

The Valley Weekly

Volume 1, No. 41

*"A deception that elevates us is dearer
than a host of low truths."*

- Alexander Pushkin

FREE

Friday, June 19, 2015

ASBCC to Hold Annual Conference in Birmingham



The Alabama State Black Chamber of Commerce, based in Huntsville, (ASBCC) will hold its Entrepreneurs & Innovators Conference in Birmingham, Ala., June 25-26. The event will take place at the Cahaba Grand.

The theme for 2015 is "Driving the Forces of Change."

A wide array of speakers and presenters includes Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, as well as educators, business experts, marketing specialists and media commentators.

Other influential presenters include Dr. Samuel N. Addy, director, University of Alabama Center for Business and Economic Research; Jay Bryant, program director, Summit Media; Eric

Guster, Esq., Guster Law, legal analyst/commentator featured on CNN, Fox, MSNBC; Reverend Clifford E. Jones, founder of Greater Peace Community Development Corporation and Senior Pastor of Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church, Opelika, Ala.; Brandon Kruse, millionaire serial entrepreneur and innovator, and founder of Huntsville West Creative Incubator; W. Keith Robinson, Esq., law professor at Southern Methodist University, Dallas Tex., an expert in property and intellectual property law; Dr. Molly Wasko, chair of MISQ, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Collat School of Business; Ty West, managing editor, Birmingham Business Journal; Cheryl Williams,

president, franchise owner of Spherion Staffing; Jacqueline Whitehead, president of JJ Consults, social media marketer; Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Sr., pastor of Oakwood University Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church and speaker/director of the Breath of Life Television Broadcast for SDA Church of North America.

The ASBCC is a private non-profit entity founded to economically boost and sustain African American communities in Alabama through entrepreneurship, positive economic development, and via interaction with the Black Diaspora.

For additional information about the conference, call (256) 564-7574 or e-mail wehelp@alblackcc.org.

Veteran, Civil Servant Remembered



Mrs. Oneda J. Elliott passed away on June 5, 2015. She was born on September 6, 1936, in Vicksburg, Miss. She was an honorably discharged veteran of the U. S. Army.

In addition, she was a retired civilian from the U. S. Department of the Army. Elliott was a part-time employee at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Her service was held on June 11 at First Missionary Baptist Church, where Reverend Earla Lockhart officiated.

During the eulogy, Lockhart painted a "Portrait of a Faithful Life" by highlighting Elliott's commitment and dedication to God, church and family. Interment was in Valhalla Memory Gardens.

NASA on the Square Set

Downtown Huntsville, Inc., is presenting "NASA on the Square: Join Us on the Journey" Saturday, June 20.

The four-hour event

will begin at 10 a.m. Participants can expect family fun, informative exhibits, speakers, food trucks, music and more.

Greene Street Market Opens at Nativity

Huntsvillians and Valley area residents have an opportunity to visit a free open-air market of locally-grown fruits and vegetables on the corner of Greene Street and Eustis, near the Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

The Greene Street Market at Nativity will also offer visitors freshly-pre-

pared meals, traditionally-made jams (and breads) and relishes, as well as teas and artwork.

From 4-8 p.m., visitors will be hear live music, examine the goods, and even "borrow a bike" to tour the surrounding historic districts.

For additional information, call (256) 682-4429.

"Hikes for Tykes" at The Garden

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is offering a two-hour "Hykes for Tykes" Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. A nominal admission charge applies.

Pre-school children, their parents and siblings are invited to take "a magical, little one's adventure" through Huntsville Botanical Garden as they search for fairies, tadpoles and



soft lambs' ear.

For additional information about "Hikes for Tykes" or other events at The Garden, call (256) 830-4447.

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A Lesson on the Essence of Black Fatherhood

Guest Editor **Jerome Saintjones**

When I was a kid growing up in the neighborhood of Stillman Hill in Tuscaloosa, Ala., there were few things I looked forward to more than a walk across town to my grandfather's house. Because my parents had been teenagers when I was born, I was raised and legally adopted by another set of older family members who were almost at the age of retirement.

