

"Every government has as much of a duty to avoid war as a ship's captain has to avoid a shipwreck."
- Guy de Maupassant

FREE

The Valley Weekly

Volume 6 No. 14

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Friday, December 13, 2019

CENSUS: College Enrollment Dips Since 2011

In October 2018, 18.9 million people were enrolled in college, 1.5 million fewer than in 2011, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey School Enrollment Supplement, released last week.

From 2011 to 2018, undergraduate college

enrollment dropped by 1.8 million.

During the same period, the number of students enrolled in two-year colleges dipped by 25%, or 1.4 million, to 4.3 million.

The decline in two-year college enrollment was not statistically different from the decrease in total

undergraduate enrollment and neither decrease was significantly different from the 1.5 million decrease in the number of people enrolled in college.

The report also noted that graduate school enrollment reached 4.1 million, an increase of 300,000 from 2011.

Private Screening for "Just Mercy" Set for Jan. 9

A private screening of "Just Mercy" has been scheduled for Thursday, January 9, at Cinemark Bridge Street and XD, 370 The Bridge Street, in Huntsville, at 6 p.m.

'Just Mercy' chronicles the early work of Equal Justice Initiative founder Bryan Stevenson on behalf of Walter McMillian, a wrongly imprisoned man in Alabama. Stevenson's work also led to the exoneration of Anthony Ray Hinton, the author of *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*.

On December 3, 2019, 'Just Mercy' won the National Board of Review's Freedom of Expression Award. The film stars Jaime Foxx as McMillian and Michael B. Jordan as Stevenson.

This event is a fundraiser in support of the '212 Community Service Scholarship' being established at Oakwood University.

Tickets range from \$25 to \$40 via [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).



Madkins Chapel CP Church to Hold Annual Christmas Program

Pastor Endia J. Scruggs and the entire Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church Family is inviting the Tennessee Valley public to their annual Christmas program.

"The True Gift of Christmas" will be held at the church on Friday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 2403 Oakwood Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.



BIG DAY! The daughters of 80-year-old Donzella Washington (r) of Fultondale, Ala., adjust their mother's cap and gown. Washington, believed to be the Alabama A&M University's oldest student in its 144-year history, received her bachelor's degree in social work on Friday, December 6, at the Von Braun Center with more than 400 other graduates. (Photo by Jerome Saintjones)

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The Valley Weekly

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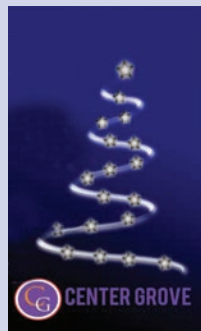
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Center Grove Gets "In the Middle of It"

The Men of Center Grove are sponsoring "In the Middle of It," a celebration of uplifting scriptures, songs and Christmas carols, on Sunday, December 15, at 5 p.m.



The activity will take place at 185 Plummer Road, Huntsville, Ala., and the public is invited.

This is without a doubt one of the highlights of the year at Center Grove, as people come to hear the Good News of Christ's birth celebrated through scriptures and beautiful songs, stated Jahazy Rooks of Center Grove. "Our celebration will be a musical commemoration of uplifting songs, scriptures and Christmas Carols."

It is a great way for us to reflect and thank God for all the blessings that we have received for the entire year, said Rooks.

Sorority Aids Cause for Ugandan Refugees

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated's international program theme for 2018-2022 is "Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service."

Dr. Glenda Glover, international president, has identified five program target areas for all chapters nationally and internationally to render services to the community.

Target IV is Global Impact. Thus, through this target, the organization focuses on special programs, such as "Refugee Assistance in America."

Rho Chi Omega has partnered with a local community organization to identify the needs of refugees transitioning to America and those who have not transitioned.

On September 18, 2019, Rho Chi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc, located in Madison, Ala., presented a \$500 check to the Blossomwood Foundation to build a home for Ugandan refugees in the Munami Camp.

The Blossomwood Foundation is a disaster relief foundation based in

Huntsville, Ala., which launched "Project Uganda" to relocate a group of Ugandan refugees in the wake of a tragedy.

In August of 2018, weeks of flooding wrecked havoc on the Munami Camp, causing homes to collapse and dissolve. The flooding caused over 100 homes to be damaged and/or destroyed.

The spread of disease, especially with many young children at the camp, is a large concern. The flooding and overflow of latrines are leading to malaria and typhoid break out.

