

Valley Planners Meet with Smart Growth America

City of Huntsville planners and administrators were scheduled to meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on June 15-16 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program.

The workshop offered the community tools and strategies to develop a "Complete Streets" policy that will help Huntsville plan and design its streets to be safe, comfortable, and convenient for people of all ages and abilities, whether they are walking, bicycling, driving, or using public transportation.

"Our BIG Picture master planning process has us thinking about how we want to shape our live, work, learn and play communities for the future," said Mayor Tommy Battle. "How we

use our streets for connectivity is central to this conversation."

Huntsville area residents were invited to join the workshop's first day for an introductory presentation and interactive discussion about Complete Streets and their benefits at the Stone Event Center, Campus No. 805 (2620 Clinton Avenue NW).

Back in December 2015, Huntsville was one of seven communities nationwide selected from a pool of over 67 applications by Smart Growth America to participate in the technical assistance program. Stretching from Florida to Alaska, these seven communities represent major cities, suburban centers, and rural towns alike.

"We were very fortunate to get

this grant," said Dennis Madsen, Long-Range Planner for the City of Huntsville. He called the workshop "a great opportunity to help design the transportation network of Huntsville's future."

The program, made possible through a five-year Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities grant to Smart Growth America from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities, seeks to develop local planning solutions that help communities grow in ways that benefit families and businesses, while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place.

For additional information visit: www.smartgrowthamerica. org.

Many Enjoy Burritt's "City Lights and Stars"



City Lights and Stars at Burritt on the Mountain featured Winslow Davis Ensemble on June 10.

Davis blends electric violin with electric guitar pedal effects, samples, drum and loop machines for a unique music experience.

Remaining concerts in the

2016 series are KUSH Reggae Band on July 1st; RIcky j Taylor and the Live Roots Ensemble on July 22, and Mo' Sol on August

Tickets can be purchased online at www.burrittonthemountain.com or by calling 256.536-2882

AshaKiran to Hold Annual "A Ray of Hope" Event

AshaKiran will hold its annual "A Ray of Hope" event on Saturday, July 23, at 5:30 p.m. in the Von Braun Center.

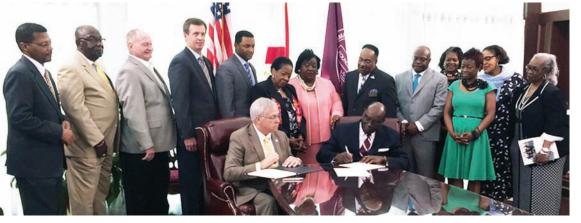
AshaKiran aspires to be "a ray of hope" towards building a healthy and harmonious community.

Moreover, AshaKiran is committed to educate, empathize and empower persons of South Asian and other foreign-born origins while providing culturally sensi-

tive and confidential services to people experiencing traumatic/ stressful situations.

The annual fundraiser supports direct and indirect services to assist foreign born individuals experiencing crises such as domestic violence and sexual assault. Various sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For more information, send inquiries to: arayofhope@ashakiranonline.org.



AAMU-SBA Signing: Thomas A. Todt, Alabama district director of the Small Business Administration (seated, left) and Alabama A&M University President Andrew Hugine, Jr., sign a Strategic Memorandum of Agreement, a partnership designed to help ensure that entrepreneurs have the tools and resources they need to succeed in business. They are joined by public officials and small business advocates.

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Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



Your Washington Recap

Here are your top issues in DC this week:

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. The House will take up, among other items, the FY2017 Defense Appropriations bill and a bill to reform the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process. It will also take up a hotly-debated bill preventing the Internal Revenue Service from collecting personal information of those donating to taxexempt nonprofits (current law requires tax-exempt groups to disclose donors who give \$5000 or more). The Senate will finish work on the Defense Authorization bill and turn to the FY 2017 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill (which does not at this time contain language to defund Planned Parenthood, reverse the new federal rule mandating overtime pay for salaried workers earning up to \$47,476 per year, or cancel the new "fiduciary rule" for retirement advisers).

