

# The Valley Weekly

"If you are silent about your pain,  
they'll kill you and say you enjoyed it."  
- Zora Neale Hurston

FREE

Volume 5, No. 12

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, November 30, 2018

## Rosa Parks Day Set in Alabama

The State of Alabama will observe the inaugural Rosa Parks Day in Alabama on December 1. During the 2018 session of the Alabama Senate, State Senator Vivian Figures of Mobile, introduced Senate Bill 365 to designate the first day of December of each year as Mrs. Rosa L. Parks Day. Following the passage of the bill in the Senate, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, signed it into law on April 6, 2018, which will allow each county and municipality in Alabama to observe Mrs. Rosa L. Parks Day as a holiday.

Senator Figures' legislation reads in part: "The first day in December of each year is designated as Mrs. Rosa L. Parks Day in this state. All citizens of this state are requested to devote some portion of Mrs. Rosa K. Parks Day to commemorate the accomplishments of a woman of great courage, vision, love, and faith who helped usher in the modern civil rights movement on December 1, 1955, by refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama."

Mrs. Rosa L. Parks, lauded as "the first lady of civil rights," was born in Tuskegee, Ala., on February 4, 1913 and began her life-long affiliation with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People during her formative years in Montgomery. Following the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Mrs. Parks and her husband Raymond, settled in Detroit, Michigan. From 1965 to 1988, Rosa Parks worked for the federal government in the Detroit office of former U.S. Congressman John Conyers, the first Greek lettered African-American Sorority for college women. Parks died in 2005 at 92.

- Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

## AKA-EGO Hosts Caregivers' Day Observance

On November 16, 2018, the Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter joined over 1,000 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., chapters, nationally and internationally to recognize and honor caregivers.

The organizations recognized the numerous challenges caregivers face-- including many chapter members. For this reason, the local group focused its attention on raising awareness about the impact of Caregiver Syndrome on the quality of health of caregivers, especially African-American women. Also highlighted was available resources and support available to those who give so much of themselves.

The Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter's day-long activities in honor of caregivers began with "A

Day of Pampering" at the Bob Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center. Participants experienced a morning of relaxation exercises, meditation and tips for taking care of themselves. The morning ended with a game, prizes, healthy snacks and caregiver gift bags.

On the afternoon of November 16, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter recognized and honored 50 Certified Nurse Assistants at Diversicare of Big Springs with a caregiver creed and gift bags.

The day culminated with a Facebook live discussion with caregivers. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Denise Chandler, member of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter. The panel included Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter member, Dr. Tonya Davis, psychologist and li-



Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter members recognize local caregivers.

censed professional counselor (LPC) and Michelle Cain of the Huntsville Alzheimer's Association.

For 30 minutes, the panel answered questions about resources, support groups and offered caregiving tips submitted by caregivers. The discussion is available for viewing at the Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter

Facebook page.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., is committed to educating and ensuring that caregivers know they are not alone. Even the slightest gesture can have a tremendous impact toward ensuring a healthy caregiving experience.

by Phyllis Roberts  
Photo: Sharon Boclair

## LSCC President to Address Fall Commencement at AAMU

The head of a major community college in Birmingham, Ala., will deliver the fall commencement address at Alabama A&M University.

Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College will address AAMU graduates on Friday, December 7, at 1 p.m. in the Von Braun Center Propst Arena.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Ward has worked to ensure that Birmingham and its surrounding counties have a local workforce attuned to economic needs.

The administrator works with the Birmingham Business Alliance, the Bessemer (Ala.) Chamber of Commerce, the Jefferson County Workforce Development Board, Blueprint

Birmingham, the Alabama Region 4 Workforce Development Committee, the Western Jefferson County Economic Development Taskforce and Innovation Depot to develop, grow and help businesses succeed. AAMU has a partnership with LSCC that enables students there to take select courses onsite and online.



