

The Valley Weekly

Volume 1, No. 47

Friday, July 31, 2015

FREE

"I am committed to promoting excellence, innovation and sustainability of HBCUs."

*- George H. Cooper
Executive Director*

White House Initiative on HBCUs

President Obama's Letter Lauds Former AAMU Administrator Cooper

"Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. George Cooper, the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

"As a native of Tallahassee, Fla., George's love of education and HBCUs began as a student at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, continuing his education at Tuskegee University and receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana.

"George spent the majority of his life ensuring that students at our nation's HBCUs were



George H. Cooper, Ph.D.

receiving a quality education and had the necessary resources to succeed and make their communities and our country better. He served on the faculty at several universities including Alabama A&M University, Tuskegee University and as President of South Carolina State University. His service extended beyond working

with students at institutions.

"For 17 years, he worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, ensuring that HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions were receiving adequate resources to strengthen research and academic programs. George's passing is a great loss for my Administration, the HBCU and higher education communities and for everyone that knew him.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Diane, family and friends during this difficult time."

*- Barack Obama
President of the United States*

Valley YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs Form Alliance

Heart of the Valley YMCA and the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama have established a new strategic alliance with the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

"By aligning the missions, visions and resources of our agencies, we believe together we can better solve some of the complex issues facing the youth of our community," said Jerry Courtney, president of Heart of the Valley YMCA. "Our hope is that our work together will have greater impact and will encourage

others to break down institutional silos and pull together to better serve youth and families throughout our region."

The two agencies launched the collaboration with the first P.A.C.E. (Positive Attitude Changes Everything) Leadership Camp for 35 students who will attend school for the first time together as classmates at Huntsville Junior High School.

Six focus areas will constitute the framework for further collaboration: Aquatics Safety/Swim Lessons, Childcare Services, Summer Camp/Outdoor Activities, Healthy Family Initia-

tive, P.A.C.E. and Closing the Achievement Gap.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs and Heart of the Valley YMCA are coming together in a collaborative effort to concentrate on the challenges of youth in our communities," said Patrick Wynn, president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama. "This partnership will allow our influence to become more prevalent in North Alabama, and create a blueprint for future collaborative efforts."

The "Y" is the nation's leading nonprofit strengthening communities through youth

development, healthy living and social responsibility. For 105 years, Heart of the Valley YMCA has served Madison, Morgan, Limestone, Jackson and Marshall counties and currently operates three membership branches, three early childhood education centers, and one resident camp.

In 2014, the Heart of the Valley YMCA served 35,204 individuals through membership and programs. Of these, the YMCA served 11,765 youth with 2,077 kids participating in youth sports programs and 2,589 kids learning to swim. The YMCA also provided \$756,405 of financial

assistance to 7,418 individuals.

For over 77 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama seek to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who are most in need of encouragement, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama serve more than 5,000 youth annually through 10 centers in Madison, Limestone and Jackson counties. The Boys & Girls Clubs' programs promote academic success, good character and leadership and healthy lifestyles.

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Huntsville's Bridge Street Gets BJ's Restaurant

BJ's Restaurants, Inc., opened its new restaurant in Huntsville, Ala., a few weeks ago. The new BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse® is located in the Bridge Street Town Center at the intersection of Old Madison Pike Road and Research Park Boulevard.

The restaurant is approximately 8,000 square feet, seats approximately 240 guests and features BJ's extensive menu, including BJ's signature deep-dish pizza, award-winning handcrafted beer and famous Pizookie® dessert.

BJ's unique, contemporary décor provides the perfect environment for all dining occasions. Hours of operation are from 11 a.m. to 12 midnight Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

"We are excited to open our new restaurant in Huntsville, Alabama," commented Greg Trojan, President and CEO. "The Huntsville restaurant is our first location in the state of Alabama and our eighth new restaurant opened this year. We continue to be on track to open at least 15 new restaurants by the end of the year. Our next two restaurants are scheduled to open in the second half of this month in Melbourne, Fla., and Murfreesboro, Tenn."

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Save the Date! July 30, 2015

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table hosts another Civil War Sesquicentennial event -

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Home of Artist and Poet Maria Howard Weeden

July 30, 2015

4 - 8 PM

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Period dress encouraged!

Tea and cookies provided!

