

# The Valley Weekly

"Until lions have their own historians, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunters."

- African Proverb

FREE

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Friday, December 15, 2017

## RJF Scholar Receives Coveted Schwarzman Scholarship

A Rosetta James Foundation scholar has been awarded a another distinguished scholarship.

Kevin Ferguson II has been notified that he is a recipient of the Schwarzman Scholarship and an opportunity to study in China. Ferguson is a current MBA candidate at Harvard Business School, where he serves as student body co-president.

After earning his B.S.

degree in electrical engineering from Alabama A&M University, Ferguson worked as an electrical engineer at BP Chemical and Chevron Corporation.

The Gadsden, Ala., native is the founder of Ferguson & Son Foundation, a non-profit that provides scholarships, standardized test preparation and STEM education to Alabama students.

RJF will hold its 12th



Annual "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration on March 10, 2018.

## Huntsville Makes Hipster Top 20 List

The U.S. Hipster Index took a look at hipster fashion, diet, and vanity in the 150 most populous American cities, and Huntsville climbed into the Top 20. Hipsters are a subculture of 20- to 30-somethings who position themselves as "non-mainstream pioneers, free-thinkers and non-conformist conformists," notes MoveHub.com. Here are the Top 20:

1. Vancouver, Wash.
2. Salt Lake City, Utah
3. Cincinnati, Ohio
4. Boise, Idaho

5. Richmond, Va.
6. Tacoma, Wash.
7. Spokane, Wash.
8. Atlanta, Ga.
9. Grand Rapids, Mich.
10. Rochester, N.Y.
11. Orlando, Fla.
12. Portland, Ore.
13. Knoxville, Tenn.
14. Tucson, Ariz.
15. Santa Rosa, Calif.

### 16. Huntsville, Ala.

17. Tampa, Fla.
18. Reno, Nev.
19. Albuquerque, N.M.
20. Seattle, Wash.

### New Beginnings Christian Church New Year's Eve Service

New Beginnings Christian Church and Pastors Errol and Jennifer Davis cordially invite the public to the New Year's Eve praise and worship service on Sunday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m.

Come and be blessed. New Beginnings is located at 604 Jordan Lane NW, Huntsville, Ala. For additional information, call (256) 489-4943 or e-mail vicki@newbcc.org.

## HU Concludes Apprentice Program

Congratulations are due to Huntsville Utilities' December 2017 Apprentice Graduates. These eight (8) graduates participated in a four-year Apprenticeship Program that covered material, techniques, regulatory guidelines and academics for both the Water Operations and Gas Operations departments.

All graduates are unique in that they have been trained to support both the Gas Operations and the Water Operations departments. This was the first class of this nature. Graduates also had to master hundreds of hours of "classroom training" and "on-the-job training" from both the Gas and Water Departments.

Completion of this program will allow the graduate apprentices the opportunity to become Pipefitters, Leak Detectors, Equipment Operators or Meter Technicians as job vacancies are available.

The Graduation Ceremony was Friday, December 1, at the Embassy Suites, with congratulatory support from Huntsville Utilities' Executives, Board Members, Vice



**Apprentice Grads:** (Front Row) Alan Penney, Kelvin Johnson, Bryan Holland, Chuck Lawler and Daniel Brooks; (Back Row) David Fletcher, Robert Fearn and Jason Maples.

Presidents, Managers, Classroom Instructors and family members. A special video presentation was prepared highlighting the graduates performing their work tasks. Wes Kelley, president and

CEO at Huntsville Utilities presented each graduate with a Certificate of Apprenticeship Graduation, endorsed by the United States Department of Labor.

The Valley Weekly  
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# Washington in a Minute



Here is what is happening in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. The House and Senate are in session this week.

Last week, the House and Senate appointed 26 conferees to a House/Senate conference committee who will decide what the final version of the \$1.447 trillion comprehensive tax reform bill, known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, contains.

Of the 26 conferees, 5 hail from the Midwest, 3 from TX and only 1 from California (Rep. Devin Nunes). The Washington Post reported last week that conferees will start meeting this week to make decisions on the bill, including whether to lower tax bills for Californians and others who pay high state income taxes by allowing them to deduct some state income tax payments from what they owe in federal taxes.

2. In appropriations news, the House and Senate leadership is reportedly planning to increase the 2011-enacted appropriations ceilings for the next 2 years by more than \$200

billion, with at least a \$54 billion increase in defense spending each year. Washington insiders expect this deal to be included in a new continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government open, which will extend into January 2018 (the current CR expires on December 22).

