downs

Now the reason I bring this up is because it looks like God

chooses only people who fail; however, God always knows the bigger picture.

You see, I believe that God is not as concerned about how we start off in

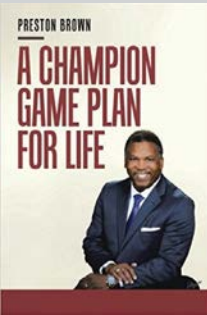


life. I believe that He is more concerned with How we finish.

I truly believe that God chooses us because He loves us, and there is nothing that we can do about it. It's called irresistible grace that He has freely given us. God has chosen all of us to be with Him throughout all eternity. After all, who else would choose someone who denies him not once but three times.

So, the only thing that we need to do is “choose Him back” and believe in His Son. Stay encouraged, my brothers and Sisters!

Make sure you purchase your copy of “A Champion Game Plan For Life” at amazon.com <<http://amazon.com/>>



## Noted Writer Inches Closer to Landmark Birthday

One of America’s most quoted writers would have turned 97 in August 2021.

African-American author, novelist and essayist James Baldwin was born in Harlem, N.Y., almost 100 years ago in 1924.

Because his works delved into the intricacies of racial, sexual and

class distinctions during a period when often such topics were not discussed, he was deemed an outsider.

He was unapologetically himself in a world that could only mumble to itself about his unparalleled intellect, his literary acumen and his bold insistence on being a citizen of the world.

He wrote six novels, numerous and often book-length essays, as well as plays.

He died from stomach



cancer at his humble home in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France, was funeralized at The (Episcopal) Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

## 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 place in which I’ll fit will not exist until I make it.”*

- James Baldwin



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# A&M Alums' Film Will Capture Magic of the Early 1990s

"The Hill" stirs many emotions in many people. For some alums, recollections of life-altering experiences abound. Others are narrowing their focus on the eventful college days of the early 1990s. Because of their frequent visits into reverie, they now believe Alabama A&M University is an elixir to open, pour and share freely around the world.

Films seeking to capture that historically black college and university (HBCU) essence have been done before, and some more genuinely than others. However, a circle of "kings"—made regal by the intensity of their passion to tell a tale in need of telling—strongly believes that the nearly 150-year-old story of The Hill has yet to be fully portrayed. Thus, they have dared to boldly go where few have gone before—back in time.

While "All Kings" represents a 12-person group of AAMU loyalists, its mission is being ably managed by three key players. That short list includes the dynamic, almost prophetic, Paul Graves, Jr., a business management and marketing graduate, from Atlanta, Ga., and Chicago native Khari Okang Embery, a secondary education Normalite now based in Tampa, Fla., who is a realtor and overall Renaissance Man. It also includes Daphne, Ala., native Tim Duncan, a 1996 marketing and MBA alumnus who serves as logistics lead for the Department of Defense Missile Defense Agency.

Other players with equal claim to the dream are rounded out by (alphabetically) Quinton Arrington of Acworth, Ga.; Jonathan Edward Brown, Detroit, Mich.; Sean Kareem Daney, Detroit, Mich.; Franco "Butter" Gunnell, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Doralis G. "MVP" Leslie, Dacula, Ga.; Grant Markell Harris, Jonesboro, Ga.; Stanley "Potnoose" Morrison, Birmingham, Ala.;

Kelly Walton, Champaign, Ill.; and the multi-talented Erika Heard.

A speech pathologist, Erika is a native of Gadsden, Ala., and is yet another dynamic A&M alum who brings immeasurable skills as a casting director and script supervisor. In fact, she is the one largely responsible for ransacking haystacks to locate the golden needles that are now actors in the film. Roommate to "MVP" and ex-girlfriend to Khari, Erika also is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., has her own YouTube series and seems an expert fit for the gaps left by other members of the group. Lastly, Rodney Simpson, a Bulldog from Mobile, Ala., was brought on later, and he, in turn, engaged the talented director of the film project, Travis Christian of Indie Mind Films.

All Kings' story of black unity and brotherhood has its genesis in the early 1990s in Walker Wood men's residence hall on the AAMU campus. It was the opening of the school year, almost like any other at any other institution. The metamorphosis: The freshmen's chance encounter with a bug opened up a conversation that not only brought out their varied backgrounds but their unique perspectives and gifts, as well.