With the assistance provided by Rho Chi Omega Chapter,



many of the displaced Ugandans will have a home for shelter and protection. The continued partnership with the Blossomwood Foundation the organization to assist the people of Uganda and Be of Service to All Mankind.

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From the Editor

Greetings!

I met Ms. Maggie Willis at First Missionary Baptist Church. Over the past two decades, we became personal friends due to our own unique relationships with the late Mr. & Mrs. McKinley and Rosetta James.



Maggie and Mother James' were political road buddies. They drove, rode and visited between here in north Alabama and Mobile, Florence to the edges of Scottsboro, and everywhere between Dothan, Selma, Montgomery, Birmingham and everything in between. I was like the daughter to Mother James and little sister to Maggie. I did just about everything they told me to do, because they were righteous women.

We registered new voters, hosted events, delivered and turned in absentee ballots, put out signs and made telephone calls for many, many years. Before Mr. James passed away, we had taken him to the Madison County Courthouse to vote absentee for President Barack Obama prior to the election. He passed away a week prior to Election Day in November 2008. Each of us believe we had won. Mother James was proud of "Kent," Maggie was proud of Mother James for getting him to vote early, and I was tagging along.

After Mr. James passed away, Maggie became part of the everyday village that checked on Mother James. She called her each morning to ensure nutritious breakfasts, picked her up for various events, dropped all kinds of things off at her home, set up Meals on Wheels, and made ongoing wellness checks. When Mother James would hear her voice on the telephone, she would say, "That's Maggie Willis on the telephone." She knew Maggie Willis's voice, at any time, any day.

We appreciated and loved Maggie's charm, joy, beauty, love of life, her unique laugh and desire to serve. That's what we do when we care. Caring is not a skill set, it's a behavior, an attitude. Maggie demonstrated her caring spirit through her loving demeanor, her kind humor, her giving heart, her commitment to the less fortunate, the downtrodden, her fight for women, the poor, people of color and the abused.

We will miss her presence on this earth. Her appointment came on Monday, December 2. When I heard Monday morning, my head expanded an already existing ache. I ended up in Crestwood Hospital's Emergency Room on Wednesday and prayed myself out on Thursday. Maggie was my friend. She loved her family, her church, the people here, her community and her many, many friends who she shared much and much more. And, in the end, when we wanted to get something done, we asked Maggie Willis. She had the good sense of in and out, good and bad, love and like, and when to let it go.

I spoke to her on the Saturday before she passed away and to Dr. Parker Griffith on Thursday, December 5. We will miss her hellos, goodbyes, wit, smiles and know all at the same time that she is in her heavenly home. This community will miss her. We shall forever honor her beautiful life and legacy. Thank you, Dr. Don Darius Butler, for the excellent proclamation of the Gospel and sharing your wonderful memories of Ms. Maggie Willis. She was tried and true!

Until next week ...

Dorothy



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Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Woody Anderson Ford

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.

City Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. People can sign up for notices of Council meetings and special sessions online at <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1825550/1780821/>

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



Zetas Ceremony Set for Glenwood

The Delta Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., will conduct a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Glenwood Cemetery on Saturday, December 14, beginning at 11 a.m.

Glenwood Cemetery is located at Hall Avenue and Derrick Street. Distinguished African Americans buried here include veterans of America's wars beginning with the Civil War, former slaves, accomplished artisans, professionals in many fields, clergymen, educators, entrepreneurs, politi-

cians, and other leaders. The Cemetery replaced the original slave cemetery, known as "Georgia," established in 1818 and located north of Huntsville Hospital. Glenwood Cemetery was established in 1870 by the City of Huntsville

Members encourage all veterans, National Pan Hellenic Council organizations, the Huntsville community and other friends to attend.

For additional information, contact Ollye Conley at (256) 509-1239 or Edna Fails at (256) 337-0574.

NAAACC Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the

3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

Presents with Purpose: Gifts that Leave an Impact

(BPT) - This holiday season, what if you could give loved ones a present that makes a meaningful impact on the world? Nothing evokes the holiday spirit more than giving gifts that help others in a direct, effective way. Here are a few ways you can give a gift this year that truly makes someone's life better:

Feed a family - and nourish a community

Several global charities have developed unique opportunities for Americans to make a dramatic impact on the lives of families throughout developing countries through year-end gift giving. For example, donors can direct contributions that pay for a farm animal to support a family or a clean water well installation to benefit an entire community.

