

# The Valley Weekly

*"Christianity has always seemed to fight a losing battle against race."*

- Charles Hamilton Houston

**FREE**

Volume 1, No. 50

Friday, August 21, 2015

## Four-Star General Receives Fraternity's Highest Distinction

Four-star General Dennis L. Via was awarded the 72nd Laurel Wreath recently at the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

General Via is an initiate of Virginia State University's Alpha Phi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi and a native of Martinsville, Va., who joined the Signal Corps on May 18, 1980, after graduating as a Distinguished Military



Graduate from VSU. He holds a master's degree from Boston University, and he is a graduate

of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (class of 1991) and the U.S. Army War College (class of 1999). He is the first Signal Corps Officer since General Henry H. Arnold to achieve four-star rank.

## Year Following Huntsville Visit, Author Releases Another Major Book



America," is being pre-sold on Amazon.com, and the author has already scheduled a "roll-out" of the book in Columbus, Ohio, in September. A few Huntsvillians are planning to attend.

Published by Random House, the book also has been selected for the coveted Military Book Club.

Haygood says the work is "the first book to unravel the behind-the-scenes intrigue behind the 1967 nomination and Senate hearings of Thurgood Marshall, who would become the nation's first African-American Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court after being nominated by President Lyndon Johnson."

Hundreds of Tennessee Valley residents enjoyed the heartfelt presentation of journalist and author Wil Haygood last October at First Baptist Church (Governors).

Haygood, whose visit was sponsored by the Huntsville-based Rosetta James Foundation, penned the book "The Butler," which was made into the popular movie.

Haygood's latest project is a biography on the legendary Thurgood Marshall, attorney, civil rights advocate and U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

The book, "Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination that Changed

## Phillips CME Church Gala to Feature Robin Givens

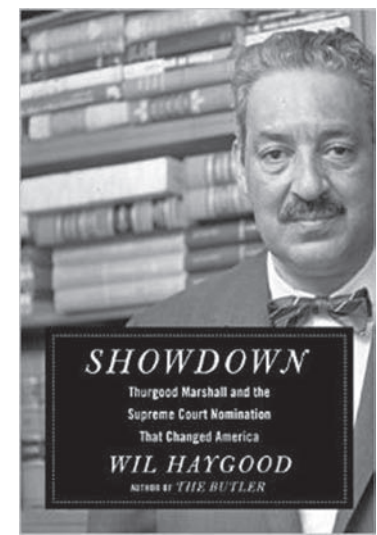


In celebration of its 150th Anniversary, Phillips CME Church is hosting a Black Tie Gala Event on Friday, August 21, 2015, at 7 p.m.

The event will be held at The Jackson Center, located at 6001 Moquin Drive in Cummings Research Park.

Robin Givens, an actress, author and motivational speaker, will be the featured guest, along with gospel violinist Eric Taylor.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling (256) 534-2007. For additional information, visit [www.phillipscmechurch.org](http://www.phillipscmechurch.org).



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Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist

# Around the Valley!

## Housing Authority Hosting Grand Opening

Huntsville Housing Authority invites the public to attend the Grand Opening of Chestnut Glen on Monday, August 24, at 11 a.m. At 12 noon, light refreshments will be served and a tour of the facilities will be provided.

Chestnut Glen is located at 6835 Research Park Boulevard, NW. Chestnut Glen Apartments are smoke-free affordable housing complexes, offering one, two, and three bedroom apartment homes that have been financed with federal subsidies. These federal subsidies help residents at these properties to pay just 30 percent of their income on rent.

For example, one who earns \$1,500 a month would pay just \$500 in rent each month, despite the size of the apartment. The



ground-level apartments are easily accessible for those residents that may have special needs and

are conveniently located and feature many of the amenities expected for modern living. The units at Chestnut Glen, located at 6835 Research Park Boulevard,

"These continue to be exciting times for Huntsville Housing Authority," said Executive Director/CEO Michael Lundy. "For the month of August, we are celebrating the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting for Chestnut Glen. Chestnut Glen is one of the two newest incentive site housing developments for our working residents."

