

# The Valley Weekly

Volume 3, No. 41

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Friday, June 23, 2017

FREE

*"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."*  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## ACCS Assigns New Interim President to Drake State

Christopher A. Lewis, who currently serves as special assistant for workforce at the Alabama Community College System, has been named interim president of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College in Huntsville.

"Chris Lewis will be a tremendous asset at Drake," said Jimmy H. Baker, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. "His knowledge about workforce development is informed by his time with our system and by his considerable experience in the private



sector."

Lewis joined the Alabama Community College System in 2015 as director of the Alabama Technology Network's Montgomery/Selma Center. Most recently, Lewis has been working "on loan" as a

liaison with Trenholm State Community College in Montgomery to coordinate adult education and workforce development programs, where he has continued to build external relationships and raise awareness about the role community colleges play in workplace success.

He holds a bachelor's degree in financial management from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, an MBA from Troy University, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in adult education from Auburn University.

## DLC Alum Will Serve on Trump's HBCU Advisory Board

Alabama A&M University staffer and Diversity Leadership Colloquium alum Darryl Jackson will serve on U.S. President Donald Trump's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The Board issues an Annual Federal Plan for Assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to the President on participation by HBCUs in federally-sponsored programs.

The President's Advisory Board also provides advice

to the Secretary of Education and makes recommendations in reports to the President on how to increase the private sector role in strengthening HBCUs.

The Board focuses on enhancing institutional infrastructure and facilitating planning, development, and the use of new technologies to ensure the goal of long-term viability and enhancement of these institutions.

Members are appointed by the President and include representatives of HBCUs, other institutions of higher



education, business and financial institutions, private foundations, and secondary education.

## Rep. Daniels Helps Small Businesses Conduct Business with State

The Catalyst Center for Business & Entrepreneurship, in partnership with Alabama House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels, hosted the "Doing Business with the State of Alabama" event June 15. The event was also an opportunity to network with over 20 state agencies.

The event was held at The Jackson Center and included a welcome by Daniels, followed by a presentation from Jerry Young,

deputy purchasing director with the Finance Department, on how to become a vendor with the state, types of opportunities available, and an explanation about why working with the state is beneficial.

Attendees also heard from each department about their services and needs, concluding with networking. The Catalyst has a formula for success when it comes to making introductions to small busi-

nesses.

"Our small businesses are the backbone of our local and state economy," states Daniels. "Their success is absolutely integral to the success of our state. This is why it's so important to ensure they have the knowledge and tools to compete for state business. State agencies and departments doing business with our local companies is a win-win."



## Black Strings Group to Perform in Huntsville

Urban Strings of Columbus, Ohio will be in concert on Saturday, June 24, at St. John AME Church at 6 p.m. This will be their first stop on a Black College Tour in southern states this summer. Urban Strings was founded in 2007 by Mrs. Catherine Willis and Friends of Art Community Enrichment (or FACE) to introduce Black youths to classical music with the hope that they would eventually increase the disparate numbers of orchestras' racial makeup. With a membership of 40 players ages 7 to 18, Urban Strings is comprised of youths from varying skills and backgrounds. Although all elementary schools in the Columbus district offer beginning string classes, Willis said it can be difficult for many Black families to afford participating in the program. The performance is a multicultural repertoire of great music ranging from classical, jazz and gospel, to R&B and movie themes. The public is invited to attend.



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James Smith - AllState Insurance

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Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

## Washington in a Minute



Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. The House will vote on a bill to facilitate faster construction of water storage projects in 20 Western states and will consider legislation that would improve the reliability of the electric grid. The House will also vote on a bipartisan bill to use up to \$100 million in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to subsidize 50% of the cost of employing TANF recipients (the rest borne by the employer), which would include apprenticeship programs. The Senate will vote this week on more Trump Administration nominees at Treasury and FEMA. Off the floor, GOP Senators will remain mostly occupied with getting to an agreement on a healthcare bill, which they are trying to pass before the start of the July 4 Recess (that begins on Friday, June 30). Last Friday, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) proposing an all-senator meeting on healthcare.

2. On the heels of President Trump's focus on apprenticeship programs during what the White House dubbed "workforce development week," the House is taking its turn on those issues this week. House Republicans scheduled a vote (Thursday) on a bipartisan bill that overhauls the main federal law governing funding for career and technical education. Lawmakers will vote on a reauthorization of

the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, which was last comprehensively overhauled in 2006. A similar overhaul bill cleared the House on a 405-8 vote during the last Congress.

