

The Valley Weekly

"When you find man and his origin, you will find God."

- Rev. M.J. "Father" Divine

FREE

Volume 1, No. 40

Friday, June 12, 2015

Chamber Announces New CRP Director

The Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County has announced that Erin Koshut will serve as the new director of Cummings Research Park (CRP) in Huntsville, Ala.



state regional technology and economic development initiative, and that organization's annual national technology summits.

Koshut will work within

Owing to her familiarity with CRP and the Huntsville/Madison County area, the Chamber views Koshut as "a tremendous asset" in her new post, which is effective July 6.

Since 2013, Koshut has served as vice president for client services and special events with Crisp Communications in Huntsville. Prior to that, she spent 14 years with Akins Crisp Public Strategies—working in Tennessee, Washington, D.C., and Huntsville—providing strategic communications, media relations, and government affairs support to federal, state and local government clients, as well as several major companies in Huntsville and throughout Tennessee.

Koshut also led the award-winning Tennessee Valley Corridor, a five-

the Chamber's economic development program, reporting to the vice president of economic development. As the CRP director, she will handle marketing and provide management support for Cummings Research Park properties and tenants, and work with other economic development representatives, as well as community and government leaders.

Moreover, Koshut will work closely with the Chamber economic development staff, the Mayor and staff of the City of Huntsville, the Cummings Research Park Board, prospective new and existing business representatives, other government officials, property owners, developers and realtors, and other key community representatives.



HPAC 2015 Honorees: First Row: Mrs. Sadie Pleasure, Mrs. Edna Fails, Dr. Kendra Chambers, Dr. Ruth Jones, Mrs. Carolyn H. Parker. Second Row: Mr. Neal Gladden, Mr. William Fails, Mr. Abner Merriweather, Dr. Bobby Sledge, Hon. Paul Sanders, Damson Automotive Representative, Mr. Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

HPAC Holds Annual Leadership Awards Banquet

The Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., held its 14th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet on Saturday, June 6, at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the historic Alabama A&M University campus.

Among the 2015 hon-

orees were William and Edna Fails of the Kimberly Fails Jones Memorial Foundation, Inc. (Civic/Community Award); Deke Damson, Damson Automotive Group (Corporate Award); Dr. Kemba Chambers, Calhoun Community College (Educational Award); Dr. Ruth D. Jones and Abner Merriweather

(Government and Industry Award); Hon. Paul Sanford (Government Relations Award); Dr. Bobby Sledge (Religious Award); and Neal Gladden (Xcel Printing Services).

Special alumni honors were presented to Sadie L. Pleasure, Gary T. Whitley and Carolyn H. Parker. Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff served

as emcee, while music was provided by Dr. Reginald Jackson.

Scholarships were presented to Miss Chondra Craig and Miss Taylor Hampton. Ms. Carla Clift serves as president of the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter. Mrs. Georgia S. Valrie was program chairperson.

Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.



Crepes, Dale's BBQ, Iceworks, I Love Bacon, Maggie Moo's, Piper & Leaf, Rollin' Lobstah, Shea's Express, Tim's Cajun Kitchen and What's Popp'N. Bring your favorite outdoor chair and your leashed pet, too, to enjoy sounds of the summer.

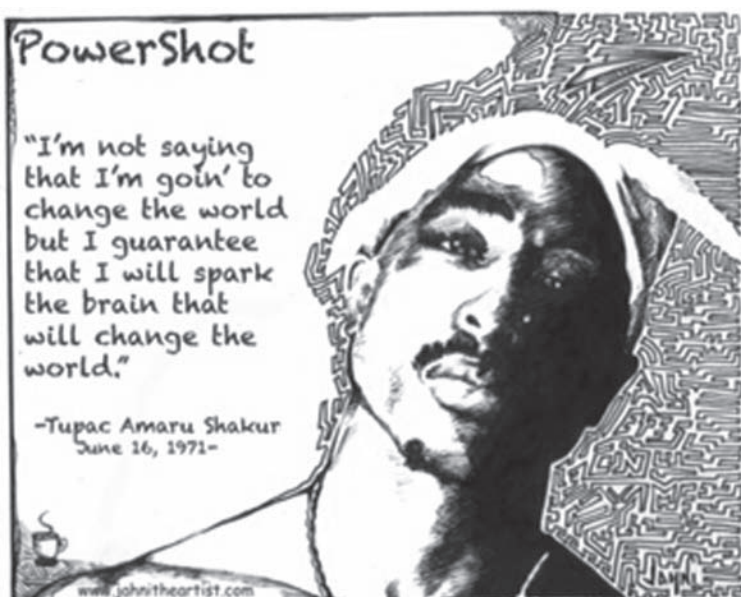
2015 Concerts in the Park lineup:

