

# The Valley Weekly

*"To hold a people in oppression you have to convince them first that they are supposed to be oppressed."*

*- John Henrik Clarke*

**FREE**

Volume 2, No. 19

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, January 22, 2016

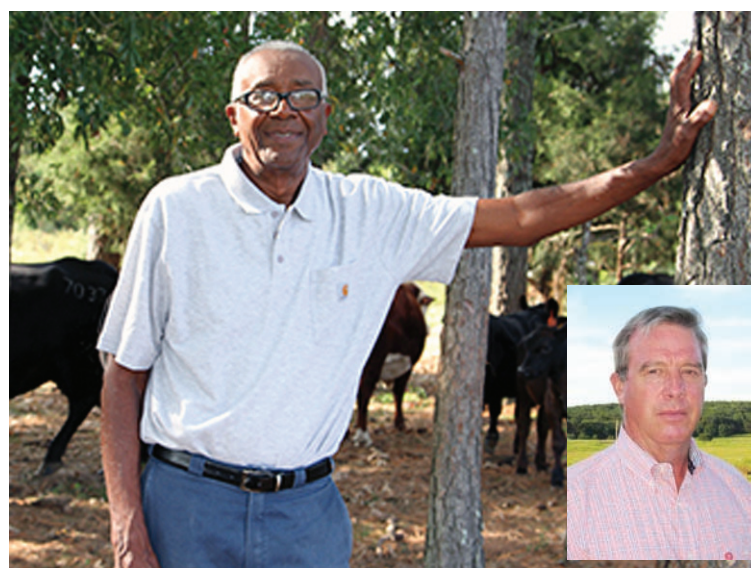
## MCCA Honors J.B. Turner, Moody

During the January 16 Annual Dinner of the Madison County Cattlemen's Association, J.B. Turner received the designation as Madison County Cattlemen's "Family of the Year." Additionally, Randy Moody was named Madison County Cattlemen's "Cattleman of the Year."

Turner was also recognized as the National United States Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service National Lloyd Wright "Small Farmer of the Year for 2015."

Turner (right) farms 152-acres in Harvest, Ala. He raises registered Angus and Hereford/Simmental cattle. In addition to growing hay for his cattle operation, he also has a high tunnel house that he uses to start his tomato production early in the season.

"J.B." raises strawberries,



greens and other vegetables, and he uses improved water methods, nutrient management, and rotational grazing. Turner truly exemplifies being a good steward of the land.

Moody (above, inset) farms 125-acres in New Market, Ala.

He raises registered Simmental and Sim Angus. He was honored for his helpfulness in improving cattle quality in North Alabama.

Moreover, Moody has cattle in North Alabama and South Georgia. He stays up to date on market requirements and produces his cattle accordingly by adjusting his breeding program.

He has also worked with a number of local farmers to improve their herds by enhancing their breeding program.

The speaker for the Madison County Cattlemen's Annual meeting was Dr. William Powell, III, the executive vice-president of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association.

For additional information, contact Thornton Stanley, Jr., at (256) 797-6850 or stanleythornton@comcast.net.

## Key Black Economic Empowerment Advocate to Visit Alabama

In a visit that could become his closest trip to the Valley area, a key figure among proponents of black economic empowerment will deliver a two-hour address Saturday, February 6, in Bessemer, Ala.

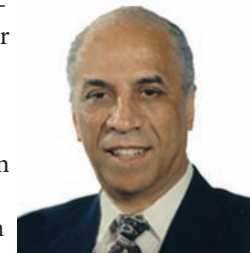
Dr. Claud Anderson will focus on continuing "The Conversation of Power and Economic Justice" at Watermark Place, located at 4500 Katie's Way.

Anderson is widely recognized as one of America's most influential intellectuals and authors. His book, "Black Labor, White Wealth: The Search For Power

And Economic Justice," is the foundation for the programs, policies, and research solutions of the Harvest Institute, a national black think tank, of which he is president. He is a regular guest on radio and television talk shows and lectures frequently.

