

# The Valley Weekly

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION!

FREE

Volume 5, No. 15/16

[www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)

Friday, December 21/28, 2018

## Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year

### 6th Annual Kwanzaa Celebration Scheduled

The general public is cordially invited to the 6th annual Kwanzaa Celebration at the Richard Showers Center on Blue Spring Road, December 28, from 2-7 p.m.

Kwanzaa is a time when people of all cultures come together as ONE to spread LOVE all through the celebration.

Families are encouraged to take advantage of this

African festive occasion and the explanation of what Kwanzaa is.

Organizers are looking forward to giving attendees a taste of African cuisine, along with the clothes traditionally worn; a reflection



of African heritage and culture long before our ancestor's were

brought to America.

Experience the music and other ethnic dances from African-American culture.

Please come out and

bring something to this free event to help keep the homeless warm this winter, whether it is lightly-used or new, any donation will be appreciated.

All clothes will be dropped off at the Downtown rescue mission after the Kwanzaa Celebration.

Please help planners show our love to all in need all year round. Kwanzaa is for the family.



**TOP FAMILY:** At the Association of the United States (AUSA) annual Christmas party and awards ceremony, Dr. Harry Hobbs and wife Erica Hobbs, along with daughters Shara Rivera and Shauna Matthews, were recognized as the 2018 AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year. AUSA President Sam Torrey presents plaque to Erica and Harry Hobbs. The Hobbs' actively volunteer in the community at large and specifically within the military community and associated civic organizations.



**GROUND BREAKING:** William Hooper Councill Alumni Association (WHCAA) members joined city officials (Councilman Devyn Keith and Mayor Tommy Battle) during a groundbreaking for a memorial park scheduled to be constructed in 2019. The school closed in the 1960s after serving the community for more than 100 years. - Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

## The Valley Weekly

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# Alabama Bicentennial Press Conference Held



Pictured clockwise from top left: Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Attorney Julian Butler and Dale Strong, Madison County Commissioner.

Photos by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.



## 5 Ways to Prevent MRSA

Infectious diseases, such as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), are spreading rapidly among public places like gyms and schools, but prevention efforts should continue at home. Consider the following MRSA prevention tips:

1. Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 15 seconds or use hand sanitizer.
2. Keep to yourself and do not share personal items, such as towels or razors.
3. Regularly clean countertops and other surfaces in our home with an EPA-registered disinfectant, like Clorox Regular Bleach with Cloromax.
4. Act fast and take care of cuts and open wounds by covering them with a clean, dry bandage until healed.
5. Use a barrier, such as a towel, between skin and shared equipment at the gym.

Learn more on how to prevent the spread of viruses and bacteria, such as MRSA, at [Clorox.com](http://Clorox.com).

## 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. 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.

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

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## DLC Accepting Applications for 11th Cohort

# DLC



Applications are being accepted for Cohort XI of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium until February 26.

Classes will begin March 5 and end April 23, running 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Graduation will be held on

April 30.

Applications are available online at [www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com). Questions should be emailed to Mrs. Georgia Valrie at [gvalrie1971@gmail.com](mailto:gvalrie1971@gmail.com) or call (256) 656-4698.

# The Valley Weekly

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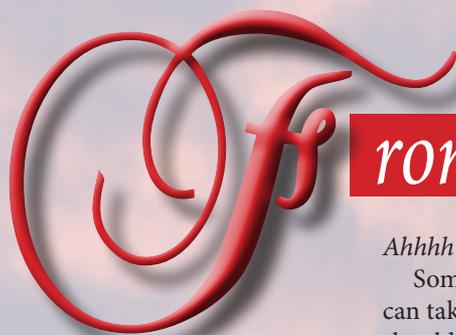
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## The Valley Weekly

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## From the Editor

*Ahhhh ... Somebody Tell Me!*

Somebody tell me why some people believe they can take things that do not belong to them and it should be okay?

Somebody tell me why some people believe they can do *however* and *whatever* pleases them and it should be okay?

