

# Many Finding Their Calling During Pandemic, p. 8

FREE

Friday

November 13, 2020

Vol. 7, No. 10

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

## Depression in Black Children, p. 4

*"Got Accent?" p. 2*

*"When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be." - Lao Tzu*

The Valley Weekly  
POSITIVE-INSPIRATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL



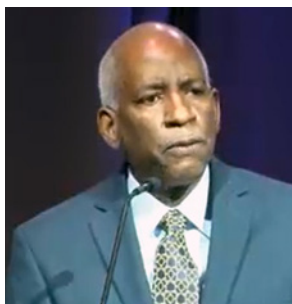
## New District 5 Councilman Takes Oath of Office

Newly elected Huntsville City Councilman John Meredith of District 5 was sworn in during a Mayor and Council Oath of Office Ceremony held on Monday, November 2.

The son of civil rights icon James Meredith, the

councilman called the path to his election "a toll road" that was paved by "familial turmoil," loss of friendships and political reckoning.

He promised that every vote that he casts will be predicated on making the quality of life better in



District 5.

Meredith also credited his father, whose legacy, he admitted, provided him the wisdom and resolve to stand up for truth in the face of overwhelming opposition.



**BIDEN & HARRIS:** Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., and Kamala Harris were announced as President-Elect and Vice President of the United States, respectively, on November 7, 2020, after receiving enough votes to cross the 270 electoral vote threshold. Defeating Republican incumbent Donald Trump, "Joe" Biden is also the American politician who served as the 47th vice president of the United States under Barack Obama from 2009 to 2017. Also in 2017, then President Barack Obama awarded Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction. The Democrat, born in Scranton, Pa., served as the United States senator for Delaware from 1973 to 2009. Kamala made U.S. history in three categories: first woman, first African-American, and first Asian-American to serve in the role of Vice President of the United States.

## Woody Anderson Ford Presents Vehicle to Raising Men Lawn Care



Woody Anderson Ford, in conjunction with Ford Motor Company, delivered a new 2020 Ford Edge to Rodney Smith of Raising Men Lawn Care (3rd, r) on Friday, November 6, at the dealership, located at 2500 Jordan Lane in Huntsville, Ala.

Smith is now on his 9th cross-country trip mowing lawns for those in

need. Because he is helping military members and veterans, Woody Anderson Ford decided to assist him by presenting him with a new 2020 Ford Edge to continue his selfless journey.

The vehicle presentation made Smith the owner of a new 2020 vehicle. Immediately following the vehicle presentation,

Smith provided details about the exciting work he is currently accomplishing locally and around the United States, as well as the lives he is impacting.

Individual interviews with Smith were conducted immediately following the vehicle presentation.

Since 1961, Woody Anderson Ford, with locations in Huntsville and Madison,

has served the North Alabama community by providing retail and commercial sales, maintenance, collision center, vehicle rentals, and Henry's Cafe. The dealership was recently recognized as the largest volume Ford dealership in Alabama, in addition to being named one of the top 100 Ford dealerships out of 3,800 in the country.

The Valley Weekly  
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# Called 2 Preach

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

## "Does Your Accent Give You Away?"

**Mark 14:70;**  
**Luke 22:59-62;**  
**Acts 4:13; 5:29, 41**

the denial in the prayer of Jesus: "You will deny me three times, but I have *prayed* for you that your faith does not fail."

What is to be noted also in this story is that it was Peter's *accent* that was used to indict and indicate him as a follower of Jesus.

This suggests to us that there should be and will be a notable and noticeable difference in the way



one speaks when they are a follower of Jesus and while it was the case with Peter initially, but he denied it, in a more mature season of his life, he not only embraced

it, but celebrated the suffering and shame that came with it (Acts 5:41).

Thank God for the process of seasons that allows us to grow so that we are not ashamed of our accents but are rather assured of them.

When it is real, we can hear that accent in our prayers, our praise, and our prose.



Nothing gets in the way of those who love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and His

glory, of Jesus and His Love.

**Does Your Accent Give You Away?**

### Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

## Mrs. Jessie Singleterry

A long-time resident of Huntsville, Ala., Jessie Singleterry was married to the late Leonard Singleterry. As the wife of a military officer, she traveled extensively with her husband throughout the United States and to foreign countries.

