

The Valley Weekly

“... We can talk about religion when we're free.”
- Louis Farrakhan

FREE

Volume 3, No. 15/16

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, December 23/30, 2016

Happy Holidays from The Valley Weekly

Athens State Administrator Named to Commission

Dr. Patricia Sims, Athens State University Dean of the College of Education, was elected to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) by the College Delegate Assembly at the December 2016 Annual SACSCOC meeting. Sims will represent the State of Alabama and serve a three-year term on the Commission.



of educational quality throughout the region. It strives to improve the effectiveness of institutions by ensuring that institutions meet standards established by the higher education community that address the needs of society and students.

The Commission serves

institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Latin America.

“I am pleased that Dr. Sims will have the opportunity to serve and contribute to the improvement of educational opportunities and programs throughout our region,” stated Athens State President Bob Glenn. “She is certainly learned as to the intricacies of institutional policies and procedures and will be of sage counsel to the Commission.”

Sims has held the position of Dean for the College of Education at Athens State since January 2014.

Program Will Benefit Community Member Battling Lupus

A benefit program will be held for Rosetta Bearden on December 28, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at Eagle's Nest Ministries Church, 6831 Hollow Road, in Huntsville, Ala.

The public is invited to this occasion aimed at assisting a

local woman in her courageous fight against Lupus for over 22 years. Regretfully, Bearden's fight has intensified and medical expenses have increased, resulting in a major financial hardship.

Although the initial goal

is \$20,000, so much more is needed. A new life-threatening crisis is on the horizon, but it must be dealt with immediately. Due to two-plus decades of contending with one chronic and debilitating illness and condition after

another, Bearden has been totally unable to work after the initial diagnosis of Lupus was made. A downward, unrelenting health spiral began in 1994 that has never ceased, striking her with one devastating physical and financial blow

and crisis after another. Medical expenses have mounted, resulting in major financial hardships.

For tax purposes, donations may be made directly to the 501(c)(3) non-profit (making sure to insert the

name of Rosetta D. Bearden in the memo of check): Hippocrates Health Institute, Attn: Ms. Carole Bianco, Director of Finance, 1466 Hippocrates Way, West Palm Beach, FL 33411, (561) 471-8876 Ext. 2129.

Space Center Remembers Glenn

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center and Space Camp (USSRC) staff expressed sadness following the recent death of astronaut John Glenn.

The Center celebrated Glenn's life and legacy Friday, December 9, by sharing with guests the story of his history-making flight as the first American to orbit the Earth.

Museum guides also made Friendship 7 bracelets with guests by the Mercury Procedures

Trainer in the Davidson Center for Space Exploration during museum hours.

“We admire him as a Marine, an astronaut and a statesman who carried the passion for American space exploration,” Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO and president of USSRC, said. “The Rocket Center is proud to tell the story Glenn's flight on Friendship 7, and his experiences and accomplishments will continue to inspire future generations of explorers.”

Photo: Rocketcenter.com



Holiday Season Perfect Time for #BuyBlack

Booker T. Washington and Marcus Garvey are among the prominent African-Americans credited for being pre-cursors of the

#BuyBlack initiative (The Final Call, 12/20/16).

Already, some black businesses have felt an impact of initiatives aimed at

recapturing some of Black America's widely reported \$1.2 trillion in spending power.

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- AAMU Public Relations Office
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- Progress Bank - Madison
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- Regency Retirement Village
- Rocket City Barber Shop
- Sam and Greg's Pizza
- Sav-A-Lot
- Sneed's Cleaners
- St. Bartley PB Church
- St. Luke Christian Church
- Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)
- Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



Your Washington Recap

Here are the top issues in DC this week:

1. The House and Senate have adjourned for the year and will reconvene as the 115th Congress on January 3, 2017. Last week, the GOP members of the House Ways and Means Committee held a 2-day policy retreat at the Library of Congress to discuss the overhaul of the federal tax code.

2. On Friday, President Obama signed the "Water

Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act," which authorizes projects and programs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but also authorizes \$170 million for the City of Flint's drinking water system. He and his family then left Washington en route to Oahu for a 17-day Hawaiian vacation. On December 27, he will accompany Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial for the

first-ever visit by a Japanese leader.

