

The Valley Weekly

Volume 2, No. 1

Friday, September 11, 2015

FREE

“Our enemies have made the mistake that America’s enemies always make. They saw liberty and thought they saw weakness. And now, they see defeat.”

- George W. Bush

Diversity Leadership Colloquium Graduates Third Cohort

The Valley’s own Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) graduated its third cohort on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, in the training room of Huntsville Utilities, located at 112 Spragins Street.

DLC provides both aspiring and experienced leaders chances to expand from credentialed and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices stemming from excellence through diversity.

Among the impressive session leaders were: Session 1 - “Servant Leadership”; Session 2 - “Politics and Government”; Session 3 - “Diversity in Education”; Session 4 - “Small Business and Entrepreneurship”; Session 5 - Religion, Community and Civic Engagement”; Session 6 - “Law, Equality and Social Justice”; Session 7 - “Finance, Investment and Planning”; and Session 8 - “Networking, Mentorin and Graduation.” s. Cohort III graduates were



comprised of 11 area professionals, including (in order above, l-r, following Col. (Ret) John Olshefski): Dr. Emanuel A. Waddell, associate professor of chemistry, University of Alabama in Huntsville; Jerome Saintjones, public relations director, Alabama A&M University; Constance N. Tiller, training division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Dr. Teneshia E. Daniels, CEO/prac-

ticing dentist, Premiere Dental; Tilantine Benjamin, workforce integrator, Missile Defense Agency; Linda D. Fowlkes, senior procurement analyst, Army Contracting Command; Climetha L. Rhodes, foreign military sales – team lead, Security Assistance Management Directorate, Redstone Arsenal; Miles Rashad Tibbs, executive director, Media Arts Institute; Dr. Kem Roper,

assistant professor of English, Oakwood University; Sherri Coons, payment processing lead, Huntsville Utilities; and Samuel T. Greene II, graduate research assistant, Community and Regional Planning Department, Alabama A&M University.

Cohort III participants gained access to productive networks,

engaging mentors and sponsors, and they were exposed to topics ranging from “Understanding and Embracing Diversity” to “Networking and Mentoring.”

During the final sessions of the program, the cohort also divided itself into three teams to discuss and make presentations on the nine chapters of Jim Collins’ bestselling “Good to Great.”

Colonel (Ret) John Olshefski, vice president for customer care at Huntsville Utilities, was the graduation speaker. Formerly Garrison Commander at Redstone

Arsenal with responsibility for more than 2,000 employees, Olshefski stressed the importance and challenges of diversity.

DLC was founded in 2014 by Dr. Dorothy W. Huston, who serves as its executive director. Georgia S. Valrie is program coordinator.

Town Hall Will Feature City Units

Huntsville City Councilman Richard Showers, Sr., will hold a town hall meeting on Tuesday, September 15, in the Dr. Richard

Showers, Sr. Recreation Center, 4600 Blue Spring Road, at 6 p.m.

The meeting will feature representatives from the city units

of administration, engineering, public works, traffic engineering, landscape management and city planning.

A&M Board Meeting in Birmingham

The Board of Trustees of Alabama A&M University is scheduled to meet Friday, September 11, at 10 a.m. in the Community Room on the Ground Floor at 2311 Highland Avenue South, Birmingham, Ala.

The purpose of the meeting will be to address business which may be properly brought before the Board at that time. The public is invited to attend and observe the proceedings of the Board.

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Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Maxtin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

SSA Comprehensive Benefits Workshop Set

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will hold a free "Social Security Basics & my Social Security Sign Up" workshop on Friday, September 25, at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

The Social Security Administration will present on popular topics such as Retirement, Medicare Enrollment, Spouse Benefits and Children Benefits.

To prepare for this class,

attendees should create a "my Social Security" online account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount beforehand. Once the account is created, earnings history, estimates for future benefits and more become available.

SSA highly recommends attendees to bring their benefit estimate printouts with them. Those unable to create an account will be provide assistance after the presentation.

Medication Take Back Oct. 3

The Partnership for a Drug-Free Community and local law enforcement will offer a three-hour Medication Take Back drive on Saturday, October 3, at the Jaycee Fairground at 9 a.m.

The public is invited to turn in unwanted and expired medications at the event.

The locations accepting medi-

cations are: the Jaycee Building in Huntsville; CVS pharmacy in Meridianville, Ala.; and Madison City Hall in Madison, Ala.

Drop off any unused and/or unlabeled medications at any of the aforementioned three locations. For more information call (256) 539-7339.