Somebody tell me why so many of us are lowering our standards and settling to the levels of others, and it should be okay?

Somebody please tell me why some people believe they can look at you in your face and speak untruths about you and believe it is okay?

The times we are living in are indeed troubling times. Here are some ongoing observations: I have sat in meetings where people are talking about you, lying on you, and looking you straight in the face, as if you are not there.

I have seen people make commitments and promises that meant absolutely nothing.

I have observed people who expect support and recognition but are never willing to support or give to anything worthwhile or otherwise.

I know people who will stare you straight in the face, without blinking an eye, and lie, lie and lie again.

How do we expect to be able to create the next generation of leaders? I spend a lot of time these days wondering, *what do our children, youth, family and friends really think about us when they get to know the real people we are?*

How do we continue to mistreat the poor, the down-trodden, the lonely and depressed and act as if everything is okay? I know that the poor will always be with us; however, should we act as if poverty does not actually exist? There are some people we will never be able to help even after we give and do all we can. But, there are so many lives we can impact by being transparent and honest, while doing some things that reflect who we profess to be.

During this Christmas season, will you join me in trying earnestly to put the "Christ" back in its true meaning? Let's respect each other, uplift a spirit, give and give some more of your time/talent/treasure, call an elder who lives alone, encourage a youth, smile at a stranger, open a door, tell the truth and--when you cannot--be quiet! Push someone who is trying to get somewhere, mind your own business, don't take what is not yours, and--more than anything else--show love. Love is an action word. Don't just speak it ... share it, show it, and *live* it. We should see "light" on more than just our trees!

Let's enjoy getting along and enjoying the gifts of life. We just don't know when we will yearn for some of these very interactions. From the entire TEAM at *The Valley Weekly*, we aim to live our motto every day of each week we publish this paper: Positive, Inspirational and Educational. We work hard at allowing the opinions of others to be presented each week within this motto. We are thankful to our advertisers who allow us to print an actual paper each week and to our readers who follow us online at an amazing rate of up to 20,000 hits each week. We thank you and pray that each of you have a blessed and loving Christmas season!

Because it's Christmas, we will not print next week; however, we will be online at [valleyweeklyllc.com](http://valleyweeklyllc.com). It is important to us that our TEAM of writers, editors and contributors enjoy the week off with their loved ones during this Holy season.

We will have printed papers available on Friday, January 4th. *Merry Christmas to All!*

Until two weeks ...



*Dorothy*

### Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

AAMU Public Relations Office  
Albert's Flowers  
Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law  
Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center  
Briar Fork CP Church  
Bryant Bank - Church Street  
Chris' Barber Shop  
Depot Professional Building  
Dunkin Donuts  
Eagles' Nest Ministries  
Fellowship of Faith Church  
Fellowship Presbyterian Church  
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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  
Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at  
Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)  
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

### OU MAPS Program Delivered

Dr. Trevor Fraser, Program Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) program, and his staff recently began using distance learning technology.

This technology will be used to deliver MAPS graduate classes to students on the West Coast, as well as to those in the classroom at Oakwood University.

"I found this to be an enjoyable delivery modality which provided great interaction with our class members," commented OU President Leslie Pollard.

# If Solutions Thrive, Will Optimism Perish?

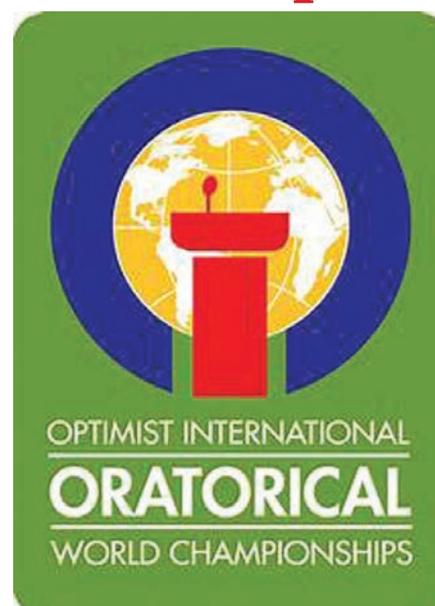
The Optimist Club of Huntsville is encouraging area students to contemplate the phrase "When All the World's Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?" as part of the Optimist International Essay Contest for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students' essays, based on the theme of "When All the World's Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?" and determine the top winners.

