

# The Valley Weekly

"I know the dark delight of being strange, the penalty of difference in the crowd, the loneliness of wisdom among fools ..."

- Claude McKay

FREE

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www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, January 6, 2017

## UAH, SaveFirst Offer Free Tax Help to Area Households

The University of Alabama in Huntsville and the SaveFirst Initiative have partnered to provide free tax preparation assistance to eligible households beginning in mid-January.

The services are being offered to households earning up to \$52,000 with one or more children, or up to \$20,000 for those families without children.

The tax assistance will allow these families to save on preparation fees, to claim the Earned Income Credit and other credits, to file their tax returns quickly via electronic filing, as well as to receive their refunds through direct deposit.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is the federal government's largest anti-poverty program, aimed at lifting families—especially those with children—above the poverty line. According

to SaveFirst, many who do not have the resources or knowledge to file their own taxes rely instead on costly commercial tax preparers, collectively losing millions of dollars owed them by the EITC. That extra money could have made a tremendous contribution to helping lower-income families secure health insurance, pay down debts—and even put food on the table.

Moreover, because there are no national standards or licensing procedures for commercial preparers, many set up shop in low-income communities and take advantage of hard-working families by preparing negligent, and sometimes fraudulent,

returns. And ultimately, it's the families who are on the hook for any mistakes. SaveFirst is dedicated to protecting these families' tax refunds—the largest check that most will receive all year.



Interested persons should schedule an appointment by calling 1-844-44-TAX-AL. Sessions will be held at the Optimist Recreation Center, located at 703 Oakwood Avenue NE in Huntsville, Ala. An additional site will be set up at the offices of United Way of Madison County, 701 Andrew Jackson Way.

## Getting Out of "the Ditch" in 2017

Miles of ditches, running throughout Huntsville like the body's circulatory system, are an unnoticed yet essential part of the city's infrastructure.

There are 250-plus

ditches in the city of varying breadth, length and function. As Joy McKee, director of landscape management for Huntsville, says, "All ditches are not created equal."

They come with various labels and challenges. They also come--most important for citizens to recognize--with shared responsibility. The city's primary task is to keep the

water flowing. The residents' task is to perform whatever landscaping work they might choose.

Likely as not, the ditch in your world is yours. The vast majority of ditches in the

city are on private property. They might be 50-50 shared with your neighbor, or maybe just one bank is on your side. It's your responsibility for mowing and minor upkeep. Even if it's, say, a

concrete ditch the city has built to alleviate draining problems, it's yours as far as your property extends, and your choice on how it's landscaped.

- Huntsvilleal.gov



**POINT OF IT ALL:** R&B music talent, record producer and songwriter Anthony Hamilton performed before an enthusiastic New Year's Eve audience at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center in the Magic City. (Photo by Reggie Allen)

## Alphas Hosting MLK Parade

The Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, announces the 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade to be held on Saturday, January 14, 2017, at 12 p.m. in downtown Huntsville. This year's theme is "Keeping the Dream Alive!" The public is invited.

## Greater Alabama Survival Expo

This RK Prepper Show event will host and feature a variety of vendors at the Greater Alabama Survival Expo this weekend.

The event will represent a show for the entire family. Check it out Saturday

and Sunday, January 7-8 at the Von Braun Center (South Hall 2) in downtown Huntsville, Ala.

Persons can upgrade their experience with the purchase of VIP tickets online.



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

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Big Oh's

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

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Burritt on the Mountain

Chris' Barber Shop

Depot Professional Building

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The Favour Group

Fellowship of Faith Church

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Garden Cove Produce

Health Unlimited

Huntsville Bible College

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

James Smith - AllState Insurance

Lakeside United Methodist Church

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Lucky's Supermarket

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Martinson & Beason, PC

Moe's - Village of Providence

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Phuket's in Providence

Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Progress Bank - Madison

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

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

# Having a Strokeless 2017

In the season of often short-lived resolutions, setting up preventions to avoid a stroke in 2017 is hardly on the list, notes BlackDoctor.org, the informative website attuned to the health concerns of African Americans.

However, blacks are reminded that some person in the United States has a stroke about once every 40 seconds, and a stroke kills someone about once every four minutes.

More importantly, particularly for the African American, is that blacks harbor nearly twice the risk for a first-ever stroke than a white person, *and* African Americans have a much higher death rate from stroke.