Anderson's visit is being sponsored by Watermark Place, the Alabama State Black Chamber of Commerce, SnoBiz, Women Walking By Faith and Not By Sight and others.

For tickets, visit [pejustice.org](http://pejustice.org).



## Public Planning Meetings Scheduled

*The BIG Picture Huntsville initiative is planning public meetings on Berachah, Medical District Later This Month*

Berachah has been home to many uses over the years-- first a private school, then a Navy facility. Now it is a training complex for Huntsville's Police and Fire departments. A small public library and community gym are also on the site.

Its central location, near the intersection of Sparkman Drive and Pulaski Pike, makes the site a prime candidate for a North Huntsville "town center," similar to what is planned for the current Grissom site.

Valley residents are urged to join the BIG Picture on January 26 at 6 p.m. at the Berachah Gym (3011 Sparkman Drive NW) for a charrette, where interactive activities will be used so that residents can help city leaders create plans for the Berachah site. This event is free and open to the public.

Also coming up later in the month of January is an open house to unveil plans for the Medical District neighborhood.

The open house will be held at the Huntsville High School Freshman Academy on Wednesday, January 27, at 6 p.m. More details will be forthcoming.

## OU Church to Host Special Easter Taping

An ABC Easter Special Taping will take place at the Oakwood University Church on January 30, at 11 a.m., according to Pastor Paul Goodridge.

ABC Television, in conjunction with Breath of Life Television Ministries, will be taping an Easter Special program at the campus church, located at 5500 Adventist Boulevard,

Huntsville, Ala.

The taped program will air on all ABC stations Easter Sunday, said Goodridge. The free live taping event will feature the music of gospel artist CeCe Winans, violinist Jaime Jorge, and the internationally renowned choir the Aeolians.

The program will also feature a message by Dr. Carlton P. Byrd.



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- Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church
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- Lakeside United Methodist Church
- Landers McLarty Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram
- Lucky's Supermarket
- Mamma Annie's
- Marshall England - State Farm Agent
- Martinson & Beason, PC
- Moe's - Village of Providence
- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home
- North Alabama 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

# Huntsville Happenings

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.



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**Our Community**

A Public Forum to promote mutual understanding, dignity, respect, and cooperation among all economic, ethnic, racial, religious, and social groups in the City of Huntsville.

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**  
 Dr. Latasha McCrary, Staff Attorney at Southern Poverty Law Center and UAH alumna

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**JANUARY 28, 2016**

6 PM / CHARGER UNION THEATER

Sponsored by Huntsville Area Inclusive Community Initiative (HAICI) in conjunction with the City of Huntsville's Office of Multicultural Affairs and The Human Relations Commission



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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](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com). Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

## The Valley Weekly

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# From the Editor

Ahhh, Libby Sanders!

I write this editorial on January 15, as we mark the 108th Anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. Confined to what she called "circumscribed life" in the segregated and male-dominated milieu that characterized the early 1900s, Howard University co-ed Ethel Hedgeman dreamed of creating a support network for women with like minds to come together for mutual uplift, while coalescing their talents and strengths for the benefit of others. In 1908, her vision crystallized as Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first Negro Greek-letter sorority. Five years later in 1913, Nellie Quander ensured Alpha Kappa Alpha's perpetuity through incorporation in the District of Columbia ([www.aka1908.com](http://www.aka1908.com)).

Later today, I will participate in the "Ivy Beyond the Wall" Ceremony for one of AKA's finest, Dr. Olivia Harris Sanders. As a high school student, I knew I would go to Alabama A&M, and I knew I wanted to be an AKA. You see, my older sister, Mary, had attended A&M, and she was an AKA. When she came home, she was singing unusual songs, such as "I Want to Be an Alpha, an Alpha Kappa Alpha" and the Greek alphabets. So, my next youngest sister Vanessa and I would mock her and sing, too. We had no idea what it was all about, but we knew it was something important to Mary. At one point in the song, she would belt out, "I may die, I may die, I may die, but Lord knows I tried, to be Alpha Kappa Alpha." That was impressive to us. Mary was mentored by the late Dr. Abigail Hobson, who was dean of home economics at AAMU and an AKA. Oh, how we loved Dr. Hobson.