During her residency in the various states, Singleterry utilized her time by serving as a volunteer at the hospital in Hawaii. As a hospital volunteer, she read books to children and prepared gift baskets.

She volunteered for the American Red Cross, where she worked to prepare and serve refreshments to blood donors; registered blood donors at blood drives



and greeted donors. As a member of the Retired Regulars Association, Singleterry served as the chairperson of the Amenity/Courtesy Committee, where she spearheaded and provided needed items to the less fortunate families.

Under her leadership, the committee assisted over 100 families with various needs.

At Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, she served as the chairperson of the Decorations Ministry. Each Sunday, she ensured that there were fresh flower arrangements around the pulpit and other appropriate areas.

Also, she was a member of the Women's Choir and a mother in the church.

In her neighborhood, Singleterry volunteered her time and talent assisting neighbors with decorating needs, as well as providing meals for neighbors who were ill.

**NOVEMBER 13 - WHOOP! GOLDBERG is one of only 10 individuals who has won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and a Tony Award. She is known for "The Color Purple", "Ghost", "Sister Act", "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," "Fatal Beauty" and "For Colored Girls."**

- BlackinTime.info



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# Washington in One Minute



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

1. The Senate reconvened Monday and, according to Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY), was set to turn its attention to a coronavirus relief bill. The House will reconvene next week and has scheduled House Democratic Leadership elections for

Nov. 18 and 19 (new committee chair elections will be held the week of Nov. 30). To date, House Democrats have lost a net of 4 seats to the GOP and the House currently stands at 218 Ds to 200 Rs with 17 seats undecided, according to The Washington Post. In the Senate, the Democrats have picked up a net 1 seat, with 4 races unde-

cided (AK, NC, GA1 and GA2) for a current configuration of 48 R's and 48 D's.

2) According to a scoop by the Axios site, President-elect Biden on Monday appointed a 12-member Coronavirus Task Force, which will be led by 3 co-chairs: former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy,

former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David Kessler, and Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith from Yale University. The Biden/Harris transition website is now live at: [www.buildbackbetter.com](http://www.buildbackbetter.com).

3) On Tuesday (Nov. 10), the Senate Judiciary Committee continued its series of hearings on the

2016-17 FBI counterintelligence investigation into links between the Trump Administration and Russian officials (codenamed Operation Crossfire Hurricane), which will feature former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe as a witness.

4) Also on Tuesday (Nov. 10), the Supreme Court heard arguments in two consolidated Affordable Care Act cases, which asked whether Obamacare's individual insurance mandate is unconstitutional without a tax penalty and, if so, whether the rest of the law can remain standing. The cases are California v. Texas and Texas v. California.

5) Congressional leaders said that they want to pass an omnibus appropriations package to keep the government open past December 11 though they could use a stopgap measure to extend funding instead. Lawmakers could also finalize the annual defense authorization bill before the end of the year. House Armed Services Chairman Adam Smith (D-WA) said he expects Congress to consider a conference report at the beginning of December.

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## MLK Unity Awards Nominations

On Jan. 18, Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will virtually host its annual MLK Unity Breakfast and will recognize individuals who exemplify the values of Dr. King. The Chapter seeks nominations for the **Unity Award**, which recognizes individuals and organizations promoting racial harmony, social freedom, justice, professional service and service. Deadline for adequate nomination packages is Wednesday, December 1. [Visit [www.dttlpha.org](http://www.dttlpha.org) for more details under the "Education Foundation" tab.]

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## GIVING TUESDAY

On December 1, help us make a difference in the lives of our students.

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[drakestate.edu](http://drakestate.edu)

## Champion Game Plan for Life

"DOING THE RIGHT THING"

by Preston Brown

Ephesians 6: 12 says: *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

You know, as long as we are Christians, there will always be a battle for our minds. Now this battle that I am talking about is the struggle between good and evil. It is the struggle between doing what is right and doing what is wrong. Now, both God and the devil want to control our minds, and the prize "at stake" is our salvation. You see, the devil knows that if he can capture your thoughts, then he can corrupt your mind. He also knows that a corrupt mind will lead to destruction. Proverbs 23:7 says, *As a man thinks in his heart, so*

is he.

