

The Valley Weekly

*"And America, too, is a delusion,
the grandest one of all."
- Colson Whitehead*

FREE

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Friday, December 20, 2019



ZETAS REMEMBER VETS THIS SEASON: *Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.-Delta Omega Zeta Chapter coordinated a local Wreaths Across America event to honor deceased veterans at the Glenwood, Northside and Brandontown cemeteries on Saturday, December 14. For more on the event, please see the full story on Page 8.*

Drake Prez Elected to SACSCOC Council

Dr. Patricia Sims, president of Drake State Community & Technical College, has been elected to the Executive Council of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Board of Trustees. The Executive Council is a 13-member committee elected by the Board of Trustees responsible for interpreting Commission policy and procedure.

It also functions on behalf of the Board between sessions. Sims,

who is currently serving her first term on the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, was



also reappointed to serve a second term beginning in January 2020.

"It's an honor to be elected by my colleagues to serve the Commission in this way," said Sims. "There is important work being done to help ensure quality and effectiveness at our colleges. I'm proud to be part of a system committed to education excellence."

Photo: Dr. Belle Wheelan (l), SACSCOC president, and Dr. Patricia Sims

Deltas, Omegas Coordinate Turnout for Movie 'Harriett'

The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. collaborated with the Xi Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., to support the National Arts and Letters Delta Red Carpet movie event "Harriett."

The movie depicted the life of Harriett Tubman and how she escaped and successfully freed more than 950 slaves in the South.

The chapters secured theater seating at the Hollywood Stadium 18 in Huntsville, Ala., and successfully exceeded the sales of over 300 tickets.

The Arts and Letters

Committee is chaired by Elizabeth Bowden, Jasmine Greene and Constance Tiller.

Visit the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, national website at <http://www.deltasigmatheta.com>. For more information, contact Ovetta Hobson at president@dsthuntsville.org or icc@dsthuntsville.org.

The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., chartered in 1954, has a rich

legacy of providing service throughout the entire county of Madison.

The chapter strives to provide quality programs to educate our youth, steer economic development within our community and be at the forefront of social action.

Ovetta Hobson currently serves as President. To learn more about Huntsville Alumnae Chapter, visit the chapter's website at <http://www.dsthuntsville.org>.



UAH New Site for State Transportation Office

Beginning in January, The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) will be the site of the Office for Public Transportation under a three-year, \$4.5 million grant.

The grant is through a partnership between the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and UAH.

The Valley Weekly

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

AKAs' 70th Anniversary, **Page 2**

From OU's President, **Page 3**

Champion Game Plan, **Page 5**

Valley Deaths, **Page 6**

Called 2 Preach: It's Pointless!, **Page 7**

Spotlight on Our Elders, **Page 7**

Zetas Remember Veterans This Season, **Page 8**

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly
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Half Page	Horizontal	5x10 inches	\$400
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Rocket City Pink Gala a Success

Scenes from Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

The 70th Anniversary Pink Gala

December 12, 2019



Huntsvillians honor civil rights icon Rosa Parks.



Inaugural Rosa Parks Event
Huntsville, Ala. - December 2019
(Submitted by Patrick Grayson)

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Local Jack and Jill Chapter Hosts Swimming Fundraiser

On Saturday, December 14, the JJSwims Community Fundraiser took place at the Huntsville Aquatic Center.

The fundraiser was hosted by the Greater Huntsville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and was well supported by the community.

Swimmers for the event were Jack and Jill children, the Sea Dragons Swim Team members, and children from the community. To date, the chapter has raised \$27,481 to fund swim lessons for underresourced children.

Many children are unfamiliar with swim safety and cannot swim; therefore, they are at high risk for swimming accidents and drowning. The proceeds from the fundraiser will be donated to organizations whose focus is to address the needs of underresourced children.

The recipients will be the Boys & Girls Club of North Alabama, Girls Inc., Sea Dragons Swim Team, Village of Promise, and Jack and Jill of America Foundation. The chapter is very grateful for the support of the community and would like to thank all of their donors -- individuals, businesses, state representatives, and other organizations. There is still time to support the chapter's fundraising efforts. Please use the link for more information:

<https://www.teamunify.com/team/aljjghc/page/home>

Pictured (above): Dr. Margaret Carter, Foundation Chairman, with Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff, event emcee.