3. President-elect Trump wrapped up his 9-city "USA Thank You Tour" last week at a rally in Mobile, Ala.. The 538 presidential electors (which includes New York elector Bill Clinton) met in their respective state capitols to elect Donald Trump as the 45th President.

4. On Saturday, arch anti-deficit crusader Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) was selected to be the Trump White House's chief budget gatekeeper as Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Rep. Mulvaney, a 4th-term Congressman and founding member of the fiscally-conservative House Freedom Caucus, is notable for opposing even defense spending when he felt that it was excessive. Rep. Mulvaney is the 3rd House Member to be named to a prominent role

in the Trump Administration, along with Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) at Interior and Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) at HHS.

5. Appearing yesterday on CNN's State of the Union, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) stated that there is "no doubt" that the Russians interfered with the 2016 presidential election. He has called for the creation of a select, bipartisan congressional committee to investigate Russia's alleged activities during the 2016 campaign, but yesterday said that the select committee's mission should also include all instances of cyberwarfare.

6. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) late last week urged the Trump administration to prioritize reversing the Obama administration's crackdown on for-profits. "Undoing the Obama Administration's eight-year war on for-profit colleges through onerous rulemaking and regulatory

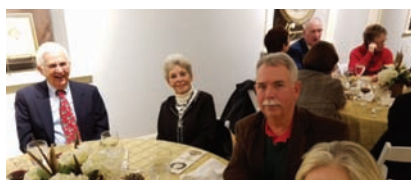
actions should be a priority of the next administration and Congress," Senator McCain said in a statement. The statement was connected to a report his office released challenging the Defense Department's decision last year to put the University of Phoenix on probation for roughly three months. During that time, the college wasn't allowed to enroll new students using the military's tuition assistance dollars.

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Scenes from Around Town

Burritt on the Mountain Holiday Magic

December 2016



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From the Editor

Ah ... Merry Christmas!

In the Christian tradition, it's the time of year to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. First and foremost, Merry Christmas from our Family to yours. Bill and I would wish for each of our readers a blessed Holy Season with our prayers for a healthy, happy and hearty 2017.

In addition, our entire TEAM at *The Valley Weekly* would like to thank you for your association with us in so many dimensions. Thanks for our readers and advertisers for another wonderful and impactful year. We are fortunate to be able to publish weekly. To God be the glory!

December is an exciting time for us. As I write this editorial, Bill and I are in the season of celebrating our 35th wedding anniversary. The current weather pattern is reminiscent of a young, 23-year-old PhD student having invited Bill's Family, mostly from Ohio, to Huntsville, Ala., for our wedding on December 19, 1981. I assured them that the weather would be mild and there was no need for "big and heavy" winter coats as we wore in Ohio in December. I shared with them how we gathered as Family and Neighbors when I was growing up in Alabama, with sweaters and jackets, enjoying both the outside and inside, even in December. Those were my memories. I couldn't remember snow or extremely cold temperatures in my limited mind. What made it cold were the the cold, shot-gun, frame houses, chopping wood for fireplaces through which most of the heat escaped, and cloudy-winter days that hid the sun from our hopeful faces.

This evening when we arrived home to Huntsville, the temperature was 24 degrees. Perhaps, my memory is both short and blurred, but I do not remember such bipolar weather. Anyways, our family and friends from Ohio flew into Huntsville, this week in 1981 and landed in weather in the teens. I was speechless, and they were very cold. They wondered had I 'pulled their leg' about the weather in Alabama. Something had happened, but it was not what I recalled, even throughout my four years at AAMU. According to WeatherSpark.com, it was between 2 and 11 degrees Fahrenheit on December 20, 1981. There were 6 observations of snow falling in Huntsville on the 18th of December. The first reported snow fall in 1981 was on December 15. The day with the largest number of those reports was December 18, with a total of 6 reports. (<https://weatherspark.com/history/30525/1981/Huntsville-Alabama-United-States>). You can image what the travelers thought about my prediction of the weather in Huntsville on the weekend we had invited them here to share in our wedding. It was so cold that Bill and I did not even eat dinner after the wedding reception. We remember running into the hotel from the car to find some heat. It was what I knew as unseasonably frigid.

