

# The Valley Weekly

"Don't leave inferences to be drawn when evidence can be presented."

- Richard Wright

FREE

Volume 3, No. 1

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, September 16, 2016



DLC Launches Cohort VI - The Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium launched Cohort VI on September 6. Rev. Earla Lockhart and Atty. Julian Butler presented "Servant Leadership."

## Valley Mourns the Death of Bulldogs' "Voice"

The Valley community mourns the recent death of Issac "Ike" Walter Rooks, Jr., fondly dubbed as "The Voice of the Bulldogs" of Alabama A&M University. The Huntsvillian, prominent community leader and educator served as teacher, principal, coach, broadcast personality, husband/father and faithful member of Lakeside United Methodist Church. He served the Huntsville City School System for more than 40 years, and he was president of the Fraternal Club of Huntsville for over five decades. Rooks' involvement and enthusiasm for Alabama A&M athletic programs were legendary. The union of Rooks and his wife Nancy Palmer Rooks was blessed with son, Issac Walter Rooks III.



Funeral services are being coordinated by Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

## DLC Opens Fall Session

The Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) launched Cohort VI on September 6, 2016.

The eight-week DLC format offers inspiring and experienced leaders opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals.

The 17-member group includes diverse men and women representing an array of professional areas. Cohort VI includes (alphabetically): **Felicia M. Brown**, USAMC; **Krisshonna G. Brown**, Huntsville Utilities (HU); **Kimberly E. Bryant**, HU; **Resha Nicole Douglas**,

Huntsville Hospital; **Rebecca Farmer**, TMT Group, Inc.; **Brandon Gaughran**, marketing brand director; **Shamika W. Minisee**, U.S. Army SMDC; **Ja-Neen A. Owen**, ALC; **Rose Parks Rice**, Union Chapel MB Church; **Ivan Roshell**, Beacon Hill Worship Center; **Morgan Saint-jones**, TMT Group, Inc.; **Kevin Simmons**, UAH; **Dorothy C. Singleton**, Boys & Girls Club of North Alabama; **Kristy Stamper**, HU; **Anthony L. Thompson**, AAMU Wellness Center; **Joanna White**, event planner; and **Ariana Xicotencatl**, PRPLCARROTT. (See **MORE** on Page 2)

## OU Staffer, DLC Alum Joins Claflin Team

Claflin University (S.C.) has announced the appointment of George Johnson, Jr., as the assistant vice president for Communications & Marketing. He will be responsible for the development and management of the comprehensive communications and marketing functions of the University.

In this role, Johnson will ensure that all communications efforts--from public relations to marketing, including media relations and social media--are working together in harmony for the advancement of Claflin

University.

"We are excited to have Mr. Johnson as a new member of Team Claflin," said Reverend Whitaker Middleton, vice president of Institutional Advancement. "His unique and creative ap-



proach to communication and marketing will help us continue to place Claflin in a positive light with various audiences, such as our current students, alumni, donors, and partners, as well as prospective students and parents," he said.

Claflin University conducted a national search in selecting the assistant vice

president.

Johnson is a graduate of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. He also received a graduate certificate in Strategic Public Relations and Integrated Communications from Towson University in Baltimore, Md.

A graduate of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium-Cohort IV, Johnson has 19 years of experience in the communication field with extensive work in public and media relations, writing, editing, and event planning.

Prior to Claflin, John-

son served Oakwood University as director of Integrated Marketing & Public Relations. During his time at Oakwood, he directed many initiatives, including the enhancement of the University's public profile in redefining and redesigning its primary communication vehicles. In summer 2016, *HBCU Digest* recognized Johnson's work with his previous university's magazine, naming it the 2016 Best Alumni Publication.

Johnson is author of *Media Outreach: How to Get Your Stories in the Media*, a training guide for communication leaders.