Dr. Leslie Pollard President, Oakwood University

Guest Writer

Alabama HBCUs Have a Champion in Senator Jones

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Alabama are central to our culture, our economy and the future of our young people and our state. That's why it's so important that our schools get the funding they need to continue educating students and guiding them into the world with intelligence, respect and honesty.

As the President of Oakwood University, I know firsthand the joys and challenges of guiding students through higher education and into the next phase of their lives. Whether it's the first step on the path to higher learning or a student returning to school to expand their horizons, Oakwood University is home to students of many ages, backgrounds and beliefs who come to Oakwood to better themselves and their communities.

Since September 30, funding for HBCUs in Alabama and across the country has been uncertain since the Senate failed to renew \$255 million in federal funding for these schools.

Fortunately, last week I received a personal call from our very own U.S. Senator Doug Jones that the Senate passed a bill that will permanently provide annual funding to Oakwood University and HBCUs across the country. This breakthrough legislation represents a huge relief for minority-serving schools across the country that rely on this federal funding to educate our students for the future.

Senator Jones' bill, the FUTURE Act, will ensure that the Title III program, which provides funding for Oakwood University, remains funded by Congress. Along with school funding, legislation was also approved that will simplify the FAFSA application for prospective college students. This fix will help streamline the federal aid application process for students and their families and help students get the aid they need to obtain a higher education and hopefully reduce their debt upon graduating. And the beneficiary of much of this work will be our state of Alabama's with its growing and diversified workforce.

HBCUs like Oakwood University are leaders in educating students of color and lifting up generations of underserved communities. I'm extremely proud that we have a champion in Senator Jones, who was able to engineer bipartisan support for minority-serving institutions in Alabama and across the country.



Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

AAMU Office of Public Relations

Albert's Flowers

Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law

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Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

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Bryant Bank - Church Street

Chester's Barber Shop

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Health Unlimited

House of Hope and Restoration

Huntsville Bible College

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Oakwood University Post Office

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

The Fellowship of Faith Church

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.



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.

AAMU Observes 50th Anniversary of 'University' Designation



AAMU's 50th: *Planners for Alabama A&M University's 50th Anniversary Banquet, honoring five decades of distinction as a "university," literally transformed the T.M. Elmore Building on Thursday, December 5.*

"These are delightful and dangerous times," commented Dr. Michael Eric Dyson during his address at Alabama A&M University's 50th Anniversary Banquet, which observed the higher education institution's five decades of distinction as a "university." The event also celebrated the establishment of the Alabama A&M University Foundation.

A motivational academician, author, minister and radio host, Dyson hails from Detroit, Mich., but told the AAMU audience that his mother, Addie Mae Leonard, was an Alabamian. Dr. Dyson currently serves as a professor of sociology at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and he has authored numerous books on diverse subjects.

Dyson's presentation centered around the theme, "The United States of Amnesia." The professor said that America is addicted to forgetfulness while, paradoxically, obsessed with history. A case in point, he offered, was the South's fixation with the Civil War and its key meaning to Southern heritage, while simultaneously holding the conviction that American slavery is something that African Americans should simply "get over."

The professor also stated that historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have an inherent duty to keep black history unobstructed and to counter the forgetfulness of the past.

"Either everybody will be free, or nobody will be free," he added. Dyson then challenged AAMU students to understand the greater goals of education, commending them on their role in revolutionizing this country.

- J. Saintjones

Perspectives on EGO-holism

by tim allston

NOT In Memory of Kamala Harris (January 21, 2019 - December 3, 2019)

"He (Jesus) said, '... The girl is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him" Matthew 9:24 NIV.

Viewed by many as the brightest new star in the Democratic presidential candidates' galaxy, Senator Kamala Harris' Dec. 3rd withdrawal surprised many, but didn't shock a few.

"All Things to All Men," but . . .

