

# The Valley Weekly

"A monster is a person who has stopped pretending."  
- Colson Whitehead

FREE

Volume 6 No. 3

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, September 27, 2019

## Madkins Chapel to Host UA's Afro-American Gospel Choir



The Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, pastored by Rev. Endia J. Scruggs, will join the University of Alabama Afro-American Gospel Choir for morning worship service on Sunday, September 29, at 9:30 a.m.

In the summer of 1971, a group of 12 black students at the University of Alabama decided to enter a talent show sponsored by the then Afro-American Association.

The students chose to sing a gospel song repre-

sentative of the source of their faith.

The performance on August 4, 1971, was the beginning of what was yet to come.

In the fall of 1971, some 40 to 50 students came together in unity with the

original 12 to form what is now known as the Afro-American Gospel Choir of the University of Alabama.

The public is invited to share in this worship experience.

## Grassroots Partnerships Target Edmonton Heights

A large team of volunteers joined forces to help improve the quality of life for the residents of the Edmonton Heights community through the "God's Work, Our Hands" project.

The group of volunteers was comprised of the Alabama A&M University Community Development Corporation, City of Huntsville Operation Green Team, St. Mark

Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Church. The effort was aimed at overall beautification, establishing community gardens and minor



maintenance. Charles Tolbert, Jr., an AmeriCorps

Vista Volunteer, coordinated the event.

## The Valley Weekly

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# Washington in One Minute



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

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. Votes in the House will include a bill to require 40 hours of annual training for all U.S. customs officers in community relations, interactions with vulnerable populations, civil rights and the lawful use of force; and a bill to require medical screenings of all persons detained by the U.S. between ports of entry within 12 hours of the initial stop. The Senate will take up a continuing resolution to keep the federal government open through November 21, 2019, which the House passed last week on a vote of 301-123 (with 76 Republicans crossing the aisle to vote "yea").

2. President Trump hosted a meeting on religious freedom at the United Nations, which happened at the same time as the U.N. Climate Summit down the hall. On Friday,

the President participated in a call with Jewish faith leaders and delivered remarks at the Hispanic Heritage Month reception.

3. The Senate Appropriations Committee worked on the FY2020 appropriations bills and were set to vote to approve 4 more bills in committee: the FY2020 Interior; Commerce/Justice/Science; Homeland Security; and Legislative Branch Appropriations bills. Last week, the Senate approved \$250 million to improve the security of state voting systems, as part of the FY2020 Financial Services Appropriations bill ...

4. On Thursday, Acting Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Joseph Maguire appeared before the House Intelligence Committee in an open hearing and faced questions about a whistleblower's complaint allegedly involving President Trump's conversations with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky seek-

ing information on the Biden family. Yesterday (Sunday), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent a letter to all Members of the House saying that she will expect the DNI to turn over the whistleblower's full complaint to the committee and establish a path for the whistleblower to speak directly to the House and Senate Intelligence Committees as required

by law.

5. Last Friday, the Department of Labor released figures on manufacturing jobs, which showed that, over the past 12 months, Pennsylvania lost 8,000 manufacturing jobs and Wisconsin lost 5,000. On the brighter side, Michigan gained 2,000 manufacturing jobs and Ohio gained 5,000. Overall, the country added 138,000 manufacturing jobs in the past year, but only 44,000 of those jobs have come in 2019. According to MarketWatch, as of January 2019, there were some 12.9 million manufacturing jobs in the U.S., representing 8.5% of the total workforce (in 1975 it was 25% of the workforce).

6. Also, Last Friday, the U.S. Trade Representative published 3 separate lists of Chinese goods that will be excluded from tariffs, including dog leashes, drinking straws, Christmas lights and pool vacuums. Last week, China exempted some American


imports from its own tariff list, including soy beans, pork, fish meal, shrimp, and cancer drugs ...

7. A new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released yesterday (Sunday) showed that 69% of registered voters disliked President Trump personally whether or not they supported his policies – a new record. In contrast, for our recent past presidents, it has

been the case that majorities of poll respondents said they personally liked Obama, Bush43, Clinton, Bush41, and Reagan, even though they might disagree vigorously with their political agenda. However, the percentage of respondents who said they were enthusiastic about President Trump outpolled his opposition, by his 26% to Warren's 17%, Sanders' 13% and Biden's 12%. In addition, 46% of voters give

the President credit for the economy. Among major issues discussed in the poll, a notable 52% of all voters support shifting to 100% renewable energy by 2030 (with a whopping 81% of Democratic voters on board).

