

The Valley Weekly

Volume 2, No. 10

Friday, November 20, 2015

FREE

"We have dared to be free. Let us be so by ourselves and for ourselves."

- Jean-Jacques Dessalines

OU Reaps Benefit of Winning Home Depot Contest

In May, Oakwood University won a Tier 1 grant of \$50,000 in The Home Depot's Retool Your School competition. On November 18, representatives of the competition visited Oakwood's campus for a tour as well as to help install exercise equipment purchased from the winning grant.

According to Home Depot officials, the judges liked Oakwood's grant proposal for a two-mile long circuit with outdoor exercise stations emphasizing the benefits of physical activity. The stations are a part of the Healthy Campus 2020 initiative that officially launched this past August on Oakwood's campus. The competition rules also encouraged participating schools to utilize social media to help with voting numbers.

The Retool Your School competition is not new for Oakwood. In 2013, Oakwood won the Tier 1 grant of \$50,000, which allowed the University to construct an outdoor pavilion by its Unity Pond. In 2014, Oakwood won the Campus Pride Grant, which allowed the University to enhance the Unity Pond area with an additional pavilion as well as additional benches and tables around the campus.

"We thank everyone that voted, tweeted and posted images on Facebook that allowed us to win this grant," said George Johnson Jr., integrated marketing and public relations director of Oakwood University. "Truly the network that Oakwood has developed helped us to win and we wouldn't have been able to do this alone with just the amount of people we have here on our campus," he said.

Boys and Girls Clubs Honor Coach Nick

Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama is proud to recognize Nick Jones ("Coach Nick") for his outstanding commitment to the young people of this community.

Nick is an employee at the Seminole Boys & Girls Club, where he teaches sports & fitness classes, coaches sports teams, and assists with homework. Nick has been a long-time employee of the club.

The kids at the club respect Nick. Although sometimes he can be tough on them, they know that he truly does care. Earlier this year, the Desegregation Order was passed. This meant that most of "Nick's kids" would be relocated or rezoned to a new school environment, teachers, and peers. After many behavioral, social, and academic issues arose early on in the transition process, Nick desired to do anything and everything that he could to help the children adapt to their new



Coach Nick Jones

environments.

He became a volunteer at both Jones Valley and Blossomwood-Elementary, where he would monitor "his kids." He would arrive every morning at 7 a.m. and be present throughout the day. When a teacher encountered an issue with one of "Nick's kids," they were instructed to

call Coach Nick directly on his cell phone. He would be at their classroom door in a matter of minutes, sometimes seconds to resolve the issue.

After this became well known among the students, many began to change their behavior for the better. Due to his great service, Coach Nick has now acquired a "radio" at both Jones Valley and Blossomwood Elementary, where he can be easily reached every day.

After monitoring the kids during the school day, Coach Nick prepares for his job, where he works every day from 2-8 p.m., just to get a few hours of sleep and to do it all over again.

It is people like Coach Nick who truly make a difference in the community. He helps children and families in any way that he can, while setting a great example for all youth.

Valley to Host World AIDS Day Activities

World AIDS Day, which typically falls on December 1 each year, is an opportunity for the world to come together to raise greater awareness about HIV/AIDS. Community Faith Partners—individuals and organizations working together to address HIV/AIDS in Alabama—will do just that on December 4-5, with two major events using the theme "Getting

to Zero: The Time to Act is Now!" On Friday, December 4, is the Red Ribbon Awards Breakfast 2015 – 7-8:30 a.m. 10th Anniversary at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church's Boone-Lacey Fellowship Hall at 315 Winchester Road.

While honoring AIDS activism, participants will enjoy a hearty breakfast, inspirational music by

local singer Mariah Washington, and hear a native son of Huntsville, AIDS Activist Cedric Wherry. Wherry is an HIV prevention education specialist at Selma AIR, as well as a motivational speaker and trainer with InnerVision Consulting.

Also, tune in to WJAB 90.9FM to hear the "World Aids Day Poetry Corner" show with Marcus Sims

at 4 p.m. Friday, December 4. The show will feature guests and information on HIV/AIDS prevention. To listen online, go to www.wjab.org and click on Listen Live.

On Saturday, December 5, a World AIDS Day Workshop for Youth & Young Adults will be held from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church, 3509 Blue Spring Road, in Huntsville.