While Paul harmlessly endeavored to anoint the bug with a biblical name, Khari, a young, committed Muslim, interjected that doing so would be disparaging. Before long, Khari was "dropping knowledge" like nobody's business, explaining the intricacies of the Fruit of Islam, and helping to lay the foundation for a non-Greek group that would later identify itself as "The X."

"All of us had normal lives before we even got to campus," said Paul, "but we knew there was something special when we got together." That bond was sealed, he

said, by their tenacity in dealing with the trying issues of the day, from burgeoning campus unrest in 1991 all the way through the national outrage following the acquittal of four police officers in the Rodney King trial a year later. Paul, Khari and Tim later came to realize that their student years at A&M were just cogs in the long-running wheel of time. That wheel had also enveloped passions stemming back to 1619, turning onward to the Orangeburg Massacre and assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, and forward to the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

"There have been events throughout time that have affected students everywhere," explained Paul. But as the trio reflected over their 30-year-old collegiate experience, the diversity and potency of the experiences became even more evident. There were those occasions when their mistakenly unbridled activism allowed cooler heads to prevail, and when their combustible energy and their bountiful allure for young women would ultimately succumb to scholastic achievement and thirst for knowledge beyond the classroom.

As an active member of the Atlanta scene, Paul has seen how the city has lavishly placed some notoriety on HBCUs in the area. These schools still benefit profusely from a regional city with a mega airport that sends and receives powerbrokers from every corner of the globe. He has also witnessed how some area HBCUs have been showcased on film. Now, he believes it's his alma mater's turn.

In their self-appointed roles as time travelers to the 1990s, All Kings and the three members of the project's innermost circle hope to highlight



A&M's community-based, family atmosphere. It was a time when campus Walkman devices and MP3 players were pumping sounds from the King of Pop, Snoop, Puff, The Notorious B.I.G., Tupac Shakur, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey, Seal, TLC, Coolio, and—of course—Whitney Houston, to name a few.

The idea for "The Normal Life"—a film that would expertly feature their special days on The Hill and the magical and transforming moments of the '90s—was born several years ago, but the concept began to fully blossom to the point of action by mid-May of 2021.

Indeed, fiery Paul—a second-generation alum and son of Atlanta minister Paul M. Graves, Sr.—has since the onset approached "The Normal Life" film project with a business-like precision and seriousness, no doubt gleaned from his father. Paul also calls the film "a contemporary drama with a comedic approach," adding that the work will delve inside the minds and hearts of a group of African-American, inner-city men on their journey through AAMU.

"The HBCU experience has a way of engaging, enticing and challenging the moral compass of these individuals," explained Paul, "and it helps them begin the process of consciously defining social justice and seeking their own knowledge of self."

In homage with the larger black college experience, the members of All Kings appear

especially enamored by the HBCU osmosis that occurs when men from respective sectors of the world meet on campus, are jostled by life's ups and downs, and then exit with a unique

brotherhood that transcends the tests of time.

Following much groundwork on the film, for several summer weekends in 2021, in fact, cast members, directed by Christian, blocked scenes throughout the Huntsville campus and then returned to Atlanta to piece together their visions before returning yet again with cameras and actors in tow.

Paul, Rodney and Christian are still meticulously scanning campus settings, carving out any elements that would betray their revered view of the '90s. They have won the support of campus staff and police to make the project a reality. Sometimes, gaining campus support for such a project in its early stages can be the hardest step, noted Paul, who added that even noted director Spike Lee had obstacles with his alma mater.

The alumni team have the actors run through their lines, over and over again, almost to the point that even bystanders can repeat them. There are dorm scenes, administration building scenes, and a series of exterior sets.

The film coordinators also are thorough, productive and ever cognizant of time constraints. However, by early August, there were still some interior shots needed. These will require set-ups in the gym, cafeteria, library, perhaps band, and a few other campus spots, each requiring additional coordination, belief and support from everyday people on The Hill.

Between the key sites of Huntsville and Atlanta, approximately 25 actors are involved or have been involved in the film. They were lured by casting calls conducted in both cities, along with appeals on social media. Even the film's promo is first-rate, and All Kings, as an entity, has accepted some support to make "The Normal Life" a quality film.

"A&M has a lot to offer and should be taken seriously on all fronts," stated Rodney, who has been working in the entertainment business since graduating from AAMU in 1994. He envisions the film as a tool that will serve as a bridge allowing A&M students additional inroads into the entertainment industry.