The top three winners will receive \$500, \$300, and \$100 for first, second, and third places, respectively. In addition, to encourage participation by younger entrants, a special \$100

award will be given for the best entry by a middle school, or equivalent, student not winning one of the top three awards. The winning essay at the Club level will advance to the District contest to compete for a \$2500 college scholarship.

Interested students can find out more about the contest by contacting the Essay Chair, or by visiting the Contest website at <http://hsvoptimists.org/EssayContest>.



htm

All students under the age of nineteen as of October 1, 2018 are invited to participate. Interested

students may submit an essay to the Optimist Club of Huntsville's Essay Chair at [essay@hsvoptimists.org](mailto:essay@hsvoptimists.org), or by mail to PO Box 2230, Huntsville, AL 35801.

Entries must be submitted by February 2, 2019.

Local winners will be announced before the end of February, 2019.

The Optimist Club of Huntsville has been active in the community since 1947.

In addition to the International Essay Contest, the Optimist Club of Huntsville is involved in the Optimist International Oratorical contest, the STEM Grant Program, Junior Optimist Clubs, and many other programs that directly benefit local youth.



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# The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

## Thru January

Tinsel Trail  
Big Spring Park  
200 Church Street  
Huntsville, Ala.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH, Winter Term OLLI at UAH is a learning community designed for adults 50+. Daytime and evening courses begin **Jan 28**. Details: [Osher.uah.edu/Catalog](http://Osher.uah.edu/Catalog) or 256.824.6183.

## December 20

Concert  
"Jewel"  
Von Braun Center  
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall  
7:30 p.m.

## December 21-22

Stand Up Live! Comedy Club  
Featuring Deon Cole

## December 27-29

36th Huntsville City Classic  
(Boys High School Basketball)  
Huntsville High School

## December 29

Pre-New Year's Eve Holiday

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

## December 31

"Fire & Ice"  
Masquerade Ball  
Featuring Alex D. Banks II &  
Company  
Sponsor: The Delta Theta  
Lambda Chapter of Alpha  
PhiAlpha Fraternity, Inc. and  
the Central North Alabama  
Alumnae of Delta Sigma  
Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Von Braun Center North Hall  
8 p.m.

## January 10

"Birds & Brews"  
Nichols Arbor  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
Members - \$20; Non-mem-  
bers, \$25  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

## January 13

106th Founders Day Obser-  
vance  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,  
Inc.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Gwendo-  
lyn E. Boyd  
22nd National President-Delta  
Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
First Missionary Baptist  
Church  
3509 Blue Spring Road  
Huntsville, Ala.  
3:30 p.m.

## January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade  
Host: Alpha Phi Alpha Frater-  
nity, Inc.  
Downtown Huntsville  
Huntsville, Ala.  
12 noon

## February 12

Black History Month  
The Beyond Normal Lecture  
Series  
Presenting Dr. Bernice A.  
King  
Alabama A&M University  
RSVP:  
<https://form.jotform.com/83167566954168>  
Knight Center  
12:30 p.m.

## February 19

Education Choice Summit  
Featuring Dr. Steve Perry  
Author, Speaker and Educator  
Calhoun Community College-  
Huntsville Campus  
Student Center  
5:30-8 p.m.



## 'Black-ish' Star to Perform in Huntsville

by Reginald Allen

Comedian Deon Cole is bringing the laughs to the Rocket City with a three-night residency at Stand-Up Live, December 21-23.

The Chicago, Ill., native is best recognized as Charlie Telphy, the zany co-worker opposite Anthony Anderson on the Emmy-nominated ABC series "Black-Ish".

