

# The Valley Weekly

*"There are truths which are not for all men,  
nor for all times."*

- Voltaire

**FREE**

Volume 3, No. 44

[www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)

Friday, July 14, 2017



## July Jam Couples with Bookpack Drive

The July Jam and Bookpack Drive will be held at the Alabama A&M University Agribition Center on Saturday, July 15.

The Bookpack giveaways will run between 2-5 p.m. for elementary and middle school students, while the public is invited to enjoy live outdoor music on Agribition Center's

quad area from 6-10:30 p.m.

Throughout the live music and entertainment, attendees will be able to participate in a silent auction and giveaways.

Admission is free to R&B and soul music, food trucks, various vendors and door prizes.

Last minute spaces

might be available for VIP (\$75 set-up fee/\$25 door prize) and regular vendors (\$50 set-up fee/\$25 door prize).

For event and vendor information, contact Altonio Smith at (256) 859-5896 or [altonio.smith@amu.edu](mailto:altonio.smith@amu.edu).

## Breakfast & Biz Event Scheduled

For about \$20, the Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce "Breakfast & Biz" activity on July 19 is just one way to network in a facilitated, structured environment.

The event will take place from 7-9 a.m. in the Chamber auditorium at 225 Church Street in Downtown Huntsville.

Individuals are placed in groups of 6-8 and are given one minute to share their organization's benefits and services with the group.

Tables rotate at least five times during the event, giving attendees a tremendous opportunity to initiate new business contacts in a short period of time.

Business attendees are

encouraged to bring plenty of business cards for an average group comprised of 60-80 guests.

For additional information, contact Pammie Jimmar at (256) 535-2043 or [pjimmar@hsvchamber.org](mailto:pjimmar@hsvchamber.org). Admission is only \$10 for Chamber members and \$20 for non-members.

## DLC Alumni Association to Hold Networking Social

The Diversity Leadership Colloquium Alumni Association, headed by Linda Fowlkes will hold a networking social at Burritt on the Mountain on Friday, August 11, at 6 p.m.

The social will be followed by an outdoor summer concert at 7:30 p.m. The featured group performing is Mo' Sol of Atlanta, Ga. Tickets can be purchased online for

\$12 each at <https://burritonthemountain.com/>



[event/city-lights-stars-concert-2017-08-11/](https://event/city-lights-stars-concert-2017-08-11/). Tickets

can also be purchased at the gate at Burritt for \$15 on the day of the concert.

"This is a summer social for the DLC graduates to network and get to know one another better," said Fowlkes. "We are planning some leadership forums and volunteer opportunities in the near future."

For additional information, e-mail [LindaFow@msn.com](mailto:LindaFow@msn.com).

## Aeolians Win "Choir of the World" in UK Choral Competition

The Aeolians of Oakwood University, under the direction of Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand (a former Aeolian), won "Choir of the World" designation at an international competition in Wales held July 3-9.

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod is a music festival which takes place every year during the second week of July in Llangollen, North Wales.

Singers and dancers from around the world are invited to take part



in over 20 high quality competitions followed each evening by concerts where the best and most colourful competitors share the stage with professional artists.

Over 5,000 singers, dancers and instrumentalists from around 50 countries perform to audiences of more than 50,000 over

the 6 days of the event.

The Aeolians of Oakwood University was originally organized in 1946 by the late Dr. Eva B. Dykes. Since its inception, the choir has traveled widely, touching the hearts of both young and old with their inspirational singing.

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N. Ala. Center for Educational Excellence

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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 returned to session this week for what they hope to be a furious burst of activity before leaving at the end of the month for a five-week recess. The Senate devoted most of its floor time this week to confirming Trump Administration nominees to mid-level Cabinet positions and the federal courts. Behind closed doors, Senators remained focused on getting an agreement on a revised GOP healthcare bill. A vote on the bill might occur next week as they wait for a score on the revised bill from the Congressional Budget Office. The House will debate, among other items, a Western water bill to streamline dam approvals and restore water deliveries to Central California users provided by the 1994 Bay Delta Accord and will also take up the FY 2018 Defense Authorization bill.