Also in the works is a 3rd emergency supplemental appropriations bill in the \$70 billion range to pay for hurricane and wildfire costs. Somewhere in this tangle of appropriations, Congress may also try to slip in the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program and the National Flood Insurance Program, restore the Obamacare cost-sharing subsidies, and save the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program from elimination.

3. President Trump returned to the White House after spending the weekend at his Palm Beach, Fla., resort Mar-a-Lago. On Monday, he was slated to sign his Administration's first space policy directive that may direct NASA to send humans back to the moon.

According to a lengthy article in Saturday's New York Times, the President drinks 12 cans of Diet Coke and watches as much as 8 hours of TV per day, including CNN "for news," Fox & Friends for "comfort and messaging ideas," and MSNBC's Morning Joe because "it fires him up for the day."

4. On Tuesday, Congress took a first step forward in what was expected to be a lengthy process of reauthorizing the main federal law governing higher education, which hasn't seen a comprehensive update in nearly a decade.

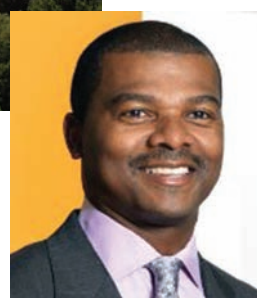
The House Education and the Workforce Committee will be the focus of attention when lawmakers begin marking up a sweeping bill to rewrite the Higher Education Act.

5. On Tuesday, Alabamans went to the polls to pick a new Senator in a special election to replace now-Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The latest poll taken

on December 8 by Change Research showed GOP Roy Moore leading Democrat Doug Jones 51%-44%.

6. On Tuesday and Wednesday in its final meeting of 2017, the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee is widely expected to raise its benchmark interest rate to 1.5%, as the economy continues to gain strength and the unemployment rate continues to fall (although a worrying sign is that inflation continues to be below the Fed's 2% target rate for the 6th year in a row).

In related news, last Tuesday Federal Reserve Chair-designee Jerome Powell's nomination was



approved by the Senate Banking Committee by a vote of 22-1 (the "no" was cast by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-MA).

7. On Thursday, the Federal Communications Commission is expected to approve 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 providers (ISPs) to charge users more to see certain content and to curb access to some websites. The current rules prohibit high-speed 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.

8. Got Bitcoin? As the

decentralized digital currency Bitcoin surged past \$16,000 last week with a total value of \$271 billion, over the weekend former Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan joined the growing chorus of financiers issuing a warning on the currency, comparing it to an early American form of money called "Continental currency" that came into use in 1775 and had become worthless by 1782. On Monday, Bitcoin futures had their first full day of trading on the Chicago Board Options Exchange. (As of Monday morning, 1 Bitcoin equals \$16,780.53.)

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## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

*In Mark 4:39, it says Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the wind, "Quiet Be still."*

Then the wind died down and was completely calm. You see, the disciples thought they were headed for destruction, but they forgot one important thing: Jesus was with them.

Many times, when we go through difficult times, we also forget that Jesus is with us. We have to remember that although



the wind may be blowing the boat all around, God is controlling the wind.

The grace of God doesn't always prevent the consequence, it just provides us a safe place to land. Because life can come at you fast and sometimes there is nothing that we do

that causes things to happen.

And, it's during these times that we have to be careful, because the devil will try to convince you that if you were really following Jesus, you wouldn't be having all this trouble.

But remember, Faith doesn't prevent us from being "snake bitten" or having problems. Our faith gives us the ability to shake it off and understand the new revelation that God has for your life. Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

# The Valley Weekly

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## The Valley Weekly

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	2.5x5 inches	\$100
Sixteenth Page		
	2.5x2.5	\$50
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# From the Editor

Ah ... Christmas!

There comes a time in our lives when we must accept the realities of life and move forward. One of my favorite songs is "Stand" that was written by Donnie McClurkin.

The premise is that when we, as individuals, have done our part and still seem alone or isolated, and when there is nothing more we can do, we just "Stand" and allow the Lord to see us through. I do not believe that Mr. McClurkin is suggesting that we disengage in the process of living, giving and helping.

There is no better time than this Christmas season to live and give. All of us have something to give. I don't know what your gift of giving is, but I am encouraging you to give something. Giving is Living! As we give, our souls are assured and relieved that we are contributing to making people better, which makes the world better. It is easy for people with means to make a donation. Those donations can be very impactful. When we are not able to make a donation, we have time, we have talents and skill sets that we can contribute.