Granddaddy's house wasn't much to look at. It was a shack actually. That shack was situated at the corner of 28th Avenue and 22nd Street. There he lived with my youngest aunt, the only one of his four children who had not yet abandoned the coop for Detroit or for Chicago, where my grandmother had settled after their eons-old divorce.

It is because of him that I balk at the very suggestion that children suffer when there isn't a father figure "in" the home. Just as 19th century bigots proclaimed the power of a single drop of black blood to render a person black, so it is with the essence of black males. Hence, the very essence of black fatherhood was all around me.

Indeed, that essence was felt through my pastor, Rev. W.D. Billups; Frank Johnson, the Sunday School teacher; David Daniels, the BTU teacher; the neighborhood barber, baker, bricklayer, grocer, glassmaker, plumber and several men too numerous to mention throughout Stillman Hill and beyond.

But my granddaddy still evokes special and fond memories, primarily perhaps because of his glaring imperfections. Any warm stretch from April through September, he could very likely be found sitting on the front porch, broad shoulders and large belly bare, and in his hell-to-the-world demeanor. He was a wise man, a strict man, a man who believed in fairness and in treating people and their property with respect; although he never set foot in anyone's church. He had a pas-

sionate love for women, turnips, Dr. Pepper, strawberry ice cream, and he paid for each or all of them at least once a month.

For all of those years, I thought that the Snoddy family could be summed up by the shack on the corner with the huge elm tree. It was here that the old city buses crisscrossed to pick up women on their way to cook or clean for white families across the tracks. Granddaddy had even placed a thick plank across two broken cement pieces to as much allow the women to sit down while waiting for the bus as to watch their backsides. On very hot days, he would run water at the edge of the curb for the birds.

Decades later, his only surviving child (my aunt Ollie from Chicago) and I were talking on the phone, just to check up on one another. In this single conversation, I learned the importance of knowing one's history. Granddaddy had not just lived in the shack on the corner, she informed me. He, in fact, owned all the other shacks around him. With Granddaddy, every plus had a corresponding negative. Not only was he renting women at least once a month, he was also having clandestine affairs with several women in the neighborhood. Yet despite his moral shortcomings, I inferred, he remained a pillar of the community and was the man people came to in a crisis.

Finally, the very essence of the black male spirit throughout the neighborhoods of this country became overwhelmingly evident to me when Aunt Ollie told me about a relative nicknamed Psych-Eye. She decribed him as one of the few men you could actually pen the adjective "beautiful" to. Everything about him, she said, was beautiful except his penchant for "messing with white women." This proclivity got him tarred, feathered and dumped near Granddaddy's house. Granddaddy assembled a group of neighborhood men, had Psyche-Eye stand in a large tub, and the men worked in unison as a trinity to wash away his sins, as well as to peel away the filth of White America.

How I wish I had been told those stories in my youth, had sat back in awe, marveling at the spirit and the triumphant overcoming indicative of black fatherhood, to boost my own psyche as a black male in America, and to pass on a foundation legacy firmer than Barney and Dr. Seuss. Surely, there is not a peck of wants where there is one speck of African consciousness; no strange land where there are such strong, knowing black hands.



AKAs Host Reception for Local UN Initiative

Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, recognize that the world is truly global. To prepare youths for the new opportunities and challenges that globalization presents, the sorority has launched programming throughout the nation to enhance its global impact.

Thus, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter (EGO), Huntsville, AL, hosted a reception to benefit the United Nations Association Global School Program that was implemented at Columbia High School, an Authorized International Baccalaureate World School.

The three-hour reception was held Tuesday, June 16, at the Jackson Center, in Cummings Research Park. For additional information about the initiative, contact, M. Lynn Sherrod at (256) 881-9529.



