

Chamber, Valley Salute Small Businesses

The Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County and the City of Huntsville participated in the annual Small Business Saturday to support small businesses in Huntsville and Madison County.

The special day was jumpstarted in 2010 by American Express® as a way to celebrate the small businesses that help support their neighborhoods. The yearly observance is held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Small Business Saturday has been embraced nationwide and by President Barack Obama as part of the holiday shopping tradition as each year shoppers, businesses and public officials come together to Shop Small* and show their neighborhood pride.

Understanding the important contributions small businesses make to their communities, the local Chamber has helped to lead the effort in the Valley and urged residents to support local retailers and restauranteurs by "shopping small" and "shopping local" on the Saturday following the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Of the nearly 8,000 businesses in Madison County, 94% have less than 50 employees," said Tharon Honeycutt, vice chair for small business and events at the Chamber and Diversity Leadership Colloquium presenter, commenting to the Chamber.



STRIKING A POSE: Students at Alabama A&M University make a series of poses as part of preparations for another round of billboards that will be displayed around key metropolitan areas throughout the state, including in Mobile, Birmingham, Huntsville and Decatur. *Photo by J. Saintjones*

Repurposing Vacated High Schools

Excerpted from The Big Picture-City of Huntsville

Just as the new Grissom opens in fall 2017, left behind will be a centralized campus off Bailey Cove in South Huntsville.

In anticipation for that time, multiple departments in the City of Huntsville (i.e., Planning, Parks and Recreation, and General Services), along with Huntsville City Schools, the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, and the Arts Council, considered how the campus might be "repurposed."

The motivation behind the effort was that a new approach could create something more than just a collection of city and county services; it could create a new "town center" for South Huntsville.

The large athletic complex would remain mostly unchanged with all the various courts and fields could remain as they currently exist. The City does desire to improve the traffic flow and convenience parking immediately around the fields.

The outdoor areas have and will maintain two soccer/lacrosse fields, a baseball field, a softball field, and tennis courts. An identified need within the athletic complex is a playground, so the master planning process focused on how to provide a driveway through the athletic field complex, additional parking along that driveway, and where to best locate a playground. Some of the

small storage buildings scattered around that area will be removed to make way for these improve-

The number of parking spaces will be roughly the same, but the lots would be shifted to the rear of the site, where possible, to allow in part for the creation of a "Great Lawn", but it would also put significantly more parking near the recreation fields, where there is high demand. In cases of larger events, the City would work to accommodate overflow parking in the shopping center across the street, with police officers to maintain traffic.

The main (front) part of the campus would see the most dramatic change as a large portion of the existing academic building would be demolished to make way for a new library branch and open space for passive recreation and small outdoor events. The existing theater and gymnasium facilities are expected to remain intact and continue to be used by the Arts community and Parks & Recreation Department, respectively.

The planning focus in this area of the campus is on where to best position the library, driveways and parking areas; façade and entryway needs for the theater and gyms; and streetscape/greenspace improvements along the Bailey Cove frontage.

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Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

WIU Prez to Address A&M Grads

Native Fluent in Mandarin,

Teaching in China

The 11th President of Western Illinois will address more than 400 graduates during fall com-

mencement exercises at Alabama A&M University on Friday, December 11, in the T.M. Elmore Building at 9 a.m.

Dr. Jack Thomas, an AAMU alumnus, was named the 11th president of the 12,000-student Western Illinois University on January 18, 2011. WIU offers 66 undergraduate degree programs and nearly 40 graduate degree programs. Prior to WIU, Thomas served as WIU's provost and academic vice president from 2008-11. Other posts he held throughout his career include senior vice president for academic affairs at Middle Tennessee State

Dr. Denise Y. Mose is a native of Huntsville, Ala., and a proud

Currently, Dr. Mose is a long

way from home. "Dr. D" (affec-

tionately known by her students)

is not just far away, she is literally

George English Training School

teaches Basic English, Advanced

Culture and American/Western

When she is not teaching, she

is traveling throughout Asia. She

climbed The Great Wall of China,

one of the Seven Wonders of the

Dr. Mose speaks fluent Manda-

rin Chinese. Abu Dhabi, Dubai,

will be her next trip. She will re-

turn to the USA in January 2016.