2. The Obama administration plans to announce a sweeping proposed rule that would streamline the process by which borrowers defrauded by colleges could get their federal loans wiped out. The Education Department will unveil its plan for a new system for student loan debt relief under the "defense to repayment" provision of the Higher Education

Act - which the administration decided to update last year after an influx of debt relief claims from students who attended campuses of the now-defunct Corinthian Colleges. The package of proposals also includes new prohibitions on the use of "mandatory arbitration" clauses in the enrollment agreements of colleges that receive federal student aid. The clauses - which are typically used by for-profit colleges--keep students from taking their school to court. The regulations would also give the Education Department expanded powers to require colleges to post collateral when officials are worried about their financial stability. Financially troubled institutions would also be required to disclose problems to both current and prospective students under the proposed rule.

3. President Obama and Secretary Hillary Clinton have postponed their scheduled first joint appearance since he endorsed her candidacy scheduled for Green Bay, Wis., June 15, due to the terrorist shootings at an Orlando LGBT nightclub. On June 17, the President and his family travel to Carlsbad Caverns National Park as part of the National Park Service's Centennial celebrations and then to Yosemite National Park over the weekend.

4. Last Wednesday, House Speaker

Paul Ryan (R-WI) told a meeting of GOP House Members that, in an effort to unjam the legislative process, the House will begin restricting politically-sensitive amendments, only allowing amendments on the House floor that have first been vetted by the House Rules Committee, as opposed to the open amendment process that Ryan had previously championed.

5. Last Friday, the Department of Transportation authorized 6 U.S. airlines (American, Frontier, JetBlue, Silver Airways, Southwest, and Sun Country) to provide up to 90 daily scheduled passenger flights between Cuban cities (not including Havana) and Miami, Chicago, Ft. Lauderdale, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis/ St. Paul. DOT will announce the Havana carriers this summer.

6. Last Saturday, the container ship Cosco Shipping Panama set sail from the Port of Piraeus, Greece, en route to Panama, where on June 26 it will be the first ship to pass through the newly-expanded Panama Canal, a 9-year, \$5.25 billion, project that

will allow ships up to 2.5 times the current size through the canal. DC policymakers will be closely watching the effect on the traditional route for freight via West Coast ports and then to the Eastern U.S. by rail, potentially impacting Western railroads such as BNSF and Union Pacific and the Western U.S. ports.

7. 2016 Presidential Watch. The date of June 14 was the day for the final Presidential primary - DC's Democratic Primary. Scheduled to give a speech at Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire, Donald Trump was scheduled to announce that he was changing the focus from his case against Hillary Clinton to the Orlando nightclub attack, immigration and national security.

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The Valley Weekly

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rom the Editor

Graduation ... Ah, what a celebration!

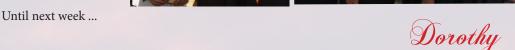
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church celebrated high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 12th. In addition to the support of my parents, siblings, the village where I grew up, along with a solid Christian foundation, I attribute my career success to having earned a good solid education.

This week, we would like to congratulate graduates of all levels--everywhere! The dream doesn't lie in victimization or

blame; it lies in hard work, determination and a good education." (Former U S Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson)







Huntsville's Bustling with Summer Activity!

Free Concerts, Local Food Trucks (Every Monday from June 6-August 8) Arts Huntsville Concerts in the Park -2016 Series

Arts Huntsville and the City of Huntsville's Department of Parks and Recreation present the 2016 Concerts in the Park season. The Concerts, which will be held for ten weeks every Monday evening, begin June 6 and conclude August 8. The series will showcase a mix of musical genres from rock and roll, pop and top 40 to swing, country, bluegrass, Celtic

and jazz. The Concerts take place in downtown Huntsville on the Huntsville Museum of Art outdoor stage in Big Spring International Park from 6:30-8 p.m. The series is free to the public; concertgoers should bring their own seating and

Picnics are welcome at the Concerts, but local food trucks and vendors will also be onsite. Food trucks will be on both Church Street and Williams Avenue with additional offerings in the park.

leashed pets are welcome.