3. President Trump spent last Saturday night at the 125-acre Camp David in Western Maryland's Catoc-tin Mountains--his first trip there as President--with First Lady Melania Trump; son, Barron Trump, and the first lady's parents, Viktor and Amalija Knavs. This is White House "Technology and Innovation" Week (compare last week's Workforce Development Week and the previous Infrastructure Week), which will include an event (Thursday) with White House adviser Jared Kushner at the White House with executives from Apple, Google, Intel, Oracle, Qualcomm and others focused on emerging technologies, modernizing federal websites, high-skilled immigration, cybersecurity, and education. On Monday, President Trump hosted a meeting with Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela and participated in an American Technology Council roundtable. On Wednesday he traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for a rally event and on Thursday, he and Mrs. Trump hosted Members of the House and Senate on the South Lawn on the White House for the annual Congressional Picnic.

4. According to the Washington Post, last week a group of 25 prominent conservatives led by the conservative watch-

dog group Judicial Watch sent a letter to White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus lamenting that the slow pace of Administration nominees is jeopardizing the GOP's agenda by having federal career staffers in charge in key posts that remain vacant. To date, Congress has confirmed 43 senior appointments, compared to 151 at this point for President Obama and 130 for President Bush.

43. Last Friday, Milwaukee County (Wisc.) Sheriff David Clarke was the latest Trump nominee to withdraw his name (from a post at the Homeland Security Department).



5. On Tuesday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) gave a major tax policy speech at the National Association of Manufacturers' 2017 Manufacturing Summit, which may give clues about the timing and content of the upcoming House tax reform bill. According to the Politico website, Ryan told a group of donors on Sunday that Congress will pass an Obamacare repeal bill by mid-summer and a tax reform bill and a series of infrastructure bills by the end of 2017.

6. The Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee scheduled back-to-back hearings on

Wednesday and Thursday, respectively, with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on the President's trade policy. On April 27, President Trump and the leaders of Mexico and Canada agreed to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Meanwhile, on the Russia probe, former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson testified in an open hearing before the House Intelligence Committee on Wednesday.

7. On Tuesday, all eyes in DC were on the special election for the GA-6, recently vacated by HHS Secretary Tom Price (and formerly occupied by then-Rep. Newt Gingrich from 1979-99). According to the Politico website, more than 140,000 votes have been cast in early voting, which ended on Friday, and a House record of \$50 million has been spent on the election--in which 1st-timer Democrat Jon Ossoff has mounted a surprisingly strong challenge to ex-GOP Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel in an overwhelmingly Republican district.

8. Last Wednesday, 196 Democratic Members of Congress -- led by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) filed a federal lawsuit against President Trump alleging

that, by retaining interests in a global business empire, he has violated constitutional restrictions on taking gifts and benefits from foreign leaders. The lawsuit argues that Members of Congress have special standing to sue in this case because the Constitution's foreign emoluments clause requires the President to obtain the consent of Congress before accepting any gifts.

9. According to the New York Times, a record 24,959 tickets were sold for last Thursday's Congressional Baseball Game at DC's Nationals Park in the wake of Wednesday's shooting of Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA) and others at a Virginia practice field -- a higher attendance than Thursday's major league games in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Minnesota and Oakland.

For more information, contact Ron Hamm at 202-596-8384 or rhamm@hammconsulting.com.

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## Mall to Hold Social for Local Business Owners

by Reggie Allen

The Parkway Place mall will be holding a special pop-up social geared toward local boutique owners and entrepreneurs on June 22 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event comes shortly after CBL & Associates announced plans via Al.com for an initiative that would allow small businesses to rent a vacant store for a week. During the social, potential tenants will have the opportunity to view



the space and mingle with other interested parties.

The social is open to the public. However, to qualify for a space,

interested tenants must have a product that not only matches the aesthetic of the shopping center, but showcases the creativity of North of Alabama. If a tenant is approved, they will be provided with tables, hangers, fitting rooms, lighting fixtures and two vinyl signs with



the company's name. Additionally, the business will be promoted on the mall's various media platforms. For additional information, please contact Barbara. hale@cblproperties.com



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# From the Editor



*Ahhh, To Be Focused on the Father!*

Last week, on Tuesday, June 13, I posted to many friends online that Bill and I were at Huntsville Hospital. We *never* thought we would be here so long. Typically, we are in and out, so we just keep it close to us and say a prayer for his speedy recovery.

