

UAH Co-Hosts "Global Game Jam"

Charger Studios, a student-run organization at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), and local community group After Hours Game Dev are proud to co-host this year's Global Game Jam*, a 48-hour gaming session that takes place simultaneously in hundreds of locations worldwide. The event will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, and will be held on the 8th floor of the AL.com building (200 West Side Square).

As in years past, the two-day jam will open with a short keynote video offering advice from leading game developers before the secret theme is announced. All sites are then challenged to make games, either digital or non-digital, based on that theme within the time allotted. Since its inception in 2009, more than 6,800 games have been created.

"Game Jams are not really competitions to see who can make the best game; they are a way to take part in the fun and rewarding experience of making games on an insanely compressed time schedule," says Vinny Argentina, an assistant professor of art, animation, and game design at UAH. Visit globalgamejam.org.



JUDGE SPEAKS: Judge Glenda Hatchett Speaks at the University of Alabama in Huntsville for its Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 12, 2017. (Photo by Reggie Allen)



Preps Underway for 59th Debutante Ball

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter (EGO) will host its 59th Debutante Presentation and Ball, Friday, February 17, at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Thirty-four young ladies will be presented to the community with the theme "Unforgettable".

The objective of the Debutante Program is to equip and prepare young ladies, who are in their senior year of high school in the Huntsville-Madison County community, to be socially, personally, and professionally astute by stressing the importance of leadership, service, academia and social etiquette.

The Debutante Program and its annual Debutante Presentation and Ball is a

facet of our chapter's community service program designed to prepare our debutantes for their debut into society.

The Debutante Program is comprised of educational, cultural, community service projects and social functions to include: Prospective Debutante Orientation, The Get-Acquainted Tea, Personal Enhancement Debutante Training Sessions, Community Service Projects, Debutante Teas, Mother-Daughter Brunch, Hobby-Talent Showcase, Cotillion, and the culmination of the Debutante Program with the Debutante Presentation and Ball where scholarships are awarded to college bound, extraordinary academic achievers.

In a continued effort to

provide service to the community, our Debutantes made sleeping mats for the homeless with support provided to the Huntsville Assistance Program/First Missionary Baptist Church, volunteered at the Manna House, tutored children at the James A. Lane Boys and Girls Club and provided support and donations for a Mission Trip to Haiti.

The 2016-2017 Chairman for the Debutante Presentation and Ball is Ms. E. Christine Moss, the Co-Chairman is Mrs. Leteria Moses Waters and Dr. Wilma J. Ruffin is the president of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter.

The Debutantes for the 2016-2017 season include: 1st Row, Right to Left: Kiaira A. Anderson, Alexandria D. Bell, Alexis R. Blue,

Kaleigha Boddie, Tyra Z. Bradley, Kayla N. Butler, Jaeda S. Byrd

2nd row, Right to Left: Talese A. Cox, Sydney N. Edwards, Amiya Z. Fuqua, Talesiah D. Gideon, Drew Gipson, Kennedy H. Grant, Ciera Grimsley, Felicity M. Gurley, Mya C. Hamilton

3rd Row, Left to Right: Renita S. Harris, Arianna R. Haynes, Dailyn R. Hereford, Katelyn J. Hines, Kiera D. Lightfoot, Courtney A. Mc-Millan, Aaliyah G. Nichols, Alexa N. Nunn

4th Row, Left to Right: Chelsy A. Robinson, Elizabeth F. Scruggs (not shown), Kyrstin N. Stanley, Nadia M. Stewart, Emry A. Summerville, Shelby M. Vaughn, Jayla D. Walker, Lyndsey S. Whitman, Kyndal L. Wiley, Chanel Williams

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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 Washington, D.C., this week:

- 1. The Senate is in session this week, while the House is in recess. The Senate will hold 8 more hearings on President-elect Trump's cabinet nominees: (1) Monday for Betsy DeVos (Education) and Rep. Ryan Zinke (Interior); (2) Wednesday for Scott Pruitt (EPA), Rep. Tom Price (HHS), Wilbur Ross (Commerce) and Gov. Nikki Haley (UN Ambassador); and (3) Thursday for Rick Perry (Energy) and Steve Mnuchin (Treasury).
- 2. On Wednesday afternoon, President Obama held the final press conference of his presidency.
- 3. President-elect Trump may name his final cabinet pick this week - Secretary of Agriculture - and candidates include GA Gov. Sonny Perdue, ex-CA Lt Gov. Abel Maldonado and IN Agriculture Director Tom McKinney (who was at Trump Tower on Thursday). This week's Inaugural Events begin on Thursday with Mr. Trump and Vice President-elect Pence participating in a wreathlaying event at Arlington National Cemetery, followed by the "Make America Great Again Welcome Celebration" concert and fireworks from 4-6 pm at the Lincoln Memo-
- 4. Last Friday, Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Richard Burr (R-NC) and Ranking Member Mark Warner (D-VA) issued a joint statement announcing that the committee will investigate Russian cyberattacks and links between Russia and individual associated with political cam-

paigns.

