

The Valley Weekly

Volume 3, No. 43

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, July 7, 2017

FREE

"Community cannot for long feed on itself; it can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers."

- Howard Thurman

HCS Names Two Deputy Superintendents

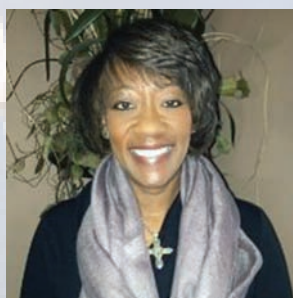
The Huntsville Board of Education on Thursday, June 30, approved two "position replacements"



which netted the creation of deputy superintendent positions.

Superintendent Dr. Matt Akin announced at the end of the meeting that strategy and innovation director Christie Finley and director of magnet programs Tammy Summerville are now deputy superintendents.

Finley will continue to oversee the school district's



strategy and innovation efforts, while Dr. Summerville now will oversee instruction.

Pro Golfer to Discuss "STEM Approach"

Golf and STEM?

Retired professional African American professional golfer Tommy Williams will discuss the topic "Exposing the STEM Approach to the Game of Golf" during a visit set for the Alabama A&M University campus next week.

Williams will speak Thursday, July 13, at the Agricultural Research Center (ARC) from 10 a.m.-12 noon.

His presentation is being sponsored by the North Alabama (Professionals) National Society of Black Engineers and the Young Patriots Organization-Huntsville Chapter.

The "Conversation with



Tommy Williams" is also a part of the NSBE Professionals 3rd Annual Golf Tournament scheduled Friday, July 14, at 7 a.m.

The activity is open to coaches, parents, professionals and amateurs of all ages. Because of limited

space, make arrangements as soon as possible.

For additional information, contact Arthur Henderson, administrator and event planner, 4SIGHT INC. at (256) 541-4395, or visit golf@theMountainClimber.com.



Councilman to Hold Masquerade Ball

Huntsville City Councilman Devyn Keith will hold the Inaugural State of the District Masquerade Ball on Saturday, July 8.

The 7:30 p.m. event will be held at The Roundhouse.

In addition to an address by Councilman Keith, the activity will feature a live performance by Raheem DeVaughn.

A portion of the proceeds from all ticket sales will go toward the fund-

raising campaign of the new North Huntsville Library.

For additional information, contact (281) 798-2407 or visit www.huntsvillelibraryfoundation.org/north.

Symposium Focuses on Economic Empowerment

The Michele S. Bright Foundation will hold its first Huntsville Symposium on "Economic Empowerment Through Unity" on Saturday, July 22, at Columbia High School, 3-5 p.m.

A \$5 donation is recommended for adults age 21 and over. The program will provide information on economic empower-

ment, music, documentaries, snacks, etc. Featured speakers will include Michael V. Roberts, entrepreneur and author, St. Louis, Mo. (r); Ric Mathis, producer; and William Mitchell, CEO, Mitchell-4Group, LLC, Chicago, Ill.

For more information, contact Michele S. Bright at (256) 348-2252 or Sherri Hurst at (256) 337-2533.



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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 recess this week for the 4th of July holiday and will reconvene next week. After failing to take up the GOP healthcare bill last week as planned, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) reportedly drafted a collection of new proposals that the Congressional Budget Office can analyze over the recess. The options include maintaining Obamacare taxes that could help subsidize insurance for low-income enrollees, allowing pre-tax health savings accounts to pay for insurance premiums

and adding \$45 billion over 10 years to fight the opioid epidemic.

2. Last Friday, President Trump signed an executive order reestablishing the National Space Council, last seen in the Bush41 Administration. Vice President Pence will chair the council. On Wednesday, the President traveled to Poland and delivered a speech in Warsaw's Krasinski Square and, according to White House National Security Director H.R. McMaster, he will ask other European nations to take inspiration from Poland, which has refused to accept refugees. From Poland, he traveled to Germany to participate in the Group of Twenty

(G20) meeting of industrialized nations in Hamburg. The G20 summit brings together the world's biggest economies, representing 85% of global gross domestic product.

The President has scheduled private talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, among others.

3. According to the Politico website, a group of 20 GOP moderate congressmen--led by House Tuesday Group Co-Chair Charlie Dent (R-PA)--are sending a letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan expressing their opposition to the draft Fiscal Year 2018 Concurrent Budget Resolution, which would direct Congress to cut \$200 billion from entitlement programs, including food stamps, farm subsidies, housing allowances and veterans' programs, while also providing a substantial boost to Pentagon spending. The House Budget Committee

was scheduled to introduce the belated FY18 Budget Resolution last Wednesday, but postponed it due to opposition to the entitlement cuts.