Young adults and youth age 12 and older are invited to attend this workshop along with their parents and guardians. Shakira DeSavoir, the 2014 Red Ribbon Awards Breakfast speaker, will return to Huntsville to share her experiences and life-saving advice as an advocate for high-risk youth and young adults. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

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Sunday, November 15, 2015



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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



Last Friday, I had the signal opportunity to attend the North Alabama Center of Educational Excellence (NACEE) Veterans Upward Bound Program's 9th Annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon. The theme for the program was "Honoring All Who Served: In Times of War - In Times of Peace." The Veterans Upward Bound Program is just one of the excellent program managed by NACEE. I have had the great privilege of serving on the Board of Directors for over a decade.

In addition to honoring Veterans from all of the Services, Alabama Board of Education Representative Mary Scott Hunter was the Keynote Speaker. Hunter grew up in South Alabama and attended the University of Alabama, earning both an undergraduate degree and a Law degree. She was commissioned into the United States Air Force upon graduation and served for 10 years as an Air Force Judge Advocate General. Later, she served in the Reserves and finally in the Alabama Air National Guard, attaining the rank of Major. Her service included two overseas tours to Korea and Germany and a wartime deployment to Kuwait. She earned many awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Serve Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Overseas Short Tour Ribbon and a Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

Hunter also talked about how she met her husband, Lieutenant Colonel Jon Shultz, who was a F-16 fighter jet pilot and the challenges they faced during joint and multiple deployments around the world. They are the parents of three children. Her commitment to public education is complimented by her military service, professional and political accomplishments, leadership and philanthropy, and dedication to family.

NACEE's Veterans Upward Bound Program operates to provide Veterans with intensive basic skills development in academic subjects required for successful completion of a high school equivalency program and for admission to postsecondary education. Interested Veterans must be honorably discharged and have served more than 180 days of active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or must be a veteran discharged or released from active duty because of a

service-connected disability. Information about NACEE's veteran services can be obtained by calling 256.372.4600.

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

The Hamm Consulting Group



Washington in 60 Seconds

1. The Senate was in session, although the House was in recess last week. Newly free of Democratic filibusters due to the two-year budget deal signed into law by President Obama two weeks ago, the Senate continued consideration of the FY 2016 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill and then were scheduled to take up the FY 2016 Defense Appropriations bill--although most observers expected all of the 12 appropriations bills to be combined eventually into one (1) omnibus spending bill.

2. President Obama met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House to discuss possible changes in their security arrangement expected to be worth more than \$30 billion, which will include a string of advanced weaponry systems, including F-35 jets, precision munitions, and V-22 Ospreys.

During his last trip to Washington in March, Prime Minister Netanyahu was pointedly not invited to the White House after addressing Congress and urging lawmakers to vote against the Iran nuclear deal.

3. Last week, the Obama Administration was expected to unveil a plan to close Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba and to transfer 53 prisoners (out of 112 detainees that are left there) to prisons in

the United States. The facilities reviewed by a Pentagon assessment team for the placement of the prisoners include:

- o the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks and Midwest Joint Regional Corrections Facility at Leavenworth, Kansas;

- o the Consolidated Naval Brig, Charleston, South Carolina;

- o the Federal Correctional Complex in Florence, Colorado; and

- o the Colorado State Penitentiary II in Canon City, Colorado.

The other 59 prisoners are either facing trial by military commission or the government has determined that they are too dangerous to release but are not facing charges.

Congress has banned transferring the prisoners to the United States in the past, but a new provision championed by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) would require the President to submit a plan within 90 days of the enactment of the Defense Authorization bill.

4. Recently, the White House posted online the entire text of the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership between the U.S. and 11 other countries (i.e., Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Peru, Canada, Brunei,

Singapore, Vietnam and Malaysia), laying out plans for the handling of trade in everything from zinc dust to railway sleepers and live eels. Under a trade law passed earlier this year, President Obama must give the public time to review the text before he signs the agreement and turns it over to Congress for approval. If all 12 countries have not ratified the agreement within two years, provisions allow for it to take effect if six countries comprising 85 percent of the GDP of the bloc have signed. The debate on this is expected to last into next year. Read it here at: <https://medium.com/the-trans-pacific-partnership>

5. 2016 Presidential Watch. On last Tuesday night, Fox Business Network partnered with the Wall Street Journal to host the 4th GOP debate at the Milwaukee Theater in Milwaukee, Wis. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee failed to qualify for Tuesday's prime-time Republican presidential debate, which featured a smaller field of eight (8) candidates (Trump, Carson, Rubio, Cruz, Bush, Fiorina, Kasich and Paul). They joined Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum in the "undercard" debate of lower-polling candidates. Two Republican candidates who previously appeared in the undercard debates--South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham and former New York Governor George Pataki--joined former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore in failing to qualify for either of the debates because of low polling numbers.