2. Last Sunday, President Trump announced that he and Russian President Putin had agreed during their meeting at the Group of

20 Summit in Hamburg to form a cybersecurity unit to combat cyberterrorism. On Friday, Mr. Trump was in Paris to attend the Bastille Day parade and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry into World War II.

3. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee was set to approve the following FY2018 spending bills: the FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, the FY 2018 Interior Appropriations bill, the FY 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations bill (in subcommittee) and the FY2018 Agriculture Appropriations bill and the FY2018 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill (in full committee).

4. On Wednesday, Christopher Wray, President Trump's choice to be the new FBI director, was set to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee for his confirmation hearing.

5. On Monday, the Trump administration took its first steps toward rewriting two

of President Barack Obama's signature higher education achievements: the "gainful employment" and "borrower defense to repayment" rules. The Education Department is hosting a day-long public

hearing to get feedback about rewriting the rules and about additional topics that should be folded into the rulemaking process. Consumer and student advocacy groups are expected to condemn Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' decision to delay and rewrite the regulations, and urge her to reconsider.

6. This week, Reps. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) and Trent Franks (R-AZ) were expected to introduce legislation granting lawful permanent resident status in the U.S. to Charlie Gard, the British infant with a

terminal genetic disorder, and his family--so that Charlie can receive an experimental drug. Last week, President Trump and Pope Francis offered to intervene in the case.

7. Last week, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his deputy Rod Rosenstein visited the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba, along with National Intelligence Director Dan Coats. The Trump Administration has signaled a willingness to continue the use of the site for terrorist detainees.

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

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### CAFY, STAR 99.1 Unite

Community Awareness for Youth (CAFY) and STAR 99.1 will recognize Young Citizen of the Month. CAFY and the Huntsville Police Department are partnering with STAR 99.1 to recognize young citizens in grades 7-12 who have gone above and beyond serving their community, church, and school.

Adults can nominate a STAR 99.1/CAFY Young Citizen of the Month candidate if they are a member of a civic organization, clergy, or any Huntsville/Madison school system.

The STAR 99.1 / CAFY Young Citizen of the Month will receive:

- City Mayoral certificate at the first Huntsville City Council Meeting of the month
- HRC Certificate Presented At Council Meeting
- DynAviation Gift Card
- CAFY Coin of Excellence
- STAR 99.1 Prize Pack
- Radio/TV Interviews

To nominate a student visit [www.mystar99.com](http://www.mystar99.com) or call Dr. Harry Hobbs, director of CAFY, at (256) 425-5307.

## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Question: "Are you asking for God to take away something that He wants you to work through?"

I believe that God shows us our weaknesses so that we can see His strength revealed in us. 2 Corinthians 10:9 says: "for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

You know, we all have things in our lives that we wish we could do bet-

ter. Some people, like the apostle Paul, wanted to speak better. But just to think, if Paul had been a better speaker, then he would never have written most of the New Testament.

So, sometimes what God leaves out is just as important as what He puts in. Because

that's what teaches us to rely on Him. It also teaches us to work with others and

forces us to use what we do have. So, let us thank God for our weaknesses, because when we are weak, He is strong ... Stay encouraged, my

brothers and sisters.



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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of The Valley Weekly, LLC.

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**The Valley Weekly**

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# From the Editor

## CAFY Recognizes the Best of Youth!

A local organization known for helping youngsters understand the importance of health, education, careers and finances is launching a new program.

The Madison County Community Awareness for Youth (CAFY) will now give a 'Young Citizen of the Month' award. The organization's director believes the new program emphasizes the need for children to do good things in the community.



