

The Valley Weekly

*"Truth is a continuous examination, and fact
... always supersedes belief."*

- Yosef A.A. Ben-Jochannan

FREE

Volume 2, No. 22

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, February 12, 2016



AKAs to Present 52 Debutantes at 58th Ball

The Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will present its 58th Debutante Presentation and Ball on February 19th in the Von Braun Center North Hall. This year's theme is "Poised Portraits of Perfection."

On the night of the ball, 52 young women from Huntsville-Madison County will be escorted by their parents or guardians and presented to the community.

The chair for this year's ball is Ms. Carolyn Simpson and co-chairs are Ms. Dorothy Matthews, Ms. Denine Matthews,

and Dr. Annie Savage. The chapter president is Dr. Wilma J. Ruffin. The chapter vice-president is Dr. Cheryl R. Davis.

The Prospective Debutantes are Alysse Banks, Torian Blackburn, Kiara Bonham, Taylor Boyd, Taylor Brand, Danielle Bright, Alaysia Brown, Senise Cash, Briana Caudle, Tyler Cook, Mia Craig, Maitlyn Crutcher, Ayana Cunningham, Madyson Edwards, Zakiya Evans, DeAsia Ford, Ashlyn Gaines, Taylor Garner, Janay Gibson, Jordan Grant, Arionna Grayson, Kennedy Harris, Sydney Harris, Melanie

Hatch, Morgan Haywood, Faith Holmes, Katelyn Howard, Katherine Ingram, Kiamsha Jones, Rainy Le'De, Kathleen Liggins, Nia Malone, Shana Marshall, Destanee' Martin, Michaela Maxton, Candace McCoy, Caitlin McFadden, Alexis McTiller, DeAsha Powell, Caitlynn Quintela, Tasha Rhodes, Farrah Sanders, Brittanee Sanderson, Dominique Satterwhite, Kyara Simmons, Emory Smith, Jendaya Smith, Austin Spencer, Aaliyah Toney, Ashton Turner, Thema Walters, and Deanna Williams.

38th Annual UNCF Gala Announced

Save the date and purchase tickets for the 38th Annual United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Gala scheduled for Thursday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m.

The Gala will be held in the North Hall of Huntsville's Von Braun Center.

Founded by Dr. Freder-

ick Douglass Patterson, third president of Tuskegee University, UNCF is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization.

The 37-member organization provides operating funds for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), scholar-

ships and internships for students at about 900 institutions, along with faculty and administrative professional training.

For more than 70 years, UNCF has raised more than \$3.6 billion to help more than 400,000 students attend college and graduate from college.

Renovations Slated for Showers Center

Mayor Announces \$1.2 Million Renovation at Showers Center

Mayor Tommy Battle announced on February 3 a \$1.2 million renovation project at the Dr. Richard Showers Recreation Center in northwest Huntsville. Along with improvements to the locker room, restrooms and showers, new windows, painting, lighting, and pool deck, the Center is getting a new outdoor Splash Pad.

This Center is "one of the most popular centers in Huntsville and being used and well-loved means we need to stay on top of updates and improvements to the facility" according to Battle. "This project will make a big difference in the look and feel of the Showers Center." Over 230,000 visits per year are logged in at the Center, including adults, teens

and children going to swim, play basketball, volleyball, Futsal, or to participate in fitness classes, youth service and after school programs, summer camps and more.

In addition, the Center offers community space for event rentals and provides wellness programs for seniors. The Sunshine Club is a group of about 30 seniors who meets daily from 7 to 8 am for water aerobics and other fun activities.

The most anticipated addition is the Splash Pad, with a Bulldog theme, in enthusiastic support of neighboring university, Alabama A&M. According to Showers, "It will be wonderful to have this play area in North Huntsville for our residents to enjoy." Renovations are scheduled to be complete by June of this year.



Mayor Battle (c) as Councilmen Will Culver and Richard Showers listen.