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The Valley Weekly

# Diversity Leadership Colloquium Introduces Cohort VI

## Tuesday, September 6, 2016

AAMU Public Relations Office

Albert's Flowers

Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law

Big Oh's

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

Books a Million - N. Parkway/University  
Drive

Briar Fork CP Church

Bryant Bank - Church Street

Burritt on the Mountain

Chris' Barber Shop

Depot Professional Building

Dunkin Donuts

Eagles' Nest Ministries

The Favour Group

Fellowship of Faith Church

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Garden Cove Produce

Health Unlimited

Huntsville Bible College

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

James Smith - AllState Insurance

Lakeside United Methodist Church

Landers McLarty Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram

Lucky's Supermarket

Mamma Annie's

Marshall England - State Farm Agent

Martinson & Beason, PC

Moe's - Village of Providence

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Phuket's in Providence

Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Progress Bank - Madison

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

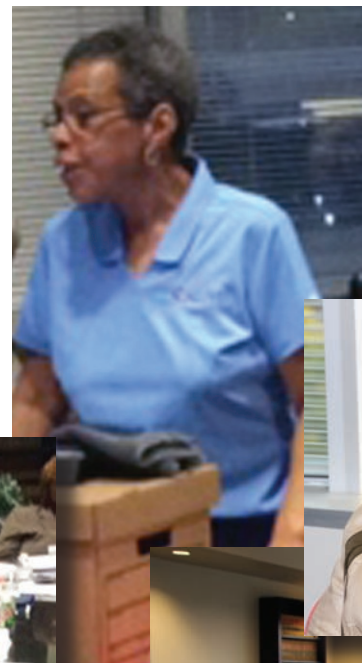
St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church





## **Publisher**

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## **Editor-in-Chief**

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

## **Assistant Editor**

Georgia S. Valrie

## **Editorial Assistants**

Linda Burruss  
Gary T. Whitley

## **Layout & Design**

Independent

## **Photographer**

Eugene Dickerson

## **- Contributing Editors -**

Hortense Dodo  
Dave Herron  
Amoi Savage

## **Website Administrator**

Calvin Farier

## **Illustrator**

John "Jahni" Moore

## **Editorial Consultant**

Jerome Saintjones

## **Mailing Address:**

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

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## **The Valley Weekly**

*Ad Rates Single Issue*

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## *From the Editor*

9-11! ...

This past Sunday was September 11th. Most of us remember September 11, 2001. It was a well-orchestrated set of four terrorist attacks on our country on that morning. We were in a state of shock and panic. Almost 3,000 people were killed and another 6,000 injured, with estimated property and structure damages that amounted to \$3 trillion. Of course, the price of the lives and injuries are incalculable.

Why would we remind our readers of this tragedy?

I find that many of us are so busy wrapped up in our own 'things' that we forget what happened last week, last year, a decade ago, or even anything having to do with history. I was never an enthusiastic student of history and will never be. When I was in high school, one of my history teachers would allow me to go to the library and read books that I found fascinating, because I found the rote memory of events, dates and the name of this Capitol, that war, this general or that one to be very boring.

Perhaps, some of my challenges with history had to do with the history of my own people. In the scheme of things, history can be a hard, stark reality. It's a wonder why any of us want to be reminded about the painful things of the past. Then again, just because we do not want to be reminded about some of our history, that doesn't mean it did not exist.

Blessings to the families who lost loved ones in the 9-11 tragedy. Yes, history can be hard, stark and painful. We are strong! We are Amer-I-Cans. God bless each family who lost loved on 9-11 and God Bless the United States of America.

Until next week ...



*Dorothy*

## **Couple Crowned at Valley's Adult P.R.O.M.**

The annual Adult P. R.O.M. in Huntsville, Ala., was formed as one way to combat a mounting divorce rate. Created in 2012, P.R.O.M. is actually an acronym for "People Recreating Old Memories." The September 10 dance was just like any typical prom (i.e., live music, dancing and, of course, a traditional crowning of prom King and Queen).

While targeted toward the 21+ demographic, the event is meant to give people a chance to either to relive one of the best nights of their life or replace it with a better experience.

While the event was certainly a night to remember, it was also deep-rooted in philanthropy.