But, we just never know. By Father's Day, the unfortunate occurrence had rounded another week,

as Bill continued to be challenged with pain that originally began on Friday, June 9, and which resulted in a trip to an emergency room in New Orleans. It was determined that he had blood clots in his left leg. Through it all, we have determined that this is necessary for us.

In other words, these diverse life experiences are necessary to keep us focused on Him! Our son James and daughter Katie are home; my sister Ann came up from Monroeville to help where needed; my local sister Mary is actively supporting and loving us. Our son Will and wife Pauline are in touch daily--sometimes two and three times.

We have a loving Pastor Troy Garner and Lady Kim, a caring

Fellowship and loving Friends and associates. And, as Father's Day has come and gone, it's underlying message lives on. That is, we are loved and are secure because of our relationship with the Father, in spite of the space we occupy today.

Bill is going to be fine!

*Bill at the Beach!  
What a difference  
a day makes!*

*When you can't find  
a printed copy of The  
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town, follow us on-  
line at [www.valley-weeklyllc.com](http://www.valley-weeklyllc.com).*



*Dorothy*





# For New Valley Graduates: Old School Recipe for Winning the Game Called Life

By Lamar A. Braxton, Jr.  
Valley Weekly Contributor

Now that the mortarboards and gowns have been put away, here's some advice to help the recent graduate stay on course.

## 1. Develop a personal relationship with God.

Communicate with him daily through song, prayer, and reading his word for yourself. You can not know too much about Him. People will twist His words either because they have been taught incorrectly or they will twist it for their self gain. The contemporary English version of the bible speaks of false prophets. Matthew 24:24 reads, "False messiahs and false prophets will come and work great miracles and signs. They will even try to fool God's chosen ones." Another reason you must know his word is because 1 Peter 5:8 reads, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

2. **Seek His guidance and direction in all your decisions,** from deciding which car to buy, which job to take, who to marry, what to cook for dinner today, or which career to pursue. Nothing is too hard or small for God to handle. He will never guide you wrong.

3. **Develop a plan.** Set a goal for yourself; whether it is to become a doctor, lawyer, educator, engineer, mechanic,

fashion designer, or head of housekeeping at the Holiday Inn. List your goals in a notebook and the skills needed to reach that goal. Include the completion date of each milestone or the acquisition of each skill needed to achieve that goal. Along the way, the goal may change but that's okay too; simply/modify your list. Before Daymond Jones and three of his friends created the FUBU line of clothing, they first had to learn how to sew, develop a sense of color and fabric coordination, and learn how to operate a business. Before India Arie (I-ry) wrote and performed the songs "Not the Average Girl in the Video" or "Ready for Love", she had to study music, train her voice, learn to play the guitar, and develop a vocabulary so that she could have something to sing about.

4. **You must be flexible.** The skills you develop, will give options when opportunities present themselves to you, or when life throws you a curve ball and delays your plan. For instance, on the road to becoming a news reporter, you may have to wait tables at Shoney's, mow lawns, drive an 18 wheeler, substitute teach at a local school, or work as a cashier at Wal-Mart. Which ever positive opportunity presents itself, be prepared to take advantage of it, and do the best job humanly possible.

5. **Don't be afraid of failing.** From failure comes some lessons that will assist you

later in life. If you are cooking grits and they flow like water when the cooking process is complete, review all the steps you made. Maybe you did not add enough grits or maybe you cooked them in too much water. You have learned the consequences of not following directions when cooking grits and will not make that mistake again. You can now apply that lesson to other situations that will present themselves in your life. Share your lessons with others so that they won't make the same mistake.

6. **Never stop learning and growing.** You have completed school and think you don't need to learn anything else. Wrong answer, you should not stop learning new things until the Good Lord calls you home. Learn something new every week or everyday. That means you will spend time reading, traveling, interacting with a different group of people, and paying closer attention to your immediate surroundings.