We had the opportunity to share our milestone anniversary this year with special friends, Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence (Anésia) Holland in Sao José, Brazil. They visit us often during their annual return to their home in Huntsville. So, we made our promise true this year that we would visit them someday. They are wonderful friends and were even finer hosts. We learned a lot about the history of Brazil, and I discovered how I was horrible at speaking Portuguese. They were kind by smiling at my failed attempts to "get it right." Thanks, Larry and Anésia, for a week full of great fellowship, food, beaches, unbelievable weather, unique scenes and places, including a full-day, guided tour by nephew Danielle to São Paulo. The restaurants, art museum, churches, markets and historic theatre were grand. Thanks to the new aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends we met for your patience, time, guided tours, hosted lunch, Brazilian coffee, shopping at the markets, Sunday morning worship, and week-long transportation services. At 85 years young, Larry, made us look like "chumps" who celebrated one awesome anniversary. Abraços!

One of my favorite Christmas songs is "Please Come Home for Christmas" by Aaron Neville. We are expecting all our adult-children home for Christmas. They are uniquely talented, and we thank God for them. As they left home individually, we promised them that "home" is always a space we want to share with them. Please spare me to share abbreviated lyrics of Neville's song:

*"Choirs will be singing Silent Night,
Christmas carols, by candle light,
Please come home for Christmas,
Please come home for Christmas,
If not for Christmas, by New Years night,
Friends and relations, send salutations,
Sure as the stars shine above
But this is Christmas
Yeah, it's Christmas my dear
It's the time of year to be with, with the one you love."*



When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us online at www.valley-weeklyllc.com.

In respect for Christmas, we will not publish next Friday, December 30th. We will return on Friday, January 6, 2017. Blessing for a special Christmas and time with the "ones you love." Until January 6th ...

Dorothy



Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

If we know the character of God, then anything that He asks us to go through, we realize that He has some good purpose for us to get out of it. Even though it may seem difficult at the time. For example, Moses obviously didn't want to lead a nation out of bond-

age, because he realized the magnitude of the situation.



But remember, God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called. Joseph realized that what his brothers meant for harm God meant for good. You see, we need to understand that we need more than just informa-

tion; we also need revelation for our lives.

So even when things don't feel good, He will work good out of it. Remember: God won't always get you out of something, but He will bring you through something for His glory

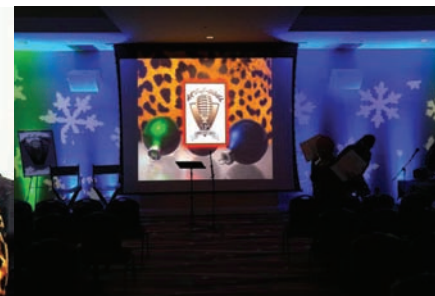
Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



merry christmas
Anthony, Teneshia and Abigail

Art-N-Soul Holiday Social

Saturday, December 11, 2016



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HBCU Flagships Part of HBOB

Two Alabama flagship HBCU bands will take part in the annual competition in Atlanta next month.

Alabama A&M University's Marching Maroon and White Band, directed by alumnus Carlton Wright, and Montgomery-based Alabama State University will be among the Final 8 historically black college/university (HBCUs) bands to perform in Atlanta, Ga., in January 2017.

Fans around the country voted for their favorite bands among the HBCUs, and the AAMU band emerged among the Final 8 that will perform in the

Honda Battle of the Bands at the Georgia Dome on January 28.

For the past 15 years, Honda has annually awarded approximately \$200,000 in grants to participating marching bands during the



program period. The event was created to celebrate, support and recognize the excellence of black college marching bands and the

unique academic experience offered by HBCUs. In addition to Alabama A&M University, other HBOB finalists include the following: Alabama State University, Benedict College (S.C.), Bethune-Cookman University (Fla.), Jackson State University (Miss.), North Carolina A&T State University, Texas Southern University, and Winston-Salem State University (N.C.).

Doors will open at 1:30 p.m., and the show will begin promptly at 3 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit www.hondabattleofthebands.com/tickets. Tickets begin at \$10/each.