Rep. Daniels “Legislator of the Year”

State Representative Anthony Daniels, a native of Midway, Ala., recently received the distinction of being awarded “2015 Legislator of the Year.” Rep. Daniels represents District 53.



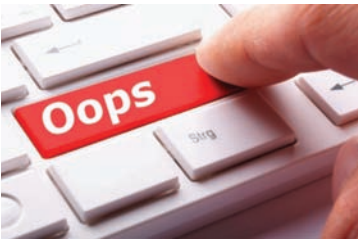
Make an Error on Your Tax Return? All’s Not Lost

Oops! If you discover an error after filing your return, you may need to amend your return. You will need to file an amended return if there is a change in your filing status, income, deductions, or credits.

Use Form 1040X (Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return) to correct a previously filed Form 1040, Form 1040A, Form 1040EZ, Form 1040NR or Form 1040NR-EZ.

See “Where To File” in the Form 1040X Instructions for the address to mail your amended return.

To claim a refund, you must file Form 1040X within three years after the date you filed your original return or within two years after the date you paid the tax, whichever is later. File



a separate Form 1040X for each tax year you are amending. Mail each form in a separate envelope and be sure to enter the year of the return you are amending at the top of Form 1040X.

Attach copies of any forms or schedules affected by the change including any Form(s) W-2.

Please note that a change made on your federal return may affect your state tax liability.

David E. Herron
DEH & Associates

Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Not quite ready for the greens of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail? Then consider the Downtown Huntsville mini golf course instead.

Yes, last summer’s popular free activity is back for another summer. This temporary addition to downtown Huntsville, primarily around the Courthouse square, will be available until June 28.

The free mini golf course consists of 26 holes and starts near Sam & Greg’s pizzeria. You can bring your own golf putter and golf balls or you can borrow them during normal business hours from Harrison Brothers



and Sam & Greg’s, which will also have scorecards.

Chad Emerson, CEO of Downtown Huntsville, Inc., is responsible for developing more of these fun activities to draw us to downtown.

Remember, the June Downtown Food Truck Rally will be Friday, June 19, on Church Street between Williams and Clinton from 6 to 9 p.m., presented by Jerry Damson Honda & Acura. There will be over 20 food trucks, free live music and local craft beer.

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- North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence
- Oakwood University Post Office
- Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church
- Progressive Union Missionary Baptist
- Sam and Greg's Pizza
- Sneed's Cleaners
- St. Bartley PB Church
- St. Luke Christian Church
- Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)
- The Office Break Room & Bar
- Tony's Hair Salon
- Union Chapel Missionary Baptist
- Westin's Blue Med Spa

Huntsville Site of Conference for Principals

On June 23-24, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) will provide an opportunity for new and aspiring principals to develop the critical, essential mentoring and coaching skills that promotes professional growth and confidence they need.

The conference will be held on the historic campus of Alabama A&M University.

By participating in the NAESP National Mentor Training and Certification program, attendees will learn the appropriate skills and tools to promote leadership consistent with national principal standards.

Part One-Training: Leadership Immersion Institute (LII) participants explore the theoretical foundations of adult development learning and mentoring. They will learn techniques and strategies of the mentor/protégé relationship.

Part Two-Certification: Participants, for those who choose certification, will follow the LII training with a nine-month internship. The certification program is led by a highly trained coach for monthly online chats and reflections while participants mentor a protégé. Upon completion of the LII training and certification requirements, a National NAESP Mentor Certificate is awarded.

Persons who are already an

NAESP Nationally Certified Mentor should contact Carol Riley, associate executive director, at criley@naesp.org or call (703) 518-6271 to learn how this session may be used to renew your certificate.

Alabamian New President of Grambling

An Alabamian and state HBCU graduate will head a noted Louisiana institution of higher learning following a nationwide presidential search.

Grambling State University has announced that Dr. Willie D. Larkin will be its next president.