Cole would later reprise his role on the Yara Shahidi-driven spin off "Grown-ish" on the Freeform Network.

A talented comedian

on and off the screen, Cole bolstered his craft as a staff writer for the "Tonight Show with Conan O' Brien" and later "Conan".

The comedian currently stars in the TBS cop spoof "Angie Tribeca", where he plays Dt. Daniel "DJ" Tanner (not to be confused with the "Full House" character) alongside Rashida Jones.

Additional television and film credits include "Benched", "Wild'n Out with Nick Cannon" and

"The Barbershop" film series.

Cole's stand-up has been featured on Showtime, Netflix and Comedy Central with his first hour-long comedy special "Cole Blooded."

This year, the busy comedian just wrapped the "The Lit AF", cross-comedy tour, hosted by Martin Lawrence that featured fellow comedians Jay Pharaoh, Rickey Smiley, Michael Blackson, and Clayton Thomas.

## Scholarships Available from FAITH Initiative

The FAITH Initiative announces that the application period for the Bobby Bodiford Memorial Scholarship and the Dr. Constance Dees Memorial Scholarship is now open. Each is \$1,000.00, and high school seniors in the Tennessee Valley may apply. For applications, please request by any of the following ways: email [faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com](mailto:faithinitiativenonprofit@gmail.com); phone 256-714-9399; or mail to P.O. Box 3858, Huntsville, AL 35810. The postmark deadline for receiving completed applications is March 18, 2019.



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## Deltas Present Check to Senior Center

The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. commemorating its 106th Founders Day theme, "Rise Up: Together We're Stronger, Strengthening and Sustaining Our Communities," collected funds for holiday meals for senior citizens at the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center.

During a live radio broadcast with Toni Terrell of 94 WHRP-FM challeng-

ing Greek organizations, clubs and community affiliates, the Huntsville Alumnae chapter delivered on its promise by exceeding its \$6,000 goal by collecting \$10,500 for Meals on Wheels.

Because of the sorority's efforts, over 1,200 meals will be served. Senior citizens who depend on the program also will enjoy a special meal during the holiday season.

The public was invited

to attend while the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter presented the donations to Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Avenue, Huntsville, Ala., on Tuesday, December 18.

For more information about the Sorority's activities, contact Jackie Perry, president at [president@gmail.com](mailto:president@gmail.com).

by Selicia S. Hughes Kidd

# Valley Deaths

## - Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MRS. JOAN MOSES ANDERSON (b. 1936) was held Tuesday, December 18, at First Seventh-day Adventist Church with Pastor Debleaire Snell officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. YVONNE CABLE STEWART (better known as "Punkin"; b. 1952) was held Saturday, December 15, at the St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (3020 Bellafonte Avenue - Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service for MR. STEPHEN MARTIN (b. 1959) was held Friday, December 14, at the St. James Primitive Baptist Church with the Reverend Larry Petty officiating.

Funeral service for RETIRED SSG MICHAEL L. WATKINS, (b. 1965) of Killeen, Tex., and formerly of Huntsville, Ala., was held Monday, December 10, at the Church of Deliverance (3121 Commerce Drive - Killeen, Tex.).

## - Royal Funeral Home -

Memorial service for MRS. DONNA D. WILHITE (b. 1934) was held Sunday, December 16, 2018, at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church (1303 Evangel Drive, Drive, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Debleaire Snell officiating.

Calling hours for MR. GILFORD KIBLER (b. 1944) was held Sunday, December 16, at the Royal Funeral Home.

Memorial service for MRS. CATHERINE MCCRARY (b. 1930) was held Sunday, December 16, at the C.T. Richards Chapel in the Mosley Complex on the campus of Oakwood University with Pastor Eugene Turner and Pastor Isadore DeSouza officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. BETTINA REN'E BROWN (b. 1961) was held Saturday, December 15, at St. Luke Christian Church (1800 Sparkman Drive Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Gregory Smith officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. MARY ELIZABETH MALONE (b. 1926) was held Saturday, December 15, 2018 at the Round Island Creek Mission Center (13829 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens, AL 35611) with Pastor Charles N. Simons officiating.