Next, my sister Vanessa enrolled at A&M, and she 'pledged' AKA. Well, for me, that sealed my future. As an undergraduate co-ed, I participated in the membership intake process in 1977. Dr. Olivia Sanders (Libby) was our undergraduate advisor. That meant that she was the faculty member at A&M who mentored and guided us through the process from application to initiation and beyond. I remember spending countless hours in the basement of her home on Swaim Circle. She and her husband, Columbus, welcomed us in and out of their home for meetings, get-togethers and "shop." Ah, Libby was a gentle and kind lady, who had a big heart. Her life was not lived in vain.

Regarding the Sorority, she was sweet but firm. She required that we love each other and bond in sisterly relations. She did not hold on to the tenants of the old pledge process. She believed that a young lady with the passion, and the academic and leadership credentials should be given the opportunity for membership. Her standards were high, but fair. You had to have legitimate reasons for your actions. She was loved by all. Tomorrow, we will participate in her Homegoing Service at First Missionary Baptist Church. In 2008, the Rosetta James Foundation had the great honor of honoring Libby as an esteemed Elder. Her resume is too long for me to share in this space; however, I remember participating in the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program through Gamma Mu Chapter of AKA, with Epsilon Gamma Omega as our lead. When I returned to Huntsville, I decided to work with RIF at Martin Luther King (MLK) Elementary School. Back in the '70s, it was Colonial Hills Elementary School. Through our work with RIF, we met at the home of Soror Evelyn Streeter Rich for many years to stamp and sort books for children at various schools around the city and eventually the county. During my work with RIF, Soror Rich, Soror Mary Turner and Soror Willistine Betts led the local efforts. Dr. John Humphrey was principal at MLK during a time when we were able to work with the children at MLK to enhance their reading to the degree that the children and school were honored at the state and national levels by the RIF, Inc. and MetLife. RIF is the largest nonprofit literacy organization in the United States ([www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)). When we can get together, give books, encourage the joy of reading, unlock the imaginations of hundreds of children, all the while filling a gap for over 10 million children living in poverty who don't have books to call their own--that's goodness! This is the kind of community work and ministry in which I want to be involved. We lured leaders from around the City of Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal, along with business and civic-minded individuals to read to children and to make a difference. It created "wonder" for the children and was a wonderful experience for all who participated.

Libby was born in Birmingham, attended Miles College, A&M and the University of Alabama. She worked in all levels of education, from elementary school teacher to university professor and director. A life member of AKA and charter member of Rho Chi Omega Chapter, she made a positive difference in the lives of others. She was a member of the Greater Huntsville Chapter of Links, Inc., and served and volunteered over the years with Girls Incorporated, The Senior Center, Human Relations Council, NAACP, Madison County Mental Health Association, Alabama Humanities Foundation, Private Industry Council (ADECA), Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation, and the Triana Boys and Girls Club --to name a few.

Columbus, Carlton, Monica and Patrick, please know that you had a beloved wife and mother. If there is someone out there who didn't love Libby, then they are in need of serious self-assessment! For me, she was an educator par excellence, teacher, mentor, friend and sister. I never saw her without a smile. She never gave up! She taught me a lot.

Until next week,

*Dorothy*



Dr. Olivia Harris Sanders



# Zetas Celebrate Founder's Day at UCMBC



Founded on January 16, 1920, on the campus of Howard University, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., celebrates their Founder's Day each year to honor their five founders--Arizona Cleaver Stemon, Pearl Anna Neal, Myrtle Faithful, Viola Tyler Goings and Fannie Pettie Watts.