- June 8 – Cristina Lynn / The Beasley Brothers
- June 15 – Ashlyn Maine / JED Eye
- June 22 – The U.S. Army Materiel Command Band
- June 29 – Reginald Jackson and Friends / Emily Joseph Band
- July 6 – Mambo Gris Gris / Huntsville's In the Mood Big Swing Band
- July 13 – The Reps / Stillwater Bluegrass
- July 20 – DeQn Sue / Groove
- July 27 – .45 Surprise / Bourbon and Shamrocks
- August 3 – Winslow Davis Ensemble / Big Daddy Kingfish

April Showers normally yield May flowers, but this season in Huntsville gave us more than our share of rain for May. Summer is almost here – hopefully.

Downtown Huntsville is primed and ready for the many forthcoming activities planned. The Arts Council of Huntsville has released its 2015 Concerts in Park Series schedule for every Monday from June 1 through August 3. These free concerts, held on the grass behind the Huntsville Museum of Art, will feature a mix of musical genres from rock and roll, pop and top 40 to swing, country, bluegrass, Celtic and jazz, each Monday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

No Downtown Huntsville outdoor event would be complete without our Food Trucks. Concert goers will have a variety of dinner choices from participating vendors: Cottage



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The 9th Annual White Linen Brunch
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Publisher

The Valley Weekly, LLC

Editor-in-Chief

Dorothy W. Huston

Assistant Editor

Georgia S. Valrie

Editorial Assistants

Linda Burruss

Gary T. Whitley

Layout & Design

James Huston

Photographer

Eugene Dickerson

- Contributing Editors -

Hortense Dodo

Dave Herron

Daryush Ila

TuVy Nguyen

Bonnie Spencer

JaLissa Williams

Website Administrator

Calvin Farier

Editorial Consultant

Jerome Saintjones

Mailing Address:

The Valley Weekly

415A Church Street-Suite 100

Huntsville, AL 35801

(256) 651-9028

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

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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@valley-weeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of the Valley Weekly, LLC.

The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Ah, Fathers!

Last week, we received a number of compliments on the cover story related to Dr. Delia Black. Delia was loved and respected by many in this community, especially for her commitment to employing a qualified, diverse workforce at MICOM/AMCOM. Thanks for your e-mails, calls and notes. We will miss her.

When people who impact our lives pass on, it is natural to miss them. After graduating from high school and leaving home for college, I realized quickly how important fathers were. Although my dad was not at home everyday, I knew the impact of his labor of love on our family. He operated in a constant mode of giving and sharing. That is why it is still so difficult to understand why someone who knew him would rob and murder him. *Unbelievable!*

When each of us moved away, we left with his blessings. It was clear to him that most of us were choosing other avenues than farming. I remember when our sister, Mary, wanted a sewing machine because she was going to college and taking a home economics curriculum. He made the sacrifice necessary and bought her that sewing machine. All of us who could sew used that sewing machine--a Singer, stand-up model in a wooden cabinet with legs. It still works today.

Likewise, when I graduated from AAMU and was notified that I had earned a fellowship to attend graduate school, I was able to convince him that I needed a car. He went out to one of the local dealerships and bought me a pre-owned Cutlass Supreme. I drove that car for many years and my sister Vanessa and her family drove it even longer. Years later, I would see my blue Cutlass rolling around town having been swapped, traded and sold many times. For us, a Singer sewing machine and a Cutlass Supreme were big deals. My dad made major sacrifices to demonstrate his love and support for us. Unlike today's society, where parents are expected to buy children cars and stuff, when I was growing up, this was called "sacrifice" not "expectation."