Blessed with an overlapping "Obama-Hillary" newness combo - and hailing from vote-rich new Super Tuesday California, where she won three state-wide races - Harris' ethnically-mixed/HBCU's "Female Jackie Robinson"/interracially-espoused/prosecutorial autobiography sought to invoke the Apostle Paul's "become all things to all men" campaign stomp speech (1 Cor. 9:18-23).

Instead, she reminded folks of Jesus' closing appeal to the rich young ruler: "one thing though lackest, . . ." (Matt. 19:16).

A Mess without a Message

Multiple reports of campaign office mismanagement, personnel musical chairs and subsequent layoffs evidenced an historic run featuring both a premature messenger and a half-baked message.

As opposed to Kamala, Paul could make and support his earlier 1st Corinthian statement because he possessed an ironclad vision and message, or apolitical platform.

Her flip-flops on gun control, taxes, Medicare-for-all, teachers' salaries, equal pay and immigration, for example, eroded her credibility and subsequent poll rankings and early fundraising prowess.

America: Don't grieve - yet!

Sleep for now, 55-year old Kamala; we'll see you again shortly:

Perhaps wisely, as the Vice Presidential nominee - as the-once historically-diverse Dems' field is led currently by all whites, predominantly males and mostly septuagenarians! But perhaps even sooner, . . .

Tweeter-in-chief Trump, snarkily: "We will miss you Kamala." Harris' hit-back: "Don't worry, Mr. President. I'll see you at your trial."

tim allston is the author of the free book, *7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else,"* free and downloadable now at www.GetEgoHelpNow.org.

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The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

December 21

100 Black Men of Greater
Huntsville Annual Holiday
Gala

Deno Posey, *Comedian*

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, Decem-
ber 16-19, and December
30-January 4)

December 26

Kwanzaa Candlelighting
Ceremony (Umoja)

Bridgestreet Near Monaco
2-4 p.m.

December 27

Blues Troubadour

Justin Howl

Straight to Ale Brands (Cam-
pus 805)

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Kwanzaa Celebration

(Kujichagulia)

Showers Center - Blue Spring

2-7 p.m.

December 28

Kwanzaa Celebration (Ujima)

Huntsville Public Library

915 Monroe Street, 12-5 p.m.

December 29

Kwanzaa Celebration (Uja-
maa)

Zenzeles Consignment

2205-F University Drive NW

3-10 p.m.

December 30

Kwanzaa Celebration (Nia)

Madison Public Library

Madison, Ala., 12-3 p.m.

December 31

Kwanzaa Karamu (Kuumba)

Huntsville Public Library

12-5 p.m.

December 31

2019 New Year's Eve Mars

Masquerade

U.S. Space and Rocket Center

Davidson Center for Space

Exploration (Couples, \$130;

Single \$65)

8 p.m.

*What you
learn is
what you
die with.*

- African Proverb



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Champion Game Plan for Life *by Preston Brown*

**DON'T WORRY,
BE HAPPY**

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 dif-
ferent perspective. He
says, "Look at the birds."

God is always try-
ing to get us to look at
something other than
ourselves. Remember,
he told Abraham to
come out of the tent and

to look up at the sky and
count the stars if indeed
he could count them. And,



He's saying to all of us,
*Look at something other
than your current circum-
stance.*

He is saying, *I am
greater than all of these
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 problems,
and we can work
on our situation,
but we don't need
to worry about
it, because worry
doesn't work.

Always 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 prob-
lem is, we need to pray
about how big our God
is, and He is very capable
and can handle any prob-
lem that we have ... Stay
encouraged, my brothers
and sisters!



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Valley Deaths

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Funeral service for MR. STANLEY B. NICKLES (b. 1957) will be Friday, December 20, at 11 a.m. in the the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Memorial service for MS. JACQUELINE LOVE HEREFORD (b. 1957) was held Friday, December 13, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT "HOOD" DOUGLAS (b. 1949) was held Wednesday, December 11, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with The 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.