Hypertension is the most recognized risk factor for stroke, and diabetes increases the risk of stroke 1.5 times. However, lesser-known conditions such as atrial fibrillation also increase your risk of stroke even more.

Atrial fibrillation (also called AFib) is the most common type of irregular heartbeat and affects more than 5 million Americans. This irregular heartbeat can cause blood clots to form in the heart, travel to the brain, causing a stroke.

Stroke risk with AFib is five times greater than in someone without the disease, and AFib-related strokes can be especially debilitating and deadly.

Interestingly, research studies cite a lower incidence of AFib in African-Americans compared to whites, especially as they age. This is despite a higher burden of risk factors for AFib among African-Americans, including high blood pressure and diabetes.

Still, while AFib incidence

may be lower, AFib-related strokes are twice as likely to occur in African-Americans compared to white individuals, according to the July 2016 issue of *JAMA Cardiology*.

Results from the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study also found that racial differences in adverse outcomes of AFib extend beyond stroke to heart failure, coronary heart disease, and overall deaths. Sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the NIH, the ARIC study reasoned that the disparities in heart disease and strokes present a dangerous scenario for African-American AFib patients.

Additional research has also found that African-American individuals with AFib are less likely to be put on anticoagulant therapy to reduce their risk of stroke, which help prevent the dangerous clots that can lead to stroke.

It is important for doctors and other health-care providers to be aware of these findings, but the medical professional guidelines for diagnosing and treating AFib do not yet include attention to racial disparities.

This is all a classic case of "what you don't know can hurt you," which brings us back to New Year's resolutions. The Celebrating a Year Without a Stroke Campaign encourages everyone with AFib, and their family caregivers, to ask questions, learn more about their risk, and get and stay on their recommended treatment.

A Year Without a Stroke is a year to enjoy doing all the things one has lifelong to finally do. Let's make 2017 a year to celebrate!

Visit [www.YearWithoutaStroke.org](http://www.YearWithoutaStroke.org) to learn more.

## CITY OF HUNTSVILLE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSOLIDATED/ACTION PLAN

The City of Huntsville, Alabama proposes to amend its FY2012 Action Plan. The following CDBG projects are added:

**\$5,000.00** Provide funds to the PAK Legacy Community Development Corporation (CDC) for Job Creation/Retention. This Special Economic activity is designed to create and/or retain permanent jobs. At least 51 percent of which (computed on a full-time equivalent basis) will be made available to or held by Lower to Moderate Income (LMI) persons under the Job Creation or Retention category of the LMI Benefit national objective.

**\$8,886.82** Provide funds for a KaBOOM! Playground build in the Calvary Hills neighborhood located at 2900 Fairbanks Street, Huntsville, AL 35816. This Park/Public Facility activity will be used for activities that will benefit at least 51% of Lower to Moderate Income (LMI) persons in the community;

A 30-day comment period ending on February 4, 2017 is required before amendments can be made to the Consolidated/Action Plan. For information please call (256) 427-5400. Any comments or suggestions concerning changes to the Plan should be made in writing and mailed to: City of Huntsville, Department of Community Development, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804.

## CIUDAD DE HUNTSVILLE ENMIENDA AL PLAN DE ACCIÓN CONSOLIDADO

La ciudad de Huntsville, Alabama propone enmendar su Plan de acción del AÑO FISCAL 2012. Los siguientes proyectos CDBG se agregan:

\$5,000.00 Proporcionar fondos a PAK legado comunidad desarrollo Corporation (CDC) para la creación y retención de trabajo. Esta actividad económica especial está diseñada para crear o mantener puestos de trabajo permanentes. Por lo menos el 51 por ciento de los cuales (calculado sobre una base equivalente a tiempo completo) será puesto a disposición o quintilo inferior a las personas de moderados ingresos (LMI) bajo la categoría creación de empleo o la retención de los objetivos nacionales de beneficio de LMI.

\$8,886.82 ¿Proporcionar fondos para un KaBOOM! Construcción de parque infantil en el barrio colinas del Calvario había ubicado a 2900 Fairbanks Street, Huntsville, AL 35816. La propiedad se utilizará para actividades que beneficien a por lo menos el 51% de baja a las personas de moderados ingresos (LMI) en la comunidad;

Antes de poder hacer las enmiendas al Plan de Acción Consolidado se requiere un periodo de comentarios de 30 días el cual termina el 4 de February de 2017. Para información por favor llame al (256) 427-5400. Cualquier comentario o sugerencias sobre cambios al Plan deben ser hechas por escrito y enviadas por correo a: Ciudad de Huntsville, Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804.