"We aren't being represented in that arena at all, and it's time to change that," said Rodney. "Support the film. Let's make it big!"

On another level, Paul believes the film will help connect the continuum of struggle, revolution and resolution. Meanwhile, Tim, who admits that he always has been influenced by the wisdom of older men and women, sees the work as a means to restore pride.

"You see us as leaders," he asserted. "Regardless of the decisions, we hold true to them."

"There's a legacy aspect, too," countered Khari, who coaxed his own son through A&M. "It started with William Hooper Councill (A&M's founder), who went from being a slave to having his own zip code." Paul, Khari and Tim agree that, although they arrived at AAMU from "normal" backgrounds, because of their overwhelmingly impactful experiences, "It just wasn't the same."

For more information on "The Normal Life" film project, contact Paul Graves at malcomb73@yahoo.com.

by Jerome Saintjones





## Are Vaccinations Alabama's/America's "Bronze Snake"?

Has anything changed in 50 years? Marvin Gaye's 1971 classic, "What's Going On?" opens with:

*"Mother, mother: There's too many of you crying;  
Brother, brother, brother: There's far too many of  
you dying;*

*You know we've got to find a way,  
To bring some lovin' here today, . . ."*

This 1971 war against Communist expansion in Southeast Asia mirrors our 2021 war against COVID-19 expansion as we still fight an unseen enemy especially in southeastern America's Alabama.



While Alabama is a national leader in college football it is also unfortunately a national leader in un-fully-vaccinated Americans at 34.4% or #46 nationally.

But unlike Marvin Gaye's song, the federal government did "find a way, To bring some lovin' here today": free vaccinations for all above 12 years old.

But we Alabamians will live if we recognize COVID-19 is a problem, not a hoax; take the vaccinations; and thus admit the error of misinformation - a widespread pandemic in itself. Just ask Moses.

In Numbers 21:4-9, the Israelites complained against God's alleged unfairness. God led Moses to liberate them from their 400-year Egyptian enslavement. Yet they complained about the hardships of freedom.

God then permitted poisonous snakes to bite them. When they admitted their misinformation, apologized, and begged for healing, God then directed Moses to make a bronze replica of a snake; place it on a pole, and those who chose to look up at it would live.

Yet, many refused and died in their own virus-like embrace of wrong information, or "infodemic" ([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)).

### Disinformation not Misinformation

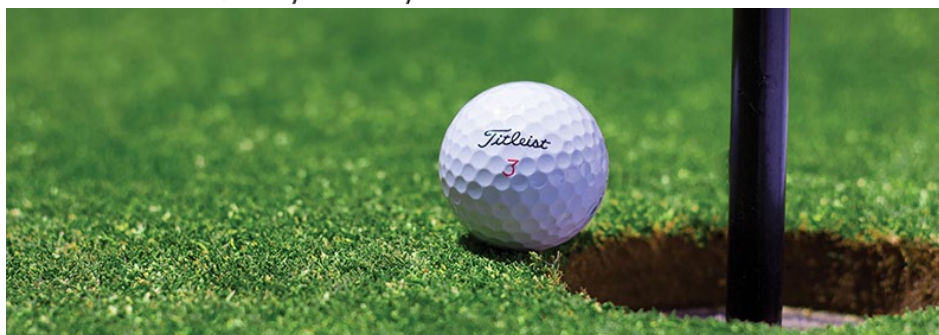
Dictionary.com defines misinformation as spreading false information regardless of the intent to mislead; but disinformation is "knowingly spreading misinformation."

With the Israelites, the misinformation was that God was unfair was later disproved; however in 1971, the Vietnam War disinformation was that the US was winning but ultimately lost; and today's infodemic of disinformation is that COVID-19 is a hoax.

There is no hoax here. Alabamians can minimize their chances of COVID-19 illness or death through conforming to these four overlapping activities: watch your social distancing; wear your masks; wash thoroughly your hands; and get vaccinated.

This should now become our 50-year anniversary remix response to "What's Going On?"

**Q:** Are you vaccinated - why or why not? Write to me at [timallston@gmail.com](mailto:timallston@gmail.com). I'll consider your comments for a future column.



## Military Alums to Host First Golf Tournament in September

The alumni of Alabama A&M University's ROTC Program will host a major event in September and are seeking community-wide support.

The Bulldog Brigade of Military Alumni Association (BBMAA) at AAMU will host its first BBMAA Golf Tournament on Friday, September 3, at Sunset Landing Golf Course, located at 346 James Record Road SW

Huntsville, Ala.

