

# The Valley Weekly

Volume 2, No. 2

Friday, September 18, 2015

FREE

*"I know why the caged bird sings ..."*

- Paul Laurence Dunbar



## Summit Stresses Workforce Development

On September 9-10, 2015, the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County and The Schools Foundation hosted a Workforce Summit for leaders from Cullman, DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan counties.

Several hundred individuals participated in the process designed to discuss and engage the communities in a conversation about the impact of workforce development on the future of this region.

The expected outcome was the development of a strategy to ensure that local economic growth has a sustainable talent pipeline. According to the statistics, the Huntsville metro area has experienced continuous growth and prosperity over the past 15 years;



employment by 17%, representing more than 31,000 new jobs.

Engagement centered around anticipating and identifying any misalignment between skills and education needed in the local

workforce and the requirements of current and future employers. According to the organizers, deliberate steps must be taken to make sure the talent and employer needs are in synch.

## VC Hosts Festival Concert

The Valley Conservatory (VC) hosted its Early Music Festival Concert on September 12 at St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church in Huntsville. The Concert featured the Valley Conservatory Early Music Festival Artists (VCEM) and the Huntsville Collegium Musicum.

VCEM Festival Artists included Dr. Beatrice Renee Collins-Williams, Kevin Lay, Dorothy Maguire, Gesa Kordes, Jameson Overton, Jared Hauser, Lisa Wiggins, Lisa Wilmot Lay, Dr. Don Fader, Claire Rottenbourg, and Susan Roessel Dura. The Huntsville Collegium Musicum include Dr. Aaron Cain, David Caine, Sarah Loach Meister, Gianna Gimenez, Melanie Payne, Suzanne Bouvier-Page, Bryan Page, and Dr. Chris Walters. Instrumental and vocal arrangements performed dated from c. 1548 to 1767.

Dr. Collins-Williams is

Director of the Valley Conservatory, a music service center with programs designed to develop all aspects of the students' mind, body and character. The faculty at VC includes specialists in the areas of piano, violin, viola, cello, string bass, guitar, voice, brass, woodwinds, percussion, steel pan, theory/composition, art, and pre-school music programs.

VC has been providing services in the arts since 1998, offering lessons for children and adults. Moreover, they provide music for all occasions including string ensembles, jazz combos, pianist harpist, along with solo vocal, violin, guitar, trumpet and more. With locations in Huntsville and Hampton Cove, VC is the Tennessee Valley's premiere music studio. Additional information about VC can be found on the web at [www.valleyconservatory.com](http://www.valleyconservatory.com) or by calling (256) 534-3131.

## New Scam Targets Utilities Customers

A new round of scam attempts has surfaced targeting Huntsville Utilities residential and business customers, attempting to steal hundreds of dollars from unsuspecting victims.

Scam callers claim to be an employee of Huntsville Utilities and threaten customers with disconnection of service if the victim does not immediately pay over the phone or via pre-paid debit card. The caller then asks the customer to call a toll-free number to make payment.

Some of the scam origin numbers are local, but each attempt reported to Huntsville Utilities asks customers to call an out of state number to make payment. *These are scammers.*

Huntsville Utilities advises customers to always ask for specific information from anyone claiming to represent the company, such as name and company contact information. Customers are welcome and encouraged to contact Huntsville Utilities to verify account status (256)

535-1200, as well as to report any suspicious contact by individuals claiming to represent Huntsville Utilities.

Huntsville Utilities is a publicly-owned, not-for-profit utility which provides electric, natural gas, and water services to customers in Huntsville and Madison County.

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.  
Public & Governmental Affairs Liaison  
Huntsville Utilities



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# 50th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Freeman Holifield, Sr.

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- Albert's Flowers
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- Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center
- Books a Million - N. Parkway/University Drive
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- Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)
- Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church





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## **The Valley Weekly**

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# **F**rom the Editor



On Friday, September 11, 2015, many of us had the opportunity to attend the 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Mr. and Mrs. Freeman (Janie) Holifield, Sr. The signal event was held at The Omega Center in Huntsville. I hear people say sometimes, “to know her is to love her.” Those of us who know Freeman and Janie are familiar with the contributions they have made and continue to make in our community. To know them is indeed to love them! Freeman is a take-charge kind of man and Janie is a gracious lady. Their love for each other is manifested through 50 years of marriage, a wonderful son and his family and a beautiful daughter.

I am thankful for social media because, Tangie – their daughter, messaged me on FaceBook to indicate that the invitation sent to us had been returned. I was pleased to get her message for many reasons.