4. Last Friday, a group of 10 GOP Senators sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asking him to shorten the 5-week August recess, or cancel it altogether, if the GOP fails to make progress on their legislative agenda in July (i.e., healthcare, tax reform, and raising the debt ceiling). Signers include: Sens. Mike Lee (UT), David Perdue (GA), Steve Daines (MT), Joni Ernst (IA), John Kennedy (LA), James Lankford (OK), Mike Rounds (SD), Luther Strange (AL), Thom Tillis (NC), and Dan Sullivan (AK).

5. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced Friday that she is further delaying the implementation of several provisions of the Obama-era "gainful employment" rule. The Education Department said that it will extend Saturday's deadline until July 2018 for career colleges to file appeals of their graduates' earnings data—a key metric the department uses under the regulation to determine if graduates are earning enough to pay off the debt they took on to attend the school. The extension is targeted toward schools that object to the government's earnings data on the grounds that they don't fully capture the income of their graduates. This shift on gainful-employment rule is latest action by the Trump administration that pleases the for-profit education sector but dismays its critics. For more information, contact Ron Hamm at 202-596-8384 or rhamm@hammconsulting.com.

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Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

What if every time you prayed, God answered your prayers immediately. I don't know about you, but I would be praying all the time. But God wants to know: will you *still* pray if he doesn't answer your prayers when you want Him to. Will you still trust Him? Will you still believe in Him?

You see, sometimes our progress is not as obvious as we would like it to be. But just because your

promise isn't obvious, that doesn't mean your faith isn't working. We all need to learn to take another step, even though nothing appears to be happening. When God allows us to be in a certain situation, and we

think that it's taking too long for Him to answer our prayers, maybe God wants us to be less focused on the

outcome and more focused on the obedience.

The outcome is God's responsibility, the obedience is *our* responsibility. Jeremiah 29:11 says: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!



Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mr. Arthur Hammonds, Jr.**, will be Saturday, July 8, at 1 p.m. at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church (710 Dan Crutcher Road - Toney, Ala.) with Rev. Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Wyatt Lacy** was held Monday, July 3, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

Funeral service for **Mr. Charles E. Williams** was held Saturday, July 1, at 11 a.m. at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with Rev. Gary Battles Eulogist.

Graveside service for **Mr. Michael Allen** was Saturday, July 1, at 1:30 p.m. at Huntsville Memory Gardens in Huntsville, Ala.

Funeral service for **Ms. Carla D. Walter** was Saturday, July 1, at the Family Worship Center (3105 8th Avenue SW - Huntsville, AL 35805) with Rev. Doris Lacey officiating.

Funeral service for **Ms. Joyce D. Humphrey** was Saturday, June 24, at the Meridianville Bottom Primitive Baptist Church in Meridianville, Ala., with the Rev. Walter Peavy, Eulogist.

- Nelms Memorial
Funeral Home

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From the Editor

There Used to be a Time!

When I was growing up, I used to hear my Dad say, "A man's word is his bond." Some profess that children say the darndest things, but I offer this week that elders say the darndest things. So many things I didn't understand as a child began to make sense as I grew from young adulthood toward membership eligibility in the AARP.

As children, we would watch and hear our Dad make business deals on his word. During a dry year or a season that was too rainy, when we didn't have enough corn and hay to feed the cows and hogs, he would negotiate a loan of some hay or corn until the next season. When the next crop made, we would return the loan as promised. On a handshake and signature, he would go to the local mercantile and sign for the things we needed until he could take livestock to the auction or sell goods and services.

We were called a lot of things, but we met our obligations. Once when we didn't meet the obligation, the lien holder came and repossessed the collateral. In that case, that was okay because that was the "deal" or the "word."

Because we were farmers, average or good was not good enough. Whatever we did, we had to do our best and get it right, or we had to re-do it. If you think a job is difficult, try re-doing it several times. After a while, we learned to put the grit in and get it right the first time.

On off seasons, after school and on weekends, we worked for other people. We picked up pecans, raked leaves, cleaned houses--you name it. If they were paying, we had to go get the job done. If it were not illegal, immoral or unethical, we did the job because we needed the work.