World. Then, she travelled to

Bangkok, Thailand.

in China. Yes, China! Dr. D

English, Current Events, Pop

She is a Foreign Teacher at the

graduate of Alabama A&M

University.

in the future!

Customs.

University, as well as a wide range of administrative, faculty and staff posts at several institutions

of higher education.

A native of Lowndes County, Alabama, Dr. Thomas earned the bachelor's degree from AAMU, the master's degree from Virginia State University and the Ph.D. degree from Indiana

University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to the conferring of degrees and the awarding of U.S. Army commissions, special presentations will be made to Dr. Jack Thomas of WIU; Dr. Goang-Shin Liaw of AAMU's Department of Mechanical and Civil Engineering; and R&B, pop and gospel singer Ruben Studdard.

Army commissions, special nutations will be made to Dr. Thomas of WIU; Dr. Goang-Liaw of AAMU's Departof Mechanical and Civil neering; and R&B, pop and respective of the special of th







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The Valley Weekly

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rom the Editor

Ah, Elders!

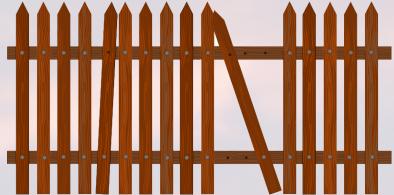
Someone called me the other day to say that the community should have some way of recognizing people who are 90 years old and older. My immediate response was that the Rosetta James Foundation has been honoring the contributions of elders who are 70 years and older for almost 10 years. Actually, on the second Saturday in March 2016, we will have been honoring local citizens who contribute and volunteer in this wonderful community for 10 years. Our first class was honored in 2007. So, mark your 2016



calendar for March 12th as we celebrate and honor the work of some wonderful local citizens who have been blessed with longevity, grace, and spirits of service and giving.

Where I grew up, we did not need a special program or event to honor the elders of the community. We honored them with our words and deeds. It did not matter who they were, where they lived, what they looked liked, or if we knew them personally. We respected and honored the fact that they were elders. Our parents, the elders in the community and our church taught us that.

And, while I am on it, we respected the law. Even though there were and still are people in law enforcement who probably shouldn't be there, we behaved like lawful people when we saw the "law" or were approached by the "law." You see, the "law" was the police. I remember hearing people holler and shout, "Here comes the law! Here comes the law!" Plenty went on that was unlawful, but we scattered when we saw or heard that the law was near. That would not be wise nowadays.



When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley

Weekly around town,

valleyweeklyllc.com.

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For instance, I remember the men shooting dice for nickels and dimes, which was illegal gambling. They seemed to have been having so much fun, shooting dice and drinking home brew and white lightning, smoking, dipping and chewing. You seldom heard of people fighting, shooting and all the drama we read about and see in the media today.

When someone drank too much, they were walked home, put on the back of the pickup truck and driven home, or they slept where they were for the night. It seems that most of the time, it was in the yard or on the porch. (I don't remember all of this cold weather ... brrrr!) I remember

Mr. Allen's old mule. I am not sure who was the oldest, but both of them looked drunk to me most of the time. On first and third Sunday mornings, we had forgotten what happened last night, and most of us were at the Carrie Mount Baptist Church, worshipping the God who delivered us from day-to-day and week-to-week.

The community was Family. We shared, we cared and we dared! We honored our Elders.