## 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. The House will, among other items, take up the U.S. Coast Guard reauthorization bill that passed the Senate 2 weeks ago. The Senate will continue work on its list of Trump Administration nominees, including Karen Dunn Kelley to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce. Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Chuck Grassley (R-IA) continues to lobby his colleagues – most importantly Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) - to get floor time for his “First Step Act,” which would allow for shorter prison terms and more judicial discretion in sentencing, including the elimination of the “3 strikes” rule ... According to The Hill newspaper, this week all senators will get a briefing from Administration officials on the Yemen Civil War that will also include the topic of Saudi Arabia’s role in the murder of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

2. President Trump traveled to Tupelo and Biloxi, Miss., to hold rallies for Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) who faced Rep. Mike Espy (D-MS) Tuesday in the Mississippi Senate runoff for a full 6-year term. On Wednesday, the President and Mrs. Trump hosted the lighting ceremony for the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse. On Thursday-

Saturday, the President were in Argentina for the annual G-20 Summit and a lunch meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

3. On Wednesday, House Democrats met to elect their leaders for next year, including the expected election of Rep. Nancy Pelosi as Speaker for the 116th Congress. According to The Washington Post, the other leadership elections will be a fait accompli with Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) for Majority Leader; Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) taking the Majority Whip job (after Rep. Diana DeGette, D-CO, dropped out); and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) in the No. 4 spot – after Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) agreed to take a new junior leadership post created by Rep. Pelosi.

4. Last Wednesday, House Judiciary Committee Chair Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) issued subpoenas for former FBI Director James Comey and former Attorney General Loretta Lynch to appear on Dec. 3-4 for closed-door interviews in a probe of how federal law enforcement officials handled investigations of Secretary Clinton’s emails and the Trump Campaign’s ties to Russia. Mr. Comey announced on Thursday that he prefers an open hearing and, therefore, will not comply with the subpoena ...

5. Last Friday, the Trump Administration asked the Supreme Court to bypass the federal appellate process and directly take up 3 cases challenging the Administra-

tion’s ban on transgender people serving in the military. In 2017, federal trial courts in WA, CA, and DC all blocked the Administration from enforcing the transgender ban ...

6. Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) called on his fellow lawmakers to begin thinking of innovative ways to combat climate

change in view of Friday’s release of the National Climate Assessment prepared by 300 federal scientists in 13 agencies predicting dire and, in many cases, irreversible impacts, including permanent coastline changes, an increase in the severity of drought and storm events, and outbreaks of dangerous diseases.

7. More than 120 civil rights and other advocacy groups urged Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and her civil rights chief Kenneth Marcus to tack another 60 days onto the comment period for their recently proposed overhaul of Title IX rules for schools handling sexual harassment and assault allegations.

8. According to an Axios/Survey Monkey poll conducted on Nov. 13-15, 74% of Americans are worried that they will pay more for health insurance if a current federal lawsuit brought by the States of Texas and Wisconsin and 18 other states to eliminate protections for pre-existing conditions succeeds in a decision that is expected before the end of the year. 88% of those polled said that it’s important to them that protections for pre-existing conditions remain in force. The case, argued on September 5, 2018, is Texas v. United States.

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### Lowes Chapel United Methodist Church

Lowes Chapel United Methodist Church is seeking to fill the position of Full-Time Church Musician/Choir Director. The successful candidate must be able to read music as well as “play by ear” and direct all types of Church music. All interested candidates should submit a resume to: Pastor/Parish Relations Committee, loweschapel@yahoo.com, Lowes Chapel United Methodist Church, 460 Sanderson Street, Huntsville, AL 35805 - CLOSING DATE FOR RESUMES IS NOVEMBER 30, 2018 - For more information please contact the church at 256-895-9104



**BIRTHDAY - November 30 - GORDON PARKS -** A filmmaker and photojournalist, Gordon Parks was born in Fort Scott, Kansas. He is best remembered as the director of the films, “The Learning Tree” and the 1971 movie “Shaft.” - [BlackinTime.info](http://BlackinTime.info)

# The Valley Weekly

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com). Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

**Submissions to TVW do not necessarily reflect the belief of the editorial staff and TVW is not responsible for the authenticity of submissions.**

## The Valley Weekly

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Back Cover		
10x10-inches		\$1,000
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$800
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$600
Half Page	Horizontal	
	5x10 inches	\$400
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# From the Editor

## Ahhh ... Sober Up!

After the mid-term election, camp and wild fires followed by rain, Thanksgiving and on-going gun violence by authorities and everyday citizens, it's time for us to sober up.

