

The Valley Weekly

"No person is your friend who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow." - Alice Walker

FREE

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Friday, December 1, 2017

Huntsville STEAM Works Offering Winter Workshops

Huntsville STEAM Works is launching 2017 Winter Workshops in the newly-renovated 6,000 sq. ft. STEAM facility in the North Wing of Lowe Mill. Workshops are available for all ages. Lightsabers, sonic screwdrivers, and winter village houses are just a few of the things Jedis, Whovians, and Makers can create. Workshops are available from December 18-22. Workshops offered will include Star Wars Days on December 18-19. These workshops will allow padawans and masters alike to make their own lightsabers, among other activities. Other workshops include Frozen Day on December 20 (ice creations); and Day of the Doctor on December 21.

Registration for all Huntsville STEAM Works Winter Workshops is available via online registration or by calling (256) 705-4327 - www.hsvsteamworks.org.

Auto Supplier to Set up in Valley

BOCAR automotive supplier plans to invest \$115 million in a new plant to be built in Huntsville in Limestone County, according to the Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

The company will hire more than 300 people, adding to Alabama's automotive manufacturing sector.

"We are glad to invest in Huntsville, Ala., where good infrastructure, talented people and a host of excellent universities will develop our business while contributing positively to the social and economic development of this community," said Gerd Dressler, CFO of BOCAR Group.

BOCAR will build a new \$115 million manufacturing plant on land next to I-65 on Bibb Garrett Road.

The plant will be built on a site strategically located on the northern side of Bibb Garrett Road, adjacent to Interstate 65, allowing quick access for shipping parts to automotive companies north and south of the Tennessee Valley. Construction is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2018 and production should begin two years later.

BOCAR is a German company with a presence in the United States, Germany, Mexico and Japan. It is a high-end technology and quality-driven automotive company with extensive experience producing high pressure aluminum die casting, plastics and machining for companies such as Nissan, Ford, GM and Toyota.

OUC Presenting Handel's "Messiah"

Oakwood University Church will present Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m. at Oakwood University Church on Adventist Boulevard in Huntsville, Ala.

The concert will feature

Brandi Sutton, soprano; Dr. Julie Foster, alto; Alexander Henderson, tenor; Dr. Terrance Brown, bass; Oakwood University Chorale, Dr. Eurydice Osterman, director; and the Valley Conservatory

Timeless Holiday Classic Returns

"A Christmas Carol" will run at the Fantasy Playhouse Theater of the Von Braun Center from Dec. 1-10.

Based on the short story by acclaimed author Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol" follows Ebenezer Scrooge, a notoriously greedy character that detests the holidays. After a supernatural encounter with a deceased acquaintance, Scrooge receives an ominous warning: he will be visited by three spirits on Christmas Eve to help him change his crooked



ways.

A popular production, the play has been known to sell-out months in advance. This special season extra is directed by Lucas Kiker.

A Christmas Carol

opens Dec 1. at 7 p.m with regular performances throughout the run at 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. On Dec. 8, there will be only one performance at 7 p.m.

by Reggie D. Allen

Nobel Prize Winner to Speak at A&M

Alabama A&M University's Department of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics the 20th Annual Putcha Venkateswarlu Memorial Lecture on Friday, December 1, at 3 p.m. in James I. Dawson

Building auditorium.

Dr. David J. Wineland's afternoon lecture, "Quan-

tum Computers and Schroedinger's Cat," will be followed by a reception.



Community Town Hall Meeting, Page 3
God and Natural Sciences, Page 4
Upcoming Elections, Page 5
December Valley Scopes, Page 6
Local Anime Convention, Page 7
Easing Holiday Havoc, Page 7

Washington in a Minute



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

1. The House and Senate reconvene this week after last week's Thanksgiving Recess. The full Senate began debate on its version of the comprehensive tax reform bill, known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Tuesday. The Washington Post reported on Sunday that Senate GOP leaders are considering some last-minute changes to the bill to attract a number of wavering Republicans to vote for it, including increasing the deduction for smaller "pass-through" businesses to 20% from the current version's 17.4% and a compromise on the

elimination of the state and local tax deduction. The House this week will, among other items, vote on a bill to reauthorize the Brownfields Program. The House will also take up a bill to require yearly "workplace rights and responsibilities" training, including anti-sexual harassment training, for all House Members and staff (the Senate has already approved a training requirement).