7. **Surround yourself with positive people.** If everyone around you has a defeated attitude toward life, you too may develop that mindset. Attitudes are contagious. If you are trying to overcome certain temptations, you will have to change your environment. If you are hanging out with friends who spend all their awaking moments indulging in the vices of drugs and other acts, it will be difficult for you not to fall into that trap. If

you want better from life, you need to surround yourself with others who want better as well. You don't forget about your friends, you just can't spend a lot of time with them. However, you are obligated to minister to them and help lift them up.

8. **Maintain humility.** Nobody has ever made it on his or her own. They always had at least an assistant. Alexander Graham Bell was working with Thomas Watson when he invented the telephone. Eminem (M-N-M) could not have experienced success as a rapper without Dr. Dre' helping him to hone his skills. Spike Lee's grandmother nurtured him and provided him with money to film his first movie. An African proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." So find your village, and let it raise you. That village will be a church, family, or social organization.

9. **Loose lips sink ships.** Do not run around telling Tom, Dick, and Harry or Alize', Laquon, and Boo about your plans because they may sabotage them. Jealousy is vicious. It will cause the sweetest person to turn sour and work diligently to setup roadblocks in your path. So use caution when sharing your thoughts, ideas, and concerns with others. The wrong person will use it against you, when you least expect it. Marriages have been ruined; business deals have been cancelled, and employment opportunities have

been lost because of loose lips. When people would share too much information with her or others, my niece, Pamela Robinson used to say, "Some things you just need to keep in your underwear." Adopt the military way of thinking. Put everybody on a Need to Know basis. Inform people of your plans when you think they need to know.

10. **Develop and maintain positive self-esteem.** It's important that you are comfortable with yourself. When you experience failure, you will question your very existence. If you have done everything within your power, find consolation in that. Otherwise, you will second guess your every step and want to throw a daily pity party. However, if you are moving according to God's will, then realize it was simply His will and was not to be. You have to hold on to His word such as Proverbs 3:5, which reads, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Or Psalm 30:5, which reads, "For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

To put it in perspective, when you no longer have that Midas touch, where everything that you touch turns to gold, keep your hand in God's hand and never stop believing in yourself. When the hill you are climbing becomes a

mountain, keep your hand in God's hand and never stop believing in yourself. When that peaceful stream that you are crossing becomes a raging river, keep your hand in God's hand and never stop believing in yourself. When that rain shower that is sprinkling on you becomes a tumultuous thunderstorm, you must keep your hand in God's hand and never stop believing in yourself. When the trembling of the soil beneath your feet becomes an earthquake, shaking the foundation of your soul, you must keep your hand in God's hand and never stop believing in yourself. Maintain your faith in God and believe in yourself, and you can survive these tests or trials because nothing lasts forever.

11. **Finally, have no regrets and enjoy life.** Too many people reach the golden years wishing they had gone to Paris, taken a cruise, built a home, furthered their education, learned how to make macaroni and cheese, visited with family more often, or opened their own beauty salon. Once again, set your goals and start working towards them.

You have been armed with the truth, now so go forth young men and women and help someone else along the way, so that they too may win the game called life!

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## A Good Read

by Jerome Saintjones

### Doran Larson's "Morphine"

An artist with terminal breast cancer looks at her relationship, goals and shortcomings, all while trying to hold on to something real. Her

efforts are made more difficult by the morphine she administers for pain and which takes her on trips to alternate realities.

Her significant other has placed his life on hold to become her caretaker. She

worries about him, about sucking the life out of him in the very same manner as the cancer has drawn meaning from her life.

She often insists on intimacy for the sake of beauty and normality, to somehow make time stand still.



## City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Meetings City Council regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. City Council work sessions also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

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Thursday, July 20th, 2017  
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VIP Reception 5PM - Program 6PM

For more information, please call our office at 256-534-6060 or visit our Facebook event page [here](#).