For the 2016 Concerts in the Park lineup, see the Calendar of Events this

"Concerts in the Park is a fun, family-(ARTSHUNTSVILLE friendly way to showcase our area's variety of

musical talent," said Allison Dillon-Jauken, executive director of Arts Huntsville. "We are proud to work with the City of Huntsville's Department of Parks and Recreation to feature local musicians and food trucks at this free concert series in the heart of the city."

- Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

LSCC Gets NASA Grant

NASA announced recently that Lawson State Community College in Birmingham, Ala., has been selected as one of two colleges in the nation to each receive nearly \$500,000 in grant awards aimed to bolster education in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The New York City College of Technology in Brooklyn

and Lawson State were selected out of 49 proposals for the opportunity.

"We are delighted and very fortunate to be in a position to inspire tomor-

Lawson S

row's leaders in science and engineering through a partnership with Dr. Larry DeLucas, former Chief Scientist for the International Space Station at NASA headquarters," said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson

State Community College. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students nity for our students EGE to experience world class scientific techniques and I am confident this will excel them to greater heights."

RE-ELECT

COUNCILMAN RICHARD SHOWERS, SR.



On This Day - Friday, June 17, 2016 - JAMES WELDON JOHNSON -Educator, poet, author, lawyer, scholar and lyricist Best remembered for penning the lyrics to what has become known as the "Negro Anthem" to "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (1899.) - BlackInTime.info





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Former AAA Student "Rising Star"

Miss Torian Blackburn, a 2016 graduate of Lee High School, was named the winner of the 2016 Wilbert L. Brown Rising Star Scholarship.

Torian was a 2012 graduate of the Academy for Academics and Arts, Huntsville City's first magnet school. where she excelled in technical theater. She continued to show her talents in technical arts at Lee High School.

She will enroll at the University of Montevallo in the fall where she will still find time to expose her artistic talent but also major in business and art.

Torian is the daughter of Jimmy and Crystal Blackburn. Wilbert Brown was the second principal of AAA from 1997-2011.

"I cannot tell the truth about anything unless I confess being a student, growing and learning something new every day. The more I learn, the clearer my view of the world becomes."

- Sonia Sanchez





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NACEE Pushes VUB Program

Are you a military veteran who is thinking about going back to school to finish your GED or to earn a college degree? Let the North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence (NACEE) serve you.

The Veterans Upward Bound program is free and specifically designed to assist veterans. Counselors develop an individualized program that helps fulfill the academic and personal needs of our veterans. NACEE-VUB provides refresher courses, tutoring and other support services for free.

In order to qualify for services the veteran(s) must be honorable discharged and have served more than 180 days of active duty service in the Armed Forces of the United States. Veterans

"The commercial capitalism of the 18th century developed the wealth of Europe by means of slavery and monopoly. But in so doing it helped to create the industrial capitalism of the 19th century, which turned round and destroyed the power of commercial capitalism, slavery, and all its works. Without a grasp of these economic changes the history of the period is meaningless."

- Eric E. Williams



who were released from the military because of a service-connected disability may also qualify for free services.

To learn how NACEE-VUB may assist you, please logon to www. nacee.net. You may speak to a counselor by calling 256.372.4600 or drop by our office at 513 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, Alabama.

NACEE-VUB is open Monday through Friday from 0800-1700 hours. Who: NACEE What: VUB program

When: Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Where: 513 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, Alabama

35816

Why: Receive FREE educational services and

counseling

The Business Mindset

On June 3rd another legend was called Home. Cassius Clay, also known as Muhammad Ali, passed way leaving a great sports legacy behind. He was given the nickname "The Greatest," and definitely earned that title defeating every top heavyweight in his era along with a list of other accomplishments. One of his famous quotes," I am the Greatest and I said that even before I knew I was," depicts the confidence that he had in himself. His thought process was that of greatness, therefore his life modeled those thoughts and he was able to accomplish great things. Scripture states, "As a man thinketh, so is he." The belief that you can do it or you can be great is sometimes all you need. Muhammad Ali tells us in the quote, that this belief came long before his

greatness. He didn't have to win one match or championship before he started believing in himself; this confidence came as a prerequisite. Many times we second guess ourselves or we have to prove something to ourselves before we believe in our own abilities; and many times that is what keeps us from our full potential. In order to get to that place of greatness, the confidence must already exist.