Come join us for a delightful time!



Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table, Huntsville, AL

A certified 501(c)(3) non-profit agency dedicated to the nonpartisan study of persons, passions, and events of and surrounding the American Civil War.

Low annual dues. Students are free! "Little Round Table" group discussions of selected ACW topics. Monthly presentations on a variety of Civil War-related topics. Special events and tours during the year. Newsletters and periodic announcements about events and opportunities of interest.

Visit www.tvcwrt.org and Facebook for the current schedule of speakers, events, and other items of interest!

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

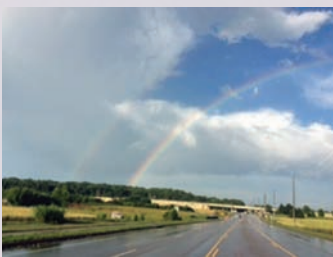
Ah, PIE!

We committed to this community almost one year ago, that TVW would provide an outlet for sharing an exchanging ideas. Our goal was to become a weekly source for local news and balanced information. Our foundation is built on the principles of integrity, independence and courage. Further, we aim to produce a positive, inspirational and educational (PIE) product. This week's edition should keep us close to that aim. Several months ago, we introduced PowerShot by John Moore. PowerShot is a weekly dose of what is positive and inspirational. John is an international artist who resides in Huntsville with his wife and children. His work is phenomenal. Like PowerShot, this week we are introducing a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) feature by Dr. Emanuel Waddell, an associate professor and analytical chemist at UAH. We look forward to his contributions. We believe they will be positive, inspirational and educational for most of us. We hope you have enjoyed Eddie Davis' features on Dr. William Hooper Council, the founding President of AAMU. I have the book "The Greatest Negro the Race Ever Produced," and I plan to read it in August. As indicated on September 5, 2014, in the inaugural edition of TVW, "we have so much to learn." I am going to get-around-to-many-things in August.

For most of my adult life, I have been interested in non-partisan politics. A long-time associate, Ron Hamm, president of Hamm Consulting Group, LLC, in Washington, publishes "The Week in Washington in 60 Seconds" when Congress is in session. We have worked together for almost two decades on various federal projects that have local impact. I thought this week's update would be of local interest. So much of what goes on in Washington impacts our local lives from day-to-day. We will feature his updates from time-to-time.

Life is phenomenal! Over the past several months, I have captured some wonders worthy of sharing: a double rainbow, a magnolia in full bloom, a scene from Big Spring Park and a sunset. According to Wikipedia, a rainbow is a "phenomenon that is caused by reflection, refraction and dispersion of light in water droplets resulting in a spectrum of light appearing in the sky. It takes the form of a multi-colored arc. Rainbows caused by sunlight always appear in the section of sky directly opposite the sun. In a double rainbow, a second arc is seen outside the primary arc, and has the order of its colors reversed." In route to dinner, I pulled over on Old Monrovia Road on June 1 to capture this double rainbow. On June 7, I was in Greensboro, N.C., at the Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden for the 2015 Parisian Promenade. This community festival is held each June, the admission was free and the event featured sights, scenes, sounds and smells of Paris. There were sidewalk artists, live music, activities for children, family games, and sidewalk cafes, all within the Garden. I see Magnolia trees all the time, but this bloom struck me as simplistic beauty. On June 24, I was near Big Spring Park at the Cozy Cow to grab a cup of coffee with Jerry Courtney and Mary Anne Swanstrom from the YMCA. I found serenity in seeing how the ducks and fish in Big Spring Lake co-exist in harmony. Again, I thought, "we have so much to learn." On Friday, July 24, I volunteered to take tickets at the City Lights and Stars outdoor concert at Burrirt on the Mountain. They featured Henri's Notions, a musical group that created a mix of Celtic and American music, with sounds of fiddles, flutes, whistles, mandolins, banjos, acoustic guitars, percussion and bass. They have toured extensively around North America and have performed in Canada and Israel. The backdrop from the mountaintop was an awesome sunset. This sunset was the perfect time of the evening, when the sun was disappearing and the daylight was fades, to the old ballads and songs with explanations to educate and inspire the audience with background information about the music. And, so you have it, rainbows and a sunset, with beauty and harmony in the middle.

As, always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Until next week ...



When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at www.valleyweeklyllc.com.