Happy Holidays until next week,



District 1 Town Hall Meets Eager Crowd





1. Path to Adjournment. The House and Senate are in session, and they have a lot to accomplish before adjourning for the year, including an FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill and a \$700 billion tax "extenders" bill

up the Senate-amended version

of a bill to repeal a number of the

Here are the top issues in DC this

The House has voted many times to repeal Obamacare, but this is the first time - using the special budget reconciliation process that a bill has passed the Senate and will likely force President Obama's veto. The Obamacare repeal bill also contains language to extend or make permanent to defund Planned Parenthood. around 50 temporary tax provisions. The House will also take

2. Import Duty Relief for Manufacturers. The House may also take up the final version of a

core provisions of Obamacare.

comprehensive trade bill, which would reauthorize the Customs and Border Protection agency, but also contains language to restart the stalled Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) process, which allows American manufacturers to eliminate or reduce hundreds of import duties on raw materials and intermediate products that are not produced or available domestically. The MTB process, a victim of Congress' ban on individual project earmarks, has been frozen since 2010.

3. Gov't Shutdown? House Appropriations Chair Hal Rogers' (R-KY) is expected to release the text of the FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which would combine the 12 unenacted FY2016 appropriations bill into one bill, although this date may slip if there continue to be disagreements over the controversial policy riders that Congress wants to add to the bill. On December 2, the White House announced that President Obama would not be willing to sign a short-term

continuing resolution that lasts longer than one or two days to allow more time for negotiations on the bill, if lawmakers miss the December 11 deadline - which may necessitate a federal government shutdown at the end of this

Here are some of the riders provoking controversy: (1) block the EPA's recent carbon and greenhouse gas emission regulations; (2) no money for President Obama's \$3 billion Paris pledge to the United Nations' Green Climate Fund; (3) impose a moratorium on allowing Syrian and Iraqi refugees to enter the United States until certain security benchmarks are met; (4) lift campaign finance restrictions on coordination between parties and individual candidate campaigns, the so-called "Dump Trump" provision; (5) allow health care providers a "conscience clause" to object to providing certain services that go against their religion; (6) block a Labor Department rule to require retirement investment advisers to work solely in the interest of the clients; and (7) freeze a rule requiring for-profit schools to show that a certain percentage of their students are gainfully employed in a recognized occupation in order to remain eligible for federal student aid.

4. More Dollars for Highways and Transit. On Friday, December 4, which also happened to be the deadline for enacting the bill, President Obama signed the \$305 billion surface transportation bill, known as the FAST Act, which will immediately inject billions of dollars into the nation's highway, transit, and rail infrastructure. This is the first 5-year bill surface transportation authorization enacted since 2005.

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Thru December 31

"Celestial Dreams: The Art of Space Jewelry" U.S. Space and Rocket Center

Thru January 24, 2016

rary Art" Sponsors: Sarah and Carl Gessler Huntsville Museum of Art

"Blow Up: Inflatable Contempo-

December 11

Fall Commencement Exercises Alabama A&M University Elmore Building, 9 a.m.

December 12

Rocket City Marathon

Skating in the Park Huntsville Museum of Art 10 a.m.-12 noon

December 12-13

"Christmas in the Valley" Sponsor: Valley Conservatory

Calendar of Events

HarborChase of Huntsville 4801 Whitesport Circle, SW

December 13

UAH Graduation Arena - Von Braun Center, 2 p.m.

December 16

Women's Basketball AAMU vs. Saint Louis University Elmore Building, 7 p.m.

December 17-19

Special Holiday Jazz

December 26

CONCERT - Jim Brickman Mark C. Smith Concert Hall VBC, 7:30 p.m.

December 31

"Have Yourself A Jazzy Little New

(In support of the Jack & Annie Anderson 2nd Chance Scholaship)

Burritt on the Mountain Museum | 8 p.m.-12 a.m.

January 25 - March 11

Osher Lifelong **Learning Institute** at UAH Winter Term

OLLI is a learning community designed for adults 50+.

Daytime and evening classes. Details: Osher.uah.edu/Catalog or 256.824.6183.

January 10

Harlem Globetrotters VBC Arena

January 15

King, Jr. Emancipation Proclamation Celebration Speaker: Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.. Charlotte, N.C. Progressive Union MB Church 1919 Brandontown Road, 7 p.m.