- Royal Funeral Home -
4315 Oakwood Avenue- Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral services for MR. RAFAEL LANGFORD (b. 1958); MRS. ROMELIA FORD IVEY (b. 1945); and MR. DAVID LEE WALKER (b. 1944) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MRS. ANNIE L. MOORE (b 1946) was held Sunday, December 15, at the New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church (2099 East Main Street, Chattanooga, Tenn.). Interment will be in Lakewood Memorial Gardens East.

Funeral service for MRS. CHRISTINE MARION SPENCER (b. 1933) was held 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) was held Saturday, December 14, at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church (2115 Winchester Road) with Elder Carlos Spencer officiating.

Funeral service for MS. NAKITA ANTOINETTE TONEY (b. 1986) was held Saturday, December 14, at the All Nations Worship Assembly (6300 Stringfield Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Bishop Daniel Richardson officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. JORIE LUCRETIA HARDIN (b. 1961) was held Friday, December 13, at Saint Mark Primitive Baptist Church (6475 Moores Mill Road, Huntsville, Ala., with Reverend John Clay officiating.

- 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.



Ivory W. Reedus, LUTCF

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Grace Gethsemane Mission Church

It's Pointless!

Matthew 7:3-5

This text occurred in the context of Jesus' teaching about judging others. The word judge is translated from a word that carries the meanings of to decide, to distinguish, determine, or decree. When Jesus said, "Judge not," it was an imperative, not a sugges-

tion. He commanded that no one should ever come to a decision about a person where they are distinguished or determined or decreed as someone who is not deserving of God's grace. He made it analogous to "pointing out" a speck in someone else's eye while ignoring the beam in their own. My boyhood

colloquial expression was, "When you point one finger at someone, you've got three pointing back at you." Jesus noted that when a person does this, they are literally setting themselves up to be judged as well; not by others, but by God. Since God is Omniscient, that means that He knows "everything" there is to know about everybody. Therefore, it's pointless for a human to come to an ultimate conclusion about some other human.

The word Jesus used to describe those who engage in this pointless activity, is hypocrite; used to describe

a "stage-actor." This is what I call "thespian theology." In operas, sometimes the characters use masks over their faces to communicate their mood. Jesus is saying to all would-be judges, "Take off the masks and stop pretending to be someone who is perfect." When one recognizes how pointless judging others is, they will point less.



"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

- Voltaire

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mr. Albert Merrell Morris

Who says you can't mix business and family? Long-time local businessman and florist Albert Merrell Morris has served the Huntsville area for nearly 60 years. Straight out of college to his noble service in the Navy, Morris started working full-time at the business on Pulaski Pike, the first of four locations. His name was chosen for the retail store since "Albert" started with an "A." The business started with an initial investment of about \$3,000 from the late Thomas Vivian Morris, a professor of botany and horticulture at Alabama A&M University, and his late wife Ruth Daniels Morris. Thomas earned several tree patents while a professor at AAMU. The wholesale greenhouses started in 1965 with brother Roland Morris as manager. The talented native of rural

Eufaula, Ala., and AAMU horticulture graduate, joined his brother, sister-in-law and his five-year-old daughter (who put stamps on the envelopes with the bills in them) in launching a signature floral service in the Tennessee Valley. Albert's Flowers began in 1958 and today is thought to be the longest running floral business in Huntsville, Ala.

Almost everyone in the Morris extended family in Huntsville has at one time or another worked at the flower shop. Albert once said "I know what it takes to make business work." As the family's patriarch and business micro-manager, Morris is part Yuchi Indian. After his studies at AAMU, Morris lived and studied in Chicago at the Floral School of America, completing his course of study in 1957. Morris is married to



the lovely Mrs. Floretta Morris. He has two daughters, Amoretta of Washington, D.C., and Margaret of San Francisco, Calif. Amoretta, a Harvard University graduate, works for the Anna E. Casey Foundation, and Margaret is co-founder/part owner of the Direct Email Provider - Quick Send.



DECEMBER 20 - TRENT TUCKER - Born in Tarboro, North Carolina, Tucker played nine seasons with the New York Knicks before joining the San Antonio Spurs in 1991 for one season and before joining the Chicago Bulls, who won the 1993 NBA Championship. - BlackinTime.info

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Zetas Remember Deceased Veterans at Area Cemeteries



The Huntsville Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Delta Omega Zeta Chapter, honored veterans at Glenwood Cemetery, located at 2400 Hall Avenue, Huntsville, Ala., on December 14.