Dorothy

A Focus on STEM

by Emanuel Waddell, Ph.D.



The New Horizons probe was launched on January 19, 2006, and has the mission of exploring the Kuiper Belt, which is a relic of the formation of our Solar System. This summer, it is investigating the dwarf planet Pluto and its moons. On July 14, 2015, the New Horizons probe made its closest approach to Pluto and sent back stunning, never before seen images of the Pluto surface.

These images were captured by Ralph, which is a visible/infrared multispectral imager and short wavelength infrared spectra imager. In other words, the instrument will use light that we can and cannot see to better understand Pluto. One can think of Ralph as a sophisticated camera. Ralph's imagers also have other scientific capabilities that will be used to map the surface of Pluto and determine the composition of the surface, the chemical makeup of the atmosphere and the temperature of the surface.

In addition to Ralph, there are

six other scientific instruments that will study the atmosphere, geology, solar winds, energetic particles and the number of dust particles on Pluto and in the Kuiper Belt.

The study of Pluto and the Kuiper Belt is important to scientists because understanding them may lead to greater understanding of our atmosphere and biosphere. This understanding of other planets leads to a better understanding of our planet.

Don't Overlook Key Tax Credits This Summer

Remember These Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit This Summer - IRS Special Edition Tax Tip 2015-12

Day camps are common during the summer months. Many parents pay for them for their children while they work or look for work. If this applies to you, your costs may qualify for a federal tax credit that can lower your taxes. Below are some tips regarding the Child and Dependent Care Credit:

1. Care for Qualifying Persons. Your expenses must be for the care of one or more qualifying persons. Your dependent child or children under age 13 usually qualify.
2. Work-related Expenses. Your expenses for care must be work-related. This means that you must pay for the care so you can work or look for work.
3. Earned Income Required. You must have earned income, such

as from wages, salaries and tips.

It also includes net earnings from self-employment. .

4. Joint Return if Married. Generally, married couples must file a joint return. You can still take the credit, however, if you are legally separated or living apart from your spouse.

5. Type of Care. You may qualify for it whether you pay for care at home, at a daycare facility or at a day camp.

6. Credit Amount. The credit is worth between 20 and 35 percent of your allowable expenses.

The percentage depends on the amount of your income.

7. Expense Limits. The total expense that you can use in a year is limited. The limit is \$3,000 for one qualifying person or \$6,000 for two or more.

8. Keep Records and Receipts. Keep all your receipts and records for when you file your tax return next year. You will need the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the care provider. You must report this information when you claim the credit on Form 2441, Child and Dependent Care Expenses.

9. See Publication 503 for more on this topic.

This credit is not just a summer tax benefit. You may be able to claim it for qualifying care that you pay for at any time during the year.

Submitted by
David E. Herron
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Lakeside to Hold Summer Revival

Lakeside United Methodist Church, pastored by Reverend Doctor Thomas Muhomba, will hold its annual Summer Revival Monday through Wednesday, August 3-5.

The theme is: "Do We Truly Understand the Cost?" The service will begin at 6:30 p.m. nightly.

The guest evangelist will be Reverend Percy L. Nolan,

Jr., satellite pastor at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Huntsville, Ala. The public is invited.

Lakeside United Methodist Church is located at 3738 Meridian Street, Northeast, Huntsville, Ala.

For additional information, please call Cynthia Adams, evangelism team leader, at (256) 536-9400.

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WWII Vets to Be Honored at 70th Anniversary

Of the 16 million Americans who served in uniform, less than 800,000 are alive today. Victory Day, a state holiday only in the State of Rhode Island, is observed on the second Monday of August each year. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Allies' victory during WWII.

The Victory Day 2015 observance will be held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center on August 10 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. It will be a day of recognition for the men and women in military service during World War II.

Hundreds of WWII veterans are invited and expected to attend. Victory Day 2015 may be the last opportunity that such a large group of WWII veterans are assembled together for "An Outpouring of Thanks from A Grateful Nation."

WWII veterans and their families are invited and urged to attend.. The public is invited to display signs, posters and expressions of gratitude.

The event will feature an orchestra performance, reenactors, WWII equipment, dignitaries, celebrities, entertainment,

gifts and expressions of thanks, an honor processional and an F-16 fly-over salute to honor the veterans.