Funeral service for MR. RAYMOND R. CUTTS, SR., was held Saturday, December 15, at the Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ (313 Beirne Avenue, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Dave Draper Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for DEACON THOMAS DANIEL BLEDSOE, JR., (b. 1943) was held Friday, December 14, at Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church (14204 Lucas Ferry Road Athens, Ala.) with Reverend Damon Betts officiating.

## - Serenity Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. KERRY GRAVITT, JR., will be held Friday, December 21, at 12 noon at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, 2562 Bob Wade Lane, Harvest, Ala., with Pastor Rickly L. Sykes officiating.

# Called 2 Preach

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

## The Scent of Water

Job 14:9; Isaiah 6:8

These were the words used by Job as he sought to make sense of his suffering. Like a skilled lawyer, he found himself in the courtroom of providential sovereignty, making what he hoped was a compelling closing argument about the superiority of the life of a man over that of a tree.

In doing so, Job gave a metaphorical message to God. That is, his life was worthier than a tree and at the same time he was telling God that He was his water and if He put Himself in close enough proximity to Job, he could catch His scent and live. Job compared himself to a stump that had died in the ground and just like that stump could come alive if it

catches the scent of water, Job said to God, "So can I."

God needed no metaphor. He is the Creator. Perhaps Job's desperation was quelled by the word picture that his analogical analysis created in his

mind. Desperation does tend to create lyrics out of lamentations; musical melodies out of messes; songs out of suffering.

God is indeed worthy of praise for the ways that He providentially prepares our trials so that we can gain



new insights into Who He is and how He operates. The elders used to say, "He's water in dry places."

Isaiah used water metaphorically as the help of God. Purposely drawing near to Him helps us to catch a scent of Water.

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**"I had to make my own living and my own opportunity. But I made it! Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them."**

- Madam C.J. Walker

**BIRTHDAY - December 21 - JOSH GIBSON - Negro League home run king who was born in Buena Vista, Ga. Known as the "Black Babe Ruth," He is even credited with hitting a fair ball out of Yankee Stadium, and his prodigious homers have taken their place in baseball lore. - BlackinTime.info**



## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Luke 2:11, says "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord."

You know, there are so many stories about Christmas. There is "The Christmas Story" that talks about Ebenezer Scrooge. There is "The Grinch who stole Christmas." Then there is "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer," just to name a few. Now, all of these are wonderful Christmas stories, but there is only one "real" Christmas Story, and that is the story of the birth of Jesus.

Because when it comes to Christmas, it's either real, or it's just entertainment. From "Frosty the Snowman" to Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," all of these characters are nice to read about, but we should be able to have Christmas without them.

But we can't have Christmas without Christ.

Now don't get me wrong: I like all of these stories, and I love the Christmas season, with all the decorations and fancy lights. But maybe we have made Christmas too beautiful. Maybe we've made it more of an entertaining story than what really happened. Which was that God came down from heaven, to be born of a virgin, on the floor of a stable. I can imagine that it wasn't pretty. But the beauty of it all was the fact that he came at just the right time to be the savior of the whole world that would take away the sins of this world. Because this was a time when there was chaos, and violence, and oppression and misery.

Now when we look at the gospel of Luke, he depicts what that first Christmas was really like. No lighted Christmas trees, no "fan-fare"--just a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because there was no room left for him in the inn. Just

think how profound that was, because when He came to this world, we didn't have any room for Him, and yet He said, in my father's house there are many rooms.