The university, located in northern Louisiana, enrolls about



4,100 undergraduates and 900 graduate students.

Dr. Larkin's most current post was chief of staff at Morgan State

University in Baltimore, Md. He has held that post since 2012. He formerly served as chief of staff for the University of Wisconsin Colleges and Extension.

Dr. Larkin holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Tuskegee University. He also earned a doctoral degree in agricultural education from Ohio State University.

Dr. Frank G. Pogue stepped down as president of Grambling in June 2014 after four years on the job. Cynthia Warrick, who earlier was a senior fellow at the Center for Minority Health Services Research in the College of Pharmacy at Howard University in Washington, D.C., has been serving as interim president for nearly a year.

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CAFY Event Seeking Vendors

The 2015 Community Awareness for Youth (CAFY) event is rapidly approaching. The date is August 1, 2015 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at John Hunt Park and Jaycee Building and Fairgrounds, located at 2180 Airport Road.

Organizers anticipate a huge turnout of thousands and believe that your participation will enhance the quality of the event. Agencies are being sought that provide information for families about health, careers, education and finances.

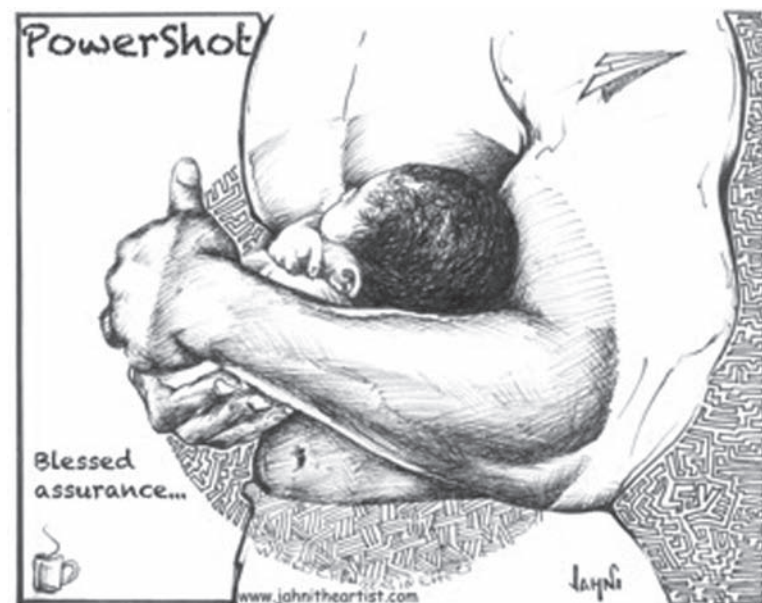


Vendors will be provided booth space at no charge as a way to share their diverse resources with the community as the new school year begins.

The registration process is

simple. The following link leads to a simple electronic document: <http://www.cafyhuntsville.com/index.php/be-a-vendor>.

Prospective participants should review details about their role as a vendor by going to this link: <http://www.cafyhuntsville.com/index.php/help-us/faq-s>. Most questions will be answered there. However, for additional information, please contact kenny.anderson@huntsvilleal.gov or call Kenny Anderson at either (256) 679-4241 or (256) 883-3993.



Councilman Showers Hosts Meetings

Councilman Richard Showers, Sr., hosted a quarterly Town Hall meeting on June 2nd at the Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center on Blue Spring Road. In addition, he hosted a meeting of the North Huntsville Business Association (NHBA) on June 3, at Lakewood Baptist Church.

Michelle Jordan, director of planning, and Mr. Shane Davis, director of urban development from the City of Huntsville, were the speakers at both meetings.

The topic was planning and urban development in North Huntsville. The next quarterly Town Hall meeting will be held on September 1. The next NHBA meeting will be held on



Councilman Showers with Huntsville city planner Michelle Jordan.