## CITY OF HUNTSVILLE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSOLIDATED/ACTION PLAN

The City of Huntsville, Alabama proposes to amend its FY2015 Action Plan. The following CDBG projects are added:

**\$33,613.18** Provide funds for a KaBOOM! Playground build in the Calvary Hills neighborhood located at 2900 Fairbanks Street, Huntsville, AL 35816. This Park/Public Facility activity will be used for activities that will benefit at least 51% of Lower to Moderate Income (LMI) persons in the community;

A 30-day comment period ending on February 4, 2017 is required before amendments can be made to the Consolidated/Action Plan. For information please call (256) 427-5400. Any comments or suggestions concerning changes to the Plan should be made in writing and mailed to: City of Huntsville, Department of Community Development, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804.

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La ciudad de Huntsville, Alabama propone enmendar su Plan de acción del AÑO FISCAL 2015. Los siguientes proyectos CDBG se agregan:

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**The Valley Weekly**

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# From the Editor



(Excerpts from: <http://www.rolltide.com/news/2016/12/31/no-1-alabama-football-wins-2016-chick-fil-a-peach-bowl-over-no-4-washington-24-7.aspx>)

*Ahhh, Roll Tide, Roll!*

Led by a Crimson Tide bowl-record 180 yards on the ground from running back Bo Scarbrough and an opportunistic and often stifling defense, the No. 1-ranked University of Alabama football team won the College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, 24-7, over No. 4 Washington Saturday afternoon in front of a record crowd of 75,996 at the Georgia Dome. Alabama is now 14-0 on the season and extended its 26-game win streak, the longest active streak in college football. With the win, Alabama earned its 36th bowl victory, the most in collegiate football history.

Scarbrough, the Peach Bowl Offensive Most Valuable Player, opened and closed the Tide's scoring. He bulled his way 18 yards into the end zone in the first quarter to tie things up with Washington and then powered 68 yards early in the fourth quarter to make it 24-7. In between he added nearly 100 yards rushing. Senior linebacker Ryan Anderson, the Peach Bowl Defensive MVP, scored Alabama's 11th defensive touchdown of the season in the waning moments of the first half, intercepting a pass and returning it 26 yards for a score.

Defensively, Alabama tallied five sacks of Washington quarterback Jake Browning for losses totaling 38 yards, nabbed two interceptions returned for 54 yards and one touchdown and had seven tackles for losses totaling 48 yards. Junior cornerback Anthony Averett led the Tide with six solo tackles, including a 13-yard sack and a forced fumble. Senior linebacker Reuben Foster had nine total tackles with a team-best six assists ...

In the fourth, starting at its two-yard line, Alabama gained one yard on its first two plays before Scarbrough burst through for 12 yards and a first down. A Hurts to Howard toss picked up 16 more followed by a one-yard rush by Hurts. Scarbrough, touching the ball for the second time in the drive, powered his way 68 yards to the end zone and another score, breaking two tackles on the weaving run. Griffith's PAT was good and Alabama pushed its lead to 24-7 with 11:47 left in the fourth period.

The Crimson Tide advances to the College Football Playoff Championship Game for the second year in a row and will face the winner of the Ohio State-Clemson game. The CFP Championship Game will be played Monday, January 9, 2017, at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla.

Have a healthy, hearty and happy New Year.

Until next week ...

*Dorothy*

## The Hamm Consulting Group



## Your Washington Recap

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

1. The House and Senate convened Monday to start the 115th Congress. After swearing in new Members and other "start of Congress" business, the Senate began debate on a budget resolution that includes instructions for repealing Obamacare under the filibuster-proof budget reconciliation process. The House elected Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) as Speaker and approved the Rules for the 115th Congress and then turned to legislation. Among other items, the House took up

the "Midnight Rules Act" and the "Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act" that passed the House in the last 3 sessions, but

died in the Senate. The REINS Act would require that the House and Senate pass a resolution of approval before any new major regulation could take effect. The Midnight Rules Act would let Congress invalidate rules in bulk that passed in the final year of a presidential term. The House was also expected to consider a nonbinding resolution disapproving the United Nations Security Council vote on December 23 that called on Israel to stop building settlements in the West Bank (the United States abstained

on the vote, allowing the measure to pass).