Today, we live in a world that has gone wild when it comes to the things that we listen to and watch. And, it causes "images" to stay in our minds that can potentially be dangerous. That's why we as Christians need to set our minds on things above and not on earthly things (Col. 3:2). It goes on to say in verse 5: *"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed which is idolatry."*

You see, we can change the way we live by changing the way we think. But we have to realize that our strength is in our relationship with God. In other words, the more we know the word of God, the more weapons we will have to



battle against the enemy. Since this is a spiritual battle and we live in the flesh, Jesus is the only one that can help us win the war that's going

on in our minds. When Jesus died on the cross, we no longer had to fight our battles in our own strength. In Luke 10:19-20, Jesus says that we have the power to demolish any strongholds that are in our lives. And one of the strongholds that we have to deal with is doing the right thing when no one is watching ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters. Make sure you purchase a copy of my book "A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE" at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)





## Local Church Contributes Care Packages to International Students at A&M

The Office of Community College Relations and Global Initiatives (CCRGI) observed International Education Week with a series of campus-wide activities.

Staff members coordinated diverse events beginning November 5 and continuing through Thursday, November 12, in keeping with the announcement submitted by Dr. Pamela Little, CCRGI executive director.

Among the activities was a session on international education opportunities; panel

and student discussions; fashion show; virtual game night; Chinese classes; and other events held in conjunction with the Confucius Institute, J.F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center, University Band and the International Student Association (ISA).

On Thursday, November 5, members of the Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church (Dr. C. Jermaine Turner, pastor) donated to AAMU international students via CCRGI some 175 care packages comprised of toiletries,

snacks, personal hygiene products and other items.

The packages were delivered by Pine Grove on behalf of Pine Grove's 25-member Young Adult Group by Deacon Emile Jones and fellow church member Maria Manor.

Pictured above (l-r) are Dr. Pamela Little, CCRGI executive director; Dawn DeVent, ISA advisor; Richard Olawape, ISA president; Maria Manor, Pine Grove; and Emile Jones, Pine Grove.

*by Jerome Saintjones*

## Depression in Black Children

*by BlackDoctor.org*

What could a child possibly be depressed about? They don't have bills or responsibilities, so what is there to really be sad about? Unfortunately, that is the misguided thinking in a lot of our homes. While a concerted effort to address mental health needs in the Black community is growing. There's still a great need to address our little Black boys and girls who are suffering in the dark.

Childhood depression is often overlooked because kids, at the time, don't have the language or perspective to understand what they're feeling. Kids like Rhylan Thai Hagan and Stormiyah Denson-Jackson left this world without an explanation of their unspoken pain.

Across the nation suicides amongst Black children under 18 are up 71 percent in the past decade. Researchers are perplexed as to the reason why, but many indicate that factors such as perceived racism might explain the rise. Rheeda Walker, a professor at the University of Houston, believes that the perception that suicide isn't

a Black thing can also explain why it's hard to detect the warning signs.

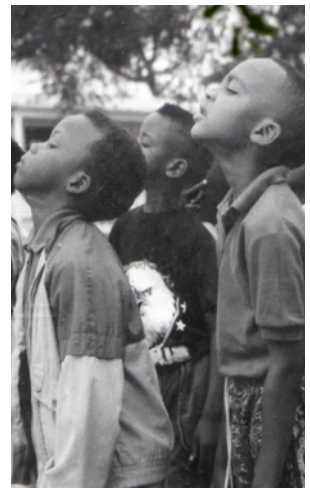
"If there is a belief that black children do not kill themselves, there's no reason to use tools to talk about suicide prevention," she said.

The National Institute of Mental Health defines depression as "a common but serious mood disorder. It causes severe symptoms that affect how you feel, think, and handle daily activities, such as sleeping, eating, or working. To be diagnosed with depression, the symptoms must be present for at least two weeks."

Depression is not to be confused with anxiety. People suffering from depression often have delayed or slower reactions. While people with anxiety are often hyper and have racing thoughts. Oftentimes the two get intertwined because of the similarity in symptoms.