In World Vision's Annual Holiday Gift Catalog, a gift of a goat and two chickens provides a steady supply of eggs, milk and protein that can feed two or more struggling families. Your loved one will receive a card to tell them you're making this life-changing donation on their behalf.

A single dairy goat can provide up to 16 cups of milk per day, providing calcium, protein and other essential nutrients for growing children. Chickens are easy to raise, and they naturally multiply to help feed generations of children. Each family who receives chickens gives back some hatched chicks to help other families in their community.

Provide vital medical supplies

Numerous organizations also help struggling families in developing countries gain access to life-saving medicine, vitamins and nutritional support. A monthly or yearly donation to World Vision in the name of your loved one is a great way to provide ac-

cess to vital pharmaceuticals and medical supplies such as antibiotics, anti-fungals, anti-parasitic drugs, deworming medications, disposable syringes, gastrointestinal drugs, painkillers or surgical supplies to communities that desperately need them.

Support community artisans

If your loved one is passionate about artistic and beautiful things from around the world, you can support local artisans and craftspeople as well. Your support enables artisans to access "microloans" that help them fund their businesses. Look for organizations that partner with fair trade organizations when you shop for international goods to maximize the impact of your gift.

Browse through World Vision's 2019 Gift Catalog to see a wide variety of unique handcrafted gifts ranging from jewelry and housewares to decorative items. A portion of your purchase will be used to support specific, urgent needs for children, families or communities around the world, benefiting local artisans, along with the individual for whom you selected a gift.

A \$75 or greater donation enables you to select a gift from the Opportunity Collection of home decor items, the Grace Collection of jewelry and accessories or the Hope Bracelet. They were created by fair trade artisans in India in partnership with Gifts with a Cause, a fair-trade organization that provides a sustainable income to artists in developing countries. This business opportunity helps empower people to thrive, improving the lives of their families and communities. To celebrate this year's season of giving and make a real difference, consider making a donation that expresses how much you care. Your gift will truly have an impact on making the lives of others better - long after the holidays are over.

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The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

December 13

"The True Gift of Christmas"
Annual Christmas Program
Madkins Chapel Cumberland
Presbyterian Church
(Rev. Endia J. Scruggs, Pastor)
2403 Oakwood Road NW
Huntsville, Ala. - 6:30 p.m.

December 14

Festival of Trees
A Special Event for the Girl
Scouts of America
Huntsville Botanical Garden
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW
Cost: (256) 830-4447
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Skate with Santa at Skating in
the Park
Huntsville Museum of Art
300 Church Street S.W.
Huntsville, Ala.
\$10-\$15
2-4 p.m.

December 21

100 Black Men of Greater

Huntsville Annual Holiday
Gala
Von Braun Center North Hall
6 p.m. Tables - \$500
Contact: Charles Hyder at
(256) 651-0134

December 22

2019 Galaxy of Lights: Driving
Nights
Huntsville Botanical Garden
\$25/car; Certain nights have
reduced \$20 admission at the
gate (December 4-12, De-
cember 16-19, and December
30-January 4)

January 19-March 22

"Harlem, Hollywood, Broad-
way: African American
Legends" Photographed by
Jack Mitchell
Chan Gallery
Huntsville Museum of Art
Lecture and Preview Party
(Jan. 17)
Featuring Alabama A&M
University Jazz Ensemble

\$25/\$50

January 27

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where you
fell; but
where you
slipped.*

- African Proverb



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Champion Game Plan for Life *by Preston Brown*

"GREAT VALUE"

Luke 15:7 says, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

You know, one of the things that I love most about Jesus is that He meets us where we are, but refuses to leave us there. He meets us in our sinful ways and says "go and sin no more". The main theme in the book of Luke is that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. And,



He was especially sensitive to those who were hurting, because He knew that

hurting people hurt other people. That's why He had no problem eating with sinners and tax collectors.

In this scripture, Luke talks about the love that God has for sinners, and he explains them in the form

of "lost things." First, a lost sheep. Then a lost coin. And then a lost

son. In all of these stories, the "lost" are found. And when it happens, everyone rejoices. The message that is revealed here is that God places great value on one repenting sinner. Therefore, clarifying his mission that He came to seek and save sinners. Jesus came to deal

with much more than the financial statement or the building fund. Jesus reminds us that there is "great value" in the saving of a sinner who was lost but is now found ... Stay encouraged, my brothers



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Funeral service for MR. ROBERT DOUGLAS (AKA "HOOD") (b. 1949) was held Wednesday, December 11, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Dr. Edward Anderson officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAMES ("JIMMY") RASCOE (b. 1945) was held Sunday, December 8, at the Zion Progress Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Hernandez Ford, Sr. officiating.