Morehouse Info Session at St. John

Representatives from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., will hold an information session at St. John AME Church, 228 Church Street, on Thursday, September 24, at 6:30 p.m.

Perspective students and their

parents are invited to this recruiting session with Morehouse's admissions staffers.

For more information, contact L. Redrick at (256) 337-3849 or redrick22@gmail.com.

A&M Site of Health Fair

Alabama A&M University will be site of an annual Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, October 3, at 10 a.m. in the Wellness Center.

The event will follow an 8:30 a.m. "New Balance Walk" and will conclude at 2 p.m. The

Health and Wellness Fair will feature medical screenings, health seminars and more.

For more information, contact Earnest Starks (256) 975-5519 or Bhavani Kakani at (256) 698-4446.

International Festival Scheduled

The 6th Annual International Festival of North Alabama will take place Saturday, September 26, at the University Fitness Center on the University of Alabama in Huntsville campus from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

The all-day, free event will feature international cuisine, food trucks, international exhibitions, an open air market, live music, as well as children's activities.

The activity is sponsored by the International Society of Huntsville and UAH. Redstone Federal Credit Union, Toyota Alabama, Indorama Ventures, Alabama A&M University, Logos and BB&T are among the list of supporters.

The mission of the International Society of Huntsville is to promote the International Community in Northern Alabama

through cultural, educational, and social programming.

Further, the International Society exists to broaden awareness of diverse cultures from around the world while promoting a better understanding of the social, traditional, and historical aspects that affect the world we live in.

The Society's current president is Gloria Vergara (Philippines); Aladin Beshir (Egypt) is vice president; Anna Halicka (Poland), secretary; and Barbara Liaw (Taiwan), treasurer.

For more information about the International Festival of North Alabama, contact Belinda Ong (president) at ongb@uah.edu or (256) 824-6432. ISH can also be contacted via e-mail at events@internationalsocietyof-huntsville.org.

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Guest Editor

Three Wise Men



The words three powerful men said to me when I was a young man are still having a profound impact on me to this very day.

These men do not know one another, and, yes, their only connection is that at one poignant moment in time they each had uttered words that left a mark on my psyche and on how I still view the world.

The first man is my father, who remains a kind, passionate and generous man, a man permanently etched in my heart as a true inspiration yet a source of anguish when I reluctantly witness what appears--from my perspective--to be a fully giving life with so little reciprocity, wondering, empirically, if such a multilayered imbalance is, in essence, generational. I remember his wise counsel and the incident that brought it about. I was a member of the junior choir. A few years earlier, the junior choir had been the pride among churches. But years had passed, and major voices went off to college. Some married and/or found other reasons to move on, including the star organist. This left a fledging group, a colt adjusting to its legs. I wanted no part of it, and on some Sundays I would not even sing with the group. My dad, in his own quiet, nonjudgmental way, pulled me aside one afternoon and said to me, "Son, you've got to save your *own* soul." This sealed it, in my mind, at least, that there are journeys that we must go on alone, forging a compass pieced together by what we have deciphered from the unintentional pains of home, church, school and life's experiences.

The second group of words came from the mouth of my hometown pastor, who I had long thought held a certain Old World view of what constituted "good religion" and had grown to the point that he would never depart from it. He encouraged discussion and interacted with the teens and young adults, but on occasion I thought some of his views were primitive. Then, one afternoon, during a discussion in his study, he casually said: "I don't have a problem with any man who believes there is something higher than himself." From these words I conjured up a world where peace, love, joy, commitment and success were the same, regardless of translations, races and religions.

The third most powerful saying came 30 years ago from a chaplain at Tuskegee University, a brilliant, personable gentleman and scholar. I remember asking him if he had children. He replied, "I had five, and I lost five." And, though he did not elaborate, his strength, beauty and every iota of what should constitute a good, religious Abraham was revealed in the silence. We eventually resumed talking, ultimately about the love between a man and a woman, and then the perils of being unequally yoked. It was another one of those moments, a time when I thought answers would go left and they ended up going right. We were both in the upper room of the university press on a lighted drafting table, lining up the bulletin on a grid sheet for printing for the coming Sunday, when he told me: "Religion is nothing to end a relationship over." It both shocked and calmed me. What I pulled away from his comment was a tremendous tribute to the power of love. The kind of love that trumps all. The kind that always wins and replenishes itself, even when it had been denied an Isaac ... five times.