TVs were a premium. Until we got our first one, we used to go to our neighbor's house on Saturdays and Sundays, sometimes to watch "Lassie," "Soul Train" and the "Ed Sullivan Show." Those are the ones I can remember. Our first telephone was on a community party line. If you picked it up to make a call and someone was on it, you simply put it back down. We didn't argue about things like that. We respected our neighbors and the fact that the line was to be shared.

Children put a handle on adult names. It was not optional. We said 'yes, ma'am' and 'yes, sir,' which was also not optional. I had someone tell me several years ago that children shouldn't say 'yes, sir' and 'yes, ma'am' because it was considered "country." If respecting adults is "country" then I accept that label.

Today, two of my pet peeves are "sassy" children and flies. I don't like sassy children or flies!

Adults said swear words and had their vices. We knew it but they shielded the children from those things. So, although we would peek around corners and listen in, we never did get the full gist of adult 'things' and conversations. They respected that we were children and did not allow us into their conversations.

I recognize that change can be good. However, some things don't need to be changed. Having a good work ethic, some grit, an honest word or deal, respect for elders and each other are things that shouldn't change. These things represent our character and who we really are. When we change so much that something means nothing and our words and deals are empty, that's change gone too far.

My current mood leads me to the notion that I don't like politics much, either. The more I learn about politics and observe the operations of people and positions I believe should be respected and admired, the more I like flies.

Until next week ...



Dorothy

Calhoun's Summer Numbers Up

Decatur, Ala. --- Dr. Jim Klauber, president of Calhoun Community College, has announced that the college's 2017 summer semester enrollment has surpassed total enrollment for the 2016 summer semester.

This summer's enrollment of 6,146 students surpasses the 2016 enrollment of 5,962, an increase of just over 3%.

Of the students taking classes at Calhoun this summer, 1,192 are enrolled in day and evening classes at the Decatur campus;

1,445 are taking day, evening and weekend classes at the college's Huntsville/Cummings Research Park campus; 3,340 students are taking classes on-line; and 168 are enrolled in the college's program at Limestone Correctional Facility.

According to the Col-

lege's Admissions Office, the most significant increases are in online Distance Education courses, more than 11% over last year and in the College's transient student population, up more than 7% this year.

Commenting on the increase, Klauber, said, "While our enrollment increase this summer may seem slight, we are extremely pleased to see this uptick in our numbers, particularly in light of the fact that so many colleges and universities across the state and nation have seen a continuous decline in enrollment."

"Based on feedback from students, we made a few changes in scheduling options this summer, which we feel definitely paid off," Klauber added.

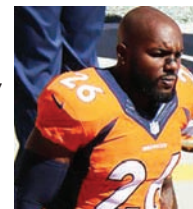
"We offered a number of delayed-start classes to accommodate the schedules of our recent high school graduates and transient students and developed a targeted advertising campaign to reach these populations. We feel that based on our numbers this summer, these efforts have been successful in helping us to realize the increase we have experienced."

"We are currently in the midst of registration for our 2017 fall semester, and are hopeful that the enrollment increase we saw this summer is an indication of what we'll see with our fall numbers," continued Klauber.

Registration for Calhoun's 2017 fall semester continues through August 20, with classes beginning on August 21.

Darian Stewart Hosting 4th Camp

Denver Broncos and Super Bowl Champ Darian Stewart host his free 4th Annual Youth Football Camp for ages 7-17 in his hometown of Huntsville, Ala., Saturday, July 8, at 8 a.m. at Milton Frank Stadium.



The mission of the Stewart Standouts Foundation Inc. (SSF) is to support and encourage the youth with events and scholarships for academic and athletic pursuits, extracurricular activities and many other

professional endeavors that are desirable and beneficial but otherwise unaffordable to underprivileged youth.

Stewart founded SSF in 2014 and he attributes a part of his professional success to the extracurricular activities he participated in as a child.

Garden Features Firefly Nights

"Firefly Night Hikes with a Prehistoric Twist" will be sponsored by Huntsville Botanical Garden on July 11 and July 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Registered families will meet in the Boeing-Toyota Amphitheater (first parking lot immediately to the left upon entering the Garden).

Children of all ages enjoy these family friendly night hikes at the Garden. The hikes are extraordinary

because children get to go back in time to visit the prehistoric creatures at the Garden.