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The Valley Weekly

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**The Valley Weekly**

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# From the Editor

On Friday, September 5, 2014, we published the inaugural edition of The Valley Weekly. When we launched, the following was committed: *"Our foundation is built on the principles of integrity, independence and courage. Our mission is to provide the community with newsworthy information and to provide an outlet for the sharing and exchange of ideas. Our goal is to become your weekly source for local news and balanced information. We plan to seek and report the truth, to show compassion, and to accept responsibility for our product."*

When I was a child, I was taught respect by the elders in our small community in south Alabama. The respect we learned was deep and wide. Because the family tentacles were not always readily apparent, children knew to obey the family's rules, which were essentially the community's rules. Everyone knew my parents, so if I were to cross a prohibited path on my way in or out, it was already community information before I even figured it out. Of course, this was the era of black and white televisions, "party line" telephones, and wood-burning stoves for both cooking and warmth for the entire family. I learned in my early years to stay firmly on my path because the few times I decided to divert from it were met by often invisible tentacles that emerged from intricate underground systems I didn't even know existed. Part of the underlying network was the historic institution known throughout many black communities as "The Rosenwald School."

I attended the Rosenwald School in Monroeville, Ala., from the first through sixth grades. And, although neither of my parents attended school for many years, each had a community network that nurtured me toward success. The community knew its teachers, and the teachers had no problem reaching out to parents. The Rosenwald Schools hold a special place in our educational history, and we briefly salute them here. After 56 years and life in four states, I still understand the teachings of those elders and the value of the modest institution set up for us.

In this and future issues, we hope to share the stories of local elders who have established and monitored those family and community root systems. It would be wise to gather together elders from time to time to engage in intergenerational conversations. The reward would surely be a connection that links both past and future. In less than two generations from slavery, our ancestors spawned soul-stirring gospel, Down Home blues, the Harlem Renaissance, thought-provoking literature and thousands of businesses to service their communities.

Let us begin today to unite through conversation and the sharing of our varied experiences. We have so much to learn.

We have done exactly what we indicated we would do five years ago! Many said our positive, inspirational, educational (PIE) approach would not sell; that local community would not be interested. Well, the devil is a liar. Christ is still in control of the universe, including our small space in Huntsville/Madison County. Thanks for our diverse advertisers, our thousands of readers who read the printed and electronic copies each week. We are indeed blessed and the naysayers continue to be amazed. As we continue to share our stories, Happy 5th Anniversary to *The Valley Weekly* and the entire team of volunteers and supporters who work each week to share a piece of our PIE. Special accolades to Jerome Saintjones, Linda Burruss, Phyllis Chunn, Gary Whitley, Tim Allston, Ron Hamm, Preston Brown, Michael Rice, Calvin Farier, Cody "Global" Gopher and Lamar Braxton. I am proud to call you Friends and Colleagues. Everywhere I go, readers are heaping praise on your contributions.

Until next week ...



The Valley Weekly

*Dorothy*

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

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Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway

at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist



## Drake, Dealership Partner for Certification Push

Frank Williams Dealerships has partnered with Drake State of Huntsville, Ala., to fund an automotive technician program unlike any other.

The program consists of a two-year degree where students not only graduate with a degree as an automotive technician but also have the option of graduating Brand Certified. A general degree for a technician allows an individual to be hired on at a service department; however, the person is still required to complete a certification through that manufacturer.

Through this program, these technicians will be able to begin work immediately in a service department upon graduation that represents: Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, RAM, Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Subaru.

FW Dealerships have pledged to provide course curriculum to achieve Brand Certification as well as vehicles

to the program which will allow the students to receive hands-on experience with the brands in which they are becoming certified. In an effort to ensure the retention of the students enrolled in the program, FW Dealerships will also offer paid internships and direct placement opportunities to students of Drake.

"I believe that sustainable partnerships begin with a common passion and are a great opportunity to invest time and resources in order to ensure our students are ready to work. This Frank Williams partnership will be a life changing opportunity for some of our current and future students," said Dr. Patricia Sims, president of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College.