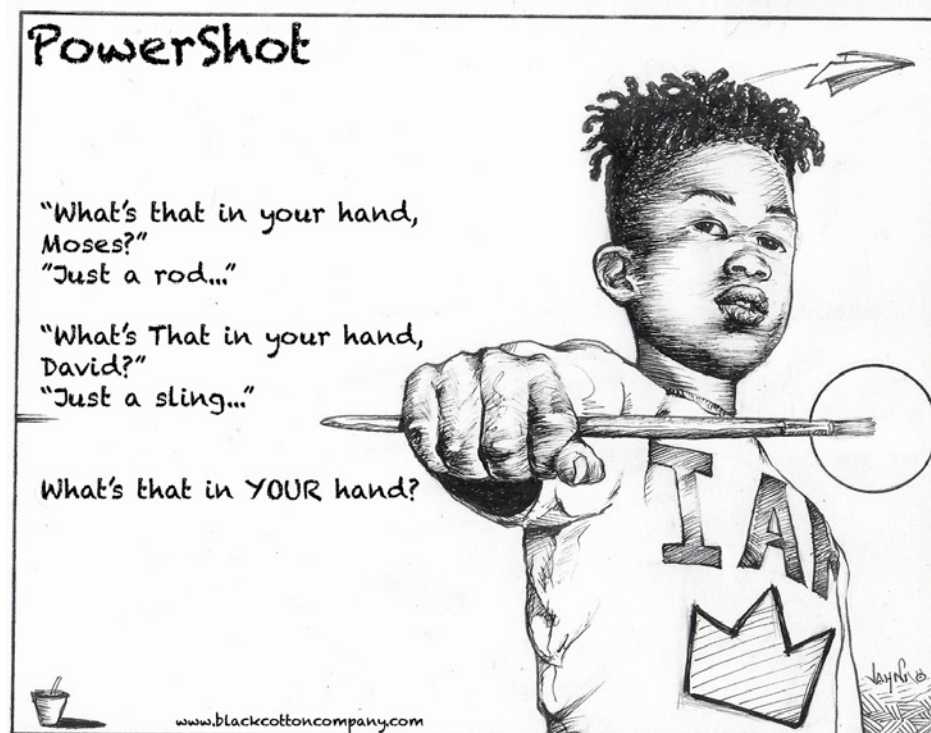
If you feel that your child suffers from either you're strongly encouraged to see a doctor or therapist.

Talk to your child's school counselor about low-cost counseling clinics



in the community and other resources. Call your insurance company and find out what behavioral health benefits are available. Many times, counseling graduate programs offer low-cost counseling as their students work with people in the community in order to get the hours that they need to graduate.

Depression should be taken seriously—especially in Black kids. Keep the lines of communication open but also understand that your child may also need to speak to someone else that isn't you. Support your child by letting them know that there isn't anything wrong with seeking help.



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CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 6

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Tennessee Valley  
Calendar of Events

November 11

15th Annual Veterans Day Program  
“Vision: Veterans in Focus”  
Alabama A&M University  
Panelists: LTC (Ret) Cary G.Hale; Major (Ret) John D. Zehnpfenning II; and AAMU Cadet Vivian Smith  
(Click YouTube link at www.aamu.edu)  
11 a.m.

Oakwood University Veterans Day Ceremony  
11 a.m.

November 13

“From Slavery to Toppling Monuments: Nathan Bedford Forrest’s March to the South’s New Lost Cause”  
John H. Saunders, Lecturer of Communication Arts  
https://uah-uasystem.zoom.us/j/98586698801  
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Alabama A&M University  
Black Tie Scholarship Gala  
Entertainment: Smoke N Black Dragons (Dru Hill)  
UAH Theatre  
Contact: Amy Guerin at the-atre@uah.edu  
Tickets Online  
7 p.m.

“She Kills Monsters”

UAH Theatre  
Contact: Amy Guerin at the-atre@uah.edu  
Tickets Online  
7:30 p.m.

November 14

“The Women of Alabama Exhibit: A Musical Journey, 1900s-2020s”  
The Cooper House  
405 Randolph Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6-8 p.m.

November 15

Sunday Jazz Lunch Brunch at Stovehouse featuring Josh Coutts & Friends  
Stovehouse  
Huntsville, Ala.  
12 p.m.

November 16-18

Revival  
Guest Evangelist: Pastor Cameron Thomas, Mt. Zion MB Church, Cropwell, Ala.  
Union Chapel MB Church  
www.unionchapel-hsv.org  
(Facebook, YouTube, Boxcast)  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7 p.m.

November 20

“Managing NSF Research.gov”  
REGISTER HERE: https://www.uah.edu/osp/research-education/training-calendar  
10 a.m.-12 noon

November 21

Dog Days Outdoor Market  
\$1 Car Parking

Skating in the Park Opening

Day  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
4-10 p.m.