2. President Trump traveled to Capitol Hill Tuesday to join GOP Senators at their weekly policy lunch to discuss the tax bill. He also met separately at the White House on Tuesday with the "Big 4" bipartisan congressional leadership: House

Speaker Paul Ryan, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer. Last Friday evening, the President announced that current OMB Director Mick Mulvaney would be appointed acting director of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau to replace Richard Cordray, who abruptly resigned a week ahead of schedule earlier on Friday and had named his chief of staff Leandra English to be acting director.

3. On Sunday, House Judiciary Committee Ranking Democrat John Conyers

(D-MI) announced that he would be stepping down from his committee post while the House Ethics Committee investigates charges of sexual harassment made by a former staffer in his office, who allegedly received a \$27,000 settlement. Reps. Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Barbara Comstock (R-VA) have proposed legislation requiring that such settlements be made public, retroactively.

4. On Tuesday, the Senate Banking Committee held a hearing on the nomination of Jerome Powell to be chair of the Federal Reserve, while on Wednesday, the Joint Economic Committee had current Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen as a witness to speak about the U.S. economic outlook.

5. House Education and the Workforce Committee Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) is still planning to unveil a comprehensive bill to overhaul the Higher Education Act "this fall," a committee spokesman told Morning Education. It would be the first movement on reauthorizing the HEA since the House passed several piecemeal measures several years ago. In the Senate, Lamar Alexander (R-TN), the education committee chairman, has said reauthorizing the higher education legislation

is next on his committee's to-do list, calling it his "top education priority." Senators will take a first step on Tuesday with a hearing aimed at simplifying the free application for federal student aid.

6. Last Wednesday in a reaction to the Nov. 5 shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, Attorney General Jeff Sessions ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to do a comprehensive review of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and report to him on the steps that can be taken to ensure that those who are prohibited from purchasing firearms are prevented from doing so.

7. Last Tuesday, Federal Communications Commission Chair Ajit Pai released a plan to dismantle landmark regulations put in place by the Obama Administration that ensure equal access to the Internet - known as

"net neutrality"--clearing the way for Internet service companies to charge users more to see certain content and to curb access to some websites. The current rules prohibit high-speed Internet service providers (ISPs) from stopping or slowing down the delivery of websites and also prevent ISPs from charging customers extra fees for high-quality streaming and other services. Chair Pai plans to put the plan up for a vote on December 14.

For more information, contact Ron Hamm at 202-596-8384 or rhamm@hammconsulting.com. THE HAMM CONSULTING GROUP LLC
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Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Matthew 6:26 says, *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?* In the sermon on the mount, Jesus deals with worry from a different perspective. He says, "Look at the birds." God is always trying to get

us to look at something other than ourselves. Remember, he told Abraham to come out of the tent and look up at the sky and count the stars, if indeed you can count them. And, He's saying to all of us, *look at something other than your current circumstance.* He is saying



He is greater than all of the things that we tend to worry about. Jesus goes on to say, "Can any of you add anything to your life by worrying?" You see, we can work on our problem, and we can work on our situation, but we don't need to worry about it, because worry doesn't work. Al-

ways remember, God wants us to consider Him as the solution to any problem that we have. So, instead of praying to God about how big our problem is, we need to pray about how big our God is, for He is very capable and can handle any problem that we have ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!



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Table \$500
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6:00 - 6:45 PM

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The Valley Weekly

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"Community Town Hall Meeting"

November 21, 2017 - First Missionary Baptist Church

Sponsored by Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Photos: Chris Winston

Editor's Note:

According to the sponsors of this event, both candidates for U S Senator were invited. Candidate Doug Jones agreed to attend and participate. We encourage all eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote on Tuesday, December 12th.



Eagles' Nest Ministries Offering "Abundance of Love"

Eagles' Nest Ministries Church will hold "An Abundance of Love" Community Event on Saturday, December 9, from 8 a.m.-12 noon at the DJR Impact Center Gymnasium.

The facility is located at 6831 Hollow Road, Huntsville, Ala.

At the event for those in need, men's, women's, children's and baby clothing will be provided for free.

Donations accepted but not required. The activity is open to the entire community.