2. President Obama went to Capitol Hill to meet with House and Senate Democrats to discuss a strategy for saving Obamacare and to share his perspective about the dangers posed by repealing the law before proposing any replacement, which he believes will create chaos in the health system in the short run. House Democrats have been urged by their leadership to hold press events on January 7 to highlight the risks of undoing Obamacare. Next Tuesday (Jan. 10), the President will travel to Chicago to deliver his farewell address at a public event at McCormick Place.

3. President-elect Trump was expected to announce his choices for more cabinet posts this week, including Agriculture Secretary, Veterans Affairs Secretary and the U.S. Trade Representative. On Wednesday, Vice President-

elect Pence will go to Capitol Hill to meet with House Republicans on the strategy for repealing Obamacare.

4. On Thursday (Jan. 5) Senate Armed Services Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) held a hearing on Russia's election-year hacking ... Last week, President Obama announced sanctions against Russia for the hacking, kicking 35 Russian diplomats and intelligence operatives out of the U.S. and targeting Russia's primary security service, the FSB, and its main intelligence directorate, the GRU.

5. The Washington Post reported on Saturday (Dec. 31) that some federal agencies are rushing to staff up in the final days of the Obama administration to ensure that as many new employees as possible are in place before President-elect Trump imposes a promised hiring freeze.

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# ValleyScopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

**Gemini** - Anything that differs from the norm that is occurring will have a huge likelihood to momentarily inspire upward mobility. Full charge, ahead!

**Scorpio** - Peers who back your decisions will create a world-wind of information as they cater to popular issues of interest that you've placed your personal mark of strong opinions on, and this can end up challenging the limited views that some may have previously expressed.

**Leo** - If there's ever any trouble discriminating on exactly who means you well during your times of advancement do focus on the quality of your life- without such individuals present, and you will find that there's no point in troubling yourself, regardless of any fluctuating behavior of others.

**Taurus** - As you witness the corporate scenery available to you, take extra comfort, with the fact that your domestic life will offer tons of support for you as you meander through the dog-

eat-dog world of work.

**Cancer** - It's a good thing that you've seen a way to save some here and there, since it could come in handy if you travel to another country in order to spread good news in another territory.

**Aries** - The momentum of intellectually stimulating conversation will be picking up as you find yourself visiting new places, or sharing time with new people.

**Virgo** - The work front is harboring a wealth of pursuits that are worthy of your attention at present, making it possible for a Jupiter-induced expansion, for you in that area.

**Libra** - Additional profits are likely to be on the rise within your choice of business right now, opening the door to a purchase that you will find quite pleasurable to make and possibly share with family.

**Aquarius** - Someone will come to realize, that you are pretty good at fixing the

financial messes of another with educated advice, and once again your phone will be ringing excessively off the hook.

**Capricorn** - You'll see that emotional attachment to familiarity isn't a decent enough reason to deter the feelings of awesomeness that can be experienced, with a long-awaited move.

**Sagittarius** - In spite of troubling questions that you may have been reflecting about, your survival-generating techniques are giving you an additional sense of power to thrive, as you encounter the natural, regenerating essence of Pluto's evocatively charged surroundings.

**Pisces** - You'll find online sources an enormous help, as you seek ideas on how to save monetarily on materials connected to certain business purchases, information you'll only be able to use, after switching gears from an Eris-induced emotional distraction. Zeroing in on additional information could prove priceless now.

## Mother-Daughter Actresses' Deaths Separated by a Day

Carrie Frances Fisher, 60, ascended into the great galaxy, far, far away on December 27. The celebrated actress, writer and producer passed peacefully in the presence of her friends and loved ones. At the request of the late Fisher, she would like for it to be stated that she drowned in moonlight, choking on her own bra.

The daughter of entertainment veterans Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds, Fisher followed her parent's footsteps, excelling in the performing arts. The second-generation thespian rose to fame after landing the role of Princess Leia Organa in the critically acclaimed Star War film series in 1977. Throughout her career, the actress would be



featured in over 80 television and film projects, including "When Harry Met Sally" and popular animated series "Family Guy."