To these women, Zeta was more than an organization. It was a movement, a belief system that reflected the desire to provide true service, to embrace scholarship and to set a standard for sisterly love, while defining the noble concept of finer womanhood. This belief has sustained and encouraged Zetas around

the world to hold fast to the ideals initiated and developed by its earliest members.

This year, the Founder's Day celebrations took place with the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., including participation in the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Martin Luther King Day Parade, morning workshop at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and a Founder's Day Luncheon at the Holiday Inn.

Since its inception, Zeta has continued its steady climb into the national spotlight with programs designed to demonstrate concern for the human condition both nationally

and internationally.

Involved in a number of 'firsts' and innovations, Zeta was the first National Pan-Hellenic Council organization to centralize its operations in a national headquarters, first to charter a chapter in Africa, first to form auxiliary groups, and the first to be constitutionally bound to a fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

The Zetas take pride in their continued participation in transforming communities through volunteer service with hundred of chapters worldwide and a membership of over 100,000.

**Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church**  
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# Valley Colleges Claim Best Value

Colleges and universities throughout the Tennessee Valley area can all make a claim for offering the “best value” in higher education within the state of Alabama.

In its recent ranking for 2015, BestValueSchools.com featured the Top 15 of the best value institutions of higher learning in Alabama.

According to site, Alabama has developed a reputation in the United States for being “religious, friendly, and full of history and Southern charm.”

Thus, the state’s postsecondary schools mirror such values, as well, notes BestValueSchools.com, through its many Christian schools, popular Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and others, among them flagships University of Alabama and Auburn University.

“Combine these traits with the warm weather, proximity to the coast, and easy-going pace that is inherent to this southern state and you’ll quickly realize why Alabama colleges can be top choices for both in-state and out-of-state college applicants,” noted the site’s researchers.

The site used determined the very best in Alabama quality and cost “by factoring in carefully chosen metrics like acceptance rate and graduation rate, along with average price” to come up with its selection of the top schools for “smart, fiscally responsible students.”

While the Valley schools did not claim the top three spots (Troy University, University of Alabama and Tuskegee University, respectively), they did make an impressive appearance throughout the Top 15 Alabama institutions.

At No. 4 was the University of



BestValueSchools.com

Alabama in Huntsville, followed by older, cross-town sister institution Alabama A&M University at No. 7. The University

of North Alabama in Florence placed at No. 11. Oakwood University, also located in Huntsville, entered the list at No. 13, while a Florence, single-program religious institution, Heritage Christian University, rounded out the list as No. 15.



**ALABAMA  
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UNIVERSITY**

*Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter*

## Founders Day Gala 2016

Saturday, March 19, 2016  
Six o'clock p.m.

The Jackson Center  
6001 Moquin Drive  
Huntsville, Alabama 35806  
\$50 | Formal Attire

*Featuring: Mrs. Cynthia Butler - McIntyre, Past National President*

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter

### "Being In Tune With Your Heart Player"

**Annual Go Red Luncheon**

12 o'clock pm

Saturday February 6, 2016

Huntsville Marriott Hotel  
5 Tranquility Base  
Huntsville, AL 35808

\$40

# Colloquium on Diversity Opens 2016 Season

It is well into 2016, and the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) has reflected on its first year of providing unique information to an impressive list of individuals who formed four cohorts in 2015.

These individuals are fast becoming DLC’s most active recruiters and are experiencing the blessings, good health and prosperity that the program’s organizers desire for all participants.

Currently, applications are being accepted for the dynamic, eight-week Cohort V Diversity Leadership Colloquium, which begins March 8 and ends April 26, 2016.

Previous participants are encouraged to recommend an individual for the diversity program. However, all interested persons

must complete an application.

There will be two Colloquium segments (i.e. spring and fall). The spring session is scheduled for March 8-April 26, 2016, and the fall session is September 6-October 25, 2016. All sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m.

The new two-colloquium schedule introduced in 2016 allows room for expanded marketing efforts, and periods of review, evaluation and updates.

