

The Valley Weekly

Volume 1, No. 23

Friday, February 13, 2015

FREE

*“Some people don’t even recognize real love when it comes without being called or sought.”
- J. California Cooper*

Introducing the Valley’s 2015 Debutantes



GROUP 1 - First Row (l-r): Nekayla Anderson, Vernecia Cole, Talissia Bell, Brianna Allen, Yolanda Garth, Sabrina Denson; Second Row (l-r): Mariah Washington, Brianna Brandon, Kendrea Dawkins, Shannon Gilstrap and Kaitlyn Boddie.



GROUP 2 - First Row (l-r): Cassandra Jordan, Mariah Gullatte, Rayven Lane, Niyana Junearick, Cara Harris; Second Row (l-r): Destinee Joiner, Alia Krir, Alexaundria Knox, Ashley Lewis, Tawanda Harris and NaTe’a Leonard.



GROUP 3 - First Row (l-r): LaKeia McGlathery, Alivia Massey, Diamond Toney-Nance, Kinetra Rogers, Aliyah McCain; Second Row (l-r): Jenetta Lymon, Imani Malone, Namibia Pearson, Khaila Ramey-Collier, Jenesia Porter and Marissa Owens.



GROUP 4 - First Row (l-r): Briann Ryce, Eugenia Young, Taylor Humphrey, Cierra Ruffin, Shakira Stewart; Second Row (l-r): Ashley Tuitt, Essence Denson, Bianca Strong, Azaria Jones, Wynter Sales and Chondra Craig.

United Way, Crisis Services Promote 2-1-1

Two key North Alabama agencies stressed the significance of human services needs during Governor Bentley's designation of February 11 as National "2-1-1 Day."

An amazing resource is available every hour of every day to families and individuals in need of essential human services: 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 system is to *human services* needs what 9-1-1 is for *emergency* needs.

In North Alabama, 2-1-1 is provided through Crisis Services of North Alabama in partnership with United Way. CSNA's 2-1-1 also answers calls from across the state after-hours, on weekends, and on holidays. Last year, the 2-1-1 Call Center in Huntsville answered more than 37,000 calls from across the state with more than 20,000 of those calls being from North Alabama alone.

The majority of callers requested help with basic needs—such as utilities, rent, food, and housing. During times of disaster, 2-1-1 has been critical in assisting both disaster victims and disaster relief providers to make connections.

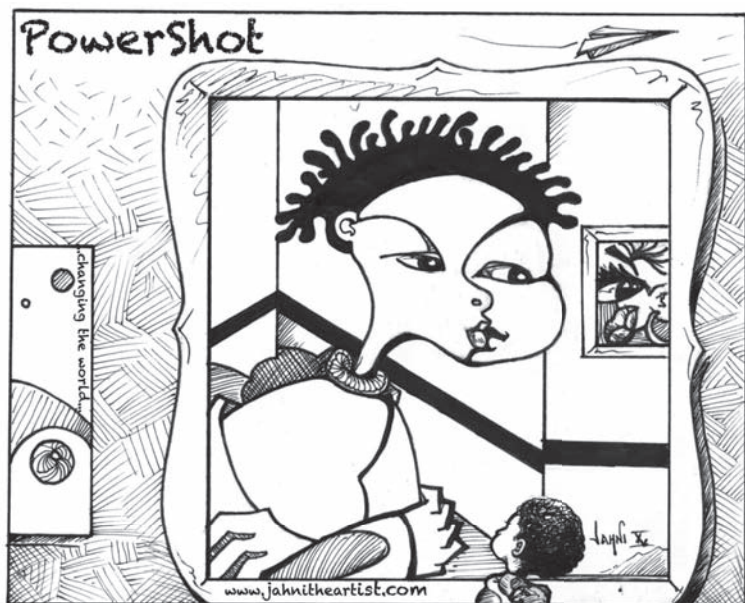
2-1-1 can be accessed through

a statewide website, as well as through call centers. The website www.211connectsalabama.org provides an essential online resource database to assist the public. For the six counties that Crisis Services 2-1-1 primarily serves (Madison, Morgan, Limestone, Jackson, Marshall and DeKalb), there were 43,750 visits from our local area to the website.

In the past, finding the right agency for a particular need was a matter of trial and error. Today, all you need to do to get to the right person is to dial 2-1-1. This easy-to-remember, toll free number can connect you with resources and information about food, shelter, counseling, employment, disaster recovery, veteran's resources and much, much more. 2-1-1 is helping to improve lives every day.