June 24 at Lakewood Baptist Church, 2101 Mastin Lake Road NW, Huntsville, Ala. Additional

information can be obtained at (256) 427-5011.

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Dr. Barbara Anthony



Dr. Margaret Kelly



Ms. Lettye A. Boyd



Chair, Dr. Anthony Stinson, with co-chairs Evelyn Lee and Dr. Terry Hazzard



Bradford's Honored by Former Students

"Thank You for the Music and More" was the theme of the 2015 Nell Lane Bradford Legacy Choir's event on Saturday, June 13, at Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church, where Dr. Wayne P. Snodgrass is Pastor.

Dr. Anthony B. Stinson conceived the vision of the Legacy Choir and served as chair of the event. The activity was ably co-chaired by Ms. Evelyn Lee and Dr. Terry Hazzard. Directors and accompanists were Ms. Lee, Rev. Cleopha Pair, Mr. Conrad Purnell and Dr. Stinson.

Former students from the 1950s through the 1990s, from far and near, presented an evening of memory, legacy and music to an audience of several hundred attendees.

According to Dr. Stinson, this "dynamic duo" could have gone anywhere to teach. However, they chose Alabama A&M University. Participant after participant shared loving sentiments for this beloved Family.

Dr. Margaret M. Kelly served as the Mistress of Ceremony, Rev.



Dr. Henry and Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford

Michael Rice rendered the Opening Prayer and Benediction, Dr. Snodgrass welcomed the crowd, while Dr. Mary Stanley presented the occasion.

Dr. Barbara Anthony read a poem that she penned several years ago entitled "Your Song Has Filled my Heart" that was distributed as a parting gift to

attendees as a bookmark.

"Thank You for the Music and More" was presented in two parts. In addition to some of the Bradfords' favorite songs,

Moments of Remembrance were provided by sisters Sylvette Parker-Monroe and Dr. Allison Parker-Young. Additionally, Ms. Lettye Boyd inspired us with memories of Mrs. Bradford as director of the Alabama A&M University Choir.

During Part II, presentations were made by Dr. Hazzard and Dr. Stinson regarding their days as choral students. Soloists included Ms. Kathy Rice-Davis, Ms. Evelyn Lee, Dr. Michael Hambrick, Dr. Hazzard, and Mr. Tommie Lockhart.

Finally, remarks were made by Dr. & Mrs. Henry L. Bradford, Jr., their son, daughter and grandson. Dr. Henry Bradford encouraged attendees to always take the "high road" and to be loving. Mrs. Bradford led the Legacy Choir in an adaptation of the song, "I Love You," and the program ended with Mrs. Bradford leading the entire assembly in the AAMU Hymn.

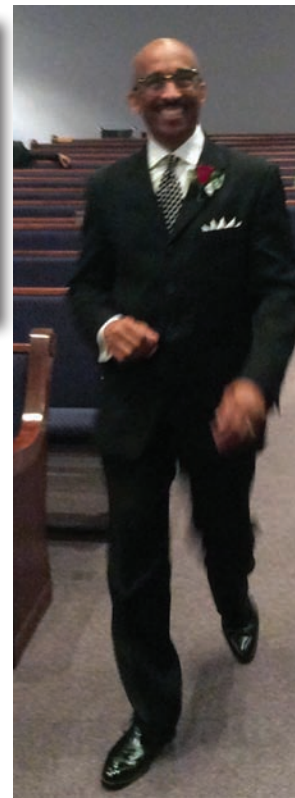
Indeed, any time spent with the Bradfords is time well spent!



Nell Lane Bradford Legacy Choir



Mrs. Bradford and daughter, Andrea.