Lundy noted that the site has on-site management, as well as low energy appliances, a multi-purpose center and a play area for children. He anticipates many partners and guests will attend the grand opening.

by Lindsay Pollard

## UCMBC Observes 82nd Anniversary



Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church celebrated its 82nd Anniversary on August 16, 2015. Members and friends enjoyed an Anniversary Picnic with various games and activities on Saturday, August 15, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Worship Services on Sunday, August 16, were held at 7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

The guest preacher was Pastor Cameron Thomas, the twenty-three-year-old Senior Pastor of the Mt. Zion M.B. Church in Pell City, Ala.

An exhibit was on display in the Fellowship Hall depicting UCMBC's 82 years as a church on Saturday during the picnic hours and on Sunday after both services.

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# From the Editor



Public Assistance ...

When I was a child, peanut butter and homemade jelly were treats. During hard times, we had vouchers to get “government” cheese, peanut butter, “spam-like” meat, rice, yellow corn meal and other staples. It was not a source of pride for our family, but a necessity.

After school, we would take the leftover cornbread and make a bowl of milk and bread. I could not stomach the buttermilk, but I loved the sweet milk with corn bread. Oh, there was *nothing* like a biscuit with day-old fried chicken. Today, I hear people say all the time, “We don’t eat leftovers.” If you grew up in our home, many times that was all you had, not only leftovers from our kitchen, but leftovers from the kitchens where my mother worked. Even today, as a working professional, I cherish the days when I have leftovers. I cannot understand the present day disdain for leftovers.

I do not remember public housing in my community until I was in high school and headed to college. Then, they started to spring up around town. Like food vouchers, many people are in public

housing out of necessity. Many of them have jobs that they go to from day to day and yet do not earn enough to afford rent or a mortgage. Like education and the fact that most children can and want to learn, most working people want a decent place to stay. The current minimum wage situation simply does not provide many options, but minimum wage jobs are important jobs and necessary jobs. One layoff or plant shut down and everything is lost, including one of the most vicious discriminators for rebuilding after a life crisis--credit!

The political season is upon us. At TVW, we strive to be apolitical. We believe that the citizenry ought to be informed and armed with factual information to make informed choices. With that said, the demographers have told us, the facts are available, so what are we going to do with the

information? The books of Matthew, John and Mark instructs that the poor shall always be among us. All of us have 24 hours in a day. So, if you can’t help feed a child, you can tutor for an hour each week, mentor a child, counsel an adult who needs advice, or you can simply show compassion. Our needs are complex and many, but each person in our “village” can contribute to making a positive difference.

Take one or two hours of the time you are blessed with to be that difference about which we talk so much. I have my ‘crew’ what about you? Love is an ACTION word; it’s what we do, not what we say ...

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

*Dorothy*

# Author Finds Inspiration, Book in Story of AAMU Student

Any entrepreneur can attest that the route to success is not easy and breezy. Sometimes it can start with or lead to some rocky roads, but in order to reach your goal there might be a few detours, changes, and cycles that must be broken.