The author of eight New York Times bestselling novels, Fisher garnered praise for being open with her struggle with mental illness and bipolar disorder. *Wishful Drinking*, one of her novels, was later adapted for the stage as a woman show and eventually a documentary. Fisher is survived by her

daughter, Billie Lourd, who now carries the acting torch, her loving siblings Todd, Joely and Tricia Fisher, and Gary, her prized French Bulldog.

Fisher's mother, the noted actress Debbie Reynolds and "Singing in the Rain" star, died only one day after her daughter (December 28) at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Reynolds performed in numerous films, garnering several Oscar, Emmy and Tony nominations, and she was equally noted for launching many business ventures, including a dance studio and Las Vegas hotel and casino.

by Reggie Allen  
Photo: pbs.org

## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

It's not just hearing the truth that makes us free, it's applying the truth to our lives that makes us free.

But to apply truth to our lives requires discipline and self-control.

You see, sometimes it's



easier to tell someone else what to do, than it is to take that advice and apply it to our own lives.

Because, remember, our walk with God is not about everybody else. Romans 14:12

says everyone that stands

before God will have to give an account for their own life.

All the people that I thought that I needed to change, God is not going to ask me one question about them.

Happy New Year and, as always ...

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

W&A

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# Gathering Will Honor Musical Duo

The lovable, long-time husband-and-wife musical team who graced Alabama A&M University's musical programs for decades will be honored for their service this month.

On January 14, the Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford Scholarship Foundation, Inc., will present the Friends of the Bradfords Inaugural Gala at 5 p.m. in the Von Braun Center-North Hall in Downtown Huntsville.

The Bradfords Endowed Scholarship is set up within the AAMU Foundationom the funds of this scholarship provides financial assistance to deserving academically and musically

talented students attending AAMU. The requirements for the scholarship include:

- A 2.8 cumulative GPA;
- Be a music major, vocal or instrumental;
- Be classified as a junior, senior, or graduate student;
- Be a choir or band member.

All qualified students must submit a completed application accompanied by a successful instrumental or vocal audition, and interview before a music committee.

For ads and sponsorships, contact Veronica Winston at (256) 509-4894. For additional information on ticket and donations, please contact Patricia Ward at (256) 350-9054.

## City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Meetings City Council 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 also held in the City Council 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.

**Read Online!**  
valleyweeklyllc.com

## A Good Read by Jerome Saintjones

### Angela Patrinos' "Sculpture I"

This story originally appeared in The New Yorker before becoming part of the "Best American Short Stories (1996)" series edited by John Edgar Wideman and Katrina Kennison.

The main character is a young woman whose life is in dire need of structure and purpose, as her search from one dead-end job to another leads her to an art class that pays her to model in the nude.

One of the students, an older, take-the-moment, married Indian student

shows his interest in her. Although he is not her type, she is drawn in by his attention to her and later decides she is willing to go all the way. Only, on the big day, his over ambition and sleep deprivation gets the best of him, and he falls asleep on her in his apartment. Hurt, yet relieved, she quietly lets herself out.

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## Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation

# #94612

The Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation provides financial scholarship to undergraduate students who demonstrate sound academic principles; commitment to community volunteerism, civic engagement and unselfishness to assist others in Huntsville/Madison County.

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 will be held Saturday, January 7, for **Mr. Winslow Brandon** (b. 1949) at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service was held Tuesday, January 3, for **Minister Zadie M. Watkins** (b. 1953) at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Susie M. Walker** (b. 1936) was held Saturday, December 31, at Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church with Dr. Theodis Acklin officiating.

Funeral service was held Friday, December 30, at Mount Olive Baptist Church for **Mr. Monroe Steger** of Knoxville, Tenn.

Funeral service was held for **Mr. Willie Lee Rice** (b. 1945) at Ebezener Missionary Baptist on Thursday, December 29, with Rev. Curtis Strong officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Kenneth Wayne Moore** (b. 1966) was held Friday, December 23, at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Joe Carter officiating.

Funeral service for **Dr. Henry Darlington, Jr.**, (b. 1932) was held Wednesday, December 21, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

-Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

# Abundant Black Presence in Many Occupations Declines

by Jerome Saintjones

A review of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual breakdowns for "Employed Persons by Detailed Occupation, Sex, Race and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity" yields some interesting findings.

More specifically, reviewing the stats for the years 1995 and 2015, a 20-year span shows how blacks and Hispanics have fared in the workforce.