I am not sure about you, but I find it refreshing to be able to watch TV every now and then without the onslaught of political ads. Regardless of our political swaying or views, I believe we can all agree that the sheer number of ads and the tone of those ads--along with the growing number of pundits who have designed their rhetoric to fit and meet their party's interests--make it challenging to get through the election season with a sense of accomplishment on either side. Tim Allston reminds us of a pre-kindergarten lesson about "what's good for the goose is good for the gander." Not sure what a gander is, but it seems to be related to fair play. We have winners and losers at the ballot box; however, we still find it difficult to answer simplistic questions that a child might ask us about why people are acting the way they act or saying the things they say. Truly, the legacy we leave our children and grandchildren will be the most impactful result of our conversations, actions and decisions. In about 20 years or so, they will think we were all intoxicated when history finally records our actions and responses.

Fires have ravished California in multiple directions, to the extent that hundreds have been left homeless. According to ABC News, over 80 are known dead and over 200 people are still missing. Once it rained, concern was raised about flooding and mudslides, not to mention the individuals who died because they just couldn't escape. Two fires ignited earlier this month and have burned miles and miles of property. I can't imagine how fatigued and exhausted the firefighters must be. There is no way to employ enough firefighters to be ready for these types of catastrophes. Identified as the deadliest wildfire in the state's history, state fire officials said last Sunday--at the time of this writing--that the Camp Fire that started in Northern California on November 8 was contained, with heavy rains helping to "douse" the flames. The cause of the fires is still under investigation. When places called "Paradise" begin to be destroyed, we might need to sober up about the state of our environment.

Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is upon us. Some of my family's favorites of the past are still in the refrigerator. To our credit, we are more conscious about the type and volume of food consumption. We had everything at the table from vegan to vegetarian, to diabetes, HBP and cholesterol. Thankfully, we are sobering up and making some progress relative to healthy eating and moderation. For me, I had a taste of everything, including *bear sausage* for the first time. I tried hard to practice moderation, while enjoying delicious Southern cuisine. We have a month until Christmastime to sober up even more and get ready for another time of thanksgiving, caring, sharing and, hopefully, moderation.

A young man was mistakenly shot in Hoover, Ala., at the mall on Thanksgiving evening by a police officer. Earlier this month, on November 9th, a gunman entered a restaurant in Thousand Oaks, Calif., that left 13 dead, including a police officer. According to the Gun Violence Archive, a non-profit that tracks gun violence in the U.S., there had been 307 mass shootings in 2018 on the 312th day of this year. Americans are more likely to die from gun violence than many other combined reasons, with some 11,000 people killed by firearm assaults annually. This should sober all of us. I have my dad's old Sears Roebuck rifle that he kept just over the front door in our house. I know how to shoot it with some precision because sometimes I practice shooting it. I love the fact that I own it and I know how to use it responsibly. I pray to God that I will never have to use it for anything more than practice shootings!

Do I sound like a broken record yet? Let's sober up!  
Until next week ...



Dorothy

# The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

## Thru December 31

Galaxy of Lights  
Huntsville Botanical Garden (\$25/car up to 10)  
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue  
Huntsville, Ala.  
5:30-9 p.m.

## November 29

Basketball  
Alabama A&M University vs. University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)  
Von Braun Center  
Propst Arena  
7 p.m.