The Annual Dr. Martin Luther

January 16

"Journey's Escape" Black Jacket Symphony Von Braun Center Concert Hall 8 p.m.

January 16-18

Oakwood University MLK Basketball Classic

January 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast Von Braun Center North Hall

February 7

60th Anniversary Observance Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church 3740 Meridian Street

March 3

Black Tie Dinner and Live Auction 2016 Gala Art Exhibition Huntsville Museum of Art

March 18

Inaugural Education Banquest for the Julius R. Scruggs Child Development Center and Academv Guest Speaker: Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D. First Missionary Baptist Church

Artist Will Introduce New Line of Reflective, Inspirational Notecards

A local popular artist will introduce a new set of notecards to the public on December 14.

Much respected for his more than 15 years of vivid and thought-provoking art, the well-traveled John "Jahni" Moore creates work that engages the mind as much as the eyes through their aesthetic appeal.

"I've learned that it's not so much as how talented you are but the effect you have," he said.

True to form, Moore traveled to Colombia, further solidifying his stance that art opens doors among all socioeconomic groups. He visited Medellin, Colombia, once considered, in the 1990s, as one of the most dangerous



cities in the world. By 2012, however, it was deemed among the most innovative.

"I saw a city that welcomed me fully as an artist with great respect and fanfare," he recalled. "I walked through the streets as a black man, feeling much safer than here in the U.S."

As a result of working with the artists and students in

Colombia, Moore says he has become much more "open minded and bolder."

The new collection of notecards will mirror Moore's first set of cards (\$10/box w/ gold foil envelopes, www.jahnitheartist.com under Black Cotton Company).

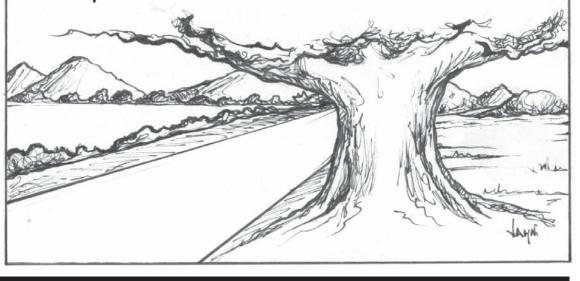
by Jerome Saintjones



PowerShot

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-J.T.Moore



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Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation

#94612

The Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation provides financial scholarship to undergraduate students who demonstrate sound academic principles; commitment to community volunteerism, civic engagement and unselfishness to assist others in

Huntsville/Madison County.

The Rosetta James Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization with a 0% Administrative and Fundraising Rate (AFR). For additional information, contact (256) 536-9717 or write P.O. Box 17452, Huntsville, AL 35810.



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Business & Personal Chefs

As if we aren't already busy with our day to day duties, the holiday season definitely increases our workload. Whether we are working more to splurge on extravagant gifts or are reviewing our budget as the year ends, we are hustling and bustling to get things done.

Aside from the work pressure, it gets extremely busy on the home front. We spend plenty of time tidying up for company, putting up decorations, getting gifts, and planning for the new year.

One of the busiest places in our house tends to be the kitchen. It's the community and family gathering place, not only for food but for fellowship. This year our family decided to cutback on the holiday stress by eliminating the traditional two-day cooking binge by having a personal, professional chef.

Rather than standing in long lines at the grocery store, sweating over a hot stove, and looking for ways to avoid eating some



cousin-in-law's dry ham, we were able to focus our energy on actually enjoying our time together as a family for Thanksgiving.

After sitting back comatose from Truffle Butter Wild Mushroom Risotto, Creamed Kale, and a perfectly cooked turkey, I couldn't help but to wonder why we hadn't done this before. It's not an unattainable or unaffordable luxury. As a matter of fact, it is as cost-effective as eating out. Many professionals and busy families utilize personal chefs as a means of convenience. A personal chef can come into your home on a weekly basis for your family's picky eaters, to add a touch of class to your Christmas dinner, or to cater your company's

client appreciation party. It also makes for a great gift to receive a menu that is tailored specifically to your needs, all while holding you accountable to your New Year's weight loss resolution.