November 22

Pre-Thanksgiving Service  
Rev. Tramaine Snodgrass  
Blackburn Chapel CPCA  
507 Plummer Road, NW  
Huntsville, Ala.

November 23

Rocket City Christmas Spectacular  
Toyota Field  
\$25 per car load  
5 p.m.

Watercolor Doodles  
(Online & In-Person)  
Huntsville Art League  
\$10-39  
6-8 p.m.

November 24

Thanksgiving Food Basket Giveaway  
Oakwood University Church  
(Rear Parking Lot)  
11 a.m.

November 23-27  
Thanksgiving Break

December 18-20

“Arnez J”  
Stand Up Live Huntsville  
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huntsville.standuplive.com

Valley Deaths

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME -

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

Graveside service for MOTHER CHARITY LUCILLE HUMPHREY (b. 1933) was held Saturday, November 7, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Pastor Sandy R. Kin-slow officiating.

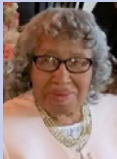
Graveside service for MR. JEROME WILSON (b. 1961) was held Saturday, November 7, at Valley View Memorial Gardens with Elder Dennis Green officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. EMILY HAMBRICK ALEXAN- DER (b. 1946) was held Friday, November 6, at Greater Mount Carmel Primitive Baptist Church with Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Jordan officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. PINKIE HARRIS (b. 1940) was held on Friday, November 6, at Valley View Memorial Gardens.

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

Graveside service for MRS. DAISY MAE MITCHELL JOHNSON (b. 1935) will be 12 noon, Saturday, November 14, at Huntsville Memory Gardens (6810 University Drive Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Curtis Jordan officiating.



Graveside service for MRS. SADIE BATTS MALONE (b. 1920) will be 11 a.m., Friday, November 13, at Thatch-Mann Cemetery (1801 West Hobbs Street Athens, Ala.) with Pastor Larry Lockett officiating.

Graveside service for MR. HENRY LEE HAZLITT (b. 1944) was held Saturday, November 7, at Thatch-Mann Cemetery (1801 West Hobbs Athens, Ala.) with Overseer John Jude officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. PEARL LOUISE ELLIOTT (b. 1940) was held Saturday, November 7, at the Huntsville Memory Gardens (6810 University Drive NW Huntsville, AL 35806) with Dr. O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Graveside service for MR. ARON LEVI BINFORD (b. 1956) was held Friday, November 6, at Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Billy Jones officiating.

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

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date for DAVID WHEELER, JR. (b. 1962); SHERWYN HY- TEN (b. 1935); MARY COOKE HITE (b. 1978), and MINISTER BARBARA CAMERON (b. 1958).

**Woody Anderson Ford**  
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2500 Jordan Lane, Huntsville, AL





## Fueling “Fire Fauci” Flames = The Wrong Vaccine!

Whatever (King) Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike.

When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine (Goliath), women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This was their song: “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!”

This made Saul very angry. “What's this?” he said. “They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!” So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David 1 Samuel 18:5-9, NLT.

### Saul-David 2.0?

During President Trump's November 1st South Florida campaign rally, “Fire Fauci” chants rang out. Trump retorted, “Don't tell anybody, but let me wait until a little bit after the election.”

Trump's longstanding resentment of the nation's popular top infectious-disease expert exposed Trump's top leadership insecurity and complementary disregard for silver-mettle leaders, or leaders from the middle.

### A Vital Skill, But Not Listed on Resumes

Being a top leader is a tough assignment in any organization - whether it's in the family, workplace or worship place.

However, being a leader from the middle - i.e., having #1 skills/experiences, but from subordinate positions - is an even tougher, more delicate balancing act. As a result, David spent his next 17 years avoiding Saul - until Saul's death, and David became Israel's king.

I call such “tightrope walkers” silver-mettle leaders, because they:

- 1) Report to or are supervised by someone in their organizations (or, “silver”);
- 2) Execute their number-two assignments with character, fortitude and courage (mettle); and
- 3) Succeed at their tasks primarily through influence and relationships (leaders).

The opening text noted that David's work was done “successfully,” and therefore his appointment “was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike” (verse 5).

While Saul's top leadership insecurity paralleled Trump's, David's silver-mettle leadership paralleled Trump challenger Joe Biden.