## December 1

Deltas Meals on Wheels Effort  
Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center  
2200 Drake Avenue, SW,  
Huntsville, Ala.  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

A Centennial Grand Finale Celebration  
Sponsor: Alabama Fork

Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, Inc.  
Limestone County Event Center  
114 Pryor Street, West Athens, Ala.  
2 p.m.

The Aeolians of Oakwood University Present "Praise the Lord, Hallelujah!" with Chamber Orchestra  
Oakwood University Church, 6 p.m.

Alabama A&M Men's Basketball vs. Austin Peay  
Elmore Gymnasium  
6 p.m.

"Century of Service"  
Royal Funeral Home, Incorporated  
"An Evening of Dance"  
Featuring  
The Terpsichorean Dance Company of Hampton University  
Mae Jemison High School

Auditorium  
7 p.m.

## December 2

Annual Christmas Musi-cale Featuring the Alabama A&M University Choir  
T.M. Elmore Building  
5:30 p.m.

## December 4

2018 State of the City Address Featuring Mayor Tommy Battle  
www.hsvchamber.org  
Von Braun Center North Hall  
12 p.m.

## December 8

The First Annual Celebration of Caretakers  
Host: Jamal's Helping Hand Valeria McConnell, Executive Director  
DoubleTree Suites by Hilton  
6000 Memorial Parkway, S  
Huntsville, Ala.

## December 18

Rocket City College Basketball Classic  
UAH vs. Fort Valley State University



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## CAFY Announces November Winner

Hampton Cove Middle School student Colby King is the November 2018 (CAFY) Young Citizen of the Month award winner.

Colby spends every summer and all her school breaks taking care of children and teens with special needs. She sacrifices going out with friends in order to invite peers with special needs to join her in attending young life and school events.

Everyday, Colby makes those around her feel special and goes out of her way to make sure everyone feels included despite the challenges they face. Colby has traveled to Haiti three times for mission trips and now is giving



up her first year of college to continue that ministry. Her awards and accomplishments are as follows:

National Honor Society; Honor Roll; Key Club; AET (Alpha Sigma Tau); Elementary Education intern (GSES);

Summer intern FCA (2 yrs); Co-op for FCA (1yr); Kept child with cerebral palsy-Summer 2018; Young life Capernum leader; and many others.

- Dr. Harry Hobbs

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Fellowship of Faith Church

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Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

# "Ivanka-gate and Her Private E-mails: "Lock Her Up," Too?

by tim allston

"If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. . . . And when the arrogant rich are brought down to size, cheer!" James 1:5, 9 (The Message Bible).

## Home-training 101

Q: didn't our parents tell us repeatedly, "You can't have it both ways," "Ignorance of the rules is no excuse" and finally, paraphrasing the Bible, "shun the very appearance of evil"?

(Washington Post, 11/19): Ivanka Trump used her and husband Jared Kushner's 2017 personal email account for government business. No, it's not illegal, provided White House staffers send work emails to their government accounts for public availability, oversight.

## Problems?

•Donald Trump continues haranguing Hillary Clinton for a previous, similar practice - which got him elected and still elicits "Lock Her Up" rally chants; and

•When questioned, First Daughter pled ignorance dismissively.

Insurrection digital messaging firm chief executive Elizabeth

Spiers explained: "(Ivanka) Trump claims she didn't know that her use of a private email account for government business was improper. For that claim to be credible, Trump would have to argue that she somehow missed all the news about the 2016 campaign or that she was too oblivious to understand the implications of it. So the simplest explanation is that she thinks the rules that applied to Clinton don't apply to her.

"To be fair, this is no surprise. Research suggests that ultrarich people genuinely believe that the rules don't apply to them. . . . President Trump appears to believe the rules don't apply to him, either — or else he would have, as every other president in the past four decades has done, put his assets into a blind trust upon taking office and released his tax returns. . . . No wonder email rules don't seem to apply to her . . ."