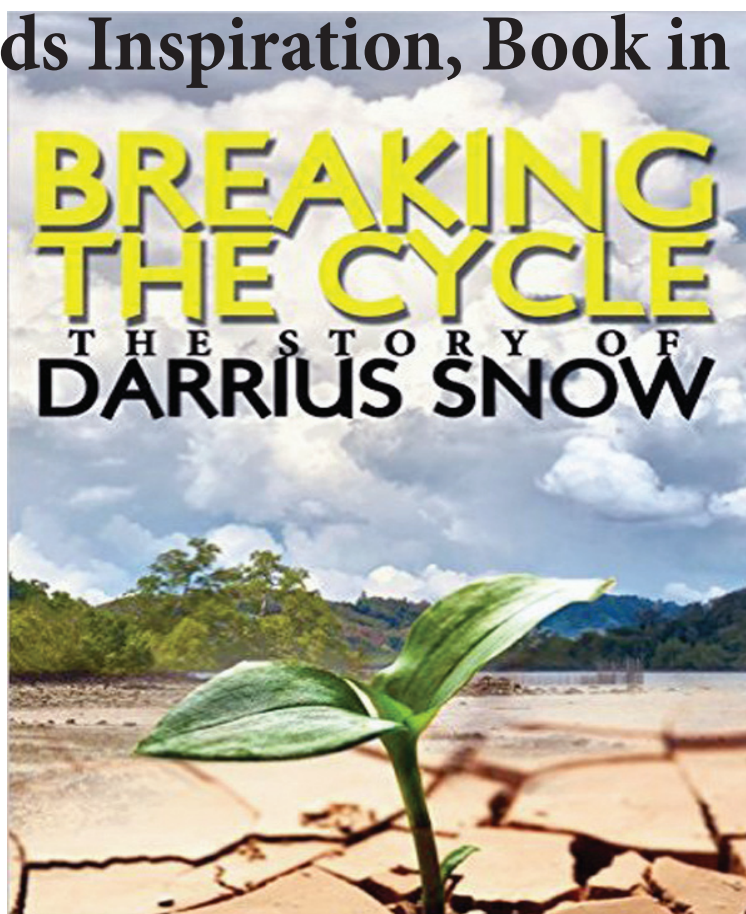
I was given the great opportunity to work with Darrius Snow and write a story of perseverance, courage, strength and faith. "Breaking The Cycle: The Story of Darrius Snow" chronicles the life of the 2009 TeeNick H.A.L.O (Helping And Leading Others) Award recipient who was selected by Lebron James.

Snow received this award due to his dedication to spark change in his community by creating a team-based organization to help kids in underserved neighborhoods with academics and extra curricular activities.

This project was a defining moment in my career because my purpose and calling became clear. I could help others with their books, projects, and businesses. Part of reaching success is being a helping hand in someone else's success. Snow's story goes to show that even if you don't come from much, you still have the ability to make a difference and help those in your community. You don't have to give much in order to fulfill your requirements.

Snow was born into a cycle of poverty and despair in one of the worst neighborhoods in Atlanta, Ga., but that didn't stop him from attaining his goals. As a first generation high school graduate, he went on to finish graduate school receiving his master's from Alabama A&M this summer.

Being more than a conqueror is key for entrepreneurs because many of us have started from or been through some trying times. I haven't known many business deals that were a smooth sail



from start to finish. You must be able to see things through, no matter how cloudy it gets.

"Breaking The Cycle: The Story of Darrius Snow" is a novel to remind readers that there is still so much work to be done. There are so many cycles in our society that need to be broken, and the change can begin with the smallest acts.

One great example was the confederate flag being taken down from prominent locations and businesses. Even though it has been decades since the Civil War and segregation, many of the cycles, beliefs, and mentalities of racism still exist to this day.

Although it can take time, cycles can be broken. The book is

a great tool to help people break some of their own personal, family, or community cycles so they can see change and improvement within their lives.

by Amoi Savage

*Amoi Savage is the CEO of A. Savvy Entertainment, LLC, an entertainment powerhouse that manages every aspect of production in entertainment, such as, but not limited to: book publishing, event planning/production, music/talent management, business management, film/television production, sports, beauty, and fashion. Savage made the Dean's List and graduated early with a degree in Telecommunications and Film, concentrating in production management, and a Minor in Communications Studies. Her company has served businesses, organizations, celebrities, and NFL athletes.*

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# AAMU, The Pinnacle Schools Sign Agreement

Officials from Alabama A&M University, The Pinnacle Schools and the Save the Youth Organization signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on August 12 at AAMU with a document penned by President Andrew Hugine, Jr., and Karen Lee and Eugene Edwards (right).

Coordinated by AAMU's Office of Global Social Service Research, the public event acknowledged the relationship between the entities, a partnership that exists to provide at-risk students an opportunity to attend college, boost retention and offer sufficient support to meet the needs of these at-risk students.

The Pinnacle Schools provide academic and therapeutic programs for local middle and high school students who have difficulty in traditional classroom settings for various reasons.

In fact, AAMU's fall 2015 freshman class includes six recipients of a scholarship program newly established by AAMU and The Pinnacle Schools. The students were selected from The Pinnacle Schools 2014-15 graduating class by committees representing A&M and The Pinnacle Schools.