"We feel if we invest in our youth, our youth will take care of this community because at some point, we have to give it over to our youth," said Madison County CAFY Director Harry Hobbs.

The Madison County CAFY is partnering with the Huntsville Police Department, City of Huntsville Office of Multicultural Affairs, City of Huntsville Human Relations Commission, DynAviation, Huntsville City School, Madison County Schools and STAR 99.1 FM to make the program happen.

Students in grades 7 through 12 are eligible for the award. The students must have gone above and beyond in their community, church or school. Adults, who are non-family members, must make the nomination.

CAFY began as a strategic initiative of The City of Huntsville and the Huntsville Police Department and was designed to prepare the youth of Madison County for success as they venture into adulthood, enter the workforce or pursue higher education. CAFY began hosting this annual event for youth (Grades 7-12 / Ages 12-18) in August 2011.

CAFY collaborates with local businesses, law enforcement, schools and organizations to match kids with resources to help them be successful in each of the four pillars (Health, Education, Careers and Finances). CAFY 2017 will be held on Saturday, July 29, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Jaycee's Building and Fairgrounds, 2180 Airport Road, Huntsville, Alabama shortly before the new school year begins. The exact date will be announced soon!

CAFY was founded by Dr. Harry Hobbs, who formerly served as the HPD communication relations officer. Hobbs has been volunteering and reaching out to the youth since he was 24. In response to a call God placed on their hearts, he and his wife, Erica Hobbs, threw themselves into outreach programs focusing on

kids who could use a helping hand or a mentor. Together with soldiers, citizens, and church groups alike, they taught self improvement and self sufficiency to kids and directed-coordinated a drug prevention and awareness camp in Lawton/Fort Sill, Okla. Before joining the HPD, Hobbs taught JROTC for three years at Columbia High School, where he helped instill discipline and motivation into high school students.

In response to HPD's Strategic Initiative request, Hobbs pitched the idea of CAFY in 2011 as a way for the Huntsville Police Department and the City of Huntsville to reach out and show love to the city. He worked with the Huntsville Police Department and local officials to iron out the details and the rest is history in the making! CAFY kicked off in 2011 with a back to school event at the Jaycees Building and Fairgrounds, which has become an annual event that continues to grow each year. Madison City and Madison County have all joined up with CAFY in its mission to give Madison County youth the tools necessary to achieve success by providing guidance, knowledge and resources that enable the adolescents to gain insight into what it takes to become a successful adult.

Until next week ...

*Dorothy*

## SummerFest Culminates with 'Party of the Year'

Space Camp SummerFest is an annual three-day celebration at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center meant to bring together our community of Camp alumni and their families from all over the world, allowing them to reconnect with friends and applaud the accomplishments of fellow alumni.

This year's event is July 13-15 and is packed with exciting activities for the whole family. The weekend includes sample astronaut training missions, special astronaut appearances, the 2017 Space Camp Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony, and the grand finale concert on July 15



in Shuttle Park featuring a high-energy performance from the rocking party band, "Party of the Year," produced by the popular performers in "The Black Jacket Symphony." The concert will run from 7-10 p.m.

It will be a rocking night under the Pathfinder shuttle. The producers of the popular Black Jacket Symphony are bringing Party of the Year to the stage to play hits from the 1960s to today.

This is Black Jacket

Symphony's answer to the party band, and the concert experience includes videos, full concert lighting and a high-energy performance.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Food trucks scheduled to attend are Rollin' Lobstah, Beast Mode and Sugar Belle's.

This is a rain or shine event will be held at One Tranquility Base, Huntsville, Ala. For additional information and tickets, call (256) 837-3400.

The adjacent Huntsville Marriott is offering special weekend rates for Space Camp SummerFest guests.

## Celebrated Actor with Alabama Ties Passes

Nelsan Ellis, the actor best known for playing Lafayette Reynolds, the flamboyant and quick-witted short order cook, for seven seasons on HBO's True Blood passed on July 8. He was 39. Ellis died after complications of heart failure, his manager said in a statement to the Hollywood Reporter last week.