Thanks, Dad, for showing me that I am the captain of my soul. Thanks, Reverend, for enlightening me to a core universality, and thanks, Chaplain, for hurling to the heavens the daunting subjects of God, church, religion and love, and for hellishly daring to attach perspective to them all. Still, there's a fourth, one whose face I cannot see, but surmise it's somewhat like my own. Nonetheless, he and the three wise men have lifted me up from the paralysis so symbolic of consciousness, have cut through a roof of doubts and, out of their love, have expertly guided me on a course to finding healing truth.

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

by Jerome Saintjones

Valley Conservatory Open House September 27

The Valley Conservatory Studio will hold an Open House on Sunday, September 27, from 3-5 p.m.

The studio is offering the general public an opportunity to "Come See What We Are All About."

The Valley Conservatory is a virtual one-stop operation when it comes to quality music and performances. It offers custom-designed music education and arts, along with extracurricular and academic programs.

Moreover, the Conservatory provides music lessons to Pre-K through adult students in piano, strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion, voice and guitar.

Additionally, arts learning and exploration is conducted through camps and workshops, and staffers create customized art experiences for after school programs and a Lyceum series, jam sessions



and exhibits are offered to the public.

Finally, the Valley Conservatory Booking Agency coordinates the hiring of musicians for any type of event or occasion.

The Conservatory has provided services in the arts since

1998, and it is a catalyst for cultural change, enlightenment and opportunity.

Offices are located at 5650 Sanderson Street, Ste. B, Huntsville, Ala. For additional information, call (256) 534-3131.

City Council to Meet Sept. 24

The Huntsville City Council will hold a regular meeting on September 24. The Huntsville City Council's 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.

Additionally, City Council work sessions are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 5 p.m. For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

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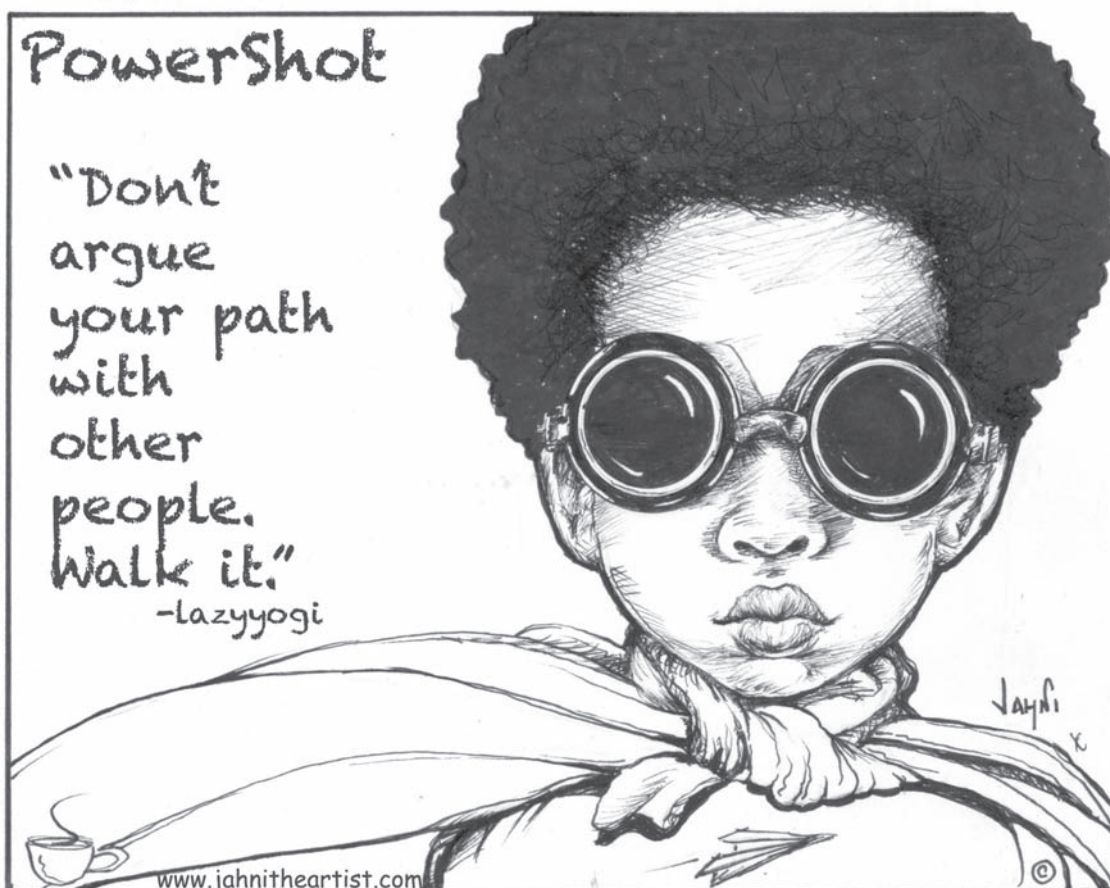
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North Alabama Alumni Extension



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STEM Outreach & Diversity
Program Manager, U.S. Army
Aviation and Missile Research,
Development and
Engineering Center



Lifetime Achievement Award
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School System



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"Don't
argue
your path
with
other
people.
Walk it."
-lazyyogi

AMC's Academia Outreach Program Reaches HBCUs/MIs

The U.S. Army Materiel Command's Commanding General, GEN Dennis L. Via, (far right) has renewed the command's focus on students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-serving Institutions (HBCUs/MIs).