BBMAA is a non-profit organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of ROTC cadets and promoting their professional growth and development. The organization also serves the University of Alabama at Huntsville and Athens State University, in addition to all students enrolled in the ROTC program at AAMU.

In addition to welcoming

foursomes from the community, military alumni and corporate leaders, organizers have created several (6) sponsorship opportunities and attractive donor packages. Planners stress the importance of sending in commitments prior to Monday, August 16.

Contact COL Sims H. Smith (Ret), chair, at [shsmith31@bellsouth.net](mailto:shsmith31@bellsouth.net) or call (205) 381-6343.

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## COVID-19 Assistance

### UNITED WAY COVID-19 Assistance Fund

Donate:

[www.uwmadison-county.org](http://www.uwmadison-county.org)

Get Assistance: Call 211

### SMALL BUSINESSES

[disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)  
(800) 659-2955

### COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

Alabama Department of Labor  
(866) 234-5382  
[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

### MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (256) 539-3711

### LATEST COVID-19 INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health  
[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

### TAKEOUT/ DELIVERY RESTAURANTS

<https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/>

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CALL 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## An Unusual Uber

**Jonah 1:17; 2:1-3,10**

I once drove for Uber. In preparation to become a driver, there were certain prerequisite precautions and preconditions that had to be met. There was a vehicle inspection, model requirements, proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. Without either of these I would not

have been able to participate. The way the system worked, when my Uber App was on, if I was near a potential customer who requested a ride, I would be notified of the address and the GPS protocol for Uber would immediately take over, guiding me to the site; even if I was already familiar with where to go.



Scripture tells the story of *an unusual Uber*. It was not a vehicle that had passed inspection, it was a 'big fish' armed with GPS sensibilities that guided it to the place

where Jonah had been thrown overboard. Just as I was summoned to the 'pick up' point, so was this big fish. Jonah needed this *unusual Uber* because he had been disobedient to the

voice of God and set out to go to Tarshish instead of Nineveh. He did not have a seat belt; instead, he had seaweeds. His experience produced a prayer that prompted him to be



thrown out on the shore. When he got to Nineveh, no doubt fresh in his mind was that *unusual Uber* ride. He preached, the city repented, and the wrath of God was stayed. He should have been happy, but he wasn't.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**Thru August 19**

LearningQuest  
Downtown Huntsville  
Library

445 Providence Main Street  
Suite 101  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6 p.m.

**Thru September 14**

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

**August 21**

North Alabama Twicken-  
ham Doll Show Sale  
Jaycee Community Build-  
ing  
2180 Airport Road SW  
Huntsville, Ala.

**August 19**

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

**August 27**

Riverfest 2021  
Ingalls Harbor Pavilion  
802-A Wilson Street NW  
Decatur, Ala.  
5-11 p.m.

Concerts on the DOcks  
Lowe Mill Arts & Enter-  
tainment  
2211 Seminole Drive SW

A Summer Night in So-  
noma

Huntsville, Ala.

**August 28**

"Jelly Roll"  
Mars Music Hall  
Von Braun Center  
700 Monroe Street  
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 20 - AL ROKER** - Albert Lincoln Roker Jr. is an American weather forecaster, journalist, television personality, actor, and author. He is the current weather anchor on NBC's Today and also serves as co-host on Third Hour Today.  
- [BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com)







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

## Mr. Eugene "Dick" Scruggs

Mr. Eugene "Dick" Scruggs, Sr., is a native of Madison County, Alabama, who was reared in Meridianville. He is also a former member of the Negro League's baseball dynasty, where he served as a pitcher with a fastball that touched 90 miles per hour and a secondary pitch known around the Negro Leagues as "that funky curveball." Dick Scruggs played for the Kansas City Monarchs and the Detroit Stars. He is a 2002 inductee into the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Cemented firmly in the legacy of the Negro Leagues, Dick Scruggs is also a local celebrity. Trained by the late R.E. Nelms, Scruggs has been a licensed embalmer and funeral director, since 1975, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

in Huntsville, Ala. With an impressive six decades of experience as a mortician, Mr. Scruggs has prepared thousands for burial.