Based on the Southern Vampire Mysteries novels by Charlaine Harris, the television adaptation took creative

liberties with Ellis' character. Despite being a minor character that was killed off early in the books, Reynolds' story arc was expanded and his character remained on the show until the series' finale in 2014. The groundbreaking role was Ellis' first major casting.

Born on the outskirts of Chicago, Ellis would later move with his siblings to Bessemer, where they would be raised by their grandmother. While in Alabama,

he briefly attended Jess Lanier and McAdory high schools before moving back to Illinois to complete his studies.

The Julliard alumnus appeared in numerous feature films, including The Butler, Secretariat, The Help and Get on Up, where he played R&B singer-songwriter Bobby Byrd. His last project, True to the Game, based on the novel by Teri Woods, is expected to be released posthumously later this year. The film also stars Columbus Short, Vivica A. Fox and Draya Michele.

by Reggie D. Allen



## Autistic Adult to Launch Historic Autism Conference

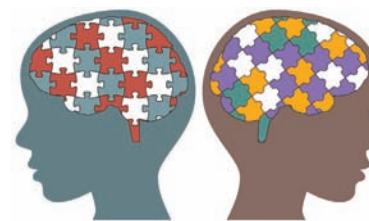
Scott Kramer, an autistic adult and program director of the GCA Centre for Adult Autism (Centre), will be launching the first adult autism conference east of the Mississippi River.

The Inaugural Tri State Adult Autism Symposium Conference is the first autism conference east of the Mississippi to focus fully on adult autism themes (employment, independent living, social relationships, health and wellness, and research).

The conference will be taking place on Saturday, July 22, in Chattanooga, TN at Red Bank Baptist Church, 4000 Dayton Boulevard, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Kramer talked with about 25 executive directors in the disability community from Tennessee,

Georgia, and Alabama. "The overwhelming responses that the directors gave convinced me that I



had found a 'gold mine of an opportunity' to reach out to the adult autism community in those three states." Formed with the idea of building community, Kramer instantly recognized the need for this type of conference.

"Countless numbers of autistic adults never had their social needs met in childhood, so those needs exist to this day. What this conference does is have social networking events take

place the day before and day of the conference. By doing so, the social needs of these individuals can be better met."

Approximately one to one and a half percent of this country's population is autistic. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2015, just over 77 percent of the country's population is at least 18 years of age.

With a population of just 22 million people in the states of Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama, roughly 190,000 autistic adults live in the area that the conference is focusing on serving.

For more information, please contact Scott Kramer at 423-598-9516 or by email at Scott.Kramer@chattanoogaautismcenter.org.

**"Look for me in the whirlwind or the storm."**

- Marcus Garvey



**July 14 - MAULANA KARENGA - Controversial author, former Black Panther and activist. He is most well known as the founder of the Kwanzaa celebration.**

- BlackinTime.info

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# Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mr. Lionel Webb** was held Thursday, July 13, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **Mr. John Sanchez** (b. 1962) was held Saturday, July 8, at Hope Community Church.

Funeral service was held Saturday, July 8, for **Mr. Arthur Hammonds, Jr.**, (b. 1946) at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Funeral service was held Friday, July 7, for **Ms. Phyllis Washington** at Madkins Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Endia J. Scruggs officiating.

Funeral service was held Monday, July 3, for **Mr. Wyatt Lacy** (b. 1923) at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

Funeral service for **Mr. Charles E. Williams** (b. 1946) was held Saturday, July 1, at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with the Rev. Gary Battles, Eulogist.

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home



## Extension: Farmers Census Important

Alabama farmers and producers will get a chance to represent agriculture in their areas by participating in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years, this census provides a count of all U.S. farms and ranches and those who operate them.

The Census of Agriculture highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and other topics.