For additional information, call (256) 851-1788.

Vigil Scheduled for Those Who Suffer from Loss of Child

The First Annual "Angel of Hope Candlelight Vigil: Remembering the Children We Have Lost" will be held Wednesday, December 6, at Ditto Landing's Kingston Pavilion on St. Nicholas Day.

The program will be facilitated by Rev. Carl Malm, director of HAPC Center for Loss, Grief & Change.

Organizers are calling the event "a service for anyone who has lost a child" of any age.

"We are providing a place of hope and comfort," says Jan Neighbors, chair of Angel of Hope. "You are not alone."

The evening event follows an earlier Angel of Hope-sponsored program held scheduled the same

day at 8:15 a.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church that honors individuals who have enriched the lives of children in a significant way.

For additional information on both events, contact jan.neighbors.ma@comcast.net or malmcarl@hotmail.com.

City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Meetings City Council regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. City Council work sessions are also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

OU's Prez to Address AAMU's Fall Commencement

The President of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., will address the fall commencement ceremony at its sister institution Alabama A&M University next week.

Dr. Leslie N. Pollard will speak to some 400 undergraduate and graduate students on Friday, December 8, at 1 p.m. in the Von Braun Center arena.

Students will receive diplomas from disciplines offered by four major academic components: College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences; College of Business and Public Affairs; College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences; and the College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences.

Dr. Pollard is a 1978 graduate of Oakwood University. He futhered his education to include a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University Theological Seminary

(1983), and the Doctor of Ministry degree in Preaching and Worship from Claremont School of Theology (1992). Seeking higher-level fiscal and administrative enrichment, Pollard earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the La Sierra University School of Business in Organizational Management (2005).

To culminate his academic pursuits, he earned from Andrews University the Doctor of Philosophy degree in New Testament Language and Literature (2007), with a specialty in apocalyptic literature.

Since 1978, Dr. Pollard's leadership has reflected local, national, and international service. He has served as senior pastor for a number of large church complexes, including the Kansas Avenue (Riverside, CA), Berean (Los Angeles,



CA) and the Oakwood University Seventh-day Adventist churches. Additionally, he has been a youth pastor, a university chaplain, a healthcare program administrator, and an educational administrator.

As a clergyman, Dr. Pollard has functioned as an evangelist, professor, ministerial educator, and leadership development facilitator to the 17-million-member General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Discussion Will Focus on God in the Natural Sciences

Elephant in the Room! God in the Natural Sciences Abrahamic Prayers 2017-18

Discussions will be led by NASA and University of Alabama in Huntsville engineers and scientists. "Would it be possible for God to exist and be scientifically irrelevant?"

That's the topic for the year in Abrahamic Prayers. On Thursday, December 7, Laj Utreja will interpret that topic in terms of Hinduism: "Science and the Divine in Hinduism."

The group will meet on the first Thursday of the month in the conference room at Saint Thomas

Episcopal Church on Bailey Cove Road from 7-9 p.m. An RSVP is helpful for logistics, and required for handouts.

Laj Utreja's professional experience covers a wide range of disciplines related to the U.S. space and defense programs, teaching in a university, and running an aerospace business.

In 2001, he received the George M. Low award, NASA's highest honor for quality and technical performance to a small business.

The public is invited. Handouts only via RSVP at meisterp@uah.edu.



December 1 - RICHARD PRYOR - Richard Pryor III was born in Peoria, Ill. He is most well known for his cutting edge stand up comedy and for acting in films such as "Silver Streak". He won five Grammy Awards and an Emmy during his career. - BlackinTime.info



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Valley Locals Featured in AT&T History Calendar

Two notable Valley-area NASA scientists and Alabama A&M University graduates are highlighted in AT&T's 2018 Alabama African American History Calendar, bringing the eventful year in and rounding it out.

NASA retiree Jeanette Scissum (below) opens the calendar as the featured trailblazing mathematician and space scientist who co-wrote a computer program



to determine the landing site for the lunar module.

In 1994, Dr. Shelia Nash-Stevenson (top right) became the first African-American female from Alabama to earn a Ph.D. degree in physics. She



serves NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center as an engineer with the Discovery, New Frontiers, Lunar Quest Programs Office. She represented NASA as a "Modern Figure" at the Red Carpet Premiere of the movie *Hidden Figures*.