Sisterhood Holiday Social Held

Premier Leadership Foundation, Inc., is on a mission to educate and empower women and youth in the areas of life, love, and leadership. One of the ways Dr. Kreslyn Kelley-Ellis, founder, and the PLF board serve women is through their annual Sisterhood Holiday Social. On Friday, December 16, 2016, they held their 4th annual social, where three amazing women with three different stories of living empowered lives under extenuating and challenging circumstances were honored and more than \$1,000 was awarded to assist these women in their businesses, community projects, and/or personal endeavors.

The organization has given over \$8,000 in monetary gifts and other prizes



over the past four years.

Dr. Kreslyn (above) is photographed with Ms. BJ McCurry, one of the Power-Living Award recipients who, at the age of 85, had the vision and courage to start the organization, 100+ Women Who Care of Madison County and, in less than one year, the organization gave nearly \$40,000 to charities in the Huntsville/Madison

County area.


Dr. Kreslyn stated that Ms. BJ is an example of service to all women and--hopefully--by recognizing Ms. McCurry and her accomplishment, women of all ages will reawaken their dormant dreams. The other award recipients were Ms. Yolanda Denson and Mrs. Randi McClendon.

(Photo Credit: photographer Jairod Hardy)



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



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Valley Deaths

Funeral service for Mr. **Anthony "Tab" Jones** was held December 18 at Douglas Tabernacle PB Church with Pastor Robert Rogers officiating.

Funeral service was held **December 17** at Lakeside United Methodist Church for **Mrs. Grace Burns Seay** (b. 1919) with Pastor Tomasi Muhomba officiating

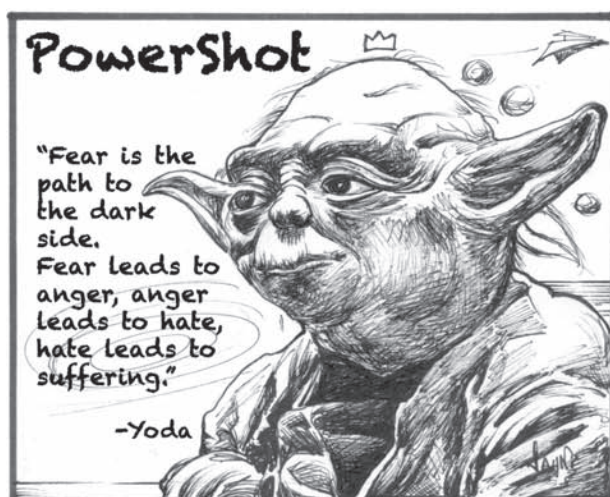
Funeral service for **Infant Quinton Washington, Jr.**, was held Friday, December 16, at Eagles Nest Ministries with interment in the St. Ruth Cemetery.

Graveside service for **Infant Booker Cowan, Jr.**, (b. 2015) was held December 16 at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Pearline P. Battles** (b. 1938) was Monday, December 12, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Gary Battle officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Rosie Nwaimo** (b. 1942) was held Tuesday, December 13, at Mount Zion P. B. Church (2350 Wall Triana Hwy-Madison, AL 35758) with Elder Myron Burwell officiating.

-Nelms Memorial
Funeral Home



YODA Ten Keys To Success

1. Believe
2. Do not try, just do
3. Value the opinions of others
4. Let go of your fears
5. Don't make assumptions
6. Be patient
7. Make the hard decisions
8. Be at peace
9. Liberate the oppressed
10. Know your skill level, raise it



GIFT WRAPPING: Members of the Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links, Inc., wrapped holiday gifts recently at the Bob Harrison Senior Center in Huntsville, Ala. Donations from the organization's efforts will benefit the Downtown Rescue Mission.

A Good Read

by Jerome Saintjones

Joyce Carol Oates' "Ghosts Girls"

We don't really know why, but a little girl and her mother are being flown to a hunting camp in another town, perhaps for their safety. The rough trip was arranged by the father and carried out by a man who could

be one of the father's buddies from the Vietnam war.