For the price of eating at the finest restaurant, you can enjoy the same dishes in the comfort and convenience of your own home. It is also budget friendly and time-saving to have your in-house chef grocery shop, prepare, and plate your holiday feast.

If you would like to hire Chef Rego of European Cuisine Chef Services call (310) 619-3091/(323)205-6440 or via e-mail at Miguelrego325@gmail. com.

For our family, a personal chef is definitely on the menu for Christmas. Save your time. Book Chef Rego. Thank me later. Have a Happy Holiday!

All the best, Amoi Savage www.gethaters.asavvyent.

Huntsville Extreme Energy Project



The Huntsville Extreme Energy Makeover (HEEM) Project was officially launched on September 16, 2015. HEEM is part of a \$50 million investment Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is making in the Tennessee Valley through their Smart Communities initiative.

Huntsville Utilities (HU) was initially awarded (April 2015) \$6.29 million through a grant from the TVA to launch the Smart Communities - HEEM project to perform wholehome, deep energy retrofits for qualified customers in 20-year-old (or older) owner occupied homes. The project goal is a 25% reduction in the home's energy usage. This partnership between TVA and HU will improve the quality of life for qualified residents and homeowners by significantly increasing the

efficiency and comfort of their homes. Energy audits will be performed by HU to determine which energy saving measures can be utilized to achieve the 25% reduction in energy consumption. TVA later awarded (August 2015) HU an additional \$ 5.41 million towards the HEEM Project which totaled \$ 11.7 million.

Huntsville Utilities (HU) will also educate its customers about ways to control their consumption through the practice of energy efficient habits. The program targets our most needy customers with an opportunity to improve their quality of life through significant savings on their utility bills. This program is FREE for qualified applicants. Applicants must meet certain income limits, have electric HVAC/heat provided by Huntsville

Utilities, and live in a home that is at least 20 years old. Huntsville Utilities has set a goal to improve approximately 1200 single-family homes with this grant.

The HEEM project will run through the end of 2017. HU's long term goal is to continue this program at some level for qualified customers even after the grant period concludes. As of September 30th 2015, HEEM has entered 161 homes into the program and 72 homes have been completed. HU is on track to meet all projected goals for the HEEM Project. The HEEM team has built a partnership with several civic and community organizations in an effort to spread the news about the program through-out Madison county (See attached photo of a community meeting).

Customers interested in applying for the program should contacts either Leigh Bee at Leigh.bee@ huntsvilleal.gov 256-427-7498 or Harry Hobbs at extreme@hsvutil.org 256-705-7500.



Good Samaritan Hospice

-Locally owned and operated-Call us at 256-772-8108 Remember, It's your choice, so ask for us by name!



On This Day - December 11

Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton - Singer Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton born in Montgomery, Alabama. She was the original singer to record the hit song "Hound Dog" in 1952. She later she wrote and recorded "Ball n' Chain".

- BlackInTime.info



Campus

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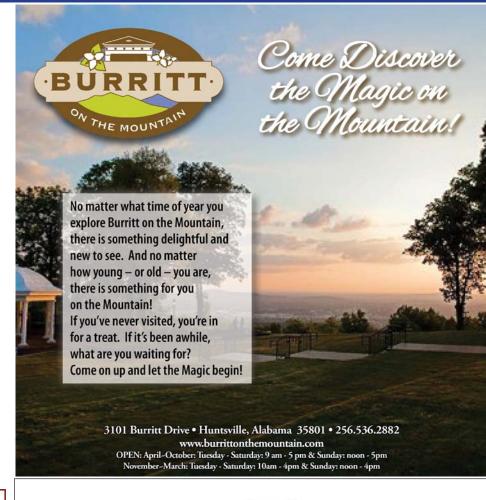
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