A media event was held last week on the Drake State campus.

## Perspectives on EGO-holism

by tim allston

### "Free at Last/(VISA card) Free at Last!"

Read Habakkuk 2:3, TLB

#### Timeline

(9/16/19, 4:42 pm) Subject walked into Synovus Westside Centre branch; slapped down \$93.58; and paid off finally his lingering VISA debt - which amassed 23% in overcharges over five years!

(4:45 pm) Subject waved aloft his payment receipt like a winning MegaMillion lottery ticket, "I'm free, I'm free." Mrs. Leteria Moses-Waters, longtime personal banker/branch manager, swiveled her chair around, with two thumbs-up. "tim, you did it; you had the faith and persevered against all the odds."

(4:46 pm) Subject ran out the front door, uncharacteristically, and the banker probably knew why, . . .

#### Career vs. Calling?

Michael Novak's *Business As A Calling* cites "Callings are not easy to discover. Frequently, many false paths are taken before the satisfying path is at last discovered. Experiments, painful setbacks, false hopes, discernment, prayer and much patience are often required, before the light goes on."

Since 1969, I'd been running frantically (and un-successfully) from God's calling for me to minister.

#### Jonah Complex 2.0

Additionally, Abraham Maslow's "The Jonah Complex" is "the fear of success which prevents self-actualization, or the realization of one's potential. It is the fear of one's own greatness, the evasion of one's destiny, or the avoidance of exercising one's talents."

Summarily for me, God "orchestrated" patiently: 13 firings -- 11 Huntsville pink slips!; Never once any job promotions in 39 employment years; yet numerous industry, company awards to precede most of those firings, to remind me of my potential, but not at that workplace!

#### "The Sadim Touch"

Still "leaning to my own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5), I chased business partnerships and freelance assignments, only to cause not only me but my partners' downfall. Finally following successive failures, I told them, "I'm the problem, the Jonah, and the only way that you'll succeed is to throw me overboard - like Jonah" (Jonah 1:11-13). In the process of chasing these well-intentioned yet under-capitalized business ventures, I amassed credit debt forcing VISA to deactivate my privileges.

God was employing the Sadim (opposite of Midas!) Touch: every income-generating thing I touched tarnished and failed.

#### Finally, . . .

One January 2018 Friday night while praying, God directed me to a dust-collecting book Dad gave me in 1991, *The Divine Art of Preaching*, defined as "the divinely-ordained power of personal testimony."

I looked at both my rollercoasting and my book, *7 Steps*, and declared finally, "Well, I guessed I'm s'posed to preach."

#### Almost immediately, . . .

I began pursuing homiletics coaching and classes. Simultaneously, a slow drip of speaking engagements, freelance writing assignments (such as TVW!), and seminar-workshop facilitations began to emerge, for me to address my unique first-person ministry: ego-holism recovering. Weeks ago, a national medical research institute called me to participate in its research study on freshly-minted older Americans! Nobody but God.

#### Now, Do As I Say, NOT As I Did!

Ego-holism recovering step #6 - "The Healing's In The Revealing" - mandates we share our pains-turned-object-lessons, which is why I ran uncharacteristically out of the bank last Monday -

. . . Didn't want Leteria, tellers and fellow customers witnessing a 65-year old acquitted credit-card inmate crying. Uncontrollably. And un-apologetically.

tim allston (HU '77, '95) is the author of the free book, *7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else,"* free and downloadable now at [www.GetEgoHelpNow.org](http://www.GetEgoHelpNow.org).



## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

### “A HEART THAT FORGIVES”

Matthew 18:21-22 says, *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times.”*

When we look at this scripture, we see that Peter was probably not expecting this response from Jesus. And many of us today are not prepared for this response either. Because it's hard to forgive people that have hurt you even “one time”, but Jesus is telling Peter that we need to forgive our brothers and sisters “seventy seven times”.

But let's face it, when someone hurts you or does you wrong, it's hard to forgive--especially when the pain is so deep that it's hard to speak about the issue without getting upset.

Whether it be in your distant past or immediate past, forgiveness is

hard. So how can we forgive people? I believe that there are a few things we have to understand about forgiveness as it relates to this scripture. First, we have to understand that it's hard to forgive from an earthly perspective. Because the one who forgives is the innocent person who allows the guilty person that did wrong to go free. This is not normal and that's why it's hard.