## "Something old, something new . . ."

Spiers' assessment of these Trump indiscretions recounts how two previous ultrarich notables reversed similar charges correctly, which correlates with the TOP strategy for addressing ego-holism - the addiction to self.

1.Second Samuel 12 chronicles prophet Nathan's tale of a rich man besting a poor one, which angered

King David. Nathan then targeted David's problem on his Bathsheba affair/pregnancy and the subsequent murder of her husband Uriah, declaring, "You are the man!" (verse 7). David owned his problem, "I have sinned against the Lord." God pardoned David, canceling David's self-mandated execution yet pronouncing death to their unborn son.

2. Similarly on February 19, 2010 Tiger Woods, addressing his reported marital indiscretions, summarized his TOP: "The issue involved here was my repeated irresponsible behavior. I was unfaithful. I had affairs, I cheated. What I did is not acceptable. And I am the only person to blame. . . . It's hard to admit that I need help, but I do. For 45 days, from the end of December to early February, I was in in-patient therapy receiving guidance for the issues I'm facing. I have a long way to go. But I've taken my first steps in the right direction."

## Q: What will work for Ivanka - perhaps "Lock Her Up"?

tim allston 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).

## City Unveils Master Plan

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle recently unveiled the city's long-awaited master plan (i.e., BigPictureHuntsville.com). The BIG Picture incorporates citizens' ideas with analysis of trends and data on changing demographics, economic conditions, education, recreation, health care, and culture and leisure to position Huntsville for long-term, sustainable success and vitality.

The plan also embodies six principles for growth that are specific to Huntsville. Among these are: Build a Live/Work/Connect Community; Expand a Sustainable, Resilient Economy; Design a Mobile and Accessible Transportation Network; Maintain a Network of Exceptional Education; Support Local Arts and Culture; and Develop Healthy and Active Neighborhoods.

These guiding principles drive a host of topics important to residents: Business Incubators, Complete Streets and Transit Options, Urban Agriculture, Strip Recovery and Placemaking, Design Guidelines, Small Area Plans, Greenways/Bike Infrastructure/Sidewalk Network, Updated Zoning, Energy Resiliency/Security/Sustainability, Recreation Destination, Business and Community Associations, Economic Development, Town and Gown and Aging in Place.

-[huntsvilleal.gov](http://huntsvilleal.gov)

## Rocket City to Experience MELT

by Reggie Allen

MELT is coming to the Rocket City.

This October, the popular Birmingham sandwich shop announced plans to open two franchise locations in Hoover and Huntsville.

Rooted in the heart of Avondale, the restaurant specializes in the grilled cheese sandwich. Operating out of an old service station, MELT is the brainchild of Harriet Despinakis and Paget Pizitz.

Launched in 2011, the restaurant operated out of a food truck before opening its brick and mortar

location three years later.

A popular mainstay among local sandwich enthusiasts, the restaurant offers myriad variations on the classic-yet-simple dish.

The restaurant's simplistic menu and warm, rustic atmosphere has made the sandwich shop a fan favorite.

"Our concept is a modern twist on classic comfort food, so an old '50s gas station just really spoke to us," Pizitz told Al.com in 2014. "It was really serendipitous, and it felt perfect for us."

MELT has yet to announce details on when its additional locations will open. MELT is located at 4105 4th Avenue S, Birmingham, AL 35222.



# Valley Deaths

## - Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MRS. GLEANESE MARTIN STRONG (b. 1946) was held Saturday, November 24, at the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church (4640 Meridian Street North - Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Hernandez Ford officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JERRY W. HUMPHREY, JR. (b. 1980) was held Friday, November 23, at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, Sr., officiating.

Funeral service for MR. ROY DUKE (b. 1936) was held Sunday, November 18, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Clement U. Okinedo officiating.

Funeral service for MS. SHIRLEY BLAND (b. 1943) was held Sunday, November 18, at Saint Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Perry Clark officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MELVIN F. BURRESS (b. 1929) was held Saturday, November 17, at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Brandon Nance officiating.

## - Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MOTHER WILLIE WARD GAINES (b. 1919) will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 1, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church (380 Indian Creek Road, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MR. ERVIN JACOBS (b. 1927) will be 12 p.m. Saturday, December 1, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for MRS. ROSEMARY BROWN (b. 1925) was held at 12 p.m., Wednesday, November 28, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, N.W. Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Julius Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. BETTY RUSSELL (b. 1948) was held at 12 p.m., Saturday, November 24, at the St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Belafonte Avenue NW Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Patrick Franklin officiating.

Funeral service for MS. LAVERNE "FLAKIE" JACKSON (b. 1948) was held Saturday, November 24, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, N.W. Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Jeffery Jefferson officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JESSE "GENE" HURT (b. 1927) was held Monday, November 19, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue, NW Huntsville, Ala. 35810) with Pastor Archie Emanuel officiating.

## - Serenity Funeral Home -

Funeral service to be announced at a later date for MR. JEFFERY COLLIER (b. 1959).

# Called 2 Preach

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

## Giving Utterance to a Fixed Resolve

### Psalm 116:8-14

There are three I will's stated in the span of these seven verses. They are part of a larger journal of declarations by the Psalmist. When they are read we hear the heart of a man who feels compelled to not just hold in abeyance his convictions about his God; rather we hear him giving utterance to fixed resolves.

Hear this trilogy of trust: I will walk before the LORD (vs 9). I will take up the cup of salvation (vs 13). I will pay my vows to the LORD (vs 14). What gave him this kind of intentionality?

The answer is in verse 10a: I believed, therefore I spoke. His utterance flowed from the unction of the Holy Spirit, who confirmed that his was a life that

## 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.

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



could be trusted with this kind of speech. Not perfect or sinless, but patently sincere. He was one whose experience with God gave rise to expectation; hence, the unhindered expression of those convictions.

Could it be that the silence found in our lives as believers is so loud because our faith in God has been hushed by the sight of circumstances rather than emboldened by the surety of convictions? The Psalmist's experiences are not



unique to him. He does not hold a monologist monopoly in experiencing God's goodness. We, too, can say with him to God: For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from falling. Enough said.

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## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

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 know all about the future. You know when you would fail. You know when something bad or catastrophic was going to happen. You even know all about the "stock market". In other words, you know which stocks are going to go up and the ones that will 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 failures. But 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. 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. 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 get your copy of "A Champion Game Plan For Life" at amazon.com.

## Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

# Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs

Born in Elkton, Tenn., and raised in Toney, Ala., Rev. Dr. Julius Richard Scruggs is a graduate of Council Training High School in Huntsville, Ala. After receiving the Bachelor of Arts degree at American Baptist College in Nashville, Tenn., he also fulfilled requirements for the Master of Divinity (M. Div.) and Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degrees at Vanderbilt University School of Divinity in Nashville. In December 2011, Dr. Scruggs was conferred the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Alabama A&M University.

At age 18, he began service as pastor of Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Harvest, Ala., and served from 1960-65. For the following



seven years, Rev. Scruggs pastored the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church in Nashville. He continued to follow the Holy Spirit's call and pastored the Antioch Baptist Church in East Chicago, Ind., from 1972 to 1977. Since January 1977, Rev. Dr. Scruggs has been the shepherd of God's people at First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala. He plans to retire in March 2019.

The author of four books on meditations, faith and biblical study, he has served on the Board of Trustees at American Baptist College; the National Board of Directors, NAACP; Selma University; and as President of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention (President Emeritus).

Locally, he has been affiliated with the Mayor's North Huntsville Leadership Advisory Council; the Huntsville Human Relations Commission; the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship (GHIMF); 100 Black Men of America, Inc. Greater Huntsville Chapter; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Kappa Boule'; and numerous community projects and activities.