Other 2018 honorees are: Vernon Z. Crawford, who established Mobile's first African-American law firm (February); Wilson Pickett, singer/songwriter (March); Kenyen Brown, first black Alabamian appointed to serve as U.S. Attorney (April); Helen Shores Lee, activist and daughter of crusading

civil rights attorney Arthur Shores (May); Arthur Harold Parker, principal of Birmingham's first black high school (June); Cordy Tindell 'C.T.' Vivian, minister/activist (July); Erskine Hawkins, trumpeter and composer (August); Dr. Willie Ruff, Alabama Jazz Hall of Famer (September); Isaac White, Sr., proprietor, White's Barber College (October); and Nell Carter, Tony Award winner (November).

For more information about the 2018 Alabama African American History Calendar, visit alafriicana-american.com.

The Importance of HBCUs Sold by UNCF Study

The landmark study, *HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities*—commissioned by UNCF's Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute—shows that the economic benefits of HBCUs extend beyond the students they educate. They're equally important to the regions and communities that HBCUs have served for over 100 years.

This study is the first of its kind. It sets forth the benefits HBCUs produce

in detailed, dollars-and-cents terms. It shows that money spent in, around, and by the nation's HBCUs and their students drives economic growth both on and off campus—and that effect is multiplied over time. Each dollar spent creates far more than a dollar's worth of productive activity as it moves through local, regional and national economies.

In total, the nation's HBCUs generate \$14.8 billion in economic impact annually; that's equivalent to a ranking in the top 200

on the Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations.

These institutions generate 134,090 jobs for their local and regional economies—that's equivalent to the number of jobs provided by Oracle, one of the nation's largest private employers.

In fact, the 50,000-plus HBCU graduates in 2014 can expect total earnings of \$130 billion over their lifetimes—that's 56 percent more than they could expect to earn without their college credentials.

Out of Africa

As millions of people prepare to celebrate the holiday season, there are numerous African foods and musical items that could find themselves in the common households.

Here are just a few:
Banjo (West Africa)
Black-Eyed Peas
Coffee (Ethiopia)
Drum



Guitar (Ethiopia Krar Harp)
Kola Nuts (Original formula for Coca-Cola)
Okra
Piano (Dulcimer)
Rooibos Tea (South Africa)
Violin (Goje)
Watermelons
Yams (West Africa)

Source: National Geographic & Africasource.com.

Representative Urges Citizens to Vote Dec. 12

State Representative Laura Hall is encouraging residents in the Tennessee Valley to "make positive history in Alabama" by voting in the upcoming December 12 election.

To spur participation, Rep. Hall has suggested that voter educators offer awareness and encouragement through phone calls, canvassing neighborhoods, vote rallies and other activities.

Rep. Hall also urges voters to be mindful of the school ad valorem renewals that will be on the ballot.

"They are not a *new* tax," says Hall. "They are a continuation of the existing local property taxes that fund our local schools. Renewals are necessary every 25-30 years or the funding measures expire."

Important Dates for 2017 General Election

December 7 - Last day for voters to make application for an absentee ballot

December 11 - Last day for voters to hand-deliver

or postmark an absentee ballot

December 12 - General Election

Voting is a right that should be used. Voting is the opportunity to contribute to the political process, and the system was created to work best when everyone participates. Therefore,

using the right to vote is not just an addition to the voter turnout statistics published by every major media site (which consistently show seniors as having the highest voter turnout — time for the *youth* to pick it up). Each vote actually matters and the nation wants and needs to hear opinions.

On December 12, Madison County voters will see several property tax renewals on their ballot. These property taxes currently provide a total of \$58 million in local education funding and must be renewed.

This renewal is critical for our children, as every local public school receives resources as a result of this funding. These are NOT new taxes, and your taxes will not go up as a result of this vote.

