

The Valley Weekly

"Look for me in the whirlwind or the storm."

- Marcus Garvey

FREE

Volume 1, No. 33

Friday, April 24, 2015

Eta Phi Beta Holds 17th Annual Junior Cotillion

VW Associate Editor to Be Honored for Service



The Associate Editor of the widely sought-after Valley Weekly newspaper will be honored by historic Alabama A&M University during its annual Founder's Day Observance activities.

Georgia S. Valrie, Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter immediate past chapter president and Director Emeritus, Alumni Affairs, will be inducted into the Alabama A&M University Alumni Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony banquet and dance will be held on Thursday, April 30, at 7 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Valrie will be honored for the many outstanding contributions she has made in the community and the University.



Pictured (Back row, l-r) Junior Cotillion Participants: Arianna Fletcher, Kenard Jones, Jaylon Atkinson, Xavier Ingram, Traylynn Todd and Karley Boddie; (Front row, l-r) Sorority members: Alicia Carroll, Mable Harris, Lelia Reid-Davis, Ada Crenshaw, Linda Burruss, Lois Thompson, Brenda Bennett (President), Phyllis Caudle, Brenda Beale, Yolanda Beth Harris (Chairperson), LeToya Fletcher and Gladys Bracy.

The members of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Omega Chapter, held their 17th Annual Junior Cotillion recently.

The Cotillion featured a cast of six wonderful "Stars." On a beautiful spring afternoon in

the East Hall of the Von Braun Center, those in attendance were appreciatively entertained.

Some cast members played the role of Poet Maya Angelou by performing her renowned poems entitled "I Know Why the Caged

Bird Sings" and "Phenomenal Woman."

A trombone solo was performed to the tune of a famous hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" with music by John B. Dykes. Another performed a poem entitled "Rise

and Shine" featuring a Nike commercial and a very informative and entertaining demonstration of "Tai Kwon Do Experience" was performed.

by Linda Burruss

HudsonAlpha Announces DNA Day Activities

On DNA Day 2015, HudsonAlpha invites the public for a special Twitter #GeneChat on Friday, April 24, 2015, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

HudsonAlpha's Educational Outreach team will be taking over the @HudsonAlpha Twitter account to answer questions on the following topics: genomics and healthcare, careers in genet-

ics, genomics and biotechnology, agriscience, the microbiome ... and much more!

Interested individuals can tune in during their lunch break. Neil Lamb, vice president for educational outreach at HudsonAlpha, will be answering questions

between 12 noon and 1 p.m.

#GeneChat is open to every-

one. Participation is encouraged from students, educators and scientists, along with the general public. To get involved, log onto Twitter on April 24

between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Follow @HudsonAlpha and/or search for #GeneChat to see what participants are saying. Participants can add their own questions and comments using the hashtags #GeneChat and #DNADay!

For more information, please contact edoutreach@hudsonalpha.org.

Local Comedian Part of Guinness Stand-Up Effort

Beginning at noon on April 12, Nashville StandUp attempted to break the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for “LONGEST STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW – MULTIPLE COMEDIANS” at The East Room in Nashville, Tenn.

This non-stop stand-up comedy marathon was an effort to put Nashville into the record books of comedy history. A GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ Adjudicator was on site to certify it as an official new world record on April 15, 2015, at 8:04 p.m. The comedians not only broke the previous 3.3-day/80-hour record, but they more than doubled the time of the record. The non-stop schedule featured showcases, feature-length and headliner-length sets and surprise drop-ins from comedians of various levels of fame and fortune.

One of the comedians on the lineup was local comedian Da



Spokesman (Gregory Stargell). Stargell stated, “It was an awesome experience. The crowd was great, and the comedians were a joy to work with. This experience not only made history but with this experience I believe everyone that participated is much better off as a comedian. This effort

tested our abilities and helped us to push pass limits and barriers that we thought were impossible. I would like to thank the people who organized the event--Chad Riden, D.J. Buckley, Mary Jay Berger, and the Nashville Stand-up group--for the opportunity to be one of the performers on the historic lineup.”

Other comedians on the lineup included diverse comedians from the Nashville Standup Community, The Huntsville Standup Community, The Atlanta Standup Community, just to name a few.

Also, headliners like Hanibal Bures, Killer Beaz, and Eric Andre made a performance on this historic show. Nashville StandUp is a 509(a)(2) Public Charity with a mission to cultivate and promote middle Tennessee’s growing standup comedy scene by supporting the Nashville-based comedians that help make the Music City a great place to see live comedy.

DCI North Alabama to Return to Huntsville

Returning for its third year at Alabama A&M University’s Louis Crews Stadium, the Drum Corps International Tour will march through Huntsville on July 23, for DCI North Alabama. Set on a Thursday in 2015, this year’s event will feature a lineup of World Class corps competing at A&M’s Louis Crews Stadium.