Paula Taylor, director for academia and industry outreach and alumnus of Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss., has been leading the charge since August 30, 2014, and as she approaches her one year mark, her goal is to continue to raise the HBCUs/MIs' awareness of internships, partnerships and mentoring opportunities with AMC.

"There are many ways to partner with AMC, such as internship opportunities, educational partnership agreements, cooperative agreements and research alliances," said Taylor. "Since last year, we've gained command level buy-in at each of the Major Subordinate Commands (MSC) to begin focusing our efforts in partnering regionally at each MSC."

With a 94 percent civilian workforce, Taylor stressed that there are a plethora of job opportunities with AMC. "We are not just going to war or putting on a military uniform. We have so many different jobs, and there are so many good things you can do at AMC," Taylor said.

For example, the U.S. Army

Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), an MSC of AMC, with more than 13,700 soldiers, civilian employees and contractors, help ensure the Army's continued dominance, through research and development,

creating, integrating and delivering technology-enabled solutions for soldiers.

Similarly, the eight (8) other AMC MSCs provide support and deliver readiness to today's and tomorrow's joint warfighter in equally important areas, including munitions, aviation and

missile systems, computers and electronics, and ground combat systems.

All this affords a unique opportunity to inspire students at HBCUs/MIs to focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (or STEM); as well as the fields of manufacturing, logistics, business, security assistance and contracting. As a result, students see an exciting pathway to Army employment after graduating, with interesting, challenging jobs requiring our best and brightest minds.

The bottom line: "We want to excite and inspire more African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Native Pacific Island-

ers, Native Alaskans, and Asian Americans ... to work for AMC because there is a critical need," Taylor said. "We are getting out to let people know what we are doing and what we have to offer. In doing so, the reception has been tremendous, as people realize that our HBCUs/MIs talent pools are critical to our meeting this national requirement."

For more information on how to partner with AMC, please contact Paula Taylor, (256) 450-6964, or paula.y.taylor2.civ@mail.mil.



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Family and Business Traditions

This is always one of my favorite times of the year. As an Alabama native, football is definitely a huge tradition. Fans typically get all involved for football: from betting on games, to traveling with their team, to tailgating, and even painting bodies. What has kept the stadium seats filled, whether the team is number one or one hundred, is the traditions and legacies that sports have created for our culture.

You can actually learn a lot about running a business from a football game. Outside of some of the obvious lessons--such as the power of team work, good coaching leading players to victory, and calling good plays-- keeping up traditions is very important in many career fields and business-

es. Not tradition as in "conservativeness," but traditional as in "legacy." The older I get I start to realize how tradition becomes somewhat innate. We all naturally have a need to leave a legacy or continue one either religiously, politically, spiritually, financially, professionally, or personally.

When people, especially millennials, hear tradition they tend to think it means "no change." Tradition is simply sticking to what you know works and building upon that. Change and

innovation can and should come with tradition because there is always room for improvement.

However, once you find the formula or that niche market which yields the results you are seeking, it is best to follow that business model.

Having tradition or legacy within your company

or organization is what causes businesses with slogans like, "Established Since 1965" to be successfully operating to this

day. They tend to create a routine to keep up the tradition which keeps the company functioning at its record best.

Tradition creates an invested interest, either from your team members or your customers, to constantly connect to your goods, games, or service. College football is a prime example of

how tradition makes an organization successful and a team victorious. As we gear up our babies in paraphernalia and pack the RVs with food and family to support the teams of our alma maters, remember to keep the tradition alive in other avenues such as your business and organizations.

by Amoi Savage



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Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Labor Day 2015 has come and gone, so we know what that means. The unofficial end of summer and preparation for autumn's arrival.

Luckily, Huntsville will be able to "Slide the City" into fall on Saturday and Sunday with a 1,000-foot-long water slide – that's the length of approximately three football fields.