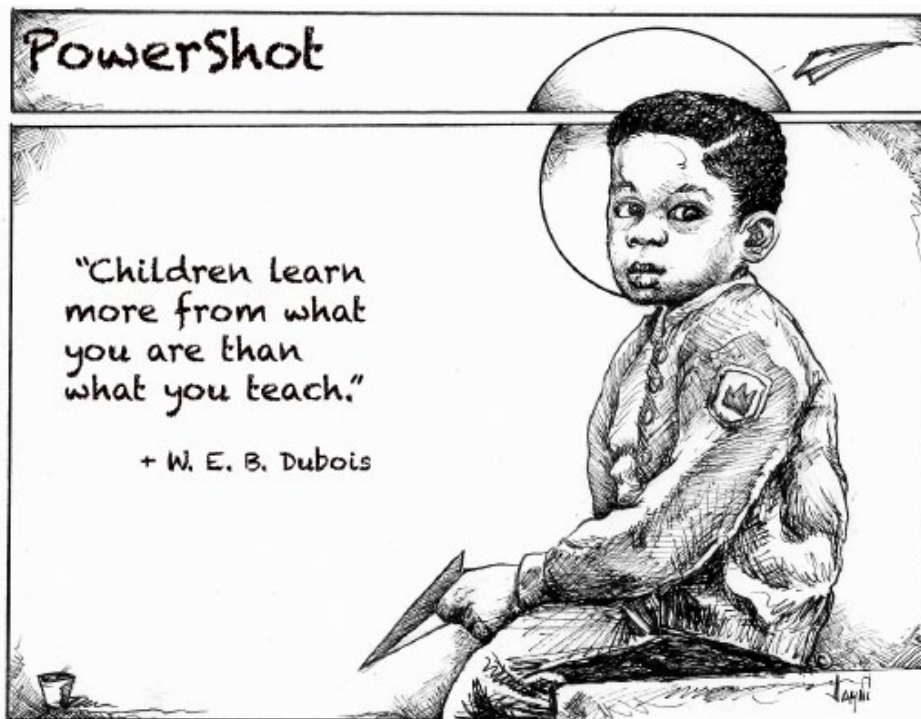
As an elder statesman within the mortuary science profession, Dick Scruggs has trained countless apprentice embalmers and funeral directors, most notably, his grandson, G. Terrell Scruggs. Lauded by colleagues throughout the nation for his work as a mortician, he is affiliated with the Alabama Board of Funeral Service, and the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association.

A strong family man,



Mr. Scruggs is not one to rest on his laurels. In 1970, he founded Associated Contractors, Incorporated, a janitorial service to further provide for his family and to leave a legacy for future generations. Mr. Scruggs is married to Mrs. Ethel Scruggs, his bride of more than 60 years. Together, they are the proud parents of six children and 18 grandchildren.

"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).

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*"People are trapped in history  
and history is trapped in them."*

- James Baldwin



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY DEATHS



## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for **MR. DENNIS JAMES SANDERS** (b.1962) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MS. JOCELYN GWENETT KIRBY** (b. 1971) was held Friday, August 13, at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church, 7565 Greenbrier Road, Madison, Ala..

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.

## ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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

Graveside service for **MR. BILLY BERNARD POWERS** (b. 1959) was held Monday, August 16, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens, 698 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Dr. Floyd Rogers officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. LUCILLE BENFORD RICE** (b. 1946) was held Saturday, August 14, at the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, 2562 Bob Wade Lane, Harvest, Ala., with Pastor Ricky Sykes officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. EARL B. "Early B" LEWIS** (b. 1963) was held Friday, August 13, at Blackburn Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, 507 Plummer Road Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Tramaine Snodgrass officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. JOHN WILLIAM BRADLEY, JR.,** (b. 1972) was held Thursday, August 12, at Saint John Catholic Church, 1055 Hughes Road, Madison, Ala., with Father Vernon Huguley officiating.

Graveside service for **MRS. LOIS ANN WESLEY** (b. 1961) was held Sunday, August 8, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace, 450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala., with Pastor Byron McGlathery officiating.

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. KATHERINE REED** (b. 1939) was held Saturday, August 7, at the Meadowlawn Garden of Peace, 450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala., with Brother Morris Hall officiating.

## SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

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

Funeral service for **MRS. CATHERINE RAGLAND WYATT** (b. 1960) was held Saturday, August 14, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MS. CASEY ELAINE MCCRARY** was held Friday, August 6, at Serenity Funeral Home, with Dr. Christopher Jermaine Turner officiating.

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