The siblings who stayed around town and were closer to home, had an abundance of love demonstrated by his gifts of spoken wisdom, the crops he grew and harvested, the livestock he bred and personally fed for our freezers, and the use of his many networks to get things done. Chances are, if you needed something, he knew someone who either had it, could get it or could make it. I remember his going over to Evergreen to get us Conecuh sausage because he knew where they made it. One of my brothers would take it all the way back to Boston when he came home, typically during the Christmas season. Today, Conecuh sausage is sold all over the United States online and via its retail store in Evergreen, Alabama.

Like Delia, many people knew him, and he was loved and respected by those who did. My dad was a man of deep personal conviction and if he believed it, he did not need proof or evidence; he believed it. His children were his pride and joy. If you had time, it was not unusual for him to tie up your time telling you about his children--as any proud father would do. John "Jahni" Moore recently completed a portrait of him. He had very unique features. The person at the frame shop simply wanted to know when John took the portrait for framing, "Who is that man?" John has framing work done almost weekly, sometimes daily because art is his vocation. The interest shown by that lady prompted John to call me immediately to share the essence of the lady's question. He was indeed unique. We still miss him. Each time we go to Montgomery for the parole hearing on the person who murdered him, we are still choked with tears! We will *always* miss him.

Until next week,

Dorothy



Area Scouts Soaring Like Eagles

Troop 102 Families With Two and Three Eagle Scouts

Dr. and Mrs. Emanuel Waddell are the proud parents of three sons who have all earned Boy Scouts of America's highest award, the rank of Eagle Scout. This year marks the first time that Troop 102 has had the honor of awarding the Eagle Rank to three brothers. Their youngest son, Kendyl Waddell, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on Saturday, May 23, 2015.

Kendyl now joins his two older brothers, Eagle Scouts Khalil and Emanuel. The oldest son of the Waddell Family, Emanuel, earned his Eagle award on April 15, 2011, and has since graduated from Morehouse University with a degree in Psychology on May 2015.

Khalil Waddell, the middle son, earned his Eagle award on December 29, 2013, and is currently a Junior studying Chemistry at Morehouse University. Kendyl graduated from high school on May 22, 2015, and will be entering Howard University this fall to pursue a Chemical Engineering degree.

Dr. Emanuel Waddell, who is also an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 102, sponsored by First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama, recently served as the Course Director while his son Kendyl, served as Staff Director for the Greater Alabama Council, Boy Scouts of America's National Youth Lead-



ership Training (NYLT) course conducted May 24 -30, 2015, at Camp Jackson, Scottsboro, AL. All three of his sons have served as scout leaders on the NYLT staff.

Since 1941 Troop 102 has produced 67 Scouts who have earned the Eagle rank. Since the founding of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910, as part of the international Scout Movement, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the BSA. Since its introduction in 1911, the Eagle Scout Rank has been earned by more than two million young men. This equates to less than 5% of Scouts. Therefore one can see that it is a very prestigious honor to become an Eagle Scout.

In its history Troop 102 has had one father and son who, as members of Troop 102, have earned the rank of Eagle Scout

and one father with two sons who have earned the rank. Lt. Jeffery Rice, who now serves on the Huntsville Police Department, was the very second Scout to achieve the rank in 1990, and his son, Jeffery Rice III, achieved the rank in 2013. The late Doctor Adriel D. Johnson Sr., who earned his Eagle rank at a Tuskegee, Alabama Troop and also served as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 102, is the second Father whose two sons, Adriel D. Johnson Jr. and Jeriel Johnson have earned the honor of achieving the rank of Eagle in 2003 and 2010 respectively. Honor should also be given to their mother, Dr. Jacqueline Johnson, who is an excellent supporter of Scouting.