Performance Start Time is 7 p.m. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Day of Show Box Office at Stadium opens at 2 p.m. Ticket price is \$25-\$35. Tickets increase \$5 in all sections on the day of the show.

Groups of 20 or more receive a \$5 discount in all sections. Groups of 20-49 receive 2 comp tickets.

Please call the DCI Box Office at (317) 275-1212 to purchase group tickets.

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The Valley Weekly

Ad Rates Single Issue

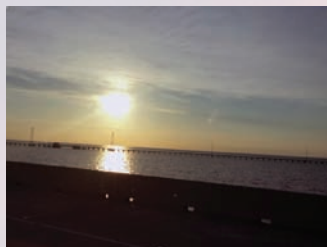
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From the Editor



I-10 West headed into New Orleans



Lake Pontchartrain



Port of New Orleans on The Mississippi River

This past week we had the opportunity to work in New Orleans, our first trip there since Katrina. Of course, it will never be the same, just as Harvest, Ala., is not the same since the April 27, 2011, tornado. This is a season of spring weather patterns, and we should make sure our various weather alerts are charged and workable, if needed. We actually stood in our kitchen window and watched entire roofs and sections of homes in our community fly through the air. We had a storm shelter and did not go out to get in it. When we look back at that day, it was just not our appointed day. Lives and homes were destroyed as we stood in the midst of waves of storms that lasted several hours prior to attacking our neighborhood, then disappearing in just a few minutes. When it passed, we went to the front door and could not believe it. *Wow*. Debris was everywhere, entire homes and buildings were gone, with no sign of where the people were. It was quiet, and the air was still. Giant trees in our yard were uprooted and sat on top of the earth like 'toothpicks.' April 27th brought people together from everywhere. Neighbors shared with each other what they had, including generators, water, clothes, food, gasoline, power, charcoal grills- you name it.

The Publix at Harvest Square allowed us to charge our mobile devices. Our next door neighbors, along with neighbors from surrounding communities, brought power saws, trash bags, food and other day-to-day necessities. The Harvest branch of Redstone Federal Credit Union opened its doors to law enforcement and emergency officials and served as sort of a disaster relief center. We took bottled water from our pantry to the site to share with emergency relief officials and people who came for assistance. Whatever we had, we wanted to help. A few days later, we found ourselves at the Harvest-Monrovia Community Center, signing up for help with our yard. County Commissioner Dale Strong provided leadership for a devastated community. Days passed and people came from local churches and universities with power saws, trash bags, water. They worked for hours until the biggest part of the job was conquered. Contractors from as far away as Ohio were making bids on removing debris, tree limbs and grinding stumps. It was overwhelming because even when we were able to generate power, we could not contact our family. We did not have land or cellular telephone service for days.

We were blessed. Other than broken window seals, a tree that landed on our garage door, dozens of uprooted trees and severe outside damage, the inside of our home was intact. We even had neighbors who stayed with us a couple of days and nights until they could return home. We went from home to home around dinner time, basically grilling what we had to share. We were several days without power before Mike and Janet Wood discovered that we did not have a generator and loaned us their extra one. Rest in Peace, Mike, you were always compassionate. Mike passed away after the storm. Mike and Janet, Russ and PJ Pry, Tommy Hooper, Rev. and Mrs. Nelson were true neighbors. Tommy Hooper was involved in a fatal accident several months after the storm. Rest in Peace, Tommy. We shared what food we had, yard and power tools; helped each other; looked out for each other's homes; and demonstrated the true meaning of what it means to be a 'neighbor.' Compassion was abundant! Between our neighbors and State Farm Insurance, we discovered quickly that we had everything we needed, without many of the amenities we take for granted each day.

Bill had had a fourth knee surgery and could barely watch the people as they helped to clean our yard. He was always a very physical guy who could move just about anything, fix just about anything, and would get it done. It was painful to watch him watch. Some of his former families from Challenger Elementary School were part of the cleaning teams that came to help. Small world. I even had a colleague, Lana Hargrove, from Redstone Arsenal who lived in Southern Tennessee who came by the house to bring us food. Dr. Parker Griffith and Maggie Willis came by with food and walked through the Anderson Hills community to check on families, giving out food. They could not contact us, but came because they knew the tornado had hit our neighborhood. Our State Farm Agent came by but, because our doorbell was not working, we missed him. We opened the door and Marshall England's business card was stuck in the door with a note. "Like a Good Neighbor" was more than a slogan or jargon to us. It was for real. We took the generator to my office in town, generated power and completed some work that I needed. Then I left for an overnight business trip to North Carolina that I could not cancel. Amazingly, I returned the next day to people who were still in the yard helping to clear the debris. It was unbelievable.