- Reginald D. Allen



**Left:** Councilman Will Culver, Tiffany and Sherry Childress and Wiley Day, Sr. at the fourth annual Adult P.R.O.M at the Von Braun Civic Center (Photo by Reggie Allen for Event Magazine Huntsville)



**Bottom Left:** Scott and Jackie Williams are crowned King and Queen at the fourth annual Adult P.R.O.M at the Von Braun Civic Center on September 10. (Photo by Reggie Allen for Event Magazine Huntsville)



The Hamm Consulting Group

## Your Washington Recap

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

1. The House and Senate were in session this week. The Senate resumed consideration of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and then turned later in the week to the FY 2017 Interior Appropriations bill, the vehicle for a continuing resolution to fund the federal government through December 9, 2016. The House dealt with a long

list of bills, including legislation to prohibit the transfer of any Guantanamo detainees until the FY2017 Defense Authorization bill is enacted (which prohibits transfers until December 31, 2017). There are 61 detainees left in the facility that has housed 779 since it was established in 2002. 20 more are likely to be shipped out in the coming months.

2. President Obama may veto a bipartisan bill passed by

the House on Friday by voice vote (and also by voice vote in the Senate in May 2016) allowing families of 9/11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia in U.S. courts. Saudi Arabia has threatened to pull billions of dollars from the U.S. economy if the bill is enacted. An override of his veto by Congress (not expected until after the election) would be the first of his presidency.

3. Rep. John Fleming (R-LA) announced he will bring a privileged resolution to the House floor to impeach IRS Commissioner John Koskinen, which would force the House to vote on it within two legislative days. Rep. Fleming and other members of the House Freedom Caucus argue that Commissioner Koskinen should be impeached because he impeded congressional investigations into allegations that the IRS had targeted

conservative groups seeking nonprofit status from 2010-12.

4. House Republicans this week are taking another look at how colleges and universities with wealthy endowments spend their money. Rep. Peter Roskam (R-IL), who chairs the House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, will explore the cost of college and the tax benefits institutions of higher education receive. The probe, a joint effort of the oversight subcommittee and the Senate Finance Committee, seeks information and data from 56 institutions with endowments of more than \$1 billion. The panel held a similar hearing last year.

5. Last Friday, Secretary of State John Kerry announced that the U.S. and Russia have agreed on the terms of a cease-fire in Syria and have called on all warring parties there to stop fighting at sunset September 12.

6. Last Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 6-2 vote (Justices Thomas and Alito in the minority) rejected an appeal from the State of Michigan that sought to eliminate straight-ticket voting for the first time in 125 years via a new law signed by Governor Rick Snyder (R) in January 2016.

THE HAMM CONSULTING GROUP LLC  
400 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 585  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20001  
V: 202-596-838  
M: 703-608-1906

RHAMM@HAMMCONSULTING.COM  
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## 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.

## Champion Game Plan for Life

If we really believe that God has a great plan for our lives and we trust Him, then there is no need for us to be jealous or envious of anyone else.

You see, we should trust God that when our time is right, God will meet our needs in His own way. Anytime we become resentful or bitter about somebody's blessings, we

get in trouble because a lot of times we want our "fruit" from God, but we don't have any roots. So, when the first storm comes, our roots are not deep enough to handle it. That's why God blesses us in His time and not in our time. And,



we should be glad about this. Character is developed when we don't get what we want, but we still continue to "hang in there."

... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

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[lwomack@womackassociatesllc.com](mailto:lwomack@womackassociatesllc.com)

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# Don't Be Tardy!

I was given an amazing opportunity at the beginning of the year, landing my first full season working on a television show. In February, I started working the reunion for "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" and rolled over into the production for "Don't Be Tardy" on Bravo TV, which

aired September 14, 2016.

"Don't Be Tardy" follows the life of the former "Real Housewife of Atlanta" star Kim Zolciak, Atlanta Falcons player Kroy Beermann, and their six children.

"Don't Be Tardy" was the first full show that I ever worked on, and it was

quite an experience! *Office Production Assistant* was my title on the show. My job was to do paperwork, management, and strategic planning for the show.