Janie and I became really close when we worshipped together at First Missionary Baptist Church. I always admired the fashion statement she made each Sunday. And, when I would pay her a compliment on her on how great she looked, she would always say something to the effect of “Oh child, this is many years old. Freeman got this for me” here or there! Always a gentleman, he is always patient with her, dropping her off and picking her up, still opening the door for her. Ah, to be a gentleman!

We have worked together for many years in the AAMU Alumni Association. I have visited their well-situated and lovely home in Northwest Huntsville, enjoyed stories about their travels around the globe and back. They are proud parents and grandparents who raised their children the old-fashioned way. Success was not accident for either of them. I was calculated, planned and executed.

Once I was visiting Janie and Freeman, she invited me downstairs for some girl’s talk. We went into her massive closets (yes plural) and she started to pull out items and hand them to me. She gave me bundles of beautiful suits and dresses, scarves and matching adornments. I could not were her shoes. I share this, because as we move around a community this size, we just really never know where the root system runs. At a time, she referred to me as her “daughter” and Tangie and Jr. were ok with it. Now, how special is that? I had a reciprocal admiration for her and called her “Mom.” From time-to-time, I would slide by once or twice a year and leave her a card and gift hanging on the front door around Mother’s Day and/or Christmas. I’d call her as I was taking off and tell her that I had left something on the front door handle.

We can’t love Janie without accepting her side-kick. Freeman is always ready to engage in a conversation about what is going on in the world. He would have made an excellent debater. I wonder if he were ever on the debate team in school? I have never asked him. He can hold an intelligent conversation on just about anything. Well-educated, read and travelled, he is very resourceful, hardworking and committed to what he agrees to support. There are a few great organizations that depend on his commitment and dedicated to get thing done. If you know him, you will understand.

Congratulations, Mom and Pop, on your 50th Wedding Anniversary. Those of us from your Village are pleased to celebrate with you and congratulate you. Young people can learn much if they were to take time to sit and just talk. You two are a local treasure, and then some!

Ah, *Anniversaries*. They really ought to mean something. We love you; until next week,

*Dorothy*



Youthful Perspective

# Better Ask Somebody

by Sterling Barnes



Huntsville, Alabama, is home to many colleges and universities. These institutions produce future leaders if of our prospective generations.

College, in general, allows people from various backgrounds to convene and learn the traits of professionals. Huntsville has many advantages over most college towns in that it provides ample opportunities for students to gain experience in their respective career paths.

Experience is key to having success in making the big jump from collegiate life to the professional world. The particular career path upon which a student chooses to embark is also paramount.

For instance, if one wishes to be a teacher, then ask a teacher about his or her career path.

What would they do differently? Would they choose the same profession if they had a chance to start all over? Arrange permission to sit down in a class to analyze the teacher's style of instruction. It could be beneficial to even ask a substitute how to become a substitute teacher.

Indeed, Huntsville has plenty of opportunities to gain experi-

ence for a given career path. However, it is up to the student to seek experience over payment. The experience gained in an internship can be added to one's resume and may lead to a job upon graduation.

True, most freshmen are not sure about the path that they want to take. But Huntsville and its surrounding areas allow a student a chance to access various career interest within the boundaries of its metropolitan area.

This is important to the successful development of a student from freshman to the confident graduate. Seeing the light at the end of the tunnel by doing one's heart's desire is all the motivation one needs to graduate and embark on a rewarding career.

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# Village of Promise Holding Luncheon Series



The Village of Promise Speaker Series event featuring Paul Tough, author of *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity and the Hidden Power of Character*, will be held September 24th at the Von Braun Center, North Hall.

The Village of Promise (VoP), founded in the fall of 2011 with the leadership of Gloria Batts, a longtime community activist, and Bobby Bradley, founder of Computer Systems Technology, provides a pipeline of services for children and families living in poverty to create better lives for themselves.

Inspired by the comprehensive community revitalization work of Harlem Children's Zone, the Village of Promise is dedicated to breaking the cycle of generational poverty one neighborhood at a time. According to Ms. Bradley, "Our goal is to foster hope and dreams in our scholars to fuel their success."

Mr. Tough challenges our

culture's belief that intelligence, endlessly measured by test scores,

is the sole indicator of value in our education system. It's not. In *How Children Succeed*, he ushers in a tidal change in thinking and argues that non-cognitive skills—or, character—are better indicators of success: curiosity, conscientiousness, optimism, self-control, and grit.

Join us to hear this dynamic speaker and help to support the mission of Village of Promise. For more information, call (256) 536-8052 or tickets visit [www.villageofpromise.com](http://www.villageofpromise.com)

Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc.