For more information visit

www.rocketcenter.com/victory or contact Tim Hall at (256) 701-0916 or Joe Fitzgerald, Victory Day 2015 Event Chairman Chairman, at (256) 797-6012.

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WORLD WAR II
70th
ANNIVERSARY
1945 2015

An Outpouring of Thanks from a Grateful Nation!

We invite all World War II veterans and their families to participate in this extraordinary day of remembrance.

August 10, 2015 ★ 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
U.S. Space & Rocket Center ★ Saturn V Hall
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A day filled with food, bands, entertainment, celebrities, VIP guests and gifts of thanks.

www.rocketcenter.com/victory
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William Hooper Council: A Pioneer for Civil Rights

Midnight Train to Georgia-Pt. 2

- Eddie E. Davis, Jr.

Returning home to Huntsville and collaborating with other lawyers, William H. Council filed a complaint before the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) on May 31, 1887 just six days after the commissioners were established. The lawyers requested that the commissioners award \$25,000 in damages suffered, plus attorney fees to Professor Council for being assaulted unfairly. In addition, they wanted a federal ruling stating fair accommodations along with safety to all passengers riding, regardless of color, over all railways within the United States. Two months later, students attending what is known today as Alabama A&M University, would also sit in first class.

These two train incidents occurring in the South were too much for north Alabamians. They accused Council of teaching social equality to his students and forced him to resign as the leader of the school June 4, 1887.

Heartbroken, Council writes that he foolishly invested all of his money into his school, not even having ten dollars to his name. "I have formed no plans and have no prospects--it is very dark indeed. I do not know which way to turn. I suppose I will gather my wits soon." These

and other concerns Council expressed to his colleague and dear brother, Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee. Council further stated however, "The Commission will not award damages, but I am sure that Southern Railroads will be forced to treat Colored passengers as they do white ones." He was right.

After the ICC conducted their investigation they concluded the cars for whites had better lighting, were bigger in size, and were better maintained than cars set aside for blacks. Although the ICC did not award Council \$25,000 for the physical abuse and damages, they did, federally mandate and affirm that railroads who offer separate cars by races

must have "separate but equal" cars for passengers who purchase first-class tickets despite the color of their skin. This ruling was determined nearly a decade before Plessy vs. Ferguson. This triumphant victory would finally place Negroes and people of color on the right road towards equality, and generations to come would reap the benefit of William Hooper Council's sacrifice. On June 4, 1888, Council ironically, would be reinstated as the leader of the institution and would remain until his death in 1909.

For more information go to www.presh-4wordpublishing.com or amazon.com to order William Hooper Council: The Greatest Negro the Race Ever Produced

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Calendar of Events

August 3-5

Lakeside United Methodist Church Summer Revival
Theme: "Do We Truly Understand the Cost?"

Guest Evangelist: Rev.

Percy L. Nolan, Jr.

Satellite Pastor, St. Paul UM Church, Huntsville, Ala.

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3738 Meridian Street -

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August 7

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August 8

J.O. Johnson Back to School Parade

August 10

World War II 70th Anniversary Celebration

U.S. Space & Rocket Center

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

August 11

"Parental Empowerment"

Sponsor: First Missionary

Baptist Church

5:30 p.m.

August 20

Writing a Business Plan

Huntsville Madison County Chamber of Commerce

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

August 21

Taste of Kappa

Huntsville Museum of Art

Cost \$30

Available at www.HuntsvilleKappas.com

7-10 p.m.

August 21-23

Saved in the City Conference

Von Braun Center

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<http://www.savedinthecity-conference.com>

August 22

"I Am a Survivor" Gala

Westin Hotel (Bridge

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6 p.m.

August 30

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Anniversary Service

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September 3-6

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Football Classic

vs. University of Arkansas

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Louis Crews Stadium

October 31

Walk to Defeat ALS

HudsonAlpha Institute for

Biotechnology

Family style picnic celebration following the walk



"The Week in Washington in 60 Seconds" From Hamm Consulting Group

Here are your top issues in DC this week:

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. All eyes are on the Senate, which had a rare Sunday session to continue debate on the 6-year, \$350 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill (known by its acronym as the "DRIVE Act"). The Senate voted to end the filibuster on an amendment to attach the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank to the bill, which rankled some in the GOP's tea party ranks, including Senator Ted Cruz, who opposes the bank. The Senate also failed to end a filibuster against an amendment to attach a repeal of Obamacare to the bill. The Senate will continue debate on the DRIVE Act for the rest of the week.