The agencies are continuing to work together to make sure that communication is spread throughout the area about this great program.

For additional information, please contact Jessica Rasche at Jessica@csna.org or 256-430-4095.



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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



“African-American History Month ... remembering those who lead and serve with compassion, grace, courage, grit and resolve.”

Ahh, Debutantes! Growing up, I didn't know what the word “debutante” meant. For me, it was a treat to get to go to the junior and senior prom, in a dress that had been made by someone in my family or by a neighbor. Within days, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., will be presenting a group of young ladies from around the Tennessee Valley as debutantes. This gala affair will be at the Von Braun Center on February 20th.

Historically, a debutante or deb (from the French *débutante*, “female beginner”) is a girl or young lady from an aristocratic or upper class family who has reached the age of maturity and, as a new adult, is introduced to society at a formal “debut” or presentation. Originally, debts were recommended by a distinguished committee or sponsored by an established member of elite society. Congratulations to each of the debutantes and to my Sorors of Alpha Kappa Alpha for introducing these young ladies to our community. I am so pleased the ‘aristocratic and upper class’ requirements are no longer relevant. If they were, few of us would be debts or AKAs.

I had the good fortune this week of having lunch with Councilman Richard Showers (top left) on Wednesday. While in CynShea's, Rep. Phil Williams and his wife, Lisa, (2nd photo, left) were having lunch. On Tuesday, the Diversity Leadership Colloquium (3rd photo, left) welcomed business owners Tharon Honeycutt, Marshall England and Lori Womack (bottom left) to talk about small business and entrepreneurship. It is always my ‘delight’ to see so many of you from week-to-week. “Many are called but few are chosen.”

Because it is African-American History Month, my “shout-outs” are to a few people, notwithstanding elected officials, (some have passed on) and many who are still marching onward: Dr. William Hooper Councill, Miss Mozelle Davis, Mr. Charles L. Ray, Jr., Dr. James I. Dawson, Mr. & Mrs. James A. Jones, Dr. Elnora Clay Lanier, Dr. R.D. Morrison, along with Dr. & Mrs. Henry L. Bradford, Jr., Rev. Joseph Lowery, Dr. Sonny Hereford, Dr. John Cashin, Mr. & Mrs. Thornton Stanley, Dr. John T. Gibson, Pastor Julius R. Scruggs, Mrs. Rosetta James, Rev. Earla Lockhart, Dr. John Vickers, Rev. O. Wendell Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Hundley Batts, Dr. Leroy Cole, Dr. Mitchell Walker, Dr. Olivia Sanders, Rev. McKinley Jones, Mr. Jerry Mitchell, Rev. Wayne Snodgrass, Dr. Mervyn Warren, Dr. Homer McCall, Mr. Albert Morris, Dr. Mattie Thomas, Dr. Oscar Montgomery, Dr. Marvin Carroll, Dr. John Herndon, Mr. Eugene Dickerson and everyone un-named who lead and serve with compassion, grace, courage, grit and resolve. Founders, entrepreneurs, bridge builders, navigators, innovators and motivators. Enough said.

Until next week,

Dorothy

Local Sorority Announces New Leadership

The Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (EGO-AKA), began 2015 with a new leader. Dr. Wilma J. Ruffin, a 43-year member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and 14 of them actively in Epsilon Gamma Omega, was installed as the president in December 2014.

Ruffin has served in several leadership positions, such as graduate advisor for the Gamma Mu Chapter at Alabama A&M University, undergraduate activities liaison, chairman of the Undergraduate Round-up (a conference for undergraduate members), membership chairman and recipient of chapter Soror of the Year honors in 2010. Ruffin also chaired the 82nd South Eastern Regional Conference in Huntsville, Ala., in March 2014, when some 3,000 members from Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi attended the conference.