The title of the show speaks business advice in itself. Don't be tardy and don't be absent are the first values you are taught as a

kid in class. When you get older, you begin to realize why these values are taught at a young age because they are also professional values.

Being prompt simply shows that you respect other people's time. We have all heard the expression, "time is money," meaning you treat someone's time just as you would respect their resources.

People have to get things done, and they could be using that time to make money. Be very conscious



of time, how you spend it and how you treat others, especially when you are in a professional environ-

ment. Do your best to be prompt and "Don't Be Tardy!"

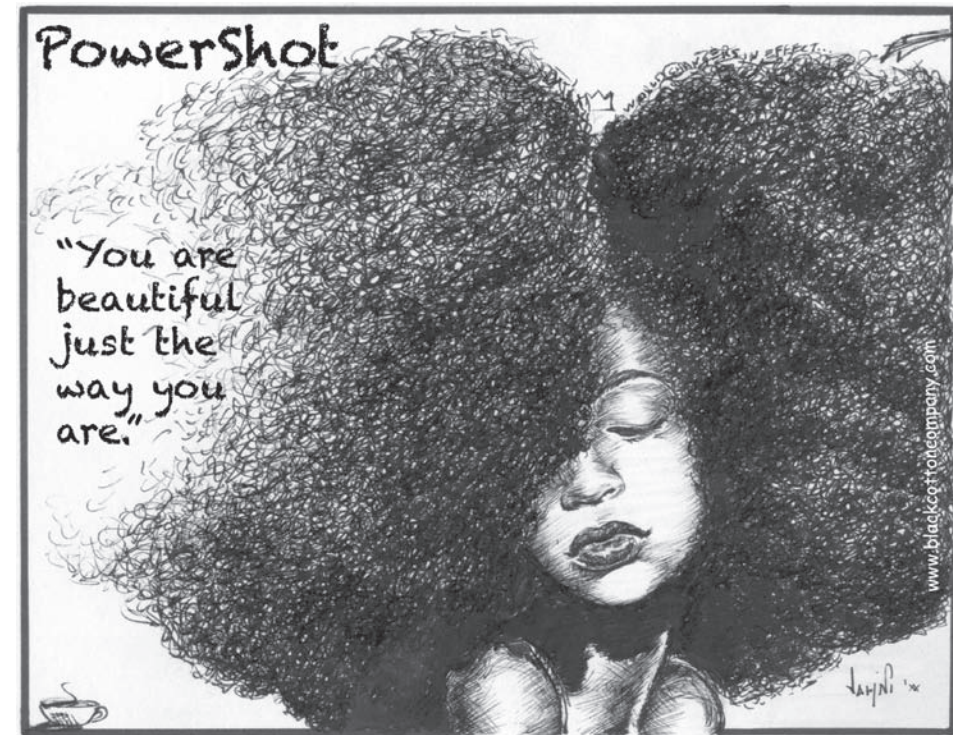
by Amoi Savage



**Spiritual Healing:** Healing Touch Ministry members of First Missionary Baptist Church took part in the 16th Annual North Alabama Health and Wellness Fair at Alabama A&M University on Saturday, September 10.



**On This Day - Friday, September 16 - B.B. KING - Blues singer Ripley "B.B." King was born in Itta Benna, Miss. He is recognized as one of the best and most respected blues musicians of all time. - Black-inTime.info**



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## Valley Deaths

- Funeral service arrangements will be announced later for **Mr. Green R. "Duck" Jones** (b. 1940).

- Funeral service was held Friday, September 16, at 12 noon at Lake-side United Methodist Church for **Mr. Isaac W. "Ike" Rooks, Jr.** (b. 1928), "The Voice of the Bulldogs."

- Funeral service for **Mrs. Pearl W. Sales** (b. 1935) was held Saturday, September 10, at Beaver Dam Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Theodore Bone officiating.

- Funeral service was held recently for **Mr. Marvin "Bubba" Gurley, Sr.**, (b. 1929) at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapter with Rev. Warner Walker officiating.