We see here in the text that this king showed his servant mercy and not the “justice” that the circumstance called for.

So, forgiveness starts with showing the same mercy that God shows us. Secondly, forgiveness is revealing, because it reveals our weaknesses. Here again we find in this text that the King forgave a debt that his servant couldn't pay and yet this servant did not forgive a man that owed him a debt that was a “considerable”

amount less.

In this comparison, we see God's amazing grace is revealed. Because the King represents how God forgives us of our debt, no matter how much that we owe. That's why God demands that we look at



others through the eyes of mercy not justice. But the best thing we need to understand about forgiveness is the freeing power that it gives you. Because when we forgive, it sets us free from the pain of the past. But when we choose not to forgive people we release a negative spirit in our lives that robs us of our peace and our joy. That's why we need to get free from the hurt and the pain of the past that un-forgiveness brings. Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters

Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, “A Champion Game Plan For Life,” at amazon.com.

### Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Mrs. Doris Ellison

Huntsville, Ala., resident Doris Ellison attended and graduated from Councill High School. A retiree of Bellsouth AT&T, where she worked for 32 years as a service representative (business), Ellison and her husband, the late Perry Ellison, Jr., had five children.

Mrs. Ellison praised and glorified God for the fact that her five children completed college and became successful professionals in the world of work. As an active and productive member of the community, she volunteered with the Salvation Army, Huntsville Hospital and the Bellsouth AT&T Pioneers. On Wednesdays, she volunteered at the Huntsville Hospital, performing such duties as answering the

telephone, providing information to visitors and delivering flowers to patients' rooms.

With the Salvation Army, she answered the telephone and took requests for donations, such as furniture, clothing, etc. Additionally, as a volunteer with the Bellsouth AT&T Pioneers, she assisted with the screening of volunteers for the Pioneers and assisted Top of Alabama Regional Council with its Annual Senior Day.

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Ellison and her children established the Perry Ellison Scholarship Foundation. The Foundation sponsors an annual drama produced by her daughter, Mrs. Delannus Sharpe. The proceeds sup-



port scholarships.

Ellison has enjoyed a lengthy affiliation with Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church. At Pine Grove, she served as a member of the Senior Usher Ministry and Senior Missionary Ministry. Also, she worked with the Youth Department, where she assisted youths with career development preparation.

## How to Become a Long-term Investor

When you invest, you will experience declines in the financial markets. But the longer you hold your investments, the less impact these drops can have on your portfolio. So take some steps to become a long-term investor.

First, only invest money you won't need for a long time. This will help you overlook the inevitable down periods in the market.

Also, keep your focus on what matters most to you. For example, if you want to travel extensively when you retire, keep thinking about what that might look like. By doing so, you'll find it easier to keep working toward your goals.

Finally, don't spend too much time examining short-term results in your investment statements. Instead, look at some of the report's longer-term trends, such as the possible increase in the number of investment shares you own. The deeper you dig into your statement, the more motivation you may find to keep on the long-term track.

It will take discipline to invest for the long term – but it's worth the effort.



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## The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

**Thru October 31**  
Tuskegee Photographer  
P.H. Polk Exhibit  
State Black Archives  
Alabama A&M University  
Wilson Building  
(256) 372-4728

**September 28**  
19th Annual North Alabama Health & Wellness Fair

Calhoun Community College/Huntsville Campus  
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (Free)

**October 4**  
Day Party 2.0  
Alabama A&M University  
*Featuring Lacey, Case, Juvenile and Willie Clayton*  
(Between Stadium and North Police Precinct)-\$30  
Eventbrite.com

(256) 372-8344

**October 6**  
Asha Kiran  
“Human Chain”  
Against Domestic Violence  
Legacy Lake  
Alabama A&M University  
2-4 p.m.

**October 20-27**  
Johnson/Butler Legacy

Scenes from the Huntsville  
Madison County  
Chamber of Commerce's  
Annual Outing Ditto Landing  
September 17, 2019



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## NAAACC Monthly Meetings

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

The meeting location varies.

Contact Alfred Adams, alfredg.adams@naaachamber.org, or call (256) 564-7574.