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Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

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Bryant Bank - Church Street

Burritt on the Mountain

Chris' Barber Shop

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Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

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Lakeside United Methodist Church

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Progress Bank - Madison

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

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St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Love and Self-Actualization

Valentine's Day is around the corner and all the couples out there are gearing up on chocolate, flowers, jewelry, teddy bears, romantic dates, and other gifts to express love for their significant others. As with most holidays, it is a large influx for businesses that cater to activities around those holidays. So you have probably noticed, as you will every year around this time, the stores have dedicated an aisle or two solely to Valentine's Day candies and gifts. Businesses are very good at centering their products, specials, sales, and marketing schemes to match holidays and other national festivities.

For those of you with valentines, this is probably a very exciting time, and you're more than likely buying into all the targeted advertisement. For those of you without valentines, don't feel bad, this day is still for you. The purpose of Valentine's Day is to show love in any type of way whether it is: "Eros," showing love affectionately, romantically, or passionately; "Storge," the love you have for family; those with deep connections; "Phileo," the chosen love that comes with friendship; "Agape,"



unconditional love and God-like love; and self-love, which is self explanatory. Therefore,

if you don't have an "eros" type of love in your life at the moment, you can still celebrate the holiday because you might have "phileo" or "storge" love to share.

Love is a powerful feeling, and a lot of times it is what gets us up in the morning. Whether we work hard for our family, or we work hard because we love what we do, our expression of love is what drives our lives. I am all for a day dedicated to love. As we are spending this day thinking about others that we love, don't forget to celebrate self-love. If you are not already on a path that you love or a path that fulfills you, then put yourself on that list to love. As the saying goes, "when you love yourself, it's easier to love others". Figure out what you love to do that leads to your self-actualization. If you're passionate and happy with what you're doing, you will typically perform at your best. Love and happiness go hand-in-hand, so be sure to pursue the things that make you feel complete. Have a happy Valentine's Day!

by Amoi Savage

Annual ADC Meeting to Be Held at A&M

The Madison County Unit of The Alabama Democratic Conference will host its Annual Membership Breakfast Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Ernest Knight Reception Center, Alabama A&M University, 4900 Meridian Street, Normal, Ala., at 8 a.m.

The theme for this year's event is "Your Vote, Your Voice," and the Honorable Joyce London Ford, U.S. Magistrate Judge (Retired), will be the keynote speaker.

Judge Ford (right) was the first African American female magistrate judge in the nation as well as one of the youngest of any race or gender to assume that position.

Judge Ford is the First Lady of Tuskegee, Ala. She is an Honorary Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the Links, Inc., where she



has served as chairman of the National Policy Commission. Judge Ford has been featured in JET Magazine, Essence Magazine and Ebony Magazine.

Tickets and reserved tables may be purchased from Eddie C. Sherrad at (256) 508-1782 or (256) 881-9529; Mrs. Eva Smith at (256) 859-6512 or from any ADC member.

HCS Performs at Spirituals Festival

The Huntsville Spiritual Choral performed at the Annual Festival of Negro Spirituals, Baton Rouge, La., February 5-7. This event was sponsored by HERITAGE, an organization comprised of musicians dedicated to keeping the legacy of the Spiritual alive. The event attracted choral groups from all over the United States, who come each year to Baton Rouge, La., to perform authentic Negro Spirituals to a packed house of attendees.

The Huntsville Spiritual Choral is dedicated to the preservation and performance of the Negro Spiritual and has been performing for more than 15 years for various events in Huntsville, Madison County, surrounding counties, Tennessee and recently performed at the Weinberg Center of the Arts in Frederick, MD. The Choral performed Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit (soloist, Frank Jones); Seek the Lord (soloist, Dr. Kyla Pitcher); I Want Jesus To Walk With Me (soloist, Robert Davis) and This Lit'l Light of Mine. The Choral is under the direction of Brenda and William Davis. *Next Week:* More about the experience in Baton Rouge.



Bill and Brenda Davis



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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.

The Valley Weekly

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Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$200
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$100
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$50
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$6
	(4 col. in. minimum=\$24)	
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From the Editor

Ah ... Celebrating a Man!

On last Friday evening, I had the signal honor to attend the 30th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration of Reverend Wayne P. Snodgrass, pastor of Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church. After coming to Huntsville in 1975, the Snodgrass Family was one of the first families I met at First Missionary Baptist Church over on Church Street.

The community came out to show its love and appreciation to a loving man, Dr. Snodgrass. As a college student at AAMU, Wayne, as some of us affectionately call him, had a handsome smile, sweet demeanor and great sense of humor.