2. The House this week will vote on 17 non-controversial items on its suspension

calendar (requiring 2/3rds approval to pass) and then take up a bill to require a vote by Congress before any Executive Branch rule and regulation with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more is enacted. The House will then take up a bill to allow the demotion or firing of Veterans Administration department managers (especially in the VA healthcare system) for bad performance or misconduct.

3. President Obama wraps up his 5-day Africa trip at a State Dinner with Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

4. On Saturday, Hillary Clinton's campaign announced that she will testify on October 22 before the House Select Committee on Benghazi investigating her role in connection with the deaths of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three others in Libya in September 2012. The Committee, however, stated that points of contention remain, such as

whether Secretary Clinton will agree to answering questions about her use of a private email server.

5. Last Thursday, the House passed a bill to punish local governments who enact "sanctuary" laws to protect illegal immigrants from federal prosecution and deportation. The bill would make the jurisdictions ineligible for law enforcement grants, including reimbursing them for the costs of detaining illegal immigrants accused of or convicted of a crime. The largest sanctuary cities include Washington, D.C., New York City, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Oakland, Salt Lake City, El Paso, Houston, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Miami, Denver, Baltimore, Seattle, Portland, OR, and Portland, ME. The Senate's consideration of this bill is uncertain and President Obama has threatened a veto of the bill.

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August Birthdays of Noted African-Americans

1 - Benjamin Mays, educator

2 - **James Baldwin**, author

3 - Edward W. Blyden, Pan-Africanist, intellectual



4 - **Barack Obama**, 44th U.S. President

5 - Patrick Ewing, NBA All-Star

6 - Dorian Harewood, actor



7 - Ralph Bunche, Nobel Peace Prize winner

8 - Matthew Henson, first to reach the North Pole

9 - Janie Porter Barrett, educator

10 - Anna J. Cooper, author-educator

11 - Alex Haley, author

12 - Lillian Evanti, opera star

13 - **Kathleen Battle**, operatic soprano



14 - Ervin "Magic"

Johnson, basketball superstar

15 - Maxine Waters, congresswoman

16 - Carol Mosely Braun, first black female senator

17 - **Marcus Mosiah**

Garvey, Pan-Africanist

18 - Malcolm Jamal Warner,

actor/director

19 - Charles Bolden, NASA administrator

20 - Isaac Hayes, singer/songwriter



21 - Wilt Chamberlain, basketball legend

22 - John Lee Hooker, blues singer

23 - Dr. James Shober, first black North Carolina physician

24 - Reggie Miller

25 - Althea Gibson, tennis great

26 - Valerie Simpson, half of soul duo "Ashford & Simpson"

27 - Rose McClendon, Broadway actress during the 1920s

28 - Wendell Scott, stock car racer

29 - Michael Jackson, world-renown entertainer

30 - Robert Parish, basketball great

31 - Eldridge Cleaver, civil rights leader, Black Panther

Source: BlackinTime.com

MVW Nutritionals Sponsoring "Cycling for Awareness"

HudsonAlpha associate company MVW Nutritionals is sponsoring a 2,000-mile bike ride to raise awareness for cystic fibrosis (CF), a genetic disease that affects more than 30,000 Americans.

Christian Walters is the son of MVW Nutritionals co-founder and CEO Michael Walters. Christian's love for cycling and passion for his work at MVW gave him the inspiration to cycle for CF awareness. The 20-year-old will leave Huntsville on August 17 and wrap up his 45-day journey on October 8 at the 2015 North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. It's going to be an all-around amazing experience," said Christian. "I'll take on every hill and fight for every mile each day of my ride because this journey is about every caregiver, every family and every patient."

CF affects the body's ability to absorb fats and fat-soluble vitamins, which results in special dietary requirement to maintain a healthy weight and lung function. Most patients with CF have exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI) and cannot adequately digest food or absorb the nutrients from the foods they eat.

Funds raised will go directly to the Boomer Esiason Foundation, a CF foundation started by NFL quarterback Boomer Esiason, whose son has the genetic disease. For more info, visit <http://cycleforawareness.com/>.

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