- 5. Last Wednesday during her confirmation hearing, Transportation Secretarynominee Elaine Chao told Senators that the Trump Administration's \$1 trillion infrastructure plan, in addition to using tax incentives to spur private investment, would also include direct federal spending. Also last week, the U.S. DOT released a report on the nation's roads, bridges and transit, which documents a \$926 billion backlog in needed investment in infrastructure. The link to the report is: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ policy/2015cpr/
- 6. Last week, House
 Oversight and Government
 Reform Committee Chair
 Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) sent
 letters to 18 federal agencies
 demanding information on
 their alleged push to fill as
 many job slots as possible
 before President-elect Trump
 takes office without regard
 for identifying and hiring the
 most qualified applicants, as
 well restricting many of the
 jobs to applicants from within
 the federal government.

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Champion Game Plan for Life by Preston Brown

You know: it's one thing to "hold" a thought,

but it's another thing when a thought holds you, because there are thoughts that we think are holding us back from be-

ing successful. In other words, we think that the opposite of success is failure, but it's not in the spiritual sense. The opposite of success is unfaithfulness. So, if you are

faithful to what God has called you to do, even your failure will work.

There are so many thoughts that hold us down today

and keep us from being all that God wants us to be. Things like fear of commitment will keep you from having the relationships you should have in your life. It can keep you from getting the job that you want. It can also keep you from the promise and the destiny that God wants you to have. This can become habitual if we let it.

That's why Paul says, in 2 Corinthians 10:5, we should take captive of every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!

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Save the Date! Saturday, March 11, 2017

Five O'Clock in the Evening The Jackson Center Huntsville, Alabama

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@ valleyweeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

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The Valley Weekly

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Delta Theta Lambda Holds Thirty-Second **Annual King Breakfast** by Reggie Allen





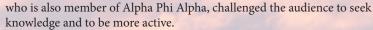


It was a question that made the audience silent.

For someone that is known as the "funny guy," that is never a good sign. The speaker wanted to make the people think, if only for a few

"What are you prepared to do to change this world?" actor Darryl Bell asked the audience before closing his speech, resulting in thunderous

Widely known for his comical roles in the hit '90s sitcom "A Different World" and Spike Lee's debut film "School Daze," the producer and entrepreneur used his 20-minute speech to address a serious matter: the importance of keeping the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work alive. This year, the actor was the featured keynote speaker for the Delta Theta Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.'s thirty-second annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast. The actor,



"Goodness is in this world if we are willing to be that goodness," Bell said to the 1,000-plus attendees in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center on January 16.

A popular event during the MLK weekend, the Unity Breakfast hosted a myriad of special guests, including Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Mayor of Madison Paul Finely; former Councilman Richard Showers; and newly sworn-in Councilman Devyn Keith.

Following Bell's speech, Keith presented Bell with a plaque as part of a declaration from the city of Huntsville.

Alabama native and Oakwood University's Artist-in-Residence John Stoddart was the function's featured entertainment. Stoddart, who has worked with the likes of India Arie, Celine Dion and Will Downing, performed a small selection of music, including an original score.

The ceremony recognized two individuals with the Martin Luther King Unity Award, an award bestowed to those exceptionally active in the community. Dr. Dorothy W. Huston, publisher and editor of The Valley Weekly, was honored. Mrs. Butch Damson, local civic volunteer and philanthropist, was also honored.

The breakfast concluded with the youth challenge led by Columbia High School senior Ricardo Williams and the benediction by the Reverend Maurice Wright II.

The Delta Theta Lambda chapter, sponsor of the unity breakfast, began the annual tradition in 1985. The event has since become a tradition among Huntsville's MLK weekend festivities. The chapter has also been the host of the city's MLK parade for the past three years.







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Individuals and companies are making sincere efforts in verbalizing a commitment to diversity excellence. However, we must be trained to build the next

generation of leaders who have the skill sets, tools and commitment to execute.