The theme for the evening was "Celebrating a Man Sent by God with Overwhelming Love." The attendees enjoyed music by Mr. Roland Gresham, Ms. Irma Furlow and recording artist Vickie Winans. Rev. Marticia Banks-Booker and Mr. Thornton Stanley, Jr., were mistress and master of ceremonies. Comedian Mutzie provided entertainment after dinner, followed by a presentation--"The Soul Watcher"--featuring Journalist Violet Edwards.

Presentations also were made by various civic and community associations, pastors, church members and his family, along with a video presentation. Dr. Snodgrass was smitten by the many accolades, kinds words, awards and gifts presented to him. Minister Barbara Davis and Ms. Jo Miley were chairpersons of the "Purple-Carpet Gala" event that was enjoyed by all who attended.

We love you, Wayne! Keep on preaching ... Ah, overwhelming love!

Until, next week,

Dorothy



Spelman Jazz Ensemble Feature of Fundraiser

The Huntsville Area Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (HAC-NAASC), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, presents the Spelman College Jazz Ensemble in concert Sunday, March 6, at 5 p.m. at the Marriott Space Center. The performance serves as the fundraiser for the Dr. Bessie Washington Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund. Tickets for the event are \$30.

The HAC-NAASC plans to raise \$10,000 to provide scholarships to support area students who have been accepted and plan to attend Spelman College. Scholarships are

awarded in memory of Dr. Bessie Washington Jones, an outstanding Spelman alumna who served as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Alabama A&M University.

The all-female ensemble has toured throughout the United States and has shared the stage with jazz greats such as Wynton Marsalis, Nancy Wilson, Leroy Jenkins, Valerie Capers, the Straight Ahead Jazz Quartet, the Uptown String Quartet, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Regina Carter. Known for its innovative and soulful sound, the Jazz Ensemble is a major entity of Spelman College. Spelman Col-

lege, located in the heart of Atlanta, Ga., is the oldest Historically Black College for women. Since the establishment of the Huntsville Area Chapter of the National Association of Spelman College in 1987, more than 100 women from the greater Huntsville area have attended Spelman.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 256.721.1448 or e-mail hsvnaasc@gmail.com. Donations are welcomed and may be sent to HAC-NAASC, P. O. Box 22255, Huntsville, AL 35814. Checks should be made to HAC-NAASC Scholarship.

Deltas Sponsor "Go Red" Event

Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter
 "Being in Tune with Your Heart Player" - Annual Go Red Luncheon
 February 6, 2016 - Marriott Hotel



Calendar of Events

February 12

Dancing with the President and First Lady of Alabama A&M "Glitz and Glamour on The Hill" Knight Center, 7p.m.
 Tickets \$25; Students, \$10 VIP
 Table for 10 - \$300
 Contact: 256-652-6948

February 14

60th Anniversary Observance of Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Keynote Speaker:
 Reginald E. Cathey, Award-win-

ning Actor
 3740 Meridian Street
 Huntsville, Ala., 3 p.m.

February 20

HBCU College Fair
 Union Chapel MB Church
 Family Life Center
 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

March 3

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

March 4-5

Savannah State University Southern Region Conference
 Marriott Huntsville
 Huntsville, Ala.

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.



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*With Special
 "Pioneer" Tributes to*
Mrs. Dorothy Davidson
Rev. Dr. Julius Scruggs



Saturday, March 12, 2016
 Five O'Clock in the Evening
 The Jackson Center
 Huntsville, Alabama
 Tickets: (256) 536-9717



Black History Month Primer

Thomas Elias Weatherly, Jr.

A native of Scottsboro, Ala., where he was born on November 3, 1942, Thomas Elias Weatherly, Jr., was an American poet often linked to the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New York City. His parents, Thomas E. Weatherly, Sr. and Lucy B. Golson Weatherly, were prominent educators and civic leaders in the African American community, while his grandmother, Mary E. Hunter, was the first black school principal in the county.

Throughout his life, he expressed pride in his family and he maintained connections with them, including local relatives such as James Willard Pope.