This is a long path to say how thankful we are for neighbors. Although Harvest will never be the same when we look at the landscape, neighbors will always be close to our hearts. It was good to be able to go over to Dillard University in NOLA, see the city bustling with ordinary and tourist traffic. The riverfront was very active. The memory of the April 27th tornado will always be vivid in our minds and so will the compassion of neighbors. With that, we are still here and very thankful ... Until next week,

Dorothy

The Ivy Center of Huntsville Now Accepting Proposals

The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Incorporated is now accepting proposals from non-profit organizations for 2015 funding. Proposal amounts should not exceed \$2,000.

Additionally, the project/program submitted must be related to education, health, science, technology, cultural awareness, and/or economics for disadvantaged youth and their families. The RFP is now available for

download at www.Ivycenterfoundationhsv.org.

The deadline for submission is May 15, 2015 and should be submitted to the Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Incorporated,

P.O. Box 17587, Huntsville, AL 35810.

Entrants will receive a letter notifying them whether or not their proposal(s) were approved. If approved, funds will be distributed during our 9th Annual

White Linen Brunch.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sharon H. Butler at jnjsersdshb@gmail.com.

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Calendar at a Glance

Thru April 24

3rd Interdenominational Spring Revival
Sponsors: Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.
St. Bartley P.B. Church
3020 Belafonte Avenue
7 p.m.

April 24-19

Spring Plant Sale
(Open to the Public)
Grisham Pavilion
Huntsville Botanical Garden

April 24

AAMU Annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala
Von Braun Center North Hall
6 p.m. (256) 372-8344

April 25

Orphan Car Show
FREE
(Pre-1985 Orphan makes including Plymouth, Studebaker, Oldsmobile, Packard and DeSoto)
Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Social Media Conference
"The Cost of 24/7 Connectivity"
University of Alabama in Huntsville
Charger Union Theater
12 noon

ELVIS

Tribute Artists Concert for the Vets
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Mark C. Smith Concert Hall-VBC
7 p.m.

April 25-May 3

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April 26

Chicago in Concert
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Von Braun Center Arena
8 p.m.

Comedian Bill Burr

Admission Charged
Von Braun Center Concert Hall
8 p.m.

April 30

"Derby, Hats & Hospitality: Southern Entertaining with Style"

Nichols Arbor

Huntsville Botanical Garden
Cynthia Potts, (256) 830-4447, ext. 242
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

May 2

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Free/Registration required
Huntsville Botanical Garden
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Fraternity Takes Part in March of Dimes



Every day, thousands of babies are born too soon or very sick. Like many concerned individuals throughout the state, the local members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., want to do something about this.

They walked in March for Babies and are continuing to raise awareness of premature birth as well as to raise funds for research

to find the answers and develop preventions. Together, support can be garnered to give more babies a healthy start.

You are invited to help, too. Please support the March of Dimes with a secure online donation. Just click the "donate now" button at the non-profit's website.

For those who would like to learn more about March for

Babies, visit the Web site at www.marchforbabies.org.

Would you like to see what March for Babies is and why Alphas are walking? The March of Dimes mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

Two-Day Small Business Workshop

The Small Farms Research Center (AAMU) in collaboration with Alabama Cooperative Extension will host its Small Business Workshop on May 7-8, 2015 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The target audience extends to agribusinesses, farmers, producers, landowners, inspiring agricultural entrepreneurs, and anyone interested in starting a small business.

Please pre-register at <http://www.aamu.edu/sfrc> under "Quick Glance" for Registration-Small Business Workshop.

Schedule of Workshop:

Session 1: "Starting a Business from Scratch"
Session 2: "Business Economics and Marketing"
Session 3: "Short and Long Term Business Planning/Affordable Care Act Business Requirements"
Session 4: "Bookkeeping and Business Taxes"

This Small Business workshop will be held at the James I. Dawson Building on the campus of Alabama A&M University, 4900 Meridian Street, Normal, AL 35762.

To reserve a spot, there is \$10 fee to attend the workshop.



This cost does include handouts/training material, lite refreshment and lunch. Also, there are limited scholarships available, please inquire.

For more information, call (256) 372-4970 or 1(866) 372-4970.

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DLC

Tennessee Valley

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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

2015 Schedule

Summer July 7 – August 25 - Deadline to register (June 7, 2015)
Fall Oct 6 – Nov 24 - Deadline to register (September 6, 2015)

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- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

Tuition Payable Upon Acceptance

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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Title _____

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College(s) Attended _____

Highest Degree _____ Career Field _____

References

Name _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____ Association _____
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Name _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

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.