Although blacks gained some jobs inherent with the growth of respective occupations during the two-decade span, in many instances, a lion's share of that growth, it appears, was absorbed by Hispanic workers in certain sectors.

In 1995, blacks (or African Americans), who make up only 12 percent of the U.S. population represented nearly 25 percent or more of roughly 16 distinct job occupations. To clarify: although blacks worked in every profession recorded by the Bureau and exceeded their share of the U.S. populations in those professions ([www.bls.gov/cps/aa1995/aa11.txt](http://www.bls.gov/cps/aa1995/aa11.txt)), they were highly represented (based on their percentage of the population) in certain occupations.

Among these were (alphabetically) barbers (29.0%), bus drivers (27.9%), concrete workers (26.9 percent), correctional institution officers (28.2%), furnace/kiln operators (21.6%), guards

(28.8%), health service (27.6%), maids/housemen (29.1%), mail clerks-nonpostal (26.2%), postal clerks (29.3%), pressing machine operators (24.9%), social workers (23.7%),



statistical clerks (24.8%), taxicab drivers/chaffeurs (22.8%), telephone operators (26.0%), welfare service aides (29.4%), and winding/twisting machine operators (34.6%).

Similarly, Hispanic presence was impactful 20 years ago in the following 10 occupations: agriculture-related occupations (30.8%), butchers/meat cutters (27.8%), construction trade helpers (24.7%), graders/sorters-non-ag (28%), packaging and filling machine operators (29.2%), private household workers (24.8%), and textile sewing machine operators (26.9%). Even in 1995, nearly 70 percent of the United States' graders and sorters of agricultural products were Hispanic.

In 2015, blacks held a 25 percent share of the jobs

in about 13 professions, while Hispanics catapulted to nearly 25 in just two decades ([bls.gov](http://bls.gov)).

Some occupations that held nearly a 25 percent black workforce included:

bailiffs/jailers (26.0%), barbers (40.7%), bus drivers (28.0%), butchers (22.4%), correctional officer supervisors (24.7%), crossing guards (33.2%), health aides (37.7%), LPNs (28.5%), locomotive engineers/

operators (21.3%), mail sorters/processors (29.9%), parking lot attendants (32.1%), phlebotomists (25.2%), postal service clerks (33.5%), probation officers (23.3%), security guards (28.8%), taxi drivers/chaffeurs (27.0%) and telemarketers (25.9%).

Meanwhile, by 2015, Hispanics represented well over a third of the workforce in such occupations as: agricultural graders/sorters (54.3%), bellhops, etc. (32.9%), brickmasons (43.3%), butchers (35.4%), carpenters (32.8%), carpet/floor installers (47.1%), food processors (35.1%), concrete workers (49.2%), cooks (35.7%), construction laborers (45.5%), drywall installers (61.8%),

janitors (31.4%), laundry/dry-cleaning workers (31.8%), maids/housekeeping (48.9%), media/communications workers (35.8%), roofers (51.2%), shipping/receiving clerks (27%), telemarketers (27.3%), and others.

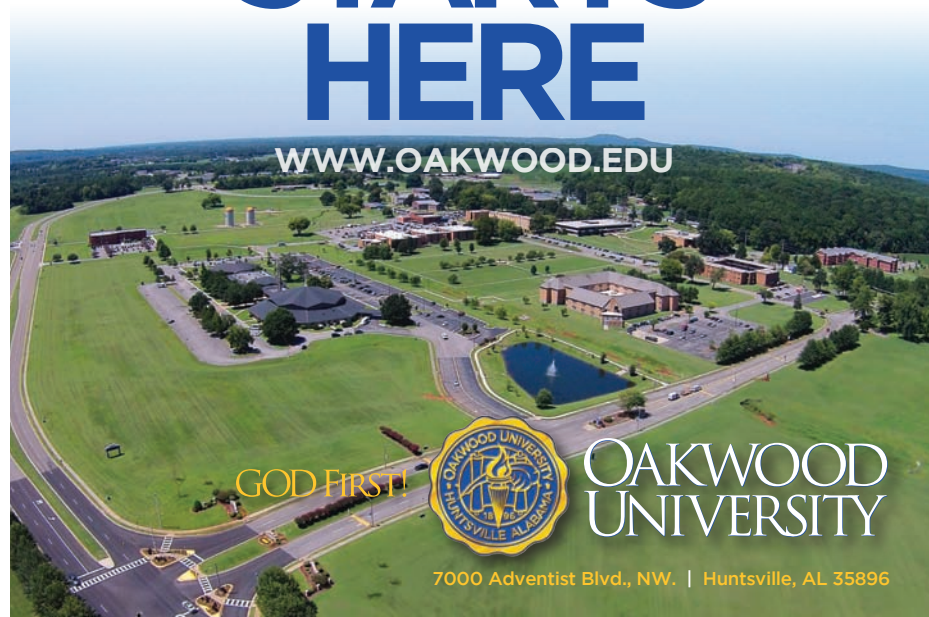
Back in 1995, blacks accounted for 10.6% of the American workforce of 124.9 million workers, while Hispanics made up 8.9%. In 2015, BLS stats show that blacks' percentage of the workforce increased to 11.7%, Asians (not recorded in 1995 stats) made up 5.8%, and Hispanics soared to 16.4% of the nation's workforce of 148.8 million.