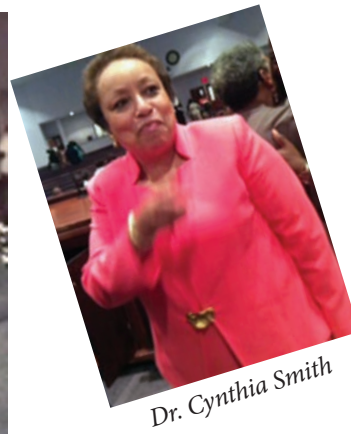
Dr. Anthony B. Stinson



Dr. Michael Hambrick



Ms. Andrea Bradford and Pastor and Mrs. Mitchell Walker of Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church.



Dr. Cynthia Smith



Authurine Shackelford and Mrs. Bradford



Mr. Tyrone Sumlin and Choir members



Class of 1979



Mrs. Mary Curry and Dr. Mary Stanley



Alex Roberts



Ms. Sylvette Parker-Monroe and Ms. Jacqueline Kyle Bennett



Veronica Harris Winston



Mr. Tommy Lockhart and fellow Choir members



Rev. Michael Rice, Henry Bradford, Jr. and Dr. Terry Hazzard

Film Screening Scheduled for "Kindness Is Contagious"

The Office of Multicultural Affairs in conjunction with Aura Graphics and Design and Gathr Films will host a screening of the film "Kindness Is Contagious" at Hollywood Stadium 18 on Monday, June 29, from 7-9 p.m.

The documentary focuses on making the community a more compassionate place to live, and it shows that acts of kindness have larger consequences for those who engage in them.

Film screenings are being held nationwide during the last two weeks of June in collaboration with the Charter for Compassion, based in Seattle, Wash. The organization launched the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities, a global, organic movement inspired by the Golden Rule.

The movement seeks to increase awareness of the role of compassion in creating healthy, productive communities. It also encourages citizens to engage in random and strategic acts that demonstrate the importance of treating others as we would like to be treated.

Huntsville is now one of 58 cities worldwide that have signed the Charter for Compassion,

and remains the first and only city in the state in Alabama to be recognized by the Charter for Compassion.

The Compassionate Huntsville campaign is being spearheaded by the City of Huntsville Office of Multicultural Affairs under the direction of Multicultural Affairs Officer, Kenneth Anderson, who held a series of conversations with community stakeholders to gauge interest. Anderson found that there was a significant amount of interest and support from these individuals.

The current steering committee includes representatives from the North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (NAAACC), Huntsville City Schools, Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations, Huntsville/Madison County

National Marriage Week Coordinating Committee, University of Alabama in Huntsville Office of Multicultural Affairs, Oakwood Adventist Academy, Hospice Family Care, Huntsville Council of Neighborhood Associations, Huntsville/Area Friends Quaker Meeting, AshaKiran, United Way of Madison County, Cornerstone Initiative, 100X Church, Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council, International Society of Huntsville, Phoenix, GLBT Advocacy & Youth Services, Interfaith Mission Services, North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless, Phoenix, and the Huntsville-Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Anyone or any group is welcome to participate.

Proceeds will support the United Way of Madison County that currently supports 29 agen-

cies involved in compassion work.

"Kindness Is Contagious" is a feel-good documentary by David Gaz, narrated by Catherine Ryan Hyde, the best selling author of the novel (and film) "Pay It Forward."

In short, it's a film all about being nice and the benefits of being nice. "Kindness Is Contagious" features prominent experts; Catherine Ryan Hyde; Dacher Keltner, director of the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley; James Fowler, author of the book *Connected*, on the power of social networks and how they shape our lives as well

as real life people from all walks of life whose lives illustrate their incredible discovery.

The film asks one surprisingly difficult question: What is the nicest thing that anyone has done for you?

Street performers, soup kitchen volunteers, police officers, models, CEOs, baseball players, roller girls, concert pianists, artists, and many more tell their heartfelt stories of kindness and generosity.

For tickets, visit: <http://gathr.us/screening/12412>. For information, contact Kenny Anderson at (256) 883-3993 or kenny.anderson@huntsvilleal.gov.

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