This is not a "rags to riches" story; this is a riches to rags story, where God comes down from heaven and made himself small, like a baby, to be the savior of the whole world. You see the bottom line is this: there are many stories about Christmas, but the only one that is the real deal is the one that tells the story of Jesus ... Stay encouraged my brothers and sisters. Make sure you get a copy of my book, "A Champion Game Plan For Life", available at amazon.com or contact me at pbrown@damson.com



## Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

# William James Davis, Jr.

William James Davis, Jr., was born to the late William and Nora Davis in Gadsden, Ala. Thanks to his musical family, Davis was formally introduced to the world of music through classes and encouragement at Alabama A&M University, where he developed an equal love and proficiency for vocal and instrumental music. Among his mentors were Dr. and Mrs. Henry Bradford, Jr., Dr. Malcolm Breda and Mr. Thomas Dawson.

While at AAMU, Davis was recruited by Dr. Barbara Anthony to sing in the adult choir at Fellowship Presbyterian Church, an honor that also entailed picking up others for practice. After graduating from AAMU, he entered the graduate music program at Dillard University in New Orleans, La.,

which was directed by the famed Dr. Frederick Hall.

Davis' first teaching position was at Councill Training School, where he taught band and social studies under the late A.G. Adams. When Councill closed, Davis began a journey of several schools, still acquiring commendations from such notables as Congressman Bob Jones and former U.S. President Richard Nixon. While at Bob Jones High School, the band was involved in many historic events, including writing the school hymn and even playing for former First Lady Rosalyn Carter and former Senator Walter Mondale. After leaving Bob Jones High School, Davis was given the opportunity to start from scratch a band program at Liberty Middle School. In



a very short period of time, the enrollment in band exploded in numbers to over 300 students. This was the largest middle school band in the state of Alabama.

He has also conducted workshops for the Presbyterian Women Alabama/Mississippi Conference. He is a volunteer with the Neighborhood Community Watch Program and is a member of the Golden Charmers.

## Remembering President George H. W. Bush, My HBCU Alma Mater and My First Steps

by tim allston



"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin,"

Zechariah 4:10  
New Living Translation Bible

CASE STUDY: Public Affairs/  
Special Events Management  
(May 1991)

With President George H. W. Bush's consent to deliver the 1991 Hampton University (HU) Commencement address, the nation's largest private black university retained me, tim allston, for my first-ever consulting assignment: to

coordinate the overall logistics for this historic event.

### The Triple Challenge

1. Citing Bush's Civil Rights Bill veto and

perceived insensitivity to minority issues, many HU students protested the visit. Additionally and fueled by local media and right-wing Lyndon LaRouche followers, coeds complained of their lack of input in the Bush decision; 2. Secret Service would restrict the nearby Hampton Coliseum commencement site to only 8,000 seats - far below the needs of HU graduates' families, faculty, staff, and alumni; 3. Finally, the previously-

scheduled Guns N Roses hard-rock concert would undermine severely White House (WH) and HU staffs' efforts to restore this public arena appropriately for both a presidential visit and a commencement ceremony.

### What Was Done

Developing a strategic communications plan, I united all the various elements of the visit, ensuring each phase's timely execution. I more specifically:

- Initiated several meetings with student leaders bringing, finally, a senior WH aide to co-address their issues;
- Identified and interviewed leaders of potentially dissenting civil rights organizations, and secured their support for the event;

- Helped establish HU's Commencement Logistics Office to dispense accurate, up-to-date event information;
- Teamed with the university's PR office to direct its media messages, by initiating a series of media interviews to counterbalance the previous, more sensational coverage. Jointly, we compiled the press kit materials, and worked with the WH press advance team in accommodating the pre-event and actual event press corps; and
- Worked closely with WH speechwriters by preparing selected research for inclusion in the President's address.

Most importantly, however, I initiated the detailed proposal that relocated the commencement exercises to the university's on-campus

football stadium. Its approval increased the ceremony's seating capacity by nearly 40%; distanced potential outside protesters from this private school's property; brought the President physically onto this HBCU campus; and showcased my alma mater's physical attractiveness to the national media audiences.