On Monday, I had the opportunity to see four of my former Upward Bound students from Ohio Wesleyan University. Dr. Mykela Loury, Monnette Glason, Kelton Waller and Ervin Harden attended the funeral service of my mother-in-law, Thelma Williams Huston. She was 91 and lived well, a testament to her faith and values. When we see our former students, we know that we touched their lives at a time when mostly what we had was hope, inspiration and time. Bill was an elementary school teacher, and I was fresh out of college, working with first-generation college and low-income students who desired to attend college and build a better future. We had time to advise, counsel and inspire. Mykela, Monnette, Kelton and Big Erv, it was good seeing you all! Your accomplishments make life worth living and giving.

Kevin Ferguson is a feature of TVW this week. A former Rosetta James Foundation scholar, Kevin shared with us that he will be graduating from Harvard in May 2018 and headed to China to study international policy, earning a second master's after having earned a prestigious scholarship. Yes, Kevin has earned the opportunity to go and study. While Kevin is studying, his wife Devin--who he met at AAMU--will teach English as a Second Language. Both of them are electrical engineers, who have doubled-down on their talents and gifts in order to excel, give back and move forward. The contributions these young professionals are making should inspire some of us who have matured into our safety spaces to give as we live. Congratulations, Kev! We are so proud to have touched your life in a small way.

Next week, we will introduce the 2018 Rosetta James Foundation Elders. They will compose Class 12 and will be honored on March 10, 2018, at The Jackson Center. We will be honoring active elders who are at least 70 years old, who live and give in our community each day.

The election is over. It's time to move on. During this Holy season, join me in standing firm on our beliefs and giving to some of the people and passions we love. We can each make an impactful difference in the lives of individuals and in the world we live.

I "Stand" on this belief.

We have a couple of weeks until Christmas so I am priming the pump. Give some thought to what you can do. Until next week ...



-In Memoriam-

**Mrs. Thelma Williams Huston**

October 31, 1926-

December 5, 2017

*Dorothy*

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### 8 HARD TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE

1. Everyone you love is going to die.
2. We give our lives meaning. If you feel like life is meaningless, that's your fault.
3. The perfect partner doesn't exist. Concentrate on finding someone who has a lot of qualities you like and the same values and build a fantastic relationship.
4. Life is a game. Find the games you want to play, learn the rules, and find a way to be successful at the games you selected.
5. Everything ends. Youth, love, life, all end, and that's what makes them valuable.
6. Be romantic about the little things.
7. Be a realist about the big things. Life isn't a movie, you need to have a plan, have an artist's ambition but an engineer's mindset.
8. Figure out a way or don't complain.

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December 15 - WILLIAM AUGUSTUS HINTON - He was an American bacteriologist, pathologist and educator. He was the first black professor in the history of Harvard University and was the first black to publish an academic textbook.  
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## AKA's Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter

## Fifty-Three Prospective Debutantes Announced

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, is pleased to announce fifty-three Prospective Debutantes.

Epsilon Gamma Omega is excited to begin an extraordinary season with seniors from eleven Madison and Limestone County High Schools.

The debutante season includes a multitude of activities which include Educational Training Sessions, Community Service Activities, a Mother Daughter Brunch and Hobby Talent Showcase. Several scholarships will be awarded at the culminating activity - the Debutante Presentation and Ball.

The year 2018 will mark the 60th Debutante Presentation and Ball for the chapter. With diamonds being the representative gemstone for a 60th anni-

versary, the chosen theme for this year is "Exquisite Diamonds...Poised, Polished and Unconquerable".

The Debutante Presentation and Ball will take place Friday, February 16, 2018, at the Von Braun Civic Center. The chair of this year's ball is Ms. L. Angel Baytop and the co-chairman is Ms. Katrina Eason. Dr. Wilma Ruffin serves as the chapter president.