Weatherly attended Morehouse College in Atlanta at the age of 15, and Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, where he joined Omega Psi Phi. At least one account records that he was expelled from A&M because of his ties to an underground newspaper. He later studied at Hofstra University, CUNY Manhattan, and Columbia University.

He served in the U.S. Marines before moving to New York in the winter of 1966-1967. Although sometimes classed among New York's Umbra poets, a circle of African-American poets and writers founded in the early 1960s, he did not include himself among them, having arrived late on the scene. He took part in



the inaugural poetry workshops at the Poetry Project, taught by poet Joel Oppenheimer, and soon began to teach there himself. Publishing in small journals such as Gandhabba, Minetta Review, Whetstone, The World, and Exquisite Corpse, Weatherly began describing himself as a poet; his first book, *Maumau American Cantos*, appeared in 1970.

Weatherly worked at the Strand Bookstore, noted for its rare and first edition books, in New York City for decades, as well as at The Lion's Head ("The Head"), a local pub in Sheridan Square, until its closure.

He taught creative writing at St. Mark's Church, beginning in 1972 and even was a poet-in-residence at Bishop College in Dallas, Tex., in the early 1970s and a writer-in-residence at State University of New York-Buffalo. His career also includes the teaching of Afro-Hispanic art at Rutgers University-Newark and conducting poetry workshops at grade schools, universities,

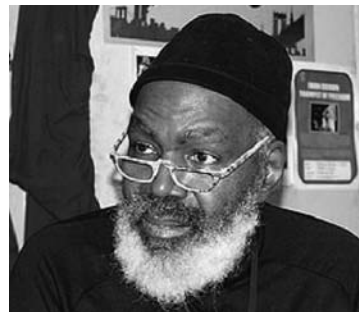
prisons and poetry projects.

Considered a master bicyclist, computer enthusiast and music lover, Weatherly split his later years between New York City and Huntsville, Ala.

In 1971, he published *Thumbprint* and, in 2006, Groundwater Press published his noted *short history of the saxophone*. Weatherly also edited and co-edited several anthologies, including *Natural Process* (1970), *New Black Voices* (1972), *The Poetry of Black America* (1973), *Uplate* (1989), *Everybody Good-bye Ain't Gone* (2006), and *The Second Set* (2008).

His work "condenses the wisdom of a life and vast readings into brilliantly compact music," the writer Andrei Codrescu once said. Howard Kissel of the New York Daily News called him "that rarest of birds, a mystic with a sense of humor ... a red-blooded American Zen master."

Weatherly was buried in a traditional Jewish ceremony in Huntsville, Ala., upon his death in July 2014.



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

I'll be damned if I want most folks out there to do unto me what they do unto themselves.

- Toni Cade Bambara

INAUGURAL EDUCATION BANQUET
FOR THE
Julius R. Scroggs
Child Development Center and Academy

SOARING TO SUCCESS THROUGH SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS
(STEM)

Friday, MARCH 18, 2016
6:00 PM
AT THE
FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST
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GUEST SPEAKER
Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICINE
AND DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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Pastor Julius R. Scroggs, D.Min.
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HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

HBCU
COLLEGE FAIR

FREE
FOR STUDENTS

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

Marriage Preservation Aim of New Course

A two-month course has been designed to assist interested Valley couples in preserving their marriages.

The course, "Why Talking Is Not Enough," will be held at Unity Church on the Mountain, located at 1328 Governor's Drive in Huntsville, Ala. The course will run from February 11-March 31 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Course promos appear to target those couples who are "frustrated" and who have "tried everything."

The series of classes has been designed to provide attendees information on how marital



change takes place, how to go about motivating partners to pursue change, why talking is not enough, how to grow spiritually through the relationship, and how to attain peace and harmony

in one's relationship.

To register, contact Debbie at (256) 337-8200 or Debbie@marriagecoaching.life. For more information, visit www.marriage-coaching.life.

Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
60th Anniversary
Celebration
"The Beauty of Diversity"

Sunday, February 14, 2016
Three O'Clock
in the Afternoon

Guest Speaker:
Award-Winning Actor and
Huntsville Native
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"The Wire"
"Oz"

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-Albert Murray

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Boys & Girls Clubs Hosts Youth of the Year Luncheon

The Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama hosted the 2016 Youth of the Year competition and luncheon recently (Feb. 3) at the James A. Lane Boys & Girls Club. The Youth of the Year program honors and celebrates inspiring teens and their incredible journeys. Stories of outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence

and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle have made Youth of the Year a premier leadership and recognition program for teens.