The Alabama A&M University Office of Global Social Services Research (GSSR) promotes global citizenship and professional action among students, faculty



*Pinnacle Schools CEO Karen Lee explains MOA with AAMU. Inset: Eugene Edwards of Save the Youth, Inc.*

and professionals to foster the improved well-being of the most vulnerable individuals, families and communities around the world.

The office also aims to improve global and community health by fostering partnerships

that promote student engagement, continuing education, community service, collaborative and community-based research. For additional information, contact Selina Mason at (256) 518-9998 or e-mail smason@thepinnacleschools.com.

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# SAVE THE DATE

*First Missionary Baptist Church*

*135<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary*

*August 23, 2015*

*8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.*

*Guest Preacher: Reverend Dr. Marcus Cosby*

*Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church*

*Houston, Texas*

**Theme: Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith and Fruitful in Service**

**Colossians 2:6-7**



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# Nation Remembers Longtime Civil Rights Icon

The nation is in mourning with the Saturday, August 15, death of civil rights legend and former NAACP chairman Julian Bond, who died following a brief illness, according to USA Today.

Born in Nashville, Tenn., on January 14, 1940, the 75-year-old died in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Among his many hats were social activist and leader in the Civil

Rights Movement, astute politician, engaging professor, and writer. It was during his days as a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., during the early 1960s, that he helped to form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He served as the communications director of SNCC from January 1961 to September 1966, when he trav-

eled around Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas to help organize civil rights and voter registration drives. Bond left Morehouse College in 1961 to work on civil rights in the South. From 1960 to 1963, he led student protests against segregation in public facilities and the Jim Crow laws of Georgia.

He returned in 1971 at age 31

to complete his Bachelor of Arts in English. With Morris Dees, Bond helped found the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a public-interest law firm based in Montgomery, Ala. He served as its president from 1971 to 1979. Bond was an Emeritus member of the Southern Poverty Law Center Board of Directors at his death.

What CNN has reported as his "lifelong" civil rights career was also punctuated by his election to four terms in the Georgia House of Representatives and later to six terms in the Georgia Senate, having served a combined 20 years in both legislative chambers. From 1998 to 2010, he chaired the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Bond was an outspoken supporter of the rights of gays and lesbians. He publicly stated his support for same-sex marriage. Most notably, he boycotted the funeral services for Coretta Scott King on the grounds that the King children had chosen an anti-gay megachurch as the venue. This was in conflict with their mother's longstanding support for the rights of gay and lesbian people.



Throughout his lengthy career, Bond amassed some 25 honorary degrees from universities throughout the nation.

"Mr. Bond's wit, cool personality and youthful face became familiar to millions of television viewers in the 1960s and 1970s. He was called dashing, handsome and urbane," recorded The New York Times.

Sources: Various broadcast and print media reports



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## Huntsville AKAs Prep Kids for Back-to-School

As Huntsville ramped up efforts across the city in preparation for the start of the new school year, the ladies of the Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, were busy packing backpacks at the Oscar Mason Community Center for middle school students.

As part of their international program agenda, "Launching New Dimensions of Service," distributing school supplies and backpacks to middle school-aged students at Butler Terrace, the Oscar Mason Community Center and the Harris Home for Children, was led by sorority chapter president,



Dr. Wilma Jean Ruffin. A total of 155 backpacks were distributed to students. Actively engaged in the local community, members of the chapter met and greeted families as the backpacks were distributed.

"Having a partnership with Huntsville Housing Authority to promote the learning process of future

community leaders is an important concern of our chapter, and we will look forward to continuing this partnership with this program and others," notes Dr. Wilma Jean Ruffin, president, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

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## Calendar of Events

### August 21

Taste of Kappa  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
Cost \$30  
Available at [www.HuntsvilleKappas.com](http://www.HuntsvilleKappas.com), 7-10 p.m.

150th Anniversary of Phillips Chapel AME Church  
Featuring: Actress Robin Givens - Gala Tickets: \$50  
The Jackson Center  
Cummings Research Par,  
7 p.m.

### August 21-23

Saved in the City Conference  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
<http://www.savedinthecity-conference.com>

### August 22

"I Am a Survivor" Gala  
Westin Hotel (Bridge Street) - 6 p.m.