Professionally, Dr. Ruffin



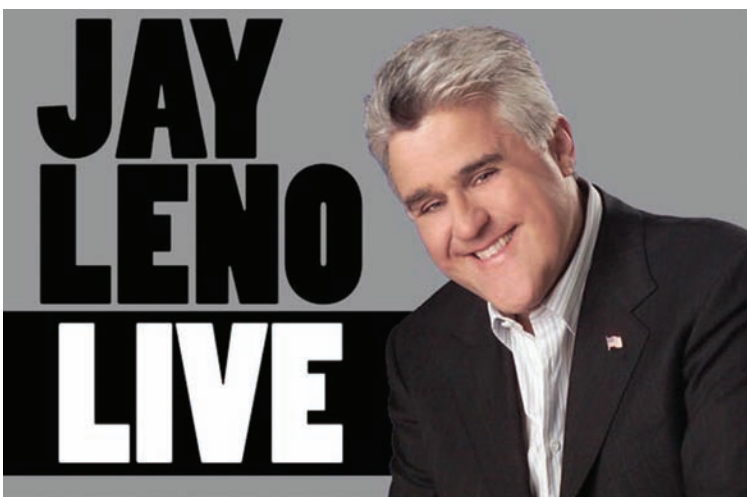
received her B.S. degree in home economics education from Alabama A&M University, an M.S. degree in human development and family studies from The University of Alabama and a Ph. D. in family social science from The University of Minnesota. Ruffin's career of almost 39 years encompassed working with Alabama children, youth and families through Cooperative Extension, which afforded her leadership time with the Tuskegee Cooperative Extension Program and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service and System. Her work with families became a labor of love, and she made great contributions with the 4-H Youth Development Program, Grand Parents Raising Grandchildren programs, and to the organization of the Family Life Center at L.R. Patton Apartments, a partnership between the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Huntsville Housing Authority. While working

with Cooperative Extension, Ruffin served in numerous capacities, touching the lives of many young people who are productive contributing members of today's society.

Dr. Ruffin is a member of Center Grove United Methodist Church, where she is a leader in her church. She is the president of the Burns Northside United Methodist Women's Group, chair of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, a Worship Liturgist, a Communion Steward and a volunteer with the church's adopted school, James I. Dawson Elementary.

As Dr. Ruffin prepares to serve as the president of EGO-AKA, she is reminded about the commitment of Service to all Mankind through the Sorority's new program theme, "Launching New Dimensions of Service." Ruffin hails from Lisman, Ala., in Choctaw County. She has been married to Paul Bracy, Jr., for 22 years.

by Erica Fox



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**WELL WATER:
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The Psychological Effects of Racism on African-American Children

DANNY E. BLANCHARD

**Well Water: Not My
Real Name**
The Psychological Effects of Racism on African-American Children. The Need to Understand Change
Danny E. Blanchard

Racial identity, or the significance and meaning that individuals attribute to race, is recognized as a key factor in how African Americans cope with racism experiences. Unfortunately, however, the few studies that have examined African Americans' responses to racist events have failed to account for differences across situations that African Americans experience, making it difficult to ascertain whether differences in coping are due to person variables, the situation, or both. In my book, I adopted a stress and coping approach to examine the relations among racial identity, racism-related stress appraisal, and coping with lifetime racism experiences.

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AAMU, 1890 Land-Grants to Observe 125th Anniversary

In 2015, 1890 institutions of higher learning will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1890 that established Black Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. The 1890 land-grant universities are a major educational resource for the nation, and continue to be a key source of African-American leaders who render valuable service to their communities, the nation, and the world.

Vermont Senator Justin Smith Morrill introduced a revised bill in 1861 that would make it possible for each state to receive federal funds to establish a state college or university. These institutions would teach agriculture, military tactics, mechanical arts, home economics, and other traditional studies to working class citizens. With a country enthralled in Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill into law on July 2, 1862, and the rest is history.

The name "land-grant" was coined because the institutions were established with funds from the sale of land granted to each state by the federal government; but there was one major problem.

When the 1862 Morrill legislation was enacted, slavery still existed in the United States and it was considered a criminal offense to educate Blacks in the South. Yet Morrill was determined to see that the doors of educational opportunities would open wide for both Black and White citizens.

During the years following the signing of the Morrill Act of 1862, the federal government was unable to secure cooperation from Southern and Border States. Therefore, Morrill presented another bill to Congress, which was passed in support of black educational institutions, the Morrill Act of 1890 signed on August 30, 1890. Ironically, in order for states to receive 1890 funding, race or color could not be a factor in regard to admission or the state had to designate a separate land-grant college for African Americans. Thus, the foundation was laid for the creation of many Historically Black Colleges and Universities given the social and political climate of the 1890s.