# Commissioner, AAMU Collaborate on New Emergency Siren

Students, faculty and staff at Alabama A&M University will benefit from the recent presentation and installation of a new, state-of-the-art emergency siren.

The nearly \$20,000, 127-decibel siren was made possible by support received from the Madison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), the Alabama A&M University Department of Public Safety (DPS), University Facilities and select vendors.

Controlled by the local EMA office, the equip-

ment is part of a 130-siren system that provides alerts of emergency weather and other warnings throughout Madison County. The new siren installed atop the joint DPS/University Facilities building will sound alerts to campus and the surrounding community within a three-mile radius, said Ed Wise, president of the Georgia-based Sirens for Cities, Inc.

Madison County Commissioner JesHenry Malone said AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr., brought to

his attention about two months ago the need for a siren to replace the aging tornado siren on the hillside campus. After coordinating the resources between them, the outcome was a custom-made siren with the latest technology, stated Malone.



Pictured at the siren presentation held just prior to the November 26 installation were: (l-r) Brian Shipp, University Facili-

ties; Scott Worsham, EMA; AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr.; Chief Nadis Carlisle; Commissioner JesHenry Malone; Captain

Demetrius Hightower; Jeff Birdwell, director of EMA; and Ed Wise, president, Sirens for Cities, Inc.

- Jerome Saintjones



# Valley Scopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

## DECEMBER

### Aquarius

Vesta, in your 1st house of soul purpose, indicates that you are likely standing out due to the marvelous reliability that you are displaying.

### Gemini

With the moon being opposite Mercury, within your 4th house, your celestial report denotes that your mood is likely to come out most in your conversations that include home and family; so, it's crucial to handle any



disapproving viewpoints, carefully in order to keep an untroubled atmosphere.

### Leo

Your house of marriage

and partnership signify a flawlessly joyous, carefree time for you now.

### Taurus

You are presently, standing out for your disciplined, business-like demeanor. Your communication is excellent at a time when you'd like to get your points across and your watchful perspicacious ways are likely paying off.

### Sagittarius

Mercury's conjunction with Jupiter reflects a time

period where your willingness to reconsider your standpoint is fettered to a chance that you have to unlock what could be considered a passageway of some sort within your 10th house of social position.

### Scorpio

A Venus sextile of Saturn, in your 9th house of spirituality and truth, denotes a time period when taking some time alone could likely be trussed to luck or adventure, as well as further development within the scope of clear sightedness.

### Aries

The sun, at a trine with Uranus, within your house of monetary flow reflects a time when you are profiting from something with original appeal.

### Capricorn

The Saturn conjunction with Pluto, within your 12th house of seclusion and hidden matters, signifies that now is a vital time for you to eliminate something from your life, in order to more positively manage a time where you could otherwise become inundated with various stressors.

### Cancer

The node, within your 6th house of daily grind, implies that now is a pivotal time to make moves, as far as service related projects are concerned. It is also a fortunate time for you to participate in any urgent steps toward healing or helping others to become rejuvenated.

### Virgo

Although, the moon is opposite Jupiter; reflecting a non-cohesive mood, the Vertex, in your sign, signifies that your homage towards friends, is not going unrecognized- by any means.

### Libra

Pallas, in your house of sex and losses, symbolizes a time, where people are likely, to benefit, from your skill level and authority.

### Pisces

Although the sun is at a square with Mars, in your house of soul purpose; reflecting a fair amount of distress, Uranus is at a semisquare with Neptune, therefore, your accessibility & any moves, toward being magnanimous, are being acknowledged.

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## DLC Accepting Applications for 11th Cohort

# DLC



Applications are being accepted for Cohort XI of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium until February 26.

Classes will begin March 5 and end April 23, running 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Graduation will be held on

April 30.

Applications are available online at [www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com). Questions should be emailed to Mrs. Georgia Valrie at [gvalrie1971@gmail.com](mailto:gvalrie1971@gmail.com) or call (256) 656-4698.

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