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Please mail this Application Form, 3 Letters of Reference, and Resume to: 415-A

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Training Schedule DLC will run two, eight-week colloquia in 2017. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants cannot miss more than 2 sessions. Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville Enrollment limited to: 16 - Tuition: \$795

2017 Schedule

Spring March 7 - April 25 - Deadline to register (February 25, 2016) September 5 - October 24

Application Form

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Ivy League Getting Stronger Black Applicant Pool

The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education (JBHE) completed its survey of admissions offices at the nation's highest-ranked research universities.

For the 24th consecutive year, JBHE calculated and compared the percentages of black/African-American students in this fall's entering classes. The survey publishes information on the total number of black applicants at the various institutions, their acceptance rates, enrollment numbers,

and yield rates.

According to JBHE, in 2004, blacks eked out only 6.8 percent of the entering students at Columbia University. For nine years in a row, Columbia had the highest percentage of black first-year students among the 30 highest-ranking universities in the nation. Last year, black students were 14.1 percent of the students in the entering class at Columbia.

"There are standard concerns too that racial conservatives on faculties and among alumni and trustees may interpret the figures as suggesting a so-called dumbing down of academic standards and favoring of 'unqualified' blacks over perhaps more qualified Whites," notes the

Yet, an institution's high black acceptance rate often denotes the fact that the admissions office of a given school has a "very strong" and qualified black applicant pool.

Big 5: Huntsville Hosts Mayors from Alabama's Largest Cities



The Rocket City hosted the Big 5 Mayors quarterly meeting on January 8-9. The meeting convenes the leaders of Alabama's largest cities to talk about shared challenges and opportuni-

Attendees at the Huntsville meeting included Birmingham Mayor William Bell, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson,

Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange, and Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox.

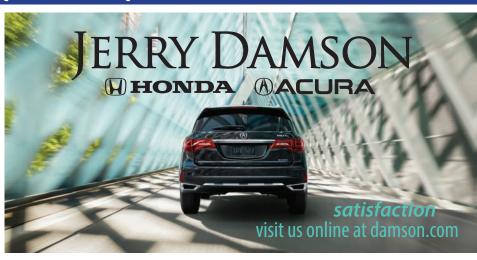
The mayors discussed various local strategies to improve education, fighting blight, getting monies for roads, increasing health care costs, public safety, city revenues, and what to expect from a new federal agenda.

The mayors also shared best practices on programs and policies that were working well in their respective communities, and they sought advice from each other on challenges.

Foremost on the minds of the mayors was what to expect on Capitol Hill.

Mayor Battle asked Washington consultants for preview on what to expect from the new Congress and administration.

- HuntsvilleAL.gov





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FDIC

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Funeral service was held Saturday, January 14, for Mr. Earl **Phillips** (b. 1920) at First Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Julius R. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service for Mr. **John Okoye** (b. 1985) was held Saturday, January 14, at Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church with Pastor Emeritus Adolphus Elliott officiating.

Funeral service for Mr. Wendell Holmes was held Friday, January 13, at Gurley CME Church with Pastor Emeritus Adolphus Elliott officiating.

Funeral service for Mrs. **Glory Small** (b. 1956) was held Thursday, January 12, in the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. David T. Young officiating.

Funeral service for Mrs. Marian M. Fletcher Humphrey was Saturday, held January 7 at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for Mr. **Leonard Montgomery** (b. 1956) will be announced later.

Funeral service for Mr. Phillip G. Brazelton (b. 1966) will be announced later.

> -Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

Winning MLK Essay:

Nicholas Fields

It is my privilege and honor to share my thoughts on "What I would say to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. if he was alive today." Thank you to the men of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for this opportunity.

In 1968, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died, I bet he had no idea what kind of impact his life would have on future generations. I have read about his early life and it started out much like mine ...he was a singer in his youth choir at church... his dad whipped him until he was 15 years old...2 years to go for me...he made good grades, he liked to talk and argue his point, and he was a leader. At times, he was depressed about the way people were treated and he was determined to "be the change he wanted to see in the world." I could be the next Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.!

Almost 50 years later, he is still an inspiration to young black boys like me. His ideas still serve as motivation for civil rights and social justice in 2017.

I would say to him... Dr. King – I'm heartbroken that you died so young because you could have been the 1st black president! Don't get me wrong...Obama was great, but you would have been AMAZING! So many parts of our society, technology, civilizations were invented by Black people, and you helped us to be vigilant about documenting our contributions and celebrat-

ing our successes.



Your messages still inspire us to learn about our history, love and believe in ourselves and others. rely on ourselves, and take steps to ensure that your sacrifice and the blood shed by our ancestors was not in vain. You were the motivation for so many people to get up and walk or sit down and wait. I'm inspired by the gatherings, the marches and the sit-ins you organized.