**Row 1** (l-r) Jordan Bailey, Maci Battle, Kendall Betts, Makayla Betts, Cierra Bolden, Amaya Booker, Jessica Boustani, Lauren Boustani, Jordan Bradford, Celeste Bradley

**Row 2** (l-r) Lyndsi Brown, Kimberly Brown, Te'Yanna Byrd-Evans, Kindle Cosby, Yvonne Ellison, Kyler Evans, Natalie Fields, Morgan Gibson, Sydney Goggans, McKenzie Gordon



**Row 3** (l-r) Zoe Graves, Raven Griffin, Kortney Hale, Lauryn Hall, Lauren Heard, Lauryn Hereford, Yanci Horton, Audrey Humphrey, Milan Hunt, Maya Ifekauche

**Row 4** (l-r) Maya Johnson, Jayla Jones, Kiana Jones, Almondrea Kirby, Zoe Landers, A'Quazia Lynch, Traceline Moffitt, Kaylan Parham, Vivica Parker, Caya Perry

**Row 5** (l-r) Jaelyn Reeves, Alessea Rice, Dionna Robinson, Takhera Sanders, Angel Sims, Jasmine Stafford, Saige Thompson, Jessica Turnage, Gerah Watson, Kyra Watson

*Not Pictured:* Lauryn Adams, Kynnedie Edwards and Camaryn Ward

*Photographer:* Chris Winston

## Korean Navy Vet Shares Lessons Via Poetry

Elder Seifuddin Lasana Ali has self-published his first book of poems and reflective essays, *Seeking Quietness in A World Filled With Noise*. His book brings a fresh and relevant content related to the history and condition of African-Americans with a bold perspective of life seen through the eyes of 87-year-old Seifuddin Ali.

Ali has seen the world deeply and his poetry



carries a seriousness with a hint of humor while expressing ideas related to economics, politics, poverty, oppression, veteran affairs, and other humanitarian issues.

He was born March 20, 1930 in Lynchburg, Va. He left Lynchburg at age 18 for the U.S. Navy in 1948 and served during the Korean War.

As a Naval veteran, Ali travelled the world to places such as China, Turkey, Iceland and Hawaii. He added to

his vast life experiences as a civilian working in San Francisco, Calif., as a municipal bus driver and janitor at the Federal Reserve Bank. He was also a forest fire fighter in Alaska.

Ali credits his love of writing to his elementary and high school teachers in Lynchburg, Va., but his love of reading comes from his dad, John Henry Massie, who Ali says was a voracious reader.

The book can be found at [www.e-book-time.com](http://www.e-book-time.com), [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and [Musicians Give Final Rally in Senatorial Race](http://www.Barne-</a></p>
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In a last attempt to get voters to the polls, Doug Jones enlisted the help of Alabama-raised musicians Jason Isbell and St. Paul & the Broken Bones for two free concerts on Dec. 9.

The performances came days before the special election on Tuesday, Dec. 12, which pitted Jones against Roy Moore for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

The concert was announced early Friday morning and sold out



before day's end.

Isbell held his show at Sidetracks Musical in Huntsville, while St. Paul

performed at Birmingham's Boutwell Auditorium.

*Text and Photo by Reggie D. Allen*

## Valley Deaths

### - Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MRS. MARTHA A. JACKSON (b. 1959) was scheduled for Friday, December 15, at 1 p.m. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Elder Dennis L. Green officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. DOROTHY HAYGOOD was held Saturday, December 9, at Saint Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church (330 Grimwood Lane - Hazel Green, AL 35750) with Pastor Larry Petty officiating.

Funeral service for MR. VERNON L. MITCHELL (b. 1943) was held Saturday, December 9, at The Rock Family Worship Center - Main Sanctuary (200 Memorial Parkway South - Huntsville, AL) with Pastor Rusty Nelson officiating.

### - Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for ELDER WILLIS GRAHAM, JR. (b. 1932) will be 11 a.m., Saturday, December 16, at the Pentecostal Lighthouse Church (6107 Blue Spring Road, Huntsville, AL 35810) with Bishop Johnny Burrell officiating.

Funeral service for MR. PHEYON TOWNSEND (b. 1974) was held Wednesday, December 13, at the St. James Primitive Baptist Church (1093 Fairbanks Street, Huntsville, AL 35816) with Pastor Billy Jones officiating.

Funeral service was held MR. JESSIE L. JOLLY (b. 1959) Saturday, December 9, at the Hurricane Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (155 Teague Road, Brownsboro, AL 35741) with Pastor Michael Rice officiating.

## Judge's Legacy: A Glimpse of the Past

by Jazzmine Walker

Recently, on the corner of Meridian Street and Chase Road, the "little red building" that had been condemned for some time, was demolished after years of disrepair. Although many businesses have graced the property, one in particular is remembered by many within the Huntsville community--Harris & Son Automotive.

The automotive shop was a piece of Alabama A&M University history, with its 35 years of service to students, professors, and other locals within the community. Although the business itself was memorable, the man behind it was even more so.