Employers also are urged to recommend professionals within their companies for this worthy diversity training program. For more information, contact Diversity Leadership Colloquium, at (256) 536-9717 or visit [www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com).

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*Pastor Julius R. Scruggs, D.Min.*  
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## TVCWRT Nearing 25th

Formed in 1993, the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table is a not-for-profit community historical organization composed of people from the greater Huntsville area who share a passion for history – men and women, students and nonstudents, workforce and retirees, all levels of education and professional attainments.

As a nonpartisan resource for learning about and understanding the Civil War in its various dimensions, its core program is a series of 11 monthly meetings annually (second Thursdays, except December). Each free, public meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Elks Lodge on Franklin Street in Huntsville, and it features a professional-level presentation about some aspect of the American Civil War. Programs typically last one hour with 80 to 100 persons in attendance.

Two of interest coming up this year are on February 11, when Eddie E. Davis presents “William Hooper Council: The Greatest Negro the Race Ever Produced” and June 9, “Black Confederates – Forgotten Heroes of the South.”

Special events are held throughout the year (e.g., socials, musical heritage events, field trips, and symposiums). These usually involve registration or fees to help defray costs. For example, the 2016 symposium, “Four Bloody Years of War; What Did We Learn?” will be held at Marriott’s SpringHill Suites in Huntsville on Saturday, April 30.

The Round Table is open to new membership. Visit its website at [www.tvcwrt.org](http://www.tvcwrt.org), on Facebook, or call (256) 278-5533.

by Emil L. Posey  
VP, TVCWRT

# Roll a Powerball: Gamble on You

Gambling is an inevitable act in business. Some business owners are fortunate and inherit a successful family company, but most businesses are built by people who work hard, take risks, and have faith.

All those who purchased Powerball tickets for a shot at becoming a billionaire actually made moves similar to the ones that many entrepreneurs make daily. As the old saying goes, “it takes money to make money.”

The lottery tickets aren’t expensive, but they also aren’t free, and many people bought a few to increase their chances. Same goes for your own business and projects; it will require initial investments in order to get it off the ground. If you don’t put anything into your dreams, you won’t get anything out of it.

Although it may be a much smaller risk to spend a few dollars on a Powerball ticket, if you know your worth, you know not to sell yourself short. So if it

requires tuition, investment/seed money, voice/dance lessons, acting school, cosmetology school, training, or other preparatory, it’s worth it in the long run.



I found it interesting that so many people believe in themselves enough to buy plenty of lottery tickets for a shot at being that 1 in 292,201,338 people to win the lottery, but will not believe in themselves and their talents to do what they truly love

*“There is no gambling like politics.”*

-Benjamin Disraeli

to do. Of course, it will take time to master your craft and become successful in it, but you have a much better chance of winning a better life for yourself than you do the lottery.

State lotteries, just like businesses, are beneficial to the community at large. A business benefits society by keeping the economy afloat. Executives and employees that build businesses are rewarded in financial resources for hard work, effort, and dedication.

The lottery is a way for the state to raise funds for education. There have been plenty of states that have awarded billions of dollars to students in scholarships funded by revenue from the

state lotteries. The state invests back into the future generation through scholarships that require a certain G.P.A for the opportunity to have tuition paid at participating in-state colleges and universities. This gives students an incentive to attend and support universities within their states, which is beneficial for the states’ economies.

Owning, managing or being responsible for a business is one of the biggest dice you can roll, a lot goes into it and there’s no guarantee that you will win; however, if you work hard, take risks and, most importantly, have faith, there is a lot that you can accomplish.

by Amoi Savage

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## IRA Reminders

Individual Retirement Accounts, or IRAs, are important vehicles for you to save for retirement. If you have an IRA or plan to start one soon, there are a few key year-end rules that you should know.