The 2012 Census revealed more than two

million farms, spanning over 914 million acres. The number of U.S. farms dropped 4 percent from the 2007 census. However, agriculture sales, income and expenses increased between 2007 and 2012. This information and thousands of other agriculture statistics come from the responses to the Census of Agriculture.

*Census of Agriculture: Important to Farmer.* Max Runge, an Alabama Extension economist, said farmers as well as educators and policy makers benefit from

the census.

“The USDA releases multiple reports each month; however, these reports are typically nationwide, or at best, state level reports,” said Runge. “The Census of Ag collects data down to the county level and the information is specific to each county.”

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit the national website at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or contact your county Extension office.

## Common Landscaping Mistakes

Dissatisfied with your spring landscaping design or preparing for a fall planting? What are the most common landscape mistakes that keep you from having a beautiful and healthy yard that is an asset to its surroundings?

According to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the first action before picking up a shovel should be to call 800-292-8525 to gain an idea of *underground utilities*.

The importance of *thorough soil preparation* cannot be overemphasized. A healthy root system makes plants tougher, ultimately saving time and money. Soil is like a living, dynamic sponge that holds

water, stores nutrients and air, gives beneficial organisms a habitat, and filters, traps, and degrades contaminants in runoff.

Resist the urge to plant an instant landscape or be prepared to remove plants as they become *crowded*. Make sure you know the mature size of your plants before planting. Give them room to grow into their mature size. When plants grow too tall for the landscape areas, they require extra pruning and maintenance in the long run.

Group plants according to their *water requirements*. Don't place plants *too close to the house*. Finally, be sure to give any new trees *enough root space to grow*.

## 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.

## Valley Calendar of Events

**July 13**  
“A Conversation with Tommy Williams”  
(Exposing the STEM Approach to the Game of Golf)  
Agricultural Research Center  
Alabama A&M University  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

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 15**  
Praise Fest 2017  
Changing Lives Ministry  
Phillips Tabernacle Church  
930 Balch Road  
Madison, Ala.  
6 p.m.

“The Tale of Two Brains”  
(His Brain, Her Brain)  
Marriage More Abundantly  
4705 Mastin Lake Road  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 655-8856  
6:30-9 p.m.

**July 17-18**  
S.O.A.R.  
(Orientation)  
Alabama A&M University

**July 20**  
Southern Families African  
American Genealogy Meeting  
Alabama A&M University  
Wellness Center/2nd Floor  
Room 202  
6-7:30 p.m.

**July 21-30**  
W.C. Handy Music Festival  
Florence, Ala.

**July 22**  
Economic Empowerment  
Through Unity  
Columbia High School  
300 Explorer Boulevard

Huntsville, Ala.  
3-5 p.m.

**July 30**  
143rd Anniversary  
Church Street CPCA  
Downtown Huntsville  
9:30 a.m.

**August 3-5**  
Margaret Cho  
Stand Up Live Comedy Club  
Huntsville, Ala.

**August 4**  
Xi Omicron - Omega Psi Phi  
Fraternity, Inc.  
“Vegas Night” (Semi-Formal)  
\$30/\$40 at the door  
Von Braun Center-North Hall  
7 p.m.-1 a.m.

**August 5**  
Alabama Women In Jazz  
Festival  
Headliner: Freda Payne  
Insanity Complex  
1-10 p.m.  
EventBrite.com

**August 11**  
Diversity Leadership Colloquium  
Networking Social  
Burritt on the Mountain  
6 p.m.

“Taste of Kappa”  
Sponsor: Huntsville Alumni  
Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi  
Fraternity, Inc.  
Tickets: \$30/person  
Contact: Michael Miller,  
(256) 656-7719  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
7-10 p.m.