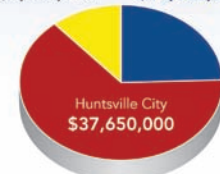
- Funding our Future:** Revenue generated through the property tax is essential to our schools' ability to prepare our children to be competitive in the 21st Century.
- Renewing our Commitment:** Property taxes must be renewed at least every 30 years. The taxes you will see on your December ballot must be renewed before the levy of these taxes expires. Our community has always rallied behind our schools to maintain this funding, and it is time to do it again.
- Keeping it Local:** The renewals are solely for school funding and are distributed among the three local school systems — Huntsville, Madison and Madison County. A vote for the renewal is a vote for our community.

it's a renewal of the current tax at the same rate it was before essential for our schools

it's not a new tax a tax increase a general fund tax

CURRENT ANNUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING AT STAKE:

Madison City	Madison County
\$6,500,000	\$14,300,000



VOTE FOR THE RENEWALS - FOR OUR STUDENTS - FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. MATTHEW ERNEST NANCE (b. 1938) will be announced later.

Funeral service for MR. ALVIN ("SONNY") COLE was held Sunday, November 26, at St. James Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Billy Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. CARINE F. ALLEN (b. 1940) was held Saturday, November 18, at the Fellowship of Faith Church with Pastor Troy Garner officiating.

Funeral service for MR. DONALD EATMAN (b. 1955) was Saturday, November 18, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. SHAWNETTE HILL (b. 1970) was Saturday, November 18, at St. Luke Christian Church with Pastor T. C. Johnson officiating.

Funeral service for DR. MARJORIE CAMPBELL (b. 1952) was held Friday, November 17, at First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road NW - Huntsville, AL) with Pastor Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MRS. CATHERINE JONES (b. 1946) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIE J. CRUTCHER was held Saturday, November 25, at the Union Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Dr. Edward L. Jones officiating.

Funeral service for MR. MENELIK DAVID BRIDGEWATER (b. 1996) will be held announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MOTHER LORENE SLEDGE THOMPSON (b. 1934) will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 25, at the St. Mark Baptist Church with Pastor Jeremiah Chester officiating.

Funeral service will be 12:00 p.m., Friday, December 1, for MR. COTY F. MCCURDY (b. 1974) at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for MR. HENRY LEE MILLER, JR., (b. 1921) was held Tuesday, November 21, at the Triana Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Pastor James Childress officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. GOLDIA LAURA AGEE GRAYSON (b. 1918) was held Tuesday, November 21, at the First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road, Huntsville AL 35810) with Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

Valley Scopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

LEO At this time, while Uranus trines Ceres, your significant other will unwittingly help you to feel nurtured by thoughtful gestures and by quite possibly sharing plans that include you.

AQUARIUS Juno, which is deemed the "marriage asteroid," assures that you will have your eyes peeled for patterns within the relationship department that show its' health and which can help you to continue to monitor where you stand, as you build up your partner and avoid any petty drama; all while gradually strengthening one another through the sharing of affirmations and loving attention.

SAGITTARIUS The sun's square of Neptune signifies that, after working through some tension-filled times, valuable results are likely to follow.

TAURUS The moon's opposition to Mars, betokens that there is some situation within your life that is the epitome of opposite forces and, in this particular case, there is a sense of longing present, as well as moderate feelings of ambitious aggression--all of which you are likely to continuously

funnel professionally.

SCORPIO The Neptune trine of Vesta is working toward bringing elements, conducive to inspiring dream fulfillment together with a strong sense of spiritual comprehension.

ARIES The Uranus square of Pluto signifies that you'll be able to make quite an impression as you move forward, with plans to speak out, on your own opinions--which will enhance the subconscious forces of those with whom you are coming into contact.

CANCER The moon's trine with Saturn, along with its trine of Pholus, suggests that you'll be in a good

DECEMBER

mood and, therefore, up to any off-the-wall challenges that come your way as you become adjusted to certain standards that you've set for yourself, while seeking to reach a level of quality attainment, wherever you deem it's necessary.

CAPRICORN Saturn's square of Chiron, signals that you could face a difficult time as you deal with psychological wounds; however, the things that have transpired will bring extra meaning structure to your existence--if you remind yourself not to take everything personally.

LIBRA Mars' square of Pluto suggests that during a slight difficulty your instincts will undoubtedly kick in and you will adjust to

an abrupt change.

PISCES With Mercury's square of Chiron in the celestial backdrop the issues that you are encountering are likely to be stemming from, your "everyday small-talk," as you make assertions that could help heal; as opposed to merely serving as forceful announcements.