After Trump's Sunday “Fire Fauci” rally, Biden responded on Monday mirroring the increasing sentiments of many Americans: “I've got a better idea, . . . Elect me and I'm going to hire Dr. Fauci! And we're going to fire Donald Trump!”

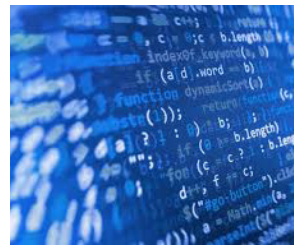
tim allston is the author of the printed/digital/audiobook, *The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the “Silver-Mettle” Leaders*, available now at <https://amzn.to/3cx1koV>.



# Alabama 4-H to Bring Virtual Classroom on Swift Coding

Alabama 4-H at Alabama A&M University will bring a Virtual Classroom to Alabama featuring “Swift Coding” for elementary, middle and high school students. Facilitated by Ed Farm, the 90-minute sessions will be held via Zoom on Wednesdays and Saturdays on November 11, November 21 and December 5 at 11 a.m.

Swift Coding is described as a powerful and intuitive programming language for Apple devices, including macOS, iOS, watchOS, tvOS and beyond.



Ed Farm has partnered with Apple and adopted its educational curriculum to teach Swift Coding in a creative artistic approach. Youth are encouraged to participate and pass on the information to our community partners throughout the state.

Participants must have

their favorite Apple Device (i.e., iPad, MacBook, Mac Pro, iMac) or other internet-enabled device to take advantage of the upcoming learning experience.

Interested persons should register at [www.aces.edu/go/CodeClub](http://www.aces.edu/go/CodeClub). More details are available at <https://www.aces.edu/go/codeclubinfo>; the event website - <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/products-programs-urban/4-h-code-club-lets-build-an-app/>; or contact James Fountain II, urban regional extension agent, at (256) 532-1578.

*“We're here for a reason. I believe a bit of the reason is to throw little torches out to lead people through the dark.” - Whoopi Goldberg*

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## COVID-19 Assistance

### UNITED WAY COVID-19

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Get Assistance: Call 211

### SMALL BUSINESSES

[disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov)

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/>



## Popular Diabetes Drug Recalled Because of Cancer Link

A recall of diabetes drugs has expanded to four lots of the widely used type 2 diabetes medication, metformin.

They are being recalled due to possible contamination with a potentially cancer-causing compound.

Indian pharmaceutical company Marksans Pharma Limited is recalling metformin hydrochloride extended-release tablets because their levels of NDMA, a "probable human carcinogen," were higher than the acceptable daily intake limit of 96 nanograms per day, according to a recall published this week by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Nostrum Laboratories Inc., based in Kansas City, Missouri, announced recently that it is voluntarily recalling its metformin HCl extended-release tablets,

according to a recall posted by the US Drug & Food Administration. Testing revealed levels of nitrosamine, or NDMA, above acceptable limits in the recalled tablets.

Metformin tablets are used to treat type 2 diabetes and are designed to lower glucose levels.

This covers 100-tablet bottles of 750 mg Metformin Hydrochloride Extended-Release Tablets, lot Nos. MET200101 and MET200301; and 500 mg Metformin Hydrochloride Extended-Release Tablets, lot Nos. MET100201 and MET100401. All recalled bottles have an expiration date of 05/2022.

Consumers should keep taking their metformin until their doctor or another medical professional comes up with another course of treatment.

- BlackDoctor.org

## Huntsville Shows Renderings of New City Hall



Huntsville recently revealed the latest conceptual exterior renderings of the new City Hall, which will replace the current building on Fountain Circle in downtown.

Paying homage to downtown's historic structures, the building will combine departments and promote collaboration across teams. Goodwyn Mills Cawood, the architectural firm overseeing the project, unveiled renderings at a recent City Council meeting.

## Program Seeks to Attract Black Male Teachers for Alabama

A scholarship program at Alabama A&M University, designed to attract more minority males into the teaching profession, is accepting applications again. The Males for Alabama Education (M.A.L.E.) Initiative Scholarship is coordinated by the College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences and its Department of Teacher Education and Leadership.

