

The Valley Weekly

Volume 3, No. 13

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, December 9, 2016

FREE

*"If you are silent about your pain,
they'll kill you and say you enjoyed it."*
- Zora Neale Hurston

Drake State Head Receives Appointment

Dr. Kemba Chambers, interim president of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, has been appointed as a member of the Peer Review Advisory Board (PRAB) for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Dr. Belle Wheelan, president of the Commission, notified Dr. Chambers of the four-year appointment on behalf of Dr. Mark Keenum, Board of Trustees' Chair. Wheelan explained that the purpose of this Advisory Board is to "enhance the quality and value of the peer review process" used by the Commission to maintain accreditation of its member institutions.

"This is an important initiative, and I am honored to be a part of this board," stated Dr. Chambers. "I look forward to serving alongside members from across the Southeast who share their expertise and leadership."



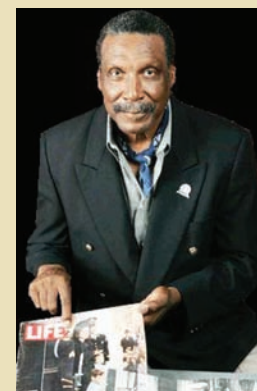
CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS: *Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Omega Chapter, usher in the Christmas Season with an annual Candlelight Vesper Service on the first Sunday in December every year. This year, members of this business and professional women's sorority held its 41st annual service at Millennium Run Nursing Home and Rehabilitation. The long term memory of residents living with Alzheimer's enabled them to sing Christmas Carols and quote Bible verses. Their favorite Carol was Silent Night. Residents expressed excitement and appreciation for the vesper service. Members of the sorority were uplifted by the spirit and participation of the residents. The gifts from the sorority were well received by the residents with peace and joy. Pictured (l-r): (Back Row) Gladys Bracy, Lelia Reid-Davis, Bettye Dixie, Linda Burruss, Mable Harris, and Janet Ford; (Front Row) Carolyn Jackson, Brenda Beale, Sadie Pleasure, Brenda Bennett (President), Ada Crenshaw, Phyllis Caudle and Yolanda Harris.*

Local Historian Featured in California Publication

A native Huntsvillian and avid historian was featured in a December 2016 California military publication.

Bobby Lee Hayden, a retiree and sought-after local historian, was spotlighted in a full-page article that appeared in a recent issue of "The California Register."

Writer David Smallwood fully recounted the series of events in Hayden's life that would eventually lead to his selection as the first African-American on the Honor Guard during the administration of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, from his selection to the moments of the president's assassination.



DLC Forms Alumni Organization

The Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) installed officers for its newly formed alumni body on Tuesday, November 29, at the Huntsville Country Club.

Linda D. Fowlkes, senior procurement analyst for the Army Contracting Command, will serve a two-year term as the first president of the DLC Alumni Association.

Other officers include: Christopher "Chris" Kern, vice president; Ja-Neen Owens, secretary; Tyran Bone, treasurer; Caleb Ballew, parliamentarian; and Pastor Anthony

Wheeler, chaplain. Georgia S. Valrie, DLC program coordinator, served as mistress of ceremonies in the absence of Dr. Dorothy W. Huston, DLC founder and facilitator.

DLC advances leadership excellence by advocating and progressing the affirmation and inclusion of diversity in strategic markets and communities of interest for competitive intelligence.

DLC aims to remain a premier provider of diversity training for inspiring and experienced leaders throughout the lifecycle.

DLC's values are: Collaboration for Excellence;



Fowlkes

Appreciation with Insight; Respect for Understanding; and Empathy for all - C.A.R.E.

For additional information about DLC, the Association and upcoming cohorts, visit www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com

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Progress Bank - Madison

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

Regency Retirement Village

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

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

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Your Washington Recap

Here are the top issues in DC this week:

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. The two (2) biggest items on the congressional schedule this week were to pass: (1) a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government at FY2016 levels through April 30, 2017, before the current CR expires on December 9 and (2) the Water Resources Development Act, which funds Army Corps of Engineers' projects and reportedly contains a compromise amount of \$170 million in assistance for the City of Flint, Mich., water system.

Last week, the House passed the \$618.7 billion Defense Authorization bill without a controversial provision that would have let federal contractors discriminate against workers on the basis of gender or sexual orientation. The Senate will vote on the bill this week.

2. President-elect Trump was scheduled to meet this week with retired Admiral James Stavridis and Exxon-Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson as potential Secretary of State picks. He was slated to also continue his "USA Thank You Tour" with stops in Fayetteville, N.C., Tuesday and Des Moines,

Iowa, on Thursday.

3. President-elect Trump announced Dr. Ben Carson has accepted his offer to become Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD could play an impor-



tant role in Trump's administration, after the Republican candidate repeatedly pledged in his campaign to address problems plaguing inner-city minority communities.

4. The White House announced earlier this week that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit Pearl Harbor on December 27, becoming the first Japanese leader to visit the site of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on its 75th anniversary year. President Obama will accompany Abe to the USS Arizona Memorial to honor those who were killed.

5. The Hill newspaper reported Monday morning that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has instructed Senate committee chairmen to get as much work done as

possible before President-elect Trump takes the oath of office on January 20, starting with a Budget Resolution for FY 2017 containing special instructions to repeal the Affordable Care Act, followed by a reconciliation vehicle repealing major parts of the healthcare law. Other items that will be taken up early next year after the Inauguration include an infrastructure investment package, a budget with special instructions to pave the way for comprehensive tax reform and a rollback of regulations promulgated by the Obama administration since June 2016. The new Congress convenes next year on January 3.

6. On Sunday, Assistant Secretary of the Army Jo-Ellen Darcy announced that the Army Corps of Engineers was halting construction on a disputed segment of the \$3.7 billion Dakota Access Pipeline, which is 70%

complete and would operate on an 1,172-mile route from North Dakota to Illinois, delivering 570,000 barrels a day of North Dakota fracked crude. Opposition to the pipeline has been led by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, which charges that it could contaminate its water supply (the tribe's land ends about half a mile from the disputed part of the route on a federal easement beneath Lake Oahe, ND).

7. The American Council on Education, the umbrella association representing the nation's colleges and universities, is advising its member institutions on how to prepare for expected changes to U.S. immigration policy when President-elect Donald Trump takes office next month. The group commented that Trump's election "has jolted campuses with speculation and concern about undocumented community members and

other issues impacting international populations."

8. Over last weekend, USA Today reported that President Obama now supports women registering for the Selective Service, for which currently only male US citizens and immigrants 18 to 25 years old are required to register. The Obama Administration opened all military occupational specialties — including combat jobs — to women in December 2015.

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GOO GOO DOLLS: *The Buffalo-formed, Grammy Award-winning American rock band Goo Goo Dolls added Huntsville as part of a 30-year anniversary tour in the Von Braun Center. (Photo by Reggie Allen)*

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