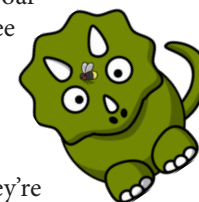
After walking through the Dinosaur Uproar exhibit, visitors see fireflies in the meadows, orb weavers spinning their webs and, maybe, if they're lucky, some nocturnal animals out foraging for dinner.

Attendees are urged to

wear comfortable walking shoes, bring a sense of adventure and don't forget about their chance to make smores!

Fees: Members \$10, Non-members \$12; Free for children aged 3 and under.

For additional information, contact the Education Department at spline@hsvbg.com or call (256) 830-4447, ext 252.



Taste of Kappa August 11

The Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., will host its annual Taste of Kappa event Friday, August 11, at the Huntsville Museum of Art from 7-10 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online for \$30 per person at HuntsvilleNupes.com. Proceeds will benefit the Huntsville Alumni Chapter's Guide Right program.

For ticket information, contact Michael Miller at (256) 656-7719; Dell Cummings, (314) 518-2096 or Matthew Frost, (256) 651-9322.

"When you are filled with self-hate, your mind is reversed ... meaning you will love the things that destroy you, and you will hate the things that advance your growth."

- Amos N. Wilson



July 7 - MARGARET WALKER - Well-known Alabama-born poet and author. Among her most famous works is the poem "For My People," as well as the book "Jubilee."

- BlackinTime.info

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Valley Calendar of Events

July 8

State of the District
Masquerade Ball

Sponsor:

Councilman Devyn Keith
The Depot Roundhouse
7:30 p.m.

July 9

Huntsville Community
DrumLine
"iDrum"

1800 Jordan Lane, NW
3-4:30 p.m.

July 12

Dancing with the Stars - Live!
Von Braun Center
7:30 p.m.

July 13

Dick Gregory
Stand Up Live
Huntsville, Ala.
7 p.m.

July 13-15

Space Camp SummerFest

July 14

NSBE Professionals Golf
Tournament

The Links at
Redstone Arsenal
7 a.m.

July 17-18

S.O.A.R.
(Orientation)
Alabama A&M University

July 21-30

W.C. Handy Music Festival
Florence, Ala.

Thru August 13

Dinosaur Uproar Alive
Huntsville Botanical Garden
Presented by:
Toyota Alabama

October 10-15

Motown - The Musical
VBC Concert Hall
Huntsville, Ala.

Auditions for "Watsons" in August

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The Watsons Go to
BIRMINGHAM
1963

February 16-18 & 23-25, 2018
PROJECTXYZ – Performance Partner

By Nicole Fields

Auditions are planned next month for an exclusive African-American cast for "The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963."

Auditions will be held at 1:30 p.m. August 12-13 for persons 6 years of age and up. Children must be minimum age by audition dates. Actors must arrive 15 minutes early to com-

plete paperwork.

The historical fiction book by Christopher Paul Curtis is about an African-American family from Flint, Mich., that goes to visit the grandmother's home in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963.

The book includes the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, a critical catalyst

of the American civil rights movement.

Requirements: Actors must come with a prepared one-minute monologue. Actors will also be asked to read from the script.

For more information, send questions to watsonsgotobham1963@gmail.com.

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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Local Twins Appear in Summer Blockbuster



by Reggie D.
Allen

If you plan on going to the movies this weekend, you might see two familiar faces on the screen. Calvin and Kevin Ross, known collectively as the Blasian Twins, will have brief cameos in "Baby Driver," which hit theaters June 28.

Not much is known about their roles, but the twins recently took to social media to post photos from the set, which includes them dressed in matching brown suits.

Helmed by director Edgar Wright, "Baby Driver" stars Ansel Elgort ("Fault in Our Stars") as Baby, a young getaway driver forced into service by a powerful mob boss. With

one assignment left, Baby hopes to leave his life of crime and pursue a relationship with waitress Deborah (Lily Collins.)

"Baby Driver" also stars Jaimie Foxx ("Ray"), Kevin Spacey (Netflix's "House of Cards"), Jon Hamm ("Mad Men") Jon Bernthal (Marvel's "Daredevil") and singer Sky Ferreira.

Talented on and off the screen, the twins also have ample experience directing and choreographing action scenes. Their website states the Ross's have 15 years' worth of martial arts training and studied at the University of Alabama,



where they won the Campus Movie Fest (CMF) Lifetime Achievement award for making seven films during their tenure at the Capstone.

Recently, the dynamic duo teamed up with professional wrestler David Otunga to create a short film, starring his son for Father's Day.