Funeral service for MR. LEVERT HERMAN MCCRARY (b. 1962) was held Saturday, December 7, at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church with Minister Cynthia Binford officiating.

- Royal Funeral Home -

4315 Oakwood Avenue- Huntsville, AL 35810

(256) 534-8481

Funeral service for MRS. CHRISTINE MARION SPENCER (b. 1933) will be at 12 noon, Sunday, December 15, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Herbert Cartwright officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. PAULA MONTGOMERY RODNEY (b. 1977) will be 12 noon, Saturday, December 14, at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church (2115 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MRS. DIANE HODGE JOHNSON (b. 1955) will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, December 14, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brandontown Road, Huntsville, Ala.).

Funeral service for MRS. DELOIS VAUGHAN KITCHEN (b. 1940) was held Thursday, December 12, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brandontown Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Herbert Cartwright officiating.

Funeral service for DEACON FRED WYNN, SR., was held Monday, December 9, at New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (3912 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Michael R. Ross, Sr. officiating.

Funeral service for DEACON JIMMIE LEE LOVE, SR., (b. 1944) was held Sunday, December 8, at Owens Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (2520 Elton Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. H. Wendell Thompson officiating.

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT EDWARD ANDERSON, SR., (b. 1941) was held Saturday, December 7, at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church (7565 Greenbrier Road, Madison, Ala.) with Reverend David Lee Robinson officiating.

Memorial service for MR. CALVIN DESHAWN BLEDSOE (b. 1980) was held Saturday, December 7, at Bright Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (11796 Mooresville Road, Madison, Ala.) with Reverend Anthony Bledsoe officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MAGGIE A. ROBINSON WILLIS was held Friday, December 6, at First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Don Darius Butler officiating and Dr. Julius R. Scruggs eulogist.

- Serenity Funeral Home -

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816

(256) 539-9693

Funeral service for BABY KARSON ISAAC MCLEAN of New Market, Ala., was held Thursday, December 5, at Serenity Funeral Home with Rev. Cornelious Adams officiating.



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

A Mountain of Misery and a Hillock of Hope

Luke 23:42-43

In my later years, I have discovered that I am somewhat of a wordsmith. Because of that I find myself either intentionally or accidentally discovering new words.

Such was the case with the word *hillock*--a small hill or mound. The preach-

er in me immediately looked for ways to use this new tool in my homiletical toolbox.

My mother used to say to us when we were growing up, on the occasions when my siblings and I would, in my mom's opinion, be making something simple into something difficult: "You're making a mountain out of a

mole hill."

She was teaching us through that comparison of a mountain and a mole hill, that there is a vast amount of difference between the two.

Indeed, it is. God often does His best work in the midst of these kinds of comparisons.

The thief on the right of Jesus found himself juxtaposed between a mountain of misery and a hillock of hope.

His execution on a cross may not have made it into the holy writ had it not been for his proximity to Jesus and the small window

of time that he had to reach out to Him.

That hillock of hope was all he needed as he faced his mountain of misery.

"Lord when You come into Your kingdom, remember me."

His hillock of hope was Calvary; still the place to go when facing a mountain of misery.



"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."

- Booker T. Washington

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Grace Love

Born on September 11, 1922, in Decatur, Ala., Grace Love and her family moved to Huntsville when she was a child. From Huntsville, her father's work took them to Cincinnati, Ohio, and back to Huntsville by the age of 6 years old. Her affiliations with community and civic activities date back to attending Bible school at First Baptist Church when its membership met on Steele Street. She was baptized in Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville, Ala., because at that time the facility on Church Street did not have a pool on-site. Honoree Grace Love long enjoyed an active church involvement. She has been

a regular at First Missionary Baptist Church for over 75 years. After attending Council High School through the 11th grade, she was employed for more than 52 years as a domestic worker for various families, including some of Huntsville most prominent residents - Woody Anderson, Martha Fleming, Judy Smith and the family of Atty. Jim Smith. She assisted with the rearing of many of their children and grandchildren. She loved to iron, including ironing the sheets and pillowcases for her beds. She was a homemaker extraordinaire! For years, she would iron baskets of clothing, especially white shirts of



men, curtains, linen and tablecloths. She was affiliated with the NAACP, the national AARP (for more than 30 years), the local AARP, First Missionary Baptist Church Circle #3, and the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC).