**Thru August 13**  
Dinosaur Uproar Alive  
Huntsville Botanical Garden  
Presented by:  
Toyota Alabama

**August 31-September 3**  
Comedian Don “DC” Curry  
Stand Up Live Comedy Club

**September 14**  
“2017 Speakers Series for the  
Village of Promise”  
Speaker: Ruby Payne, Ph.D.  
Von Braun Center-North Hall  
11:30 a.m.

## Aquatics Center Offers Ultimate Experience

by Kelly Cooper Schrimsher

The City's new \$22 million Huntsville Aquatics Center opened recently on Drake Avenue with a ceremonial "dive-in" and open house. The stunning new 90,000-square foot, state-of-the-art facility features three large pools, new restrooms, conference and hospitality space, offices and concessions, 264 parking spaces and a new terrace overlooking the Brahan Spring Park lagoon.

The Aquatics Center opened just in time for the 52nd annual Rocket City Swim League

City Swim Meet and, later in July, the USA Swimming Southeastern Championships.

With the addition of the new 50-meter Competition Pool to the original Legacy Pool, the City will have two Olympic size pools for competition use and the largest spectator seating capacity in the state. The new Instructional Pool, which opened earlier this year, provides warm water therapy and a handicapped access ramp into the water. It replaces the therapy pool at the Jim Williams Aquatic Center.

"Years ago, we listened to the public tell us we needed to renovate and expand our swimming facilities, and this is the grand result you see today," said Mayor Tommy Battle. "We decided to do this right and we put the project in our capital plan to build a facility that would serve our residents well and make our community proud."

Architectural design for the Aquatic Center with Nola VanPeurse Architect began in January

2015. The firm worked to address a long wish list of amenities desired by users and produced a plan that is high-tech and beautiful. After a two-year, staged construction period (to keep the Legacy pool in use), the public can now dive right in.

"The completion of the Instructional Pool and



Competition Pool mark an extremely proud moment for the Department and the City in our dedication to not only Huntsville Aquatics, but aquatics as an accessible form of recreation. This incredible facility will enable us to serve more people than ever, with additional meet potential, classes and swim lessons," said Steve Ivey, director of Parks & Recreation.

Architectural plans for the phase 2 renovations, the Legacy Pool, are under way and will include an additional 500 spectator seats for a total seating capacity of 2,000.

### Fast Facts:

- Three pools: The Competition Pool (new), the Instructional Pool (new) and the Legacy Pool (existing), all connected by a bright and spacious new lobby

- New 50 Meter, 7 foot deep Competition Pool with seating for 1,400 spectators; Colorado Timing System and two display boards, Spectrum starting blocks; water temperature is 82 degrees for public swim, 72

degrees for competition

- New men's and women's locker rooms with 27 showers

- New Instructional Pool is 75 feet long by 36 feet wide. It is 3 feet deep at the shallow end ramping down to 7 feet deep at the deep end with handicap accessible ramp and stair entries. It

includes a bench at one side of the pool with massage jets. Four (4) Family Changing Rooms with Access to the Instructional Pool; water temperature is kept at 90 degrees

- It will take 754,000-plus gal-

lons of water to fill the two new pools

- There are more than 1,330,000 gallons of water in the complex, including the Legacy Pool. Total water weight is about 11 million pounds

- To fill the pools with a standard garden hose, it would take 2 ½ months of running the water around the clock

- 56,409 square feet of new construction

- Two workers involved in this project – Lucky Bryant and Robert Morgan – were also involved in the construction of the old Brahan Spring Natatorium 42 years ago. Morgan is one of the project superintendents

- Design and Construction Team: City of Huntsville General Services, Nola VanPeurse Architect, Pearce Construction, PEC Structural, Mims Engineering, Johnson and Associates and Counsilman-Hunsaker Designers. The founder of the latter is the late coach James "Doc" Counsilman, a two-time Olympic coach and six-time NCAA.

## Concerts in the Park Series Ends August 7

Arts Huntsville and the City of Huntsville's Department of Parks and Recreation are midway the 2017 Concerts in the Park season. Concerts in the Park series, which began June 5 and will continue every Monday through August 7. So, enjoy now!