Today, there are 19 Black Land-Grant Colleges and Universities in the United States. Eighteen of those universities were the direct result of the Second Morrill Act, and Tuskegee University, which is a private institution that also benefits from federal funds. Under the theme "Providing Access and Enhancing Opportunities," these 1890

land-grant institutions have begun a year-long celebration of the Morrill Act of 1890; marking the 125th anniversary of its passage and their existence.

Throughout 2015, the public is invited to join AAMU faculty, students, and staff in the following activities:

- **Open Convocation:** March 17 – 12:30-1:45 p.m., T. M. Elmore Gymnasium, AAMU Campus
- **1890 Day with 1890 Wellness Walk-Run:** April 23 – 12:00-4:00 p.m. The national goal is for each university to strive for 1890 participants who will register for \$1.89 (students), \$18.90, \$189.00, \$1,890.00, or more. Registration fees will go to establish the Justin Smith Morrill student scholarship fund. Music and refreshments will be provided on the Quad.
- **Capitol Hill Activities:** July 15-16. A two-day event featuring 1890 exhibits, receptions, visits with senators and representatives, congressional testimonials on agriculture with a proclamation honoring the 1890s, and a convocation in the Library of Congress.

For more information, please visit www.aamu.edu or call K. Renée Johnson at 256-372-5783. For national 1890 information, please visit <http://www.1890universities.org/>.



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Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Countless publications and media outlets across the length and breadth of the globe frequently mention *our* Huntsville for being either “#1” or “top” in an extensive list of categories.

These kudos to Huntsville range from best place to raise a family to being the new Federal City of the South. Huntsville’s rankings from the media would not be possible if we did not work collectively as a community to ensure that Huntsville is truly an inclusive community with one vision.

Fortunately, Huntsville’s higher education level of attainment out ranks most as related to community size, population and employment sectors. In order to keep the economic development announcements coming, so that we can continue to enhance our community, we must support our local post-secondary institutions. While so many of our local companies hire local college graduates, it is imperative that internship opportunities, agreements with colleges and businesses be expanded to sustain future workforce needs for our community.



This year, Huntsville’s own Oakwood University will host the 37th Annual UNCF Gala on Thursday, April 2, 2015, at the Von Braun Center’s North Hall. The North Alabama UNCF Gala raises money to help deserving students pay the rising cost of college education at Oakwood and other UNCF member schools across the United States. Specifically, students from Oakwood University

who benefit from this fundraiser often start their careers in Huntsville post-graduation because of our community’s inclusive spirit. Supporting Oakwood’s UNCF campaign adds to our career ready workforce and keeps Huntsville ranked highly as an educated community.

Tickets for the 37th Annual UNCF Gala are now on sale at www.ougiving.com. If you are unable to attend this very worthy event, but want to make a contribution, please do so. Oakwood University needs and deserves the support of this community. As Lou Rawls told us all for many years, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.”

DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium



To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

Tuition Payable Upon Acceptance

Accepting Applications for Cohort 2!

Vision:

The Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) advances leadership excellence by advocating and progressing the affirmation and inclusion of diversity in strategic markets and communities of interest for competitive intelligence.

Mission:

DLC’s mission is to become a premier provider of diversity training for inspiring and experienced leaders throughout the lifecycle.

Values:

Our values are: Collaboration for Excellence; Appreciation with Insight; Respect for Understanding; and Empathy for all ... C.A.R.E.

DLC offers inspiring and experienced leaders with opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices regarding obtaining excellence through diversity.

DLC is designed for individuals interested in gaining access to networks, mentors, and sponsors that have traditionally not been available to diverse members of the broader community. Enrollees will be exposed to topics such as: Understanding and Embracing Diversity, Organizational Culture and Structural Reform, Racial and Gender Intelligence, Social Justice and Equality, Networking and Mentoring, Politics, Heroes and Holidays, Critical Thinking and Self-Affirmation and Living the CARE Values.

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.

Training Schedule

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

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(March 7, 2015)
Summer
(June 7, 2015)
Fall

2015 Schedule

April 7 - May 26 - Deadline to register

July 7 - August 25 - Deadline to register

Oct 6 - Nov 24 - Deadline to register (Sep

DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium APPLICATION FORM

Requirements:

Application Form - 3 References - Resume - Photo and Tuition (Both Required upon Acceptance)

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Please mail this Application Form, 3 Letters of Reference, and Resume to: 415A Church Street-Ste. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com; or e-mail info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com. Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.