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DLC Announces Dates for 2016

The Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium has announced its dates for the 2016 classes.

The first of the two, eight-week sessions will run from March 8 through April 26, 2016. The second session of the Colloquium will be held from September 13 through November 1, 2016.

Applications can be down-



loaded at www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com or call (256) 536-9717.

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Adding Western Union® Bill Pay as a free option for customers to conveniently pay their bill is just one of many improvements made to customer service. Earlier this year, changes to the

final notice and payment extension guidelines were changed to mail an additional notice of payment due to customers and to all customers an additional 12 days to pay their monthly bill without requesting an extension. While late fees will apply after the due date, customers do not have request an extension. Huntsville Utilities is working daily to improve the customer experience by improving customer service.

Huntsville Utilities is a publicly-owned, not-for-profit utility company providing electric service to over 180,000 customers, water service to over 93,000 customers, and natural gas service to over 51,000 local customers.

- Joe Gehrdes, Director
Communications &
Public Relations
Huntsville Utilities

Thru November 30
Alabama A&M University Designated Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month

Thru December 3
Mandarin Chinese (Beyond the Basics) Free Continuing Education Class
AAMU Center for Extended Studies
Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m.
(256) 372-5753

November 20
Annual Nobel Laureate Lecture
Alabama A&M University
Dawson Building Auditorium
3 p.m.

November 21
Funset Social and Charity Club
Beautillion Ball
VBC North Hall, 7 p.m.

Calendar of Events

November 27
CONCERT
featuring Keith Sweat
VBC - Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

November 29-January 24, 2016
"Blow Up: Inflatable Contemporary Art"
Sponsors: Sarah and Carl Gessler
Huntsville Museum of Art

December 6
87th Annual Christmas Musicales
Alabama A&M University Choir
Elmore Building, 5:30 p.m.

December 17-19
Special Holiday Jazz

January 10
Harlem Globetrotters

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CITY OF HUNTSVILLE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSOLIDATED/ACTION PLAN

The City of Huntsville, Alabama proposes to amend its FY2012 Action Plan. The following CDBG project has been deleted:

\$150,000.00 Provide funds for the acquisition of real property for the use of a Park in the Lowe Mill Neighborhood. The property will be used for activities that will benefit at least 51% of low to moderate income persons in the community;

And replaced with the following:

\$150,000.00 Provide funds for Public improvements for the Richard Showers Center Park located at 4600 Blue Spring Rd., Huntsville, AL 35810. The property will be used for activities that will benefit at least 51% of low to moderate income persons in the community; A 30-day comment period ending on December 20, 2015 is required before amendments can be made to the Consolidated/Action Plan. For information please call (256) 427-5400. Any comments or suggestions concerning changes to the Plan should be made in writing and mailed to: City of Huntsville, Department of Community Development, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804.

CIUDAD DE HUNTSVILLE ENMIENDA AL PLAN DE ACCIÓN CONSOLIDADO

La ciudad de Huntsville, Alabama propone enmendar su Plan de acción del AÑO FISCAL 2013. Se añadirá el siguiente proyecto del Programa de Subsidios Globales para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG, por su sigla en inglés):

\$150,000.00 Fournir des fonds pour l'acquisition d'immeubles pour l'utilisation d'un parc dans le quartier de moulin de Lowe. La propriété servira pour des activités qui profiteront au moins 51 % de faible à modéré revenu personnes dans la communauté.

Y reemplaza por lo siguiente:

\$150,000.00 Proporcionar fondos para mejoras públicas del parque en el centro de duchas de Richard, 4600 azul primavera Rd., Huntsville, AL 35810. La propiedad se utilizará para actividades que beneficien a por lo menos el 51% de baja a las personas de ingresos moderados en la comunidad; Antes de poder hacer las enmiendas al Plan de Acción Consolidado se requiere un periodo de comentarios de 30 días el cual termina el 20 de Abril de 2015. Para información por favor llame al (256) 427-5400. Cualquier comentario o sugerencias sobre cambios al Plan deben ser hechas por escrito y enviadas por correo a: Ciudad de Huntsville, Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804.