### The Results

1. More than 11,000 received enthusiastically President Bush's 43-minute 121st HU Commencement address, the historic event of which served as the lead story for all local, regional and national news reports on that year's Mother's Day;
2. In its first national lead-story media coverage, HU was positioned as a well-established American univer-

sity whose students, when choosing to dissent, did so in a muted, respectable manner; and 3. In his hand-written follow-up note to Hampton's president and Alabama native Dr. William R. Harvey, Bush opened with, "It all worked out, and I sure enjoyed my trip to Hampton", adding, "I want to thank you for your leadership in averting what might have been a controversial situation."

Rest in Peace,

President George H. W. Bush.  
And thanks, alma mater HU

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.GetEgo-HelpNow.org](http://www.GetEgo-HelpNow.org).

# Washington in One Minute



Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., for this week.

1. The House and Senate are in session this week, although first votes in the House did not begin until 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. With no deal in sight at the moment on the President's demand for a total of \$5 billion for the Mexican border wall, Congress is hurdling toward Friday's midnight deadline to approve funding or face a shutdown for those departments for which there is no enacted

FY2019 appropriations bill – including the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Homeland Security, Interior, Justice, State, Transportation, Treasury, and HUD – and independent agencies such as NASA and the EPA. The Washington Post reports that the White House is readying plans to furlough 320,000 federal workers starting on Dec. 22 ...

2. Late Friday, President Trump announced that OMB Director Mick Mulvaney would become Acting White

House Chief of Staff to replace the outgoing John Kelly (Note: The Washington Post reported on Saturday that Mulvaney will keep his OMB Director title). On Tuesday, the President will host an event to mark the release of the Final Report and Recommendations of the Federal Commission on School

Safety, created in March 2018 in the wake of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., that left 17 people dead and is chaired by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos ...

3. In other Cabinet news, on Saturday President Trump announced that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke would leave his post at the end of this year. Zinke, a former Congressman from Montana, is the focus of several investigations for his conduct in office, including

for a land deal involving his foundation and a company backed by Halliburton Chairman David Lesar. Bloomberg News reports that there are eight potential new candidates to replace Zinke ...

4. On Wednesday, outgoing House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) delivered a farewell address in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress.

5. Last Wednesday, the White House announced the creation of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, to be chaired by HUD Secretary Ben Carson, which will include representatives from 13 federal agencies. The council will oversee government efforts on behalf of the new Opportunity Zone program, which aims to leverage tax breaks for investors on behalf of up to 8,761 designated communities around the country ...

6. Last Friday in the much-anticipated lawsuit brought by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, federal Judge

Reed O'Connor (appointed by President George W. Bush) granted summary judgment striking down the Affordable Care Act – also known as Obamacare – because by his reasoning the 2017 federal tax law – by eliminating the penalty for not having health insurance – removed its standing as a constitutional exercise of Congress' tax power. The decision is likely to be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit. Politico reports that House Democrats will introduce a resolution next month directing the House counsel to defend the law.

7. General Motors announced that it would preserve 2,700 blue-collar jobs out of 3,300 workers slated to be laid off at the 4 U.S. plants that GM revealed on Nov. 26 will close in 2019 in Warren and Hamtramck, Mich.; Lordstown, Ohio; and Baltimore, Md., by adding to the workforce at other U.S. facilities. 8,000 white-collar

workers and 2,600 Canadian blue-collar workers will still face layoffs.

8. Last Friday, 5 senior House Democrats, including likely incoming House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), sent a letter to Homeland Security Acting Inspector General John Kelly requesting an immediate investigation into the death of 7-year-old Guatemalan immigrant Jakelin Caal on Dec. 7 while in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody in El Paso, Tex.

9. House Democrats are planning to move several high-profile bills to combat gun violence soon after they take power in January, underscoring their belief that the political landscape has shifted dramatically on an issue that's plagued American society for decades.

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For The View event details and tickets, visit [burrittonthemountain.com/](http://burrittonthemountain.com/)

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