Additionally, Troop 102 is proud to have six sets of brothers who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Reginald Horton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earnest

Horton, earned the rank in 1992 and his brother, Quentin, in 1999; Reginald Winston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Winston, earned the rank in 1995 and his brother, Stephen, in 2007; James Hopkins, son of Ms. Patricia Hopkins, earned the honor in March of 2001, and his brother, Jason followed him in September, 2001.

Justin Lockett, son of Ms. Pat Lockett, earned the honor in 2004, and his brother, Jarrod in 2007; Chris Branch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Branch, earned the rank on February 24, 2007 and his brother Wesley, earned the rank on November 10, 2007;

Finally, Christopher Cannon, son of Mrs. Paula Cannon, earned the rank in 2008 and his brother, Jeremy in 2012. We commend all parents and scouts who have earned the Eagle award, especially the Waddell family. We strongly urge all Parents and Guardians to support their sons and encourage them to aspire to achieve this prestigious honor.

For further information please contact Scoutmaster Vern Spearman, cell-256-656-1126, email:vspearman@comcast.net or Assistant Scoutmaster Renan Scott, cell-256-651-9184, email:renan.scott@lmco.com.

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Oakwood Students Intern with CBC



Two of Oakwood's finest are currently interns with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) in Washington, D.C.

The Department of History and Political Science proudly reports that Gabe Carter (left, junior, political science major) and Christopher Johnson (right, senior, pre law/political science major) won two of the 46 internships awarded annually.

The CBCF Congressional Internship is a rigorous program that includes a full-time work week, educational seminars, individual and team projects, and several social and networking events. CBCF interns will be paid a stipend for the nine-week program.

Chris feels "humbled, honored and excited about the opportunity to learn about public policy and civic leadership from our nation's brightest political leaders, as well as to represent Oakwood University and the Department of History & Political Science in this endeavor."

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Calendar at a Glance

June 13

5th Annual Cruizin' for a Cure
St. Rebecca P.B. Church
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

"Huntsville's Largest Family
Picnic Ever"
Big Spring Park East
Downtown Huntsville
4-6 p.m.

June 19

Food Truck Rally
Downtown Huntsville

June 19-28

Oklahoma!
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Times: Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m.
Main Stage at Lee High School
2500 Meridian Street
Huntsville, Ala.

Admission: Admission Charged,
Discount Art Pass Available at
Downtown Visitors Center

A Tribute to Dr. Delia Black

Upon hearing of her passing last week, I felt compelled to write this short note to pay tribute to Dr. Delia Black, who I met only once yet who made a strong impression on me. I met Dr. Black last summer in May 2014, at a personal retreat with some of the ladies affiliated with the Redstone Federal Credit Union (RFCU). They travelled to Nags Head to the outer banks and rented a condo for a week. They were Dr. Black, Nancy Walker and Dr. Dorothy Huston. I was a guest of Dr. Dorothy Huston and was privileged to meet and spend time with an elite team of smart and classy ladies, including Victoria Coffey. It was a fun time of sisterhood, discovery and celebration. I learned a lot from all the participants but could not help but to notice Dr. Black, who exuded a keen intelligence, a striking sense of curiosity, an open mind to novel ideas, all wrapped in a soft, feminine leadership. We had many interesting conversations.

Dr. Black surely touched positively the lives of many people, and I am one of them. She will be missed.

by Dr. Hortense Dodo
Scientific Entrepreneur



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AAMU Graduate Social Work Program Ranked No. 2 Nationally

Graduateprograms.com has announced its Spring 2015 "Top Social Work Grad Programs for Value." Graduateprograms.com defines "value" by posing the following questions to students: How satisfied are you with your graduate program? Did you make the right choice? Would you choose this program again?

Program rankings, compiled using data gathered between

September 1, 2012 and March 31, 2015, encompass reviews posted by more than 7,500 social work students participating in over 500 social work programs nationwide. Ratings are based on a 10-star system (with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best).

Methodology. Graduateprograms.com reaches current and recent graduate students through

scholarship entries as well as social media platforms. These program rankings cover a period from September 1, 2012 to March 31, 2015.