Since 1947, Youth of the Year has been Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Club members. Each year, one exceptional Club mem-

ber is selected to be the National Youth of the Year. The National Youth of the Year serves as both an exemplary ambassador for Boys & Girls Club youth and as a strong voice for all of the nation's young people.

To achieve the title of Youth of the Year on any level, Club members must embody the values of

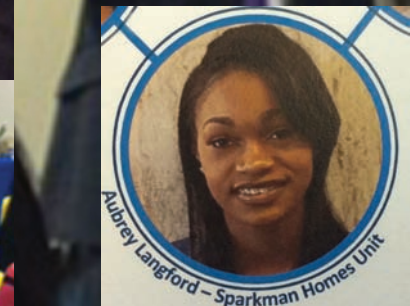
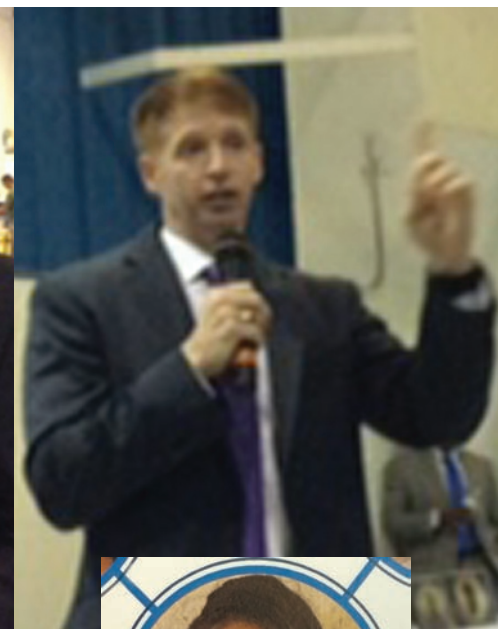
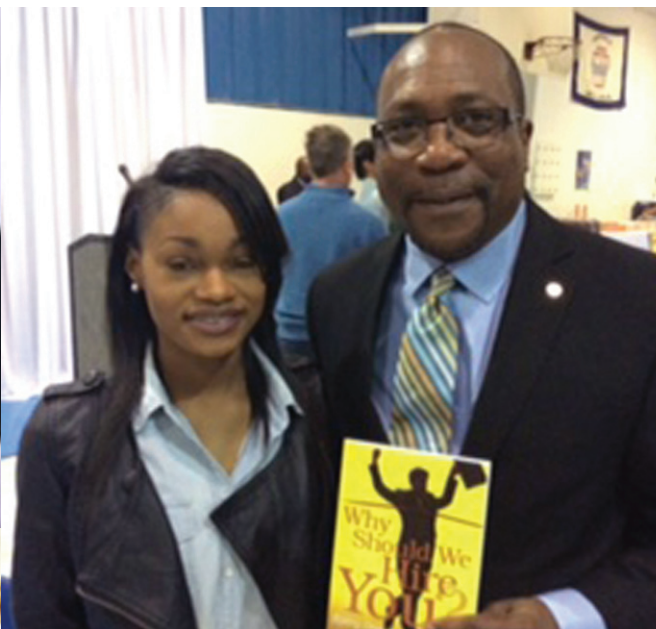
leadership and service; academic excellence; and healthy lifestyles. They should exemplify the critical impact that Boys & Girls Clubs have on the lives of young people.

At the event, finalists will be announced and have the opportunity to speak.

The winner will also be announced at the conclu-

sion of the event and have a chance to make a speech. The winner of the competition will receive a scholarship in his/her name to help defer the high cost of a college education.

This year's special luncheon guest was Brooks Harper, author and career coach (right), who spoke during the luncheon program.





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www.burrittonthemountain.com

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On This Day - Friday, February 12

Arsenio Hall - A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Arsenio Hall is a talented Actor, Comedian and was the popular host of "The Arsenio Hall Show" from 1989 -1994. - BlackInTime.info

STAY INFORMED: 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.

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