- Funeral service for **Mr. Jeffery W. McCaulley** (b. 1964) was held Saturday, September 3, at Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church with Pastor Endia J. Scruggs.

- Funeral service was held for **Mr. Every C. Erskine** (b. 1933) at Springhill United Methodist Church in Madison, Ala.,

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Huntsville, Ala.  
[www.nelmsmemorial.net](http://www.nelmsmemorial.net)

## Birmingham Band Offers Sophomore Album

Last week, St. Paul & The Broken Bones released the highly anticipated sophomore album, "Sea of Noise." Days before the album's public debut, the Alabama-raised sextet held an intimate listening party at Seasick Records, a popular music hangout in the band's hometown of Birmingham, Ala.

Praised for their unique combination of rock and soul, the ensemble performed its first live show at the widely popular Secret Stages, a weekend-long festival in Birmingham that teases upcoming talent in the indie music industry. Front man Paul Janeway and bassist Jesse Phillips started the group with the intent of it being their last musical project. But, as the lead vocalist put it, "something just clicked and we walked there with something." Janeway's sultry and soulful voice, combined

with a mini orchestra of a band, created a unique sound that landed them in Muscle Shoals, where they recorded their freshman album, "Half the City."

Described by Janeway as a "not quite a full-blown concept record", the sophomore album is concentrated in the subject matter of "finding redemption and hope."

"Sea of Noise" marks a change in direction for the band. As reported by Rolling Stone Magazine, this album will be their first under Records, a label in partnership with Songs Publishing, which has written music for The Weeknd, Diplo and newcomer Designer.

Since their 2013 debut, the soul outfit has made appearances on "CBS: The



Morning," "Austin City Limits" and "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" and "Craig Ferguson," respectively. But their biggest accomplishment was being personally chosen to open up for Rolling Stones last year.

In December, St. Paul & The Broken Bones will return to the Magic City for a special two-night engagement at the historic Alabama Theatre.

by Reggie Allen

## Rep. Hall Honors Entomologist

Rep. Laura Hall presented Alabama House Interim Resolution #78 at at Huntsville's First Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church on September 10.

The resolution accorded "highest commendation" to Donald Blake, Ph.D., on the occasion of the opening and dedication of the Donald Blake Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Culture on the campus of Walla Walla University, (Wash.).

Blake, an entomologist and retired ITT Hartford Insurance Group corporate education director, was a faculty member of



the Walla Walla College Department of Biological Sciences from 1962 to 1969, who earned degrees from Oakwood College, Michigan State University and the University of Rhode Island.

Blake accepted the resolution, by reciting briefly his single mother's commitment to Christian education for him and his siblings, against their substandard living conditions and near-eviction in Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Kimberly Fails Jones Memorial Foundation, Inc.

presents

## The Sixth Annual Breast Cancer Survivors Celebration



Friday, October 14, 2016  
VBCC North Hall  
Huntsville, Alabama

Tickets are \$40.00  
Doors open at 6:00  
Event is from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Tickets are available from any board member or you can call

Edna Fails - 256-337-0574

Dwight Pope - 256-468-1756

Sandra Cross - 256-412-5143

or by visiting the website

[www.kfjfoundation.com](http://www.kfjfoundation.com)



Kimberly Fails Jones Memorial Foundation, Inc. is an 501(c)(3) tax exempt foundation determined by the Internal Revenue Service, founded in memory of Kimberly Fails Jones by her parents, William and Edna Fails

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## Calendar of Events

**September 16**  
Food Truck Street Festival  
*Sponsor:* Jerry Damson  
Honda Acura  
Downtown Huntsville  
Lumberyard Parking Lot  
108 Cleveland Avenue  
5-9 p.m.