Judge Harris, was the manager and operator of the Harris College Service Station, which was the shop's name before it turned completely automotive. There, Judge, or "The Judge," as many jokingly called him, provided exemplary service to the people within the community, especially the A&M and J.F. Drake State students.

Before setting roots in the Huntsville area, Judge and his wife, Francis Harris, lived in Newark, N.Y., for a time. It was not until they received a call about the building being vacant that the two Alabamians returned back South. Judge was a native of the small town of York, Ala., in Sumter County, born to Square and Leona Harris. His wife was from Birmingham.

It was a relief for the two to settle down in North Alabama, not only to establish one of the first black-owned business in this region, but to also be close to their families. Judge and Francis found the move back to be exactly



what they needed to re-strengthen their familial bonds after being in the North for so long. The two also were able to take care of their parents, which delighted Judge, who was a family man.

Judge's love for his family was behind his vision to go into business. His tunnel vision of creating a success for his family name is what motivated him. The only thing that could even come close to the love he held for his loved ones was the care he held for the people on Meridian Street. An A&M graduate with a B.S. in mechanic arts, Judge found himself giving back to his alma mater by employing students who were in need of financial assistance. Along with the finances, the young men who worked under him were provided with the skills to operate and maintain a business.

He not only provided jobs but gave when he could to the students, as well. Mrs. Harris nostalgically recalled that many would ask to have \$5 worth

of gas with promises of paying Judge back. Although at the time she was wary of the risk of IOUs, Judge would trust the people to come back and pay their debts. "He *felt* for people," Harris stated, reminiscing her husband's actions.

This was how the community knew Judge. He was a man who provided honesty, while simultaneously being competent in his skills. Even though his business alone left an impressive footmark on Normal hill, Judge was also an adjunct faculty member at A&M in 1961, J.F.



Drake from 1973-75, and served Bob Jones Community Education Program in 1977. His widely acclaimed title was as the Carburetor Specialist.

Even though the building no longer stands, "Judge's legacy" still lives. Harris recalls only good memories that the two shared while in business. She kept the books, while Judge did what he loved until he could not any longer.

On December 31, 1995, Judge retired from his business, not from the years, but due to his health. His wife believed that if he could have continued to work, he would have never stopped. He rose to

open his shop at 7 a.m. and closed at 9 p.m., a fact that Harris firmly attested to. At the time, their family lived in Edmonton Heights, which housed teachers and other black professors, and which allowed Harris to view her husband's business.

It was not until December 31, 2001, that Judge Harris was laid to rest and the people who were touched by his work paid their respect. The young men that studied under him--like Nathan Fields, Joe E. Jones, Nathan Essex--and many others attribute their professional success to experience Judge provided them. Throughout his years, Judge was recognized for his service to his community with accolades from Kappa Alpha Psi, Standard Oil Company, and Alpha Kappa Alpha, each only solidifying what Huntsville citizens already knew about Judge: that he was a humanitarian who cared about his community.

Now that the building where his automotive shop was housed has been torn down, Harris charges the new generation of students to "seek and make sure they find out what the history is rather than listen to hearsay." She continued on by stating that, although they cannot see it now, Meridian Street was a "very nice neighborhood," replete with businesses and houses.

Jazzmine Walker is a senior English major at Alabama A&M University.

### Fellowship Presbyterian Church Music Ministry -Presents-



### Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Reverend Gregory J. Bentley, Pastor  
Mrs. Brenda D. Davis, Director of Music Ministry  
3406 Meridian Street  
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Sunday, December 17, 2017  
5:00 p.m.

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- Lakeside United Methodist Church
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- Marshall England - State Farm Agent
- Martinson & Beason, PC
- 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



## Surviving Moonwalker Visits Rocket City

Former N.A.S.A astronaut Harrison "Jack" Schmitt visited the U.S. Space & Rocket Center on Dec. 7.

Schmitt was the keynote speaker at the popular Huntsville landmark to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Apollo 17 mission.

On December 7, 1972, Schmitt, along with 11 others, ventured into the great beyond for a 12-day-

journey to the moon. As of 2017, the now geologist is one of the few surviving members of the Apollo 17.

The former rocketeer was also in town to sign copies of his book "Return to the Moon: Exploration, Enterprise and Energy in the Human Settlement of Space." A lecture about the book titled "Pass the Torch" was held afterwards.

*by Reginald D. Allen*

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