The Rise of the Restaurant Industry in the Valley

It's feast season!

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approach, we can't help ourselves but to indulge in big dinners, fine food, and recipe adventures. Our appetites are increasing and our diets are decreasing as we spend more time with family over food.

Whether we are slaving over a hot stove, hiring personal chefs, ordering in, taking out, or dining out, we tend to focus more on food around this time. It is somewhat in our nature; after all, our ancestors would hunt heavy in the warm months to stock up on food for the winter months.

We all have to eat, so the food industry will always and forever boom. The rise of the fine dining restaurant industry is surely taking off in Huntsville, Ala.

Within the last decade or so, the Valley has opened up to more privately owned restaurants, and fine dining franchises, like P.F. Chang's, Texas de Brazil, Ruth's Chris, and The Melting Pot.

Chefs and restaurant entrepreneurs are given the opportunity to create their own establishments, such as The Eaves Restaurant on Church Street, which not only has amazing food and hospitality, but Chef Merle Phil-



lip also teaches cooking classes to help those interested in culinary arts.

The Boyce Restaurant Concepts has also added some flavor to downtown Huntsville through the restaurants Commerce Kitchen, Cotton Row and Pane e Vino Pizzeria; and the chefs at The Bottle are bringing southern cuisine dishes with a French influence to the area.

These are just a few of the divine dining experiences that the Valley is offering. Most entrepreneurs like to eat and tend to have expensive appetites and, around the holiday season, we all like to eat good food, so we do appreciate all of the great cooks that are bringing their skills and talents to the forefront of their communities. All the best,

Amoi Savage

Zetas Promote World Prematurity Day



world
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day november 17

I'm taking a stand to end premature birth
[facebook.com/worldprematurityday](https://www.facebook.com/worldprematurityday)

Members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority worshipped at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church last Sunday promoting education, sharing stories, spreading hope and saving lives in recognition of World Prematurity Day.

Premature birth is a global issue. Malawi, in sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, has goals to reduce the infant mortality by two-thirds by the end of 2015. This would be a phenomenal achievement, as 1 out of 43

newborns dies within the first 4 weeks of life.

Over 15 million babies are born too soon each year. Additional information can be found at [facebook.com/worldprematurityday](https://www.facebook.com/worldprematurityday).



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The Rosetta James Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization with a 0% Administrative and Fundraising Rate (AFR). For additional information, contact (256) 536-9717 or write P.O. Box 17452, Huntsville, AL 35810.



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People Are Like Streets

by Jerome Saintjones

As you travel through life, you can't help but notice some striking parallels. Of late I've come to muse how very much people remind me of streets.

There are well-paved streets that are able to take you almost from your front door to darn-near clean across town--doing so around curves, up mountains, through tough neighborhoods, superficially better neighborhoods and even right to the self-imposed limits of your dreams.

Similarly, there are those streets that do lead you to your destination but which take you through pure hell to get you there. You're making it toward your goal alright, but in the process you must dodge the potholes and demons

of their personalities, their too soft shoulders, the scars from abandoned construction, road kill, cracks and periodic poor visibility.

Some streets will take you only a part of the way. They might start out with you, but you can only take them so far. This is okay if you expect as much.

Conversely, there are some streets that won't stretch themselves to your beginnings. You can only join them *after* you have proven yourself. Only at that point will they take you to your journey's end and baste without you in the sun of the trip's completion.

Some people are just access roads. They aren't about taking you to your best interest, but to theirs. Thus, their only reason for being is to make the path

toward your exploitation as easy and painless as possible.

Some streets are less traveled and rightly should be avoided because they simply have too many stop signs. Too many limitations. Others are poorly designed and often leave you to your own best judgment.

While cul-de-sacs at least afford room to circle back out from whence you came, dead ends sometimes have to be too carefully maneuvered.

Lastly, some roads are fine to travel in and of themselves, good scenery, smooth rides, but sometimes outside forces turn them into parasitical speedtraps, gladly preying upon those who dare to have a destination.

People are like streets ...