Once the two arrive, the girl later tries to rest in an unsettling room, while the mother plays cards and drinks beer into the night with the pilot, his woman friend and two other male visitors who happen by.

When the tired mother returns to the room to join

her daughter, she falls into a deep sleep, but the mosquito-bitten daughter cannot find rest and knows it would be futile to awaken her mother.

She hears the sounds of little girls outside the window, one calling the other. When she brings this up with the pilot and woman on the next morning, the woman seems disturbed but the pilot gets angry and slaps her ...

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Calendar of Events

December 30

4th Annual Kwanzaa Celebration
Dr. Richard Showers Center
Contact: Hadi at (256) 652-1625



January 4

Alabama A&M University
Faculty-Staff Conference
Wellness Center, 8:30 a.m.

January 14

Alpha Phi Alpha MLK
Unity Parade
Downtown Huntsville
12 Noon

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ford Scholarship Founda-
tion, Inc.)

Contacts: Veronica Win-
ston, (256) 509-4894, or
Patricia Ward, (256) 350-
9054
Von Braun Center North
Hall
5 p.m.

Basketball
Alabama A&M vs. Alabama
State
Elmore Building
4 & 6 p.m.

January 16

Alpha Phi Alpha Martin
Luther King, Jr. Unity
Breakfast
Von Braun Center
8 a.m.

Rocket City to Receive Its Own Comic-Con

Science Fiction and Fantasy enthusiasts should mark their calendars for February 10-11. Earlier this month, Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment announced a partnership with Super Powered Studios to host the city's first ever Huntsville Comic-con.

The weekend-long festivities will kick off the Rocket City's convention season, which will then be followed up by the Huntsville and Madison Anime Convention, or Hamacon, and the Huntsville Comic and Pop Culture Expo.



Taking place in the nation's largest privately owned artist facility, the convention is meant to celebrate the love for all things science fiction, fantasy and pop culture. Conventions, or cons, serve

as popular meccas and safe havens for fans to express their love for their favorite television series, film franchise or comic book.

The refurbished cotton mill will host over 200 artists, including comic book artists from your favorite DC and Marvel series, and they will be available to

meet and greet. There will also be a dealer's room, where attendees can purchase memorabilia from their favorite lore.

Not much information was released, except that the two-day convention will include a cosplay contest and will close out with a Sailor Moon concert

led by Jennifer Cihy, who is most notable for singing the theme song for the popular anime series.

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased on Lowe Mill's website. One day passes are \$10 and a two-day pass is \$15.

by Reggie Allen

Studdard, Friends at Carver Theater

The Alabama A&M alumnus and American Idol veteran will be performing a two-night Christmas engagement at the historic Carver Theater in Birmingham on December 22-23.

The second annual concert titled "Christmas with the Cats" will be a joint performance with Grammy-nominated singer and producer Alvin Garrett (above) and Logan the Entertainer, whom collectively go by the name Just a Few Cats.

Studdard is most notable for winning the second season of American Idol. Since winning the popular reality show, the 38-year-old Grammy Award winner released six studio albums and has performed in a hand full of theatrical productions, including the 2008 revival of "Ain't Misbehavin." Garret toured with the idol alum in 2003 after leaving his corporate job and pursuing his music career full-



time. Over the years, Garrett has made a name for himself as a notable songwriter, penning multiple singles for popular R&B singer Joe and nabbing a Grammy nomination for contributing to gospel trio Trin-I-Tee 5:7's album. Last year, the Samford graduate took over the airwaves with his hit single "By Myself" featuring Studdard.

Due to the tremendous success of last year's sold out performance, the trio decided to make this year a two-night engagement. Tickets can be purchased on the Carver Theater's website and prices range from \$25-35.

Photo and Story
by Reggie Allen

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On This Day - Friday, December 23 - **MADAME C.J. WALKER** was an American businesswoman, hair care entrepreneur, tycoon and philanthropist whose fortune was made by developing and marketing a hugely successful line of beauty and hair products for black women. - *BlackinTime.info*



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for her**
Rosetta Delores Bearden

BENEFIT PROGRAM
December 28, 2016, 6:30 pm

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Point of Contacts: Pastor Leroy and Sister Tina Caudle - 256.509-2418