Graduateprograms.com assigns 15 ranking categories to each graduate program at each graduate school. Rankings cover a variety of student topics such as academic competitiveness, career support, financial aid and quality of network.

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Business Alabama Mag Recognizes the Valley's "Movers and Shapers"

In its spotlight on Madison County, the popular *Business Alabama* magazine highlighted 15 Valley-area "Movers and Shapers."

The distinguished list included educational administrators, business people and heads of nonprofits, to list a few.

Dr. Robert Altenkirch is president of the University of Alabama in Huntsville.



Elaine Ballew is execu-



Navy captain, **Deborah Barnhart** is CEO and executive director of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Lucia Cape is vice president of economic development for the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County.



tive director of the Madison Chamber of Commerce. A retired



Steve Hill is co-founder and president/CEO of The Aegis Technologies Group Inc. He provides ongoing executive direction of the company's 300-plus employees.

Bhavani Kakani is president and founding director of AshaKiran, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educate, empathize and empower foreign origin persons who are experienc-



ing "crisis" situations. **Daniel Kasambira** joined the Heart of the Valley YMCA Association in 2014 as executive director of the Hogan Family Branch YMCA in



Madison. **Dr. Helen McAlpine** is president of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, a position she has held since October 2000.

David Nast is the



founding director of Progress Bank and serves as president and CEO.

Patrick Scheuermann is director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville.

David S. Spillers is CEO of Huntsville Hospital and



Huntsville Hospital Health System.

Taron Thorpe



is commercial vice president/senior lender at BancorpSouth in Madison.

Gen. Dennis L. Via is the 18th Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.



Ken Watson is the president of Bryant Bank in Huntsville.



Mary Lynne Wright is president of Madison Hospital.



Keeping Your Tax Records Safe

Prepare for a Disaster

Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Floods, etc., can be very destructive. It is important to make a plan to keep your tax records safe. Plans made before a disaster strikes can help you recover from the destruction.

The following tips can help you make that plan:

Electronic Records

- If you have access to bank and other financial statements online, your statements are already securely stored; however, you may want to keep an additional set of records electronically.

- You scan tax records and insurance policies onto an electronic format.

- You can download important records to an external hard drive, USB flash drive or burn them onto CD or DVD.

Be sure you keep duplicates of your records in a safe place. For example store them in a water-proof container away from the originals. If a disaster strikes your home, it may also affect a wide area. If that happens you may not be able to retrieve the records that are stored in that area.



Document Valuables

- Take photos or videos of the contents of your home or business.
- These visual records can help

you prove the value of your lost items.

- They may help with insurance claims or casualty loss deductions on your tax return.

- You should also store these in a safe place. For example, you might store them with a friend or relative who lives out of the area.

If you fall victim to a disaster, you can call the IRS disaster hotline at 866-562-5227 for special help with disaster-related tax issues.

If you need a copy of your tax return you should file Form 4506, Request for Copy of Tax Return. The usual fee per copy is \$50. However, the IRS will waive this fee if you are a victim of a feder-

ally declared disaster.

If you just need information that shows most line items from your tax return, you can call 1-800-908-9946 to request a free transcript. You can also get it if you file Form 4506T-EZ, Short Form Request for Individual Tax Return Transcript, or Form 4506-T, Request for Transcript of Tax Return.

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- Registration is open to Cars and Trucks (Classic, Customs or Current Vehicles) from 9 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. the day of the show.
- Top 20 judging by Car Entry Owners.
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Huntsville, AL 35811
Located at Christy & Co.
256.859.7805

DLC

Tennessee Valley

Diversity Leadership Colloquium III



*Accepting Applications
for Cohort III!*

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)

To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

Tuition Payable Upon Acceptance

DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium III APPLICATION FORM

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

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Apt. Unit # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (mobile) _____ Business/Home _____ E-mail _____

Company/Organization _____

Title _____

U.S. Citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No Enrolling Quarter _____

Education

High School Attended _____ Graduated: Yes ☐ No ☐

College(s) Attended _____

Highest Degree _____ Career Field _____

References

Name _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

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.