Thankfully, I didn't have to personally experience slavery or the beginnings of the civil rights movement. Honestly, I don't think I would have survived, but now, in 2017, I believe that we can the achieve our goals without violence. Considering the recent political events, we must "keep our eyes on the prize." One of your famous quotes says, "I believe that what self-centered men have torn down... other centered men can build up." Now is our time to build upon what you started.

Because of you, Dr. King, I can look at my past with great pride and to my future with great hope. Thank you for being awe-

> by Nicholas Fields 8th grader Academy for Academics & Arts



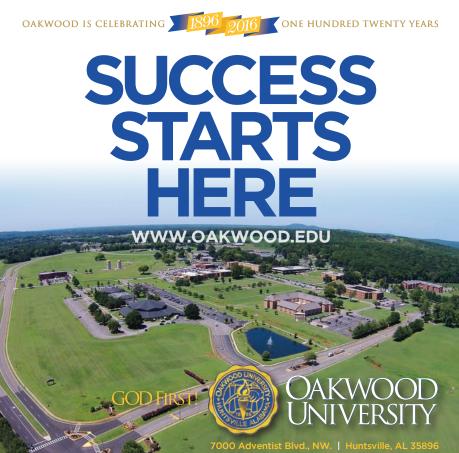
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January 19

Opening Night Stand Up Live Comedy Show Featuring "Killer Beaz"

January 21

Alabama A&M Basketball vs. Southern University Elmore Gym Women's Game - 4 p.m. Men's Game - 6 p.m.

February 4

Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Concert Hall - Von Braun Center 11 a.m.

February 9

Comedy Show featuring
J. Anthony Brown, Shuckey
Duckey, Jammin Jay
Lamont and Pierre
Hosted by Kool Bubba Ice
Von Braun Center
Concert Hall
7:30 p.m.

February 18 Union Chapel MB Church

Education Assistance Ministry and the Rosetta James Foundation Present Wil Haygood's "Showdown" The Thurgood Marshall Story Union Chapel MB Church 315 Winchester Avenue Huntsville, Ala. 11 a.m.

February 21

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

March 11

The Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration
The Jackson Center
Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
5 p.m.

Arts Huntsville Sponsors 2nd Art Tour of Homes

The Art Tour of Homes, presented by Legend Realty, returns for its second year on January 28, 2017, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Art Tour of Homes sets itself apart from traditional home tours by showcasing the displays and collections of local art enthusiasts, with the goal of inspiring people to grow their collection of art, support local artists and reenvision their spaces.

The tour will feature the homes of:

Pat Ammons and Lee Roop – sponsored by Pic A Frame

Chris Russell and Sharon Doviet – sponsored by Richard & Company Interior Design

Donna and Mike Castellano – sponsored by Sweet Pineapple Beth Griggs – sponsored by The Little Green Store & Gallery

Chuck Vaughn – sponsored by The Little Green Store & Gallery

The addresses will be posted and e-mailed to online ticket buyers the week of the tour. Persons can start the tour at any of the five homes.

Tour attendees will also be provided with a list of local resources for starting or growing their art collections.

Tickets are \$15 in advance sold online and in our office (beginning January 4th) at 700 Monroe St. SW.

For more information, call Arts Huntsville at (256) 519-2787.

FoodLine Volunteers Still Needed

Interfaith Mission Service's (IMS) FOODLine emergency food pantries cooperative desperately needs volunteers to answer phone calls and direct FOODLine clients to area food pantries.

Responsibilities and qualifications:

- Enjoy people and ready to help those in need
- Good listening skills
- Basic computer skills (familiar with use of mouse, keyboard and printer)
- Confidentiality/willingness to protect clients' personal information
- Available to volunteer 2-4 mornings or afternoons

per month

FOODLine is sponsored by IMS member congregations

- Operating since 1994
- Provides emergency food assistance to area residents.
- Staffed by volunteers who answer phone calls and direct clients to nearby pantries
- Monday thru Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon and Monday thru Thursday 1 p.m.–3 p.m.

For more information, please contact Sue Duthie (256) 881-3081 or duthie@knology.net; or Cooper Green at (256) 536-2401 or coopergreen3@gmail.com.

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On This Day - Friday, January 20 - EVA JESSYE was born in Coffeyville, Kans., and is known as the first black woman to receive international distinction as a professional choral conductor. She was notable as a female choral conductor during the Harlem Renaissance. - BlackinTime.info





Author of the "The Butler, Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court, and Sweet Thunder, The life and times of Sugar Ray Leonard."

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For additional information, contact Pamela Thompson at: (256) 509-4554



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