Photo: [blackworkersmatter.com](http://blackworkersmatter.com)

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## Calendar of Events

### January 4

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

### January 7-8

Greater Alabama Survival  
Expo  
Von Braun Center

### January 14

Alpha Phi Alpha MLK  
Unity Parade  
Downtown Huntsville  
12 Noon

Friends of the Bradfords  
(Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr.  
and Mrs. Nell Lane Brad-  
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.

### February 4

Huntsville Symphony  
Orchestra  
Free Family Concert  
Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall - Von Braun Center  
11 a.m.

### February 21

The CornerStone Initiative  
C4 Conference  
The Jackson Center  
6001 Moquin Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8:30 a.m.

# Local Utilities Receives Recognition for Energy-Saving Efforts

Huntsville is a thriving city with steady population growth. Lower utility rates and a large number of older homes (pre-1994) have a strong impact upon a high utility usage.

Huntsville Utilities, the City of Huntsville, and several community assistance agencies joined forces to apply for a Tennessee Valley

income, housing age, and housing costs. Areas in which housing occupants were paying more than one-third of their annual incomes on housing costs, including utility payments, were also mapped to show where the energy savings could have the greatest impact.

Based on federal HUD affordable housing guidelines, these residents are considered cost-burdened. Census figures show that Huntsville has a significant 14% senior citizen population living on fixed incomes.

Additional data using energy payment assistance records

from Huntsville Utilities was used to create a city-wide map of actual home locations for households receiving assistance and meeting eligibility requirements. Each of these factors was mapped to reveal focus areas throughout the City of Huntsville, defining the contiguous target area as the City boundary. Areas within the City that met multiple eligibility criteria for low and moderate income and age of housing stock, along with high concentration of energy assistance payments, were identified as focus areas within the target community. Maps describing the following information are in the attached file.

Using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of low income, low and extremely low income areas are primarily located in the center of the City, coinciding with the City of Huntsville's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) target areas. These same areas were

also the most frequently assisted areas by the agencies and churches which offer assistance with utility bills.

Huntsville Utilities has currently completed 786 homes and spent \$8,116,205 million of the \$11.7 million grant monies. Huntsville Utilities was recently awarded the Southern Public Relations Federation

(SPRF) Lantern Award for outstanding work in the field of public relations. It was commended for its partnerships with other local and civic organizations, working together to inform the community about the HEEM project. Huntsville Utilities HEEM public relations efforts allowed the lower income qualified customers

to be informed about this program in a timely manner which allowed for customers to enter and complete the extreme energy makeover process as soon as possible in order to lower their utility bills.

by Harry L. Hobbs, PhD  
Public and Governmental  
Affairs Liaison  
Huntsville Utilities



Hobbs presents Lantern Award to Mayor Battle

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**On This Day - Friday, January 6 - JOHN SINGLETON** is a respected and talented director who is best known for his films "Boyz in the Hood" and "Higher Learning." He was born on this day in 1968 in Los Angeles, Calif. - [BlackinTime.info](http://BlackinTime.info)

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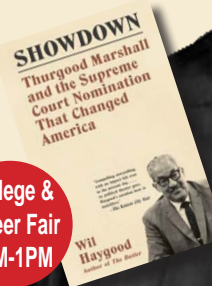
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*Wil Haygood*

Washington Post  
Journalist and Author of  
"The Butler"

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Baptist Church  
315 Winchester Avenue  
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Career Fair  
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