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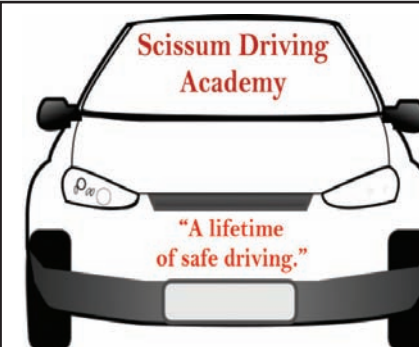
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Black History Month Stirs Memories of Teachers Who Left Lasting Impact

Georgia McCloud, Georgia Mae True, Barbara Jean Anthony, Eva Bell, Irene Thomas, Joe Cawthorn, Aaron Smith, Frances Harris, William Davis, Delois Harris, and Charles, Lee. Teachers—yes, teachers—who participated in the life, history and culture of countless African American children at a school named Councill Training School.

For the first six years of my public education, these were the people who populated my village long before it became popular terminology. This was a segregated school and, as a child looking back, yes, we were separate, but I will argue no one could say we were not equal when it came to the dedication, skills and achievements of these teachers. Many were probably first-generation college graduates. And, most of the teachers we also saw outside

of school, because we worshipped at the same church or lived in the same neighborhood.

Georgia McCloud, 1st grade teacher taught me my numbers and alphabet. She also would make me sit in the cafeteria by myself and finish the carton of milk at lunch, before I could return to class. That's why I liked to bring my lunch from home, so I did not have to get the milk that came with the cafeteria lunch. I still don't like milk.

Barbara Jean Anthony, 2nd grade teacher, gave me my thirst for reading. She introduced her students to The Scholastic Book Series. You ordered books from a company. Most of the books did not cost more than a dollar. A dollar was lunch money you did not spend if you wanted that book bad enough. Sometimes, I would try to read the book in one

night. Dr. Anthony, I got one in the mail today by Desmond Tutu and A. G. Ford entitled "Desmond and the Very Mean Word."

Irene Smith, 3rd grade teacher, made us cut out eating utensils and plates, and we learned which knife and fork and spoon to use and how they should be placed on the table. Can you believe we got graded on it?

Eva Bell, 4th grade teacher, tried to teach us when to say, "May I" as opposed to "Can I," while William (Bill) Davis, 5th grade teacher, taught music. That's why I know the treble clef lines are Every Good Boy Does Fine and the spaces are FACE. I thought about what instrument I played in class and realized that each child purchased a wooden recorder. Some of us played a

song for one of the Annual May Day Celebrations, while other students wrapped the May Pole.

Aaron Smith, 5th grade teacher, made history fascinating. Television was not going to cover the past like he did to include the accomplishments of African Americans.

Frances Harris, 6th grade teacher, helped me with math. I think I did above average.

Delois Harris, 6th grade

teacher, was our girl's "health" instructor. Without her, many of us would still be listening to myths today. Yes, in the '60s public school system, there was sex education.

After so many years, remembering such specific details of each of these elders has been positive memories for any month. Thank you to all teachers!

by Linda Burruss

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Calendar at a Glance

FEBRUARY

14
Members Only Annual Valentine's Ball
NSSF Facility, 6001 Pulaski Pike | 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Music by DraKar and An Experience
\$35 advance | \$40 door
Contact: Pat Moore at pdmoore1@bellsouth.net or a Members Only Club member

21
HBCU College Fair
Union Chapel MBC Family Life Center, 315 Winchester Road
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Financial Aid Workshop at 10:30 a.m.

MARCH

8
Spelman Jazz Ensemble Concert
Sponsored by the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College
Marriott Hotel
5 p.m.

12
North Alabama NSBE Professionals Scholarship Program
Apply today for scholarships on the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) chapter website

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MINISTRIES

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 Youth Ministry



The Fellowship of Faith Church

3703 Memorial Parkway, NW
 Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 562-2222
www.tfofc.org

WORSHIP TIMES:

- **Huntsville Campus** -
 Sunday mornings @ 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
 - **Madison Campus** -
 132 Maple Street
 Sunday @ 8 a.m.

**Child Development Center
 beginning at Five (5) Weeks**

The Fellowship of Faith Church is simply a church full of men and women who have been saved through the miraculous, finished work of Christ on Calvary. And who knows? Perhaps you will find that the Fellowship of Faith Church is God's place for you!

*Jesus is Exalted and
 The Word is Explained!*