This event coincided with Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery just outside the nation's Capital.

For nearly a decade, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, the Delta Omega

Zeta Chapter, has honored deceased veterans by placing wreaths on their graves in Glenwood Cemetery, an African American Cemetery established in 1870 and listed on the Alabama State Registry of Cemeteries.

Recently, the project expanded to Northside and Brandontown Cemeteries.

"The experience is exhilarating and a privilege," said Velma Foster, a Life Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

rated. She and her husband James d foster, a Vietnam-era Army veteran, have participated in placing wreaths at the burial site of veterans for several years. This year, the couple placed 120 wreaths at Glenwood Cemetery.

Delta Omega Zeta Chapter members along with Joyce Parker, founder of Wreaths for Veterans in the Huntsville/Madison County area, purchased the wreaths and ribbons.

More than 500 wreaths were prepared by Mildred Fields, a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for 50-plus years, and Lillie Stanford, also a member of



the chapter.

The spirit of honoring deceased veterans who served to protect our freedom continues to bring many residents of the Huntsville community to brave the weather to call the name of a veteran, thank him/her, and place a Wreath of Honor.

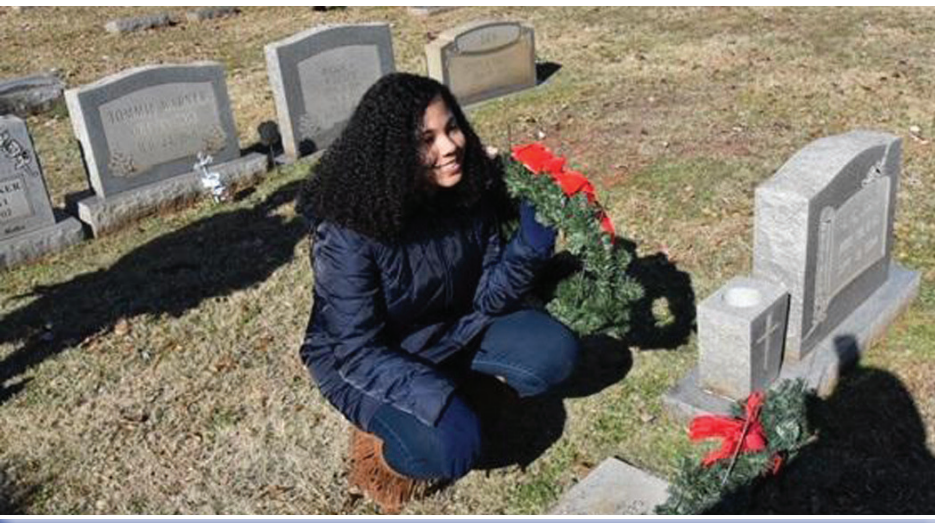
Other contributors this year included members of The First Missionary Baptist Church, North

Alabama Girl Scout Troops and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, the Beta Epsilon Sigma chapter.

Individuals who helped included Michael Smith, a member of the Normal Historic

District Preservation Association; Elbert Drake, president of the Council Training Alumni Association; and George Miller. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter's 62nd Prospective Debutantes also participated in the Laying of the Wreath Ceremony program.

by Alfreda Handy-Sullivan



Use Year-End Bonus (or Gift) Wisely

If you're getting a year-end bonus from your employer, or possibly a substantial cash gift for the holidays, how can you best use the money?

For starters, you could use it to pay down some debts. The lower your debt load, the more you'll have to invest for your future.

Also, you could start an emergency fund, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. With such a fund in place, you can avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a major car repair.

Here's another suggestion: Use your bonus or monetary gift to help fund your IRA for the 2019 tax year.

Or, you could use the money to help fund a college savings account, such as a 529 plan, for your children or grandchildren. A 529 plan offers possible tax benefits and allows you to control the money until it's used.

To achieve all your financial goals, you'll need to take advantage of your opportunities – and your year-end bonus or monetary gift can certainly be one of them.

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