The M.A.L.E. Initiative will: (1) recruit undergraduate and graduate male students who express an in-

terest in teaching students within Alabama's public P-12 schools; (2) Provide up to two years of tuition assistance for undergraduate juniors and seniors and up to two (2) years of tuition assistance for graduate students; (3) Provide funding and test preparation supports to complete assessments needed to meet state certification requirements (Praxis I Core, Praxis II content and EdTPA); (4) Provide mentorship and build collegiality through a student

cohort system beyond certification completion; and (5) Provide pre-post job embedded professional and personal development opportunities for M.A.L.E. students. For each year of student participation in the M.A.L.E. initiative, participants will be required to provide two (2) years of service within a public Alabama P-12 school.

For more information, contact e-mail larry.collier@aamu.edu or call (256) 372-5520.

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# Career Switch? Some in the Valley Are Finding Their Passions During the Pandemic

(BPT) - The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted people in countless ways. From quarantine and social distancing to remote working, furlough and job loss, many people are reassessing how they spend their time and make money. Turning proverbial lemons into lemonade, people of all ages and backgrounds have decided to pivot their careers to do something that they truly enjoy.

## Time provides the gift of insight

With extra time at home, people are taking stock of their jobs and what paths might make most sense for the future. They also have time to explore hobbies and passions that may have been put on hold previously. Finding enjoyment in these activities and realizing strengths and talents, this can be the inspiration for a new chapter. Here are a few examples:

\* Limited restaurant hours and options paired with ample time to spend in the kitchen has inspired foodies to flex their culinary muscles. Some have started showing off their creations on social media and even recording how-to videos

to share with friends and family. Live cooking videos may have been a fun way to connect socially with others from a distance.

\* Having last-minute needs for household supplies, such as desks for the whole family, DIYers started working on projects in garages and sheds, realizing they have a maker mindset and handy capabilities. Talking with others and sharing images of finished projects, they've discovered their talents are in high demand, and others are interested in their creations.

\* Unexpected changes due to hour reduction, job loss and more have financial consequences for many families. Number-minded people rise to the challenge, creating agile budgets that help their family thrive in uncertain times. These people may even share their budgeting tips with others and find joy in helping people discover financial security.

The silver lining of the pandemic is it has given the gift of time for reflection and self-discovery. However, it's one thing to enjoy a talent or passion; it's another to figure out how to monetize it.

## Desire inspires the need for change

Being your own boss is appealing to many people. If you've discovered a talent and you want to make it a career, it's important to explore options that can help set you up for success. Taking orders for custom-made desks can be a rewarding side gig or even full-time career, if you have the space, the right tools and organization skills. Passionate cooks can explore culinary school and consider hosting online cooking classes to help garner some money and grow their reputation.

For people with a knack for finances, there's no better time to explore the possibilities for a bright, vibrant new career as a financial professional. Organizations such as The Guardian Life Insurance Company provide training on how to build your career and find clients. They partner you with mentors in a team setting so that you can learn from peers as you help clients reach financial confidence. They even provide proprietary software that will help you build plans for clients so they can visualize their future success.

"I chose to become a software engineer because I saw tech companies in-

novating and helping people. After about four years, I realized sitting at a desk all day and not meeting the people that I was serving was not providing me the fulfillment I was looking for. I spoke with my uncle who is a financial representative and he introduced me to a local firm. I love being able to make an impact on my clients' lives and building real relationships with them. There is no greater feeling in the world than there is to empower people to live their lives to their fullest!" says Tyler Wilmot, Financial Representative, New York, New York.

## Financial representatives are in high demand

Becoming a financial representative can be ideal for someone with an entre-

preneurial spirit. A financial representative is someone who owns their own business and makes their own hours. You can decide areas of specialty and what you're most passionate about.

Helping others feel confident in their financial well-being now and in the future is a source of pride. For people with a desire to help people address financial challenges, it's a wonderful job opportunity with high-growth potential.

Financial representatives come from all backgrounds and exploring this career doesn't require previous experience. There is a growing need in the industry to have people from diverse groups become financial representatives in order to best represent a diverse group of clientele.

The first step is learning more at <https://www.guardianlife.com> and then filling out a free application. The Guardian Network can provide the knowledge and support for you to be as successful as you are driven to be.

## Is it time you changed your future?

Many people have been reassessing their life path during the pandemic and desire to make a change so they can spend their time doing something they love while making an honest living.

If this is something you've been thinking about, there's no better time to consider options and opportunities.



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