*"You can't
find the
right roads
when the
streets are
paved."*

- Bob
Marley



OPEN HOUSE: Lieutenant General & Mrs. Larry D. Wyche of the U. S. Army Materiel Command and Dr. Juanita Harris-SES of AMRDEC pose for TVW on November 14th at General and Mrs. Dennis L. Via's Open House.

Read Online!
valleyweeklyllc.
com

John Nerger of the Food Bank of North Alabama and Chris McBride of SAIC.



One of Valley's Oldest Diverse Churches Turning Sixty

A caring and giving church, located in northeast Huntsville, just within a stone's throw of both historic Alabama A&M University and J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, has long been one of the few exceptions to what author James Baldwin referred to as "the most segregated hour" in America.

Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church is 60 years old, and it will formally share its six decades of cultural diversity and outreach on Sunday February 7, 2016, as part of the national Black History Month observance and in recognition of the Episcopal Church USA's very

first African-American Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry. The Rev. C. Diane Hill is priest-in-charge.

In 1955, eight faculty members from Alabama A&M University had the tenacity to form an Episcopal worship entity that methodically developed into the Chapel of the Holy Cross. The charter members of the church (e.g., Ida G. Buchanan, Frank Lewis, Harriet Terry, etc.) also

represent to this day some of the most revered names in the long history of Alabama A&M. Throughout the years, the predominantly black parish carried

on a special affiliation with the predominantly white St. Christopher's church in northwest Huntsville. This special relationship

would become the glue that ultimately brought the two churches together permanently in 1975.

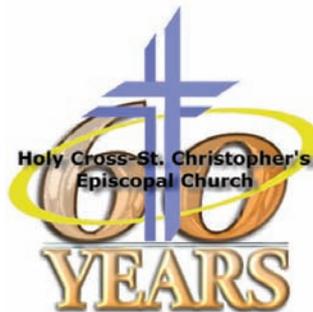
The parish facilities

were a home of residence for a select few Anglican students at Alabama A&M. It also received a special national Cub Scouts award in 1968. In 1976--and for three years afterward--it housed the formative years of the then popular Madison-Jackson Child Development Center. Sub-

sequently, it has proudly maintained ministries aimed at feeding the hungry, childhood nutrition, supporting public education fundamentals, as well as benevolent giving.

The public is cordially invited to share the 60th anniversary celebration of Holy Cross-St. Christo-

pher's Episcopal Church during worship services on Sunday, February 7, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. For additional information, call (256) 534-7750 or visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Holy-CrossStChristophersEpiscopalChurch>.



Ivory W. Reedus, LUTCF

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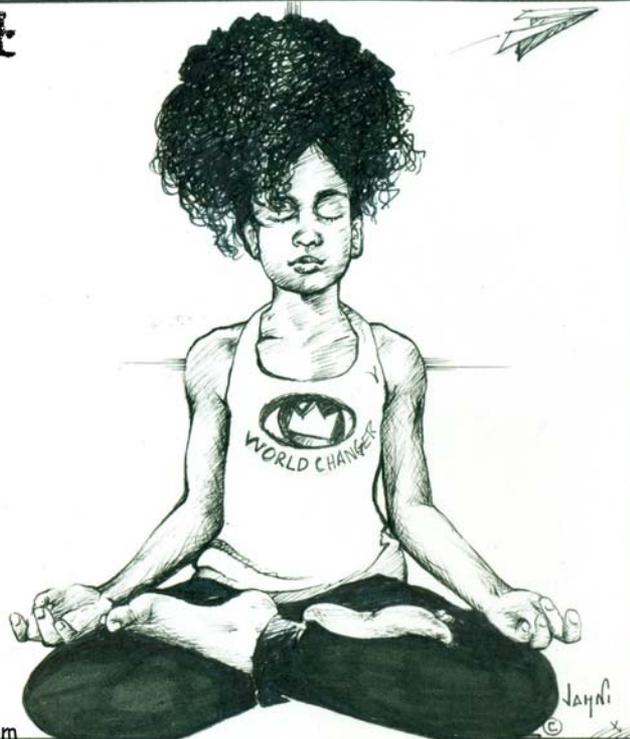
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On This Day - November 20

Dominique Dawes - Three-time Olympic gymnast, born in Silver Spring, Md. Dawes is an Olympic gold medalist and has also won two bronze medals. She will also hold more national titles than any other gymnast-male or female.
- BlackInTime.info



Matt Hammond
LEAP Grad 2015

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