## Fourth Annual Educational Gala

"Inspiring the next Generation to Succeed in a Technological World"

Thursday, September 17, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Ernest L. Knight Reception Center

Alabama A&M University

Normal, Alabama

## Awardees

### Civic/Community STEM Award



National Society of Black Engineers  
North Alabama Alumni Extension



**Inspiring Young Minds to Succeed STEM Award**  
Mrs. Gayla T. McMichael-Spivey  
STEM Outreach & Diversity Program Manager, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center



**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Mr. Wilbert L. Brown  
Retired Administrator  
Huntsville City School System





## All "i's" on Apple Keynote Event

On September 9, 2015, Apple hosted its annual, invitation-only event in San Francisco, debuting new products, new features, and updates on their merchandise.

The event aired live on apple.com giving world wide access into the event. So many great features were unveiled for each product starting with the Apple Watch and its partnership with Hermès for a luxury watch collection. The Apple TV has made some great improvements, such as the Siri remote control feature. The iPad pro launched with some exciting incentives, such as a larger screen, four audio speakers, and Microsoft updates. New tools for the iPad pro, such as the Apple pencil and Smart Keyboard, were also released.

Last, but certainly not least, the iPhone 6s was introduced to the audience with advancements such as 3D touch, which creates shortcuts, 4k video feature, iSight camera for better selfies, live photos, and even flash front FaceTime cam! If you haven't had a chance to check out the Keynote event, be sure to visit ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))

Apple is one of the most successful, publicly traded companies in this day and age. I believe their success derives from their ability to create more opportunities for others. Apple Inc., is more of a tree than a fruit.



It has branched out and built many businesses, corporations, entertainers, bloggers, and online sensations. Tech entrepreneurs, developers, and even users have become successful from their devices. They have created engines that boost businesses via promotions, sales, communications, and productivity. I'm a firm believer that the more you help someone the more you help yourself. Apple has truly changed the game with

how we communicate and trade with one another.

Always keep the Golden Rule in mind: you are in business to be beneficial. The more you make someone else's day better, brighter, beautiful, and easier, the more your business will grow. You will see an increase in customers, clients, and supporters because they will begin to rely on your products or services. It's always best to keep consistent clients/customers. Apple is definitely a great example of a company that has customer consistency down pat by launching new devices with updated incentives. The objective of a business is to stay afloat, therefore it's our duty to steer each other toward a simpler or successful life so that they remain supportive clientele.

*by Amoi Savage*

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## Pastoral Position:



New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, 28520 Wall St. Madison, AL (Located in Limestone County). For Job Description and Application, go to www.huntsvillepresbytery.org Additional information, call (256) 527-0740.

10022015

## Valley Fashion Explosion Set

Fashion WeekEND Alabama (FWEA) will be held at the historic Cooper House, 406 Randolph Street, Downtown Huntsville, on September 18-19.

FWEA is a marketing platform to showcase small businesses and fashion design talent, while encouraging Alabama communities to shop local and to patronize creative talent. Fashion WeekENDAlabama also helps to

diversify the business landscape and encourages careers and new ventures in the fields of fashion and beauty. During FWEA, the Alabama Fashion Alliance has the opportunity to recognize professionals and businesses who are advancing the fashion community at a special Fashion Forward Awards ceremony. Tickets are available at alabama-fashion-alliance.ticketleap.com

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# DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium IV APPLICATION FORM



**Requirements:** Application Form - 3 References - Resume -  
Photo and Tuition (Both Required upon Acceptance)

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Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Citizen?  Yes  No Enrolling Quarter \_\_\_\_\_

## Education

High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Graduated: Yes  No

College(s) Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Career Field \_\_\_\_\_

## References

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail this Application Form, 3 Letters of Reference, and Resume to: 415A Church Street-St. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at [www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com); or e-mail [info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](mailto:info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com). Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.

DLC offers inspiring and experienced leaders with opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices regarding obtaining excellence through diversity.

DLC is designed for individuals interested in gaining access to networks, mentors, and sponsors that have traditionally not been available to diverse members of the broader community. Enrollees will be exposed to topics such as: Understanding and Embracing Diversity, Organizational Culture and Structural Reform, Racial and Gender Intelligence, Social Justice and Equality, Networking and Mentoring, Politics, Heroes and Holidays, Critical Thinking and Self-Affirmation and Living the CARE Values.

Individuals and companies are making sincere efforts in verbalizing a commitment to diversity excellence. However, we must be trained to build the next generation of leaders who have the skill sets, tools and commitment to execute.