Interfaith Institute Deadline Nears

Persons interested in signing up for the annual Wildacres Interfaith Institute have only a short time to do so.

The Wildacres Interfaith Institute runs from July 31–August 3. It brings together clergy and lay people of all faiths to gain understanding toward WII's goal of betterment of human relations.

Our annual Institute at

the Wildacres Retreat Center, off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, N.C., is open to clergy and interested lay people from all religious traditions.

Persons are invited for fellowship, discussion and fun on the mountaintop. Wildacres provides a magnificent vista of the Blue Ridge Mountains, including stately Mt. Mitchell across the way.

The study sessions are supplemented by plenty of good food (strictly kosher), a daily happy hour, evening entertainment, morning prayer services, and opportunities to explore the area.

Cost is \$275 for clergy/spouse and \$300 for laity. Visit www.gcarwildacres.com for more information or email gcarwildacres@gmail.com with questions.



2017 Leaders & Legends Dinner

featuring Emmitt Smith



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Thursday, July 20th, 2017
Von Braun Center - North Hall
VIP Reception 5PM - Program 6PM

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

A Good Read

by Jerome Saintjones

**Matthew Crain
"Penance"**

In the first pages of this short story, it's easy to assume that Caleb Andrews has his head screwed on right. He seems to have a moral compass and is firm about what's right and wrong.

As "Penance" unfolds line by line, however, we receive foreshadows of a man who has weaknesses and struggles like everyone else. Then by story's end, the reader is almost convinced that Caleb is hardly anything like anyone else. In fact, he should probably

the Washington County Mental Health Association to allow one her patients an opportunity to work for his operation.

Dennis is overly difficult to deal with at first, but it isn't long before Caleb develops a protective liking toward the kid. When another trouble maker from the mental health facility, who had befriended Den-

nis, shows up at a worksite, all hell breaks loose. We learn that Caleb, like so many, has been living on the edge. His demons have cost him his family, his happiness and, perhaps, a last opportunity for penance.



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WEDC Foundation Will Honor Valley Women at Summer-End Event

On September 21, the very last day of summer 2017, the WEDC Foundation will hold its annual Women Honoring Women (WHW) celebration.

This year's event WHW event will be held on Thursday, September 21, from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Von Braun Center North Hall.

This year's theme-- "When Perseverance Meets Passion"--stresses the organization's continued mission of helping women achieve self-sufficiency and economic independence by providing mentors, development opportunities, professional networking and flexible financial assistance.

At the announcement reception (held in June), WHW Chair Paula Cushman and Co-Chair Jenny Hite, announced this year's outstanding women of our community:

Butch Damson

Full Time, Full Heart Community Volunteer

When Butch starting vol-



unteering 54 years ago, she recognized that she wanted

to be more than a good wife and mother; she wanted to pursue something that spoke to her many passions. She has been instrumental in aiding and improving numerous local organizations including the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, The Burritt Museum, American Cancer Society, Junior League, American Diabetes Association, the Huntsville Land Trust, Randolph School, Greater Huntsville Humane Society, Catholic High School, and many others. Because of her continued tenacity and perseverance, her contributions will be seen and felt for many generations to come.



Barbara G. Fast

Major General (Retired) U.S. Army, BGF Enterprises, LLC

With no other resources available to pursue her Master's degree, Barbara joined the military to further her education and was one of the last women to join the Women's Army Corps. She has led the way for other women in a 225-year-old male dominated organization, becoming

the first woman to hold numerous positions in the Army, including the Director of Intelligence in charge of US Operations in a 91 country area and the Commander of the Intelligence Center and School, Fort Huachuca, AZ. Serving in the Middle East during the Iraq War brought challenges and experiences beyond imagination. Today, Barb honors the past by dedicating her life to the causes that she feels are most important - the promotion of deserving women and men, and the security and honor of our country.

Dr. Shelia Nash-Stevenson

NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center

Dr. Shelia Nash-Stevenson is a pioneering African-American woman. Graduating in the top 10% of her high school class at age 16, obtaining her B.S. degree at age 19, her Master's degree at age 22, and her PhD Magnum Cum Laude in Physics from Alabama A&M in 1994 has placed her as the first African-American female in the State of Alabama to achieve much local and



national recognition. She was a charter member of the board of the Madison City School System, was instrumental in establishing a pilot program that taught all students in the third grade how to swim and proper rescue techniques. Having numerous professional publications and having received numerous awards, she was recently recognized as a NASA "Modern Figure."