The series showcases a mix of musical genres that were announced in May. Concerts are held on the Huntsville Museum of Art outdoor stage in Big Spring International Park from 6:30–8 p.m. The concerts are free to the public; concertgoers should bring their own seating and leashed pets are welcome.

Handicap parking will be available in the Huntsville

Museum of Art parking lot and additional parking is available for free in the Monroe Street garage.

Picnics are welcome at the Concerts, but local food trucks and vendors will also be onsite along Williams Avenue.



This year's menus include Asian fusion from Pearl Asian Cuisine, New Orleans flavors from Cajun Cravins, BBQ favorites from Badd Newz BBQ, mega-burgers from The Piled High Grill, a variety

of shaved ice choices from Iceworks, homegrown iced teas from Piper and Leaf, cool treats from Suzy's Pops, cakes and sweets from Nothing Bundt Cakes and Maggie Moo's Ice Cream Truck, as well as hot dogs, sandwiches and

a great selection of Summer park food from Tha Food Truck and Washington Square Catering.

Banjo's Treats will offer treats for the pets in the attendance at Concerts in the Park.

This year's concerts are presented with the support of AT&T, Progress Bank, Hexagon PPM and Hexagon Safety & Infrastructure, and Russ Russell Commercial Real Estate.

## A Good Read

by Jerome Saintjones

### Ta-Nehisi Coates "A Case for Reparations" *The Atlantic*

In about 16,000 words, Ta-Nehisi Coates lays out a compelling narrative

that spans the centuries and brings us squarely to the present and how The Chosen systematically arrived at their current place in American society.

Published to much ac-

claim in 2014, Coates' piece calls by name the many perpetrators in impediments to countless blacks' attempts to achieve the American Dream, fighting racists; local, state and federal governments --all while holding on to their bibles.



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# Scenes from Councilman Devyn Keith's

- State of the District -

## Masquerade Ball

Saturday, July 8, 2017

The Roundhouse



# Keeping Your Health While Traveling Abroad

(BPT) - Each year, travelers from the United States head to popular destinations. And while many have Zika on their mind while traveling, and are aware of the need to bring sunscreen, bug repellent and other travel necessities, many don't know that cholera may be a bigger threat than they thought and most don't take the necessary measures to protect themselves from it.

Cholera is an infection that affects the intestinal tract and can cause severe watery diarrhea is currently estimated to be present in over 60 countries, mostly in the Caribbean, Asia and Africa.

Of the top 20 international travel destinations for U.S. travelers, five are to cholera-endemic countries, such as the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, China, India and the Philippines.

Mild forms of cholera can be mistaken for traveler's diarrhea, which can leave travelers in an uncomfortable state due to diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and mild to severe dehydration and ruin travel plans. You can get cholera by eating or drinking contaminated food and water.

Every year, millions of people around the world become ill due to cholera. However, fewer cases are reported to health authorities than the global estimates. There are more than 8 million U.S. travelers per year going to countries where cholera is endemic. In recent years, there has also been a re-emergence of cholera in Ecuador, Haiti, Cuba and Mexico. However, despite the re-



cent re-emergence, cholera remains underreported.

Still, plans to go abroad don't need to be canceled or changed to avoid getting sick. You can protect yourself from cholera (and other food and waterborne illnesses) by drinking clean (filtered or bottled) water, washing hands frequently and eating foods that are from sealed packages or cooked well. However, almost 98 percent of travelers do not comply with these guidelines.

Getting a vaccine before

travel may also help to ensure that your travel plans are not inconvenienced by illness. The CDC recommends that adult travelers (ages 18-64) who are going to areas of active cholera transmission get vaccinated for cholera.

If you are traveling abroad to an area where cholera is present, make sure you are prepared by talking to your doctor or pharmacist at least two weeks in advance about getting vaccinated for cholera.



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