With the announcement of Slide the City coming to Huntsville back in early summer, tickets went on sale in June and many are ready for the September 12th & 13th event that will create Huntsville Beach



is not too late. Visit slidethecity.com/events/huntsville to purchase. Children younger than 18 must have parental permission to slide and have to be older than age 5 and taller than 46 inches.

For those who do not want to get wet, but want to experience the fun, come on down to Big Spring Park because there will be live music, food trucks and other free family-oriented entertainment. Come down to Big Spring Park and Slide out of summer and get ready for Football season.

With the natural slope of Church Street, sliders will be propelled down the water-slick vinyl located between the two parts of Big Spring International Park.

If you have not purchased tickets to attend, it

is not too late. Visit slidethecity.com/events/huntsville to purchase. Children younger than 18 must have parental permission to slide and have to be older than age 5 and taller than 46 inches.

For those who do not want to get wet, but want to experience the fun, come on down to Big Spring Park because there will be live music, food trucks and other free family-oriented entertainment. Come down to Big Spring Park and Slide out of summer and get ready for Football season.

Calendar of Events

September 11

Concerts on the Dock Fall Series (Free)
Lowe Mill, 6-9 p.m.

September 12

5K STEM Power Run Through "The Hill"
Elmore Building
Adults, \$20; Students, \$10
www.nsbe-northalabamae.com
Registration: 7 a.m.

Alumni Stepshow

Sponsor: Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
\$20, Adult; Under 21-Student ID, \$10)
Alabama A&M University
Elmore Building, 7 p.m.

September 13

TEDxHuntsville
"Dream Makers & Risk Takers"
Thurber Arts Center
1 p.m.

2nd Annual Benefit Luncheon of the RiahRose Home for Children, Inc. (Grandparents Day Celebration)

Honoring: Mrs. Marilyn Lewis-Alim and Mr. & Mrs. Newell (Mary) Witherspoon
Adults, \$30; Children 5-12, \$10; 4 and Under, Free
Early Works Museum
1:30 p.m.

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/
Catalog or (256) 824-6183

September 18

Concerts on the Dock Fall Series (Free)
Lowe Mill, 6-9 p.m.

September 18-19

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

September 25

Concerts on the Dock Fall Series (Free)
Lowe Mill, 6-9 p.m.

September 26

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

October 1

Community Forum "Let's Continue the Conversation: Race Relations and the Faith Community"
UAH Office of Multicultural Affairs
Charger Union Theater
6:30 p.m.

October 2

Concerts on the Dock Fall Series (Free)
Lowe Mill, 6-9 p.m.

October 9

Concerts on the Dock Fall Series (Free)
Lowe Mill, 6-9 p.m.

October 24

Second Harvest Banquet
Sponsor: Lakeside UM Church
Speaker: Rev. Donald F. Smith, Center Grove UM Church

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Alabama A&M University

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Valarie King 256-527-0162

Mayor Expands Healthy Huntsville Challenge

Mayor's 100-Mile Walking Challenge Continues

The Healthy Huntsville leadership team and Mayor Tommy Battle recently joined students at Lakewood Elementary School to announce a new fitness opportunity. It's the Mayor's 100-Mile Walking Challenge--a citywide effort to encourage people of all ages to add physical activity to their daily routines.

The Mayor is challenging Huntsvillians to walk at least 100 miles from Sept. 1 through November 30.

This challenge urges citizens to walk about one mile a day, which is a goal many can reach. Walking is easy, free, low-impact on



the body but high-impact in health benefits.

To help motivate people, Healthy Huntsville is organizing weekly two- to five-mile walks throughout the three-month challenge.

Whether citizens walk on their own, in a group,

create a walking event or join one of the many community walks, remember that every step counts. Regular physical activity has been shown to help control weight and lower risk for heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and depression.

Best of all, improving the quality of your health, might lead to a happier, longer life. Hope to see you on the walking trail!

Oktoberfest Spanning Four Days

Oktoberfest is the premier cultural festival of North Alabama and is one of Redstone Arsenal's largest public events.

Some 20,000 person meet at Redstone Arsenal's Activity Field for this 4-day event, making it the "Best Fest West of Germany!"

Enter through Gate 10

on Patton Road SW, Huntsville, Ala.

Oktoberfest has rides, fun and activities for all ages, not to mention some of the finest German beers not available anywhere else, along with German cuisine.

The admission price includes a carnival midway

with rides for children and adults, live entertainment, an Arts & Crafts area and parking.

Dates

Sept 17: 5pm - 10pm
Sept 18: 5pm - 1 am
Sept 19: 12pm - 1am
Sept 20: 12pm - 7pm

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