When it comes to your business or talent, this mindset is necessary for thriving. Especially in these careers where it can take so much time to see success for your efforts. It's rare that you become great overnight or instantly, therefore you have to

keep your confidence. People are often told to have these thoughts must mean they lack humility, which is unfortunate and untrue. You can be very humble and have complete confidence in God and yourself.

Humility is how you treat others, confidence is how you treat and think of yourself. It doesn't require that you think less of others in order to think more of yourself; and to think more of yourself doesn't mean you think less of others, as a matter of fact, greatness IS what you do to uplift others.

Remember, it's okay to be great, it's okay to shine, it's okay to believe in yourself.

After all, most people with these thoughts have achieved greatness!

by Amoi Savage
*RIP Cassius Clay a.k.a
Muhammad Ali*



Champion Game Plan for Life

You know spiritual maturity doesn't depend on how many scriptures you remember or how many Christian bumper stickers you have on your car, or even how many times you go to church. None of these things tell us one thing about the spiritual level of

a person.

If you really want to get to know people, you have to watch them when trials come, or when failures and disappointments come. That's when people grow spiritually.

Now I understand why in James 1:2-3 it says: Con-

sider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds, because the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

We can also say that our level of spiritual maturity begins to grow as well ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



Valley Scopes
by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

Cancer: The past makes for great history and the best part about it is that it only becomes a less desirable issue if you focus on it. Press refresh, take another step forward, and breathe with fewer distractions.

Gemini: Study the situation, and after looking at every angle that comes to mind, you'll become even more assured of the choice that you make.

Taurus: Someone seems to want a little more time with you than you're offering. You can make serious headway, if you figure out a way to compromise, even if it takes a bit of comical shuffling.

Capricorn: You'll find an alternative answer to a brainteasing conundrum after considering someone elses' thoughts on a current issue.

Pisces: Variations in your thought processes give you time to look more carefully at

the things that you are proposing to do.

Sagittarius: Your passionate feelings are escalating and are likewise getting a boost of encouragement, thanks to a friend.

Virgo: You'll feel more comfortable, than you imagined that you could right now--as long as you stick to your own timetable.

Leo: Your generosity will boomerang back to you; soon.

Aquarius: Someone is generating feelings of warmth, which are subsequently rubbing off on you.

Scorpio: A friend, who wants to help you has committed to tending to you during this time.

Aries: Taking things slow will help you to process current events, which have recently escalated.

Libra: A break through will allow you to convey feelings that may have otherwise remained pinned up for a while longer, if not indefinitely.

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Calendar of Events

June 17

Food Truck Street Festival Sponsor: Jerry Damson Honda Acura Downtown Huntsville The Lumberyard Parking Lot, 108 Cleveland Avenue 5-9 p.m.

June 20

City Concerts in the Park Denim Jawbones and Wolves of Chernobyl Big Spring International Park 6:30-8 p.m.

June 27

City Concerts in the Park US Army Materiel Command Band Big Spring International Park 6:30-8 p.m.

July 4

City Concerts in the Park

Huntsville Concert Band Huntsville's in the Mood Big Swing Band Big Spring International Park 6:30-8 p.m.

July 11

City Concerts in the Park Blue City and Emily Joseph Big Spring International Park 6:30-8 p.m.

July 15

Food Truck Street Festival Sponsor: Jerry Damson Honda Acura Downtown Huntsville The Lumberyard Parking Lot, 108 Cleveland Avenue 5-9 p.m.

July 23

AshaKiran's Annual Ray of Hope Event and 10th Anniversary Celebration

July 28

Boys and Girls Club Leaders & Legends Dinner

Guest: Evander Holyfield VIP Reception: 5 p.m. Von Braun Center-North Hall, 6 p.m.



\$12500 * AGES 6-15 Camp will be at Valley Conservatory located at 5732 US Hwy 431 Hampton Cove, AL



Children Ages 5-11 9AM to 12N Youth Ages 12-18 1PM to 5PM



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