### August 23

T.H.I.N.K.  
Home of Dwight & Susan Sloan (Potluck Meeting)  
St. Stephens Episcopal Church - Huntsville  
5-7 p.m.

### August 24

Huntsville Housing Authority Grand Opening  
Chestnut Glen  
12 noon.

### August 30

Church Street CPCA  
141st Anniversary Service  
228 Church Street  
Huntsville, Ala.

### September 3-6

GWRRA Rocket City Road Trip  
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[Wing-ding.org](http://Wing-ding.org)

### September 14 – November 6

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH Fall Term OLLI is a learning community designed for adults 50+. Daytime and evening classes.  
Details: [Osher.uah.edu](http://Osher.uah.edu)/  
Catalog or (256) 824-6183

### September 18-19

Alabama Women in Jazz Festival  
Visit <http://valleyartsandentertainment.org> for more

### September 26

Alabama A&M Homecoming and Louis Crews Football Classic vs. University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Louis Crews Stadium

### October 2

Honoring Our Heritage  
126th Annual ECW Fall Conference  
St. Stephens Episcopal Church  
Vestavia Hills, Ala.  
9 a.m.

### October 31

Walk to Defeat ALS  
HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology  
Family style picnic celebration following the walk  
Free registration at [walk-todefeatala.org](http://walk-todefeatala.org) or 800-664-1242  
10 a.m.

### December 17-19

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# WEDC Women Honoring Women Event in September

The WEDC Women Honoring Women event will be held September 17 at the Von Braun Center.

Over the past decade, Women Honoring Women has grown to become one of Huntsville's most anticipated community

fundraising events. Now in its 14th year, Women Honoring Women will continue to help women achieve self-sufficiency and economic independence.

The money raised goes toward educational scholarships and assistance for



table, program, banner and listing promotions. More importantly, it changes lives.

The generous donations enables at-risk women a proven way to obtain a college degree, become economically independent, become a valuable addition to the workforce in Madison County and to give back to the community.

#### Becoming a 2016 Sponsor.

Download the Sponsor Opportunity Packet for exciting details on supporting Women Honoring Women. If you have selected a Sponsor Level and/or have any questions about becoming a sponsor, contact us by emailing wedcf.whw@gmail.com.

Your sponsorship consideration is very much appreciated and will work toward changing lives.

#### About Our Honorees

Each year, Women Honoring Women selects six women in Madison County who are recognized for their career successes, their significant contributions to the community and overcoming their own significant obstacles to achieve their dreams. Categories include:

- Arts & Humanities
- Business & Professional
- Community & Public Service
- Education
- Health & Human Services
- Technology

For more information, visit wedcfoundation.org.

Madison County women. Beginning with a single scholar and a \$1,000.00 award, the Foundation has served over 100 deserving women with about \$235,000 in scholarship awards in the past 16 years.

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- Finance major purchases
- Pay for college and other recurring expenses
- Potential tax benefits

Home Equity Line of Credit  
Special Rates

**2.99%**  
APR  
introductory rate for 6 months\*

as low as

**3.30%**  
APR  
after 6 months variable rate based on WSJ Prime\*

**ProgressBank**  
THINKING FORWARD

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

\* The introductory rate of 2.99% APR (annual percentage rate) is fixed for 6 months. At the end of 6 months, the interest rate and APR is variable based on Wall Street Journal (WSJ) Prime Rate plus a margin up to 1%. WSJ Prime is a variable rate; as it changes the APR on your account will also change. WSJ Prime as of 03.01.15 is 3.25%. APR based on 3.25% interest rate is 3.30%. APR maximum is 18.00%. Closing cost may range from \$300 to \$1,500. Bank pays closing costs for new HELOCs up to \$250,000, subject to initial draw of \$10,000 and maintaining outstanding balance of not less than \$10,000 for first 180 days. Primary or secondary personal residences only. Monthly automatic payment debit to a Progress account is required. Offer subject to credit approval. Consult a tax advisor regarding deductibility of interest. Offer expires 09.30.15.

Member FDIC