## Huntsville City Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Council



work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. People can sign up for notices of Council meetings and special sessions online at <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1825550/1780821/>. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



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# Called *2* Preach

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

## Spiritual Gifts

Jesus told him that he was going to actually sink so low that he would deny even knowing Him at all.

It was Jesus' prayer for Peter that kept him from eternal destruction, and it was Jesus' prophetic prediction and promise that assured him that he was going to recover and when he did, not if, he was to "strengthen the brethren."

In his two epistles he did just that; strengthening through encouraging words concerning topics like salvation, faith, trials, the patience of God, the keeping power of God, and the privilege of being a part of the peculiar priesthood

of believers who have been gifted for service and for bringing honor and glory to the Name of Christ our Savior.

Peter said in verse 10, don't try to be a standout (like I did); instead "serve one another."

**NEXT WEEK:**  
"Your Purpose Predates Your Past"



"Sometimes a useful delusion is better than a useless truth."

- Colson Whitehead

**Spiritual Gifts: Tools for Service, Not Celebrity**  
Luke 22:32-34; 1 Peter 4:10

hard way because it was he who had unwittingly declared himself as the most spiritually strong among the disciples. Jesus informed him that Satan had asked for permission to "sift him like wheat."

Peter was targeted because of his natural tendency towards pride-fully putting himself in a position of being a kind of spiritual celebrity.

It is of no surprise that Peter addressed this issue of the stewardship of and standard for the use of spiritual gifts.

He specifically noted that they are tools for serving, not a way to make one a celebrity.

Peter learned this the



**BIRTHDAY - SEPTEMBER 27 - GREG MORRIS** - The actor is perhaps best known for his role as the electronics expert Barney Collier in the long-running "Mission Impossible" television series. Morris is a native of Cleveland, Ohio.

- BlackinTime.info

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#### 2019 Federal Poverty Guidelines

250%	1/Household	\$30,350
	2/Household	\$41,150
300%	1/Household	\$36,420
	2/Household	\$49,380
400%	1/Household	\$48,560
	2/Household	\$65,840

Funding is provided by the Madison County Commission and the Alabama Department of Senior Services through the TARCOC/Area Agency on Aging

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# Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

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

Funeral service for MR. STEPHEN BENNETT (b. 1974) will be Saturday, September 28, at 1 p.m. at Saint Luke Christian Church with The Reverend Dr. T.C. Johnson, pastor and officiant.

Funeral service for MRS. MIRANDA TURNER (b. 1966) was held Saturday, September 21, at St. Luke Christian Church with Pastor Emeritus Dr. John Clay officiating and Rev. Dr. T.C. Johnson, pastor.

Funeral service for MR. MICHAEL "TIGHT" JORDAN (b. 1957) was held Saturday, September 21, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Rev. Michael Mastin officiating.

- Royal Funeral Home -

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

Funeral service for MR. JAMES EARL TONEY (b. 1952) will be 1 p.m., Saturday, September 28, at the Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church (2115 Winchester Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery officiating.

Funeral service for MR. LESTER HAMPTON, SR., (b. 1953) was held Thursday, September 26, at Meridianville Bottom PB Church, (146 Kalea Road, Meridianville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MRS. NICOLE PRISCILLA GARTH (b. 1972) was held Wednesday, September 25, at Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (2403 Oakwood Road Huntsville, Ala.).

- Serenity Funeral Home -

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

Funeral service for MR. DAVID WOLF will be held Friday, September 27, at 12 noon at Oakwood University Church, 5500 Adventist Boulevard NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service was held Monday, September 16, for MR. AUSTIN MEKHI DUCKWORTH (b. 2019) at Serenity Funeral Home Chapel, 2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.

## Early Music Festival Set for Sunday

The Valley Conservatory Early Music Festival will be held on Sunday, September 29, at 4 p.m. at St. Mary's of the Visitation Church, 222 Jefferson Street N, Huntsville, Ala. The event is free and open to the public.

The Valley Conservatory Early Music Festival (VCEMF) was started in 2013 as a way to expose the community to early music and period instruments by providing lectures, master classes and concerts. It is the only early music festival in the southeast region of the country and is an annual event that is held in September.

The Festival Concert will consist of performances by the VCEMF Artists, the Mockingbird Ensemble, Rocket City Viols and the Early Music City of Nashville.

For more information visit <https://www.valley-conservatory.com/early-music-festival.html> or call 256-534-3131



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