**Training Schedule:** DLC will run two eight-week colloquia each year. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants cannot miss more than 2 sessions. Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville (Enrollment limited to: 16 - **Tuition:** \$795) Fall: October 6-November 24 (Deadline: September 25)

# Calendar of Events

**September 18 – 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**

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  
Tickets, \$40; (256) 536-9400  
(Transportation provided from church)  
Ernest Knight Center/AAMU  
6 p.m.

**October 31**

Walk to Defeat ALS  
HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology

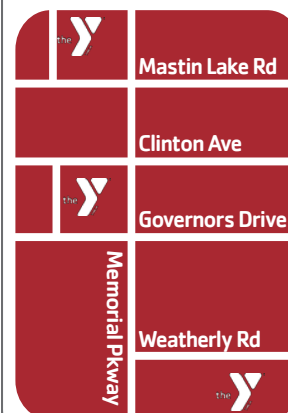
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## Washington in 60 Seconds

**1. IRAN DEAL.** Wow, that was some week in Congress. Despite millions of dollars in anti-Iran Deal lobbying ads by powerful interest groups and the direct intervention of the Israeli Government, the President's Iran Nuclear Deal survived a crucial vote in the Senate, which fell 2 votes short of ending a Democrat-led filibuster against the disapproval resolution. Senate Democrats united behind the President, losing only 4 of 46 Members in the vote: Sens. Schumer (NY), Menendez (NJ), Manchin (WV) and Cardin (MD). The House was reduced to furiously spinning its wheels to churn out a series of meaningless votes on the deal, including a vote to force Democrats to go on record as supporting the deal and a resolution claiming that the President failed to disclose side agreements between Iran and United Nations' inspectors. Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has threatened to hold a second filibuster-breaking cloture vote this week if he can find 2 more Democrats to vote with the Republicans.

**2. GOV'T SHUTDOWN?** This week, with only a handful of legislative days left before the start of the new fiscal year on October 1, it is expected that House and Senate leaders will unveil a temporary funding measure – known as a “continuing resolution (CR)” – to keep the federal government open, likely through December 2015. The House and Senate GOP leadership is disinclined to tuck on language to defund Planned Parenthood (the organization receives 41% of its yearly revenue - \$528 million - from government grants and reimbursements) to the CR, but will face stiff opposition from the House Freedom Caucus – led by über conservative Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) – which has made defunding PP its top mission, as well as Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), who has recently joined the anti-PP ranks. However, President Obama has promised to veto any legislation that defunds PP, so this promises to be a nail-biting finish, because there's also that pesky issue lurking about ending the

sequester caps and beefing up non-defense accounts. The House has scheduled a vote this week on a stand-alone bill to defund PP, in an attempt to appease the anti-PP forces.

**3. BACK TO SCHOOL BUS TOUR.** Today, President Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan will host a town hall meeting at North High School in Des Moines, IA, at the first stop on Duncan's 7-state, “Back-to-School Bus Tour” to tout the Administration's new online College Scorecard — at [collegescorecard.ed.gov](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov) — which provides a snapshot of what former students of each school might earn, how much debt they leave with, and what percentage can repay their loans. The updated scorecard is a major change from the President's original plan in 2013 to design a college ratings system that would judge schools on affordability and return on investment, which proved to be an unpopular idea with many in higher education circles. The President will also will unveil a change to the federal financial aid system that allows students to apply in October instead of January.

**4. MINE DISASTER HEARING.** On September 16, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will testify before a Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee hearing on the cause, response, and impacts of EPA's Gold King Mine Disaster, in which a breach at

the mine caused by EPA workers allowed millions of gallons of water containing arsenic and lead to flow into the Animas River near Silverton, CO. The Associated Press reported over the weekend that 10 mine investigation and/or cleanups in 4 states (CA, CO, MO, and MT) were suspended because of conditions similar to the Gold King Mine.

**5. WHERE ARE THE TIGERS?** Applicants across the country have been eagerly awaiting the announcement for the 2015 TIGER transportation grant awardees – which were expected this month. The latest rumor is that they will not be released until mid-October. Stay tuned.

**6. 2016 PRESIDENTIAL WATCH.** On Wednesday,

September 16, CNN will host the next GOP debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, CA. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina will make the cut this time and join the 10 other top polling candidates, because she was the only candidate to jump into the top 10 after the last debate. Ex-TX Gov. Rick Perry, who would have joined the bottom 4 (Santorum, Pataki, Jindal and Graham) at the “junior varsity” debate, quit the race on Friday. The only other

change is that ex-VA Gov. Jim Gilmore, who participated in the August 6 debate, was not invited because he did not average 1% support in any 3 polls out of the 14 polls considered by CNN.

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