Huntsville Symphony  
Orchestra  
"Faure Requiem"  
Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall  
Von Braun Center

**September 25**  
Valley Conservatory Jam  
Session, 5-8 p.m.

**September 30**  
Miss Alabama A&M Uni-  
versity Coronation  
Elmore Building, 6 p.m.

**October 3-5**  
Association of the United  
States Army  
Annual Meeting & Exposi-  
tion  
Huntsville, AL - AUSA.org

**October 8**  
Alabama A&M University  
Homecoming Day

**October 23**  
Valley Conservatory Jam  
Session, 5-8 p.m.

**November 3-4**  
2016 WEDC Leadership  
Conference  
U S Space and Rocket  
Center  
www.wedchsv.org

**November 27**  
Valley Conservatory Jam  
Session, 5-8 p.m.

**February 4**  
Huntsville Symphony  
Orchestra  
Free Family Concert  
Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall  
Von Braun Center  
11 a.m.

## St. Rebecca Celebration Scheduled

St. Rebecca Church in  
Hazel Green, Ala., will  
observe the 15th Anniver-  
sary Celebration for Pastor  
Perry Clark on Sunday,  
October 2, 2016.

Elder Bobby Battle and  
A's Chapel Church fam-  
ily will render the 10 a.m.

Morning Worship.

The 1 p.m. Worship  
will be rendered by Elder  
Archie Morris and the True  
Light M. B. Church Family  
from Hattiesburg, Miss.

The public is invited to  
join us for this glorious  
celebration.

## Only Weeks Remain to Capture Botanical Exhibit

The Purdy Butterfly  
House will be available for  
viewing through Septem-  
ber 30 at the Huntsville  
Botanical Garden.

This beautiful, soaring  
9,000 sq. ft. natural stone  
and steel beam structure  
overlooking the entrance

pond is home to thousands  
of native butterflies, tad-  
poles, frogs, button quail,  
turtles and other critters.

Garden admission fees  
include entry into the  
Purdy Butterfly House. For  
more information, visit  
hsvbg.org.

## Minister Holding Book Release

The Tennessee Valley  
community is invited to  
the book release of "Soar  
above the Pain," a memoir  
of the amazing life of Min-  
ister Charlie "C.L." Holley.

The free event  
will be held Sunday,  
September 25, at  
Huntsville Public  
Library, located at  
915 Monroe Street  
SW, 3-4 p.m.

The book begins  
by depicting the struggles  
and injustice of his parents  
during the 1950s South, the  
residual effects of Jim Crow  
laws, and then presents an  
in-depth view into the life  
of an impoverished share-  
cropper's family during the  
civil rights era.

As the youngest of 10  
children, he describes exis-  
tence through the eyes of a

young black child, com-  
plete with the experiences  
of picking and chopping  
cotton, the excitement of  
the black church, and the  
grace and strength  
of his parents.

During his  
adolescent years, he  
recalls the difficul-  
ties of integrating  
a white school,  
the forging of true  
friendships between  
races, and the many  
lessons of life.

He relays the story of  
meeting his wife, having  
his first child, and wres-  
tling with the sudden trag-  
edy that nearly drowned  
the entire family in the sea  
of depression.

C.L. Holley writes with  
wit and charm, yet weaves  
incidents of good and bad  
into one fabric to form an



## Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2016 Season

Sept 3 @ Middle Tennessee -  
Murfreesboro, TN

Sept 10 @ Mississippi Valley  
State - Itta Bena, MS

**Sept 17 vs. PRAIRIE VIEW  
(Louis Crews Classic)**  
**Sept 24 vs. SOUTHERN**

Oct 1 @ Texas Southern -  
Houston, TX

**Oct 8 vs. ALCORN STATE  
(Homecoming)**

Oct 15 @ Arkansas Pine Bluff -  
Pine Bluff, AR

Oct 29 vs. Alabama State  
(Magic City Classic)

**Nov 5 vs. GRAMBLING**

Nov 12 @ Jackson State - Jack-  
son, MS

Nov 19 @ Auburn - Auburn,  
AL



emotional and heart touch-  
ing read. "Soar Above the  
Pain" is a captivating true  
story of the challenging  
life of a person who wasn't  
supposed to be born, much  
less succeed. His incredible  
story demonstrates hope in  
the midst of despair.

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