Dr. Jennie B. Robinson

Huntsville City Council Representative

Jennie and her husband arrived in Huntsville in 1980. She took an active interest in community service and began working with church and local PTA programs



while raising her five children. She has held leadership positions in both the community and her professional life including with her company, Personal Best Training & Development, United Way of Huntsville/Madison County, Huntsville Community Foundation, the ELM Foundation, and the WEDC Foundation. After serving on the Huntsville City School

Board for twelve years, Jennie was elected to serve on the Huntsville City Council in 2014 and currently serves as Council President.

Christine Wicks

Keller Williams Realty, InTown Partners Real Estate Group



Working long hours while attending college and enduring various issues that caused a change in her life path, Christine persevered to become an entrepreneur at age 21, starting a successful travel agency in Huntsville. After raising a family, she began a highly successful career in real estate, starting the first Keller Williams Realty franchise in Huntsville, Alabama and soon expanded the business to other parts of the state. Christine is always available to mentor, counsel, and guide others to achieve their goals in the business of real estate. She gives back to her community through many organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Hudson Alpha, American Heart Association, and

Huntsville Hospice Care Facility.

Dr. Elizabeth A. Worthey

HudsonAlpha Institute for Biology

Dr. Liz Worthey is a world-renowned scientist who speaks around the world, sharing her expertise in genomics, rare diseases, and technology. She is passionate about mentoring and promoting girls in STEM, narrowing the gender gap in science and tech fields, and advancing the practice of medicine through genomics. Liz received her PhD in genetics from Imperial College, London, and has been recognized for many awards. Her work has led to amazing stories, one of the most



celebrated being the story chronicled in the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, "One in a Billion: The Story of Nic Volker and the Dawn of Genomic Medicine." Her team's work inspired the establishment of the first genomic clinic in the world here in Huntsville.

The Arts Represent Big Business in the Valley

The arts mean business in Huntsville/Madison County. The nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$89.9 million in annual economic activity in Huntsville/Madison County, supporting 3,073 full-time equivalent jobs and generating \$6.6 million in local and state government revenues, according to the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 national economic impact study.

The most comprehensive economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry ever conducted in the United States, Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 was conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts

education.

Results show that nonprofit arts and culture organizations spent \$53.8 million during fiscal year 2015. This spending is far-reaching: organizations pay employees, purchase supplies, contract for services and acquire assets within their community.

Those dollars, in turn, generated \$53.5 million in household income for local residents and \$6.6 million in local and state government revenues.

"While we in the arts industry see first-hand every day the impact the arts can have on people's lives, this data further proves that the arts have a far-reaching impact on the health and vitality of our community," said Allison Dillon-Jauken,



executive director of Arts Huntsville. "This is the first time in more than 20 years that we have had such comprehensive data on the impact of the arts in our community. We are confident our arts and cultural sector will continue to grow and flourish with the continued support of our community."

Nationwide, the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 reveals that the nonprofit arts industry produces \$166.3 billion in economic activity every year, resulting in \$27.5 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues

(a yield well beyond their collective \$5 billion in arts allocations). In addition, it supports 4.6 million full-time equivalent jobs.

Arts Industry Boon for Local Businesses

In addition to spending by organizations, the nonprofit arts and culture industry leverages \$36.1 million in event-related spending by its audiences. As a result of attending a cultural event, attendees often eat dinner in local restaurants, pay for parking, buy gifts and souvenirs, and pay a babysitter.

What's more, attendees from out of town often stay overnight in a local hotel.

"A strong and vibrant arts community is essential to ensuring our continued success and growth in Huntsville. As we look to attract companies and individuals to our area one of the first things they look for is quality of life and more specifically our commitment to the arts," said Ron Poteat, Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Foundation Chair and North Alabama area president of Regions Bank. "I'm proud of the work that Arts Huntsville continues to do to make sure we provide a full landscape of arts and cultural experiences to our citizens."

The full Huntsville/Madison County report can be found at artshuntsville.org. The Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 study was conducted by Americans for the Arts and supported by The Ruth Lilly Fund of Americans for the Arts. Americans for the Arts' local, regional, and statewide project partners contributed both time and financial support to the study. Financial information from organizations was collected in partnership with DataArts™, using a new online survey interface. For a full list of the communities who participated in the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 study, visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org/AEP5Partners.



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