GEMINI The moon is in a trine with Mercury, heralding an opportunity to speak with somebody one-on-one and to emotionally connect by sharing important, cavernous feelings.

VIRGO Mercury's conjunction with Saturn, which represents our walls against the outside world, is blending your warmth and your ability to non-chalantly continue efforts have- toward becoming an even more successful, plain-spoken messenger.



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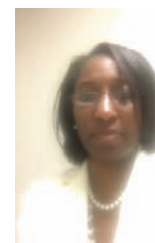
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Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Easing Holiday Havoc

(BPT) - The holiday season is full of magic and wonder --until a flight gets cancelled, the budget is blown and illness falls at the worst possible time.

Here are some of the most notorious holiday hurdles, with practical advice for overcoming them and enjoying the best of the season.

Holiday hang-up: Blown budget. The holidays can get expensive fast. Buying something for everyone on your list shouldn't put you in debt. Instead, think outside the box.

Solution: Organize a gift exchange where each person draws one name and buys one gift. Additionally, consider homemade gifts to cut costs, as well as experiences, like taking kids sledding or ice skating.

Holiday hang-up: Valley blues. With sickness from holiday travelers confined in planes and trains or from gathering under one room for festivities, it's no surprise that germs are rampant during the holidays. In fact, a recent survey found that 68 percent of people have been sick and miserable during holiday gatherings and 24 percent have had a holiday gathering ruined because a family member was sick.

Solution: If you feel ill, be prepared with a medicine like Robitussin Severe Multi-Symptom Cough Cold + Flu, which provides relief for your worst symptoms. If you're still not feeling yourself when festivities are occurring, it's best to stay home. Try putting on comfy pajamas and binge watching your favorite holiday movies while you rest up.

Holiday hang-up: Kids get the "gimmies." Commercialism runs high during the holiday season. Kids' wish lists seem to grow with



each passing day. You want them to focus on the "season of giving" and they want to focus on "the season of getting."

Solution: Show kids how good it feels to give back. There are many ways to help those in need, especially around the holidays. Try volunteering at a local nonprofit, donating gifts to a local shelter or assisting an elderly neighbor by shoveling their driveway. Be sure to encourage your kids to participate, too!

Holiday hang-up: Travel problems. Whether it's a missed connection, delayed flight or the weather is too bad to drive, travel is difficult during the holiday season.

Solution: If you're stuck at home, make the best of it with a staycation. Sleep in, make yourself a big breakfast and do all the things you never get to do. Explore the fun that's available in your hometown, whether that's a trip to the museum or splurging on tickets to the local theater. Spontaneous adventures can be some of the most memorable!

Holiday hang-up: You burned the food. Did you mess up Grandma's famous apple pie? Do your gingerbread men look a little deranged? Are your kids concerned that Santa will refuse your holiday cookies? Kitchen fails happen to even the most skilled chefs.

Solution: Always have a backup. An extra store-bought pie or cookies in the cupboard provide peace of mind.

The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

December 1

20th Annual Putcha Venkateswarlu Memorial Nobel Laureate Lecture Laureate David Wineland Alabama A&M University Dawson Building 3 p.m.

"Laughing All the Way: A White Christmas in Hawaii" Featuring: Joy the Queen of Clean Sponsor: Huntsville Bible College Trinity United Methodist Church 607 Airport Road Huntsville, Ala. 7 p.m.

UAH Fifth Annual "Peace on Earth" Holiday Spectacular Von Braun Center

Mark C. Smith Concert Hall Featuring: Ruben Studdard 7:30 p.m. - \$10

December 2

"Holidays in the Valley" Benefit Concert - Presented by - The Academy for Learning, Maitland Conservatory and Valley Conservatory Trinity United Methodist Church Airport Road 4 p.m.

December 3

Annual Christmas Musicale The Alabama A&M University Choir T.M. Elmore Building 5:30 p.m. (Free)

December 8

Alabama A&M University Fall Commencement *Speaker:* Dr. Leslie Pollard President Oakwood University Von Braun Center 1 p.m.

December 9

13th Annual Christmas Festival at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 1804 Sparkman Drive NW 6-8 p.m. (Free)

December 16

100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville 2017 Annual Holiday Gala Von Braun Center North Hall 7 p.m.

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