### 1. Know the contribution and deduction limits.

You can contribute up to a maximum of \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you are age 50 or older) to a traditional or Roth IRA. If you file a joint return, you and your spouse can each contribute to an IRA even if only one of you has taxable compensation.

You have until April 18, 2016, to make an IRA contribution for 2015. In some cases, you may need to reduce your deduction for your traditional IRA contributions. This rule applies if you or your spouse has a retirement plan at work and your income is above a certain level.

### 2. Avoid excess contributions.

If you contribute more than the IRA limits for

2015, you are subject to a six percent tax on the excess amount. The tax applies each year that the excess amounts remain in your account. You can avoid the tax if you withdraw the excess amounts from your account by the due date of your 2015 tax return (including extensions).

### 3. Take required distributions.

If you're at least age 70½, you must take a required minimum distribution, or RMD, from your traditional IRA. You are not required to take a RMD from your Roth IRA. You normally must take your RMD by Dec. 31, 2015. That deadline is April 1, 2016, if you turned 70½ in 2015.

If you have more than one traditional IRA, you figure the RMD separately for each IRA. However, you can withdraw the total amount from one or more of them.

If you don't take your RMD on time you face a 50

percent excise tax on the RMD amount you failed to take out.

### 4. IRA distributions may affect your premium tax credit.

If you take a distribution from your IRA at the end of the year and expect to claim the PTC, you should exercise caution regarding the amount of the distribution. Taxable distributions increase your household income, which can make you ineligible for the PTC.

You will become ineligible if the increase causes your household income for the year to be above 400 percent of the Federal poverty line for your family size. In this circumstance, you must repay the entire amount of any advance payments of the premium tax credit that were made to your health insurance provider on your behalf.

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# Calendar of Events

## Thru January 24, 2016

"Blow Up: Inflatable Contemporary Art"

Sponsors: Sarah and Carl Gessler  
Huntsville Museum of Art

\$50/person

## February 12

Dancing with the President and First Lady of Alabama  
A&M University  
"Glitz and Glamour on The Hill"

Ernest Knight Center  
7p.m.  
Tickets \$25; Students, \$10  
VIP Table for 10 - \$300  
Benefits the AAMU  
Bulldog Pride Committee  
Contact: 256-652-6948

## February 14

60th Anniversary Observance  
Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
Keynote Speaker:  
Reginald E. Cathey, Award-winning Actor  
3740 Meridian Street  
Huntsville, Ala.  
3 p.m.

## February 14

CONCERT  
Fantasia, Leela James  
BJCC Concert Hall  
Birmingham, Ala.  
7 p.m.

## March 3

Black Tie Dinner and Live Auction  
2016 Gala Art Exhibition  
Huntsville Museum of Art

## March 18

Inaugural Education Banquet for the Julius R. Scruggs Child Development Center and Academy  
Guest Speaker: Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
Blue Spring Road  
Huntsville, Ala., 6 p.m.

Read Online!  
[valleyweeklyllc.com](http://valleyweeklyllc.com)



## On This Day - January 22

**Willa Brown Chapell** - Aviator, activist, educator and politician, Willa Brown gleaned strength and inspiration from the life work of Bessie Coleman. She was instrumental in establishing the Coffey School of Aeronautics and in doing so, fulfilled Bessie's long standing dream of an all black flying school.  
- BlackInTime.info



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## 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.

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
Education Assistance Ministry  
Presents

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES  
**HBCU COLLEGE FAIR** **FREE**

Saturday, February 20, 2016  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

@Union Chapel - Family Life Center  
315 Winchester Road | Huntsville, Alabama 35811

Join us and learn about the different programs these colleges have to offer.

\* DOOR PRIZES  
\* FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP @ 10:30 A.M.

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



**Festival of Spirituals IX**

FEATURING RENOWNED HBCU CHOIRS

*Lift Every Voice and Sing!*

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 21, 2016 • 3:00 P.M.  
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CHURCH

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November-March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm

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*"I've gone from reluctance to acceptance to gung-ho."*

- Grace Bumbry

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