DECEMBER 13 - JAMIE FOXX - The Academy Award-winning actor, born in Dallas, Tex., is probably best known for his portrayal of musician Ray Charles in "Ray," for which he became one of the few Black Americans to win the Academy Award for Best Actor. - BlackinTime.info

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State's Deltas Rocketing 2.0 the City of Huntsville

Over 800 sorors gathered to Empower, Embrace, Engage and Connect the Pathway to Joy, Power and Service, as the Rocket City of Huntsville was the scene for the Alabama State Fall Cluster 2019.

Although, the Spring 2019 Cluster was also held in Huntsville, due to circumstances surrounding the availability of other cities, Huntsville was once again proud to host the sorors of the Great State of Alabama!

Huntsville Alumnae, Delta Delta (Alabama A&M University) and Omicron Gamma (University of Alabama Huntsville) chapters served as hosts for the gathering that was thus aptly named Rocket City 2.0.

State Coordinator and State Facilitator Sorors Mary Carmen Williams (Mobile Alumnae) and Aeryn Morrison (Lambda Zeta) worked diligently with the chapters to ensure that this Cluster would be like no other.

Sorors Jackie Perry, Patricia Benson and Alicia Nunez of Huntsville Alumnae served as Cluster Chairs to oversee the

planning and execution of the weekend's activities.

Alumnae sorors met for Advisors Training while collegiate sorors engaged in the Collegiate Connection.

General registration opened in the afternoon with the first round of workshops on Friday evening along with a Chapter President's reception with the State and Regional Leadership.

After settling, sorors put on their "Cowgirl" boots and experienced true Northern/Southern hospitality at the welcome event as they answered the challenge to "Git Up 4 Delta!" The Two-step Cowboy Boogie has officially been redefined in true Delta Style!

Saturday morning's Opening Session was both empowering and intimate as Sorors were privileged to be greeted by Southern Re-



gional Representative Soror Jasmine Minor and to have a "chat" with Southern Regional Director, Soror Sandra Horton. Deltas were empowered to serve by Soror Hortons timely message. Ted Talks... but Sandy Speaks and she speaks with power!

Whenever Deltas gather there is always an opportunity to engage in service. Service project targets for the cluster were Meals on Wheels, St. Jude and I Can Fly International.

Soror Sha' Givens, CEO of I Can Fly International, made a compelling presentation, and sorors were given additional opportunities to support this

phenomenal institution.

To further embrace the joy, a Sisterhood Luncheon followed the Opening Session. The keynote speaker for the luncheon was US Senator from the State of Alabama, the Honorable

the census.

Additional workshops completed the business day on Saturday, and Sorors had a chance to relax and shop with almost 50 vendors lining the walls of the

Doug Jones. Having a captive audience (in a sea of red) Senator Jones reiterated his commitment to the citizens of Alabama ranging from support for HBCUs to making sure all Alabamians are counted in

Von Braun Center. They say laughter is the best medicine and a big dose was given Saturday night. Local comedian Kevin Johnson opened for the headliner "Dominique" whose unique comedic stylings left sorors in stitches! The perfect weekend culminated with an inspirational Ecumenical Service featuring 3 spirit-filled sermonettes by Chaplains Sorors Claudette Owens, Olivia Washington and Angela Cooley. A Prayer Breakfast was the setting for our final fellowship, hugs and farewells. Rocket City 2.0 proved to be the perfect place to Empower, Embrace, Engage and connect the Alabama pathway to Joy, Power and Service!

Invest in Your Family and Community

Why do you invest? You do it because you want to retire comfortably. But there are other good reasons to invest – namely, to support your family and your community.

How can you invest in your family's future? If you have young children, you could start by saving for their education. You might consider a 529 savings plan, which offers potential tax advantages and can be used for college, vocational school or other postsecondary education.

Another way to invest in your family is to help your adult children avoid feeling obligated to provide financial assistance to you. So, for instance, you could get insurance to protect yourself against the devastating costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay.

Moving beyond your family, you may want to invest in the social fabric of your community by contributing to local charitable, civic, educational or cultural groups. Your tax advisor can help you determine if charitable gifts can offer you tax benefits.

Saving for your retirement will always be important. But don't forget about investing in your family and your community – because these investments can provide satisfying returns.

Lillian Henderson

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