### CITY OF HUNTSVILLE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSOLIDATED/ACTION PLAN

The City of Huntsville, Alabama proposes to amend its FY2016 Action Plan. The following HOME projects are added:

\$351,902.11 Provide funds to Family Services Center, Inc. for the construction of decent affordable single family homes in the Terry Heights/Hillendale community for low to moderate-income families

\$175,000.00 Provide funds to Neighborhood Concepts, Inc. for the rehabilitation of units at Mountain Ridge Apartments for extremely low to low-income families

\$132,739.02 Provide funds for Habitat for Humanity, Inc. for the new construction of decent affordable single family homes for extremely low to low-income families

\$240,000.00 Provide funds to Alabama A&M Community Development Corporation for the construction of decent affordable single family homes in the Edmonton Heights community for low to moderate-income families

\$110,670.00 Provide down payment and closing cost assistance to low to moderate-income, first-time homebuyers; city-wide

A 30-day comment period ending on July 16, 2017 is required before amendments can be made to the Consolidated/Action Plan. For information please call (256) 427-5400. Any comments or suggestions concerning changes to the Plan should be made in writing and mailed to: City of Huntsville, Department of Community Development, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804.



### CIUDAD DE HUNTSVILLE ENMIENDA AL PLAN DE ACCIÓN CONSOLIDADO

La ciudad de Huntsville, Alabama propone enmendar su Plan de acción del AÑO FISCAL 2016. Los siguientes proyectos HOME se agregan:

\$351,902.11 Fournir des fonds à Family Services Center, Inc. pour la construction de décentes maisons unifamiliales abordables dans la communauté de Terry Heights/Hillendale pour les familles de faibles à modéré

\$175,000.00 Fournir des fonds à quartier Concepts, Inc. pour la réhabilitation des unités à Mountain Ridge appartements pour les familles extrêmement faibles à faible revenu

\$132,739.02 Fournir des fonds pour Habitat pour l'humanité, Inc. pour la nouvelle construction de décentes maisons unifamiliales abordables pour les familles extrêmement faibles à faible revenu

\$240,000.00 Fournir des fonds à Alabama A & M Community Development Corporation pour la construction de décentes maisons unifamiliales abordables dans la communauté d'Edmonton hauteurs faible ou modérés familles

\$110,670.00 Fournir l'acompte et fermeture coût aide à faible à modéré, la première fois aux acheteurs ; toute la ville

Antes de poder hacer las enmiendas al Plan de Acción Consolidado se requiere un periodo de comentarios de 30 días el cual termina el 16 de July de 2017. Para información por favor llame al (256) 427-5400. Cualquier comentario o sugerencias sobre cambios al Plan deben ser hechas por escrito y enviadas por correo a: Ciudad de Huntsville, Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804.



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Epsilon Gamma Omega  
The Ivy Foundation

# 11th Annual White-Linen Brunch & "Making a Difference" Awards

Saturday, June 17, 2017 - Ernest L. Knight Center - Alabama A&M University





# Summer Tips for Going Back to School This Fall

by Janice Isbell

Many teachers are dismayed when the students return to school. Many of the students do not retain the materials learned from the previous year. It is a struggle for teachers and the students. The teachers are losing valuable time; they could have used that time to introduce the students to the new materials for the year at a slower pace.

The students struggle because now they have another teacher explaining the materials in a different way.

The following are things you should be doing now. Join our "GET READY FOR BACK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE" by e-mailing janice.isbell+getready@gmail.com.

The K-2 Section includes the following: Practice handwriting; Practice counting & Writing Numbers; Read a poem into a recorder; Listen to the poem you recorded;

Count objects (pennies, dimes, rocks, etc.); and Learn your multiplication facts.

The 3-12 Section includes the following: Review previous Math class on Khanacademy.com; Review grammar rules, etc. on Grammarly.com; Read assigned Summer

reading books; Complete one of the recommended assignments for your book; Review/learn multiplication facts; and Review previous Science course on Youtube.com.

E-mail your name, grade, and school to join the challenge. Each week until July

31, 2017, e-mail your weekly accomplishments in minutes that you worked on the TIP, DUE at MIDNIGHT, by the dates below. Join our FREE Summer Enrichment Program on Sundays, 3-5 p.m.

For additional information, call (256) 694-9451.



The 2017 Alzheimer's Family Care Fair presented by the Alzheimer's Association is a one day event that will focus on various aspects of Alzheimer's and dementia related to those diagnosed and to their caregivers. The event is an opportunity for caregivers and the general public to learn more about Alzheimer's disease, caregiving, dementia-related behaviors, and much more. This event will be especially beneficial for those caregivers facing the challenges of being a full time caregiver and raising a family.

**FREE EVENT**  
**Saturday, June 24, 2017**  
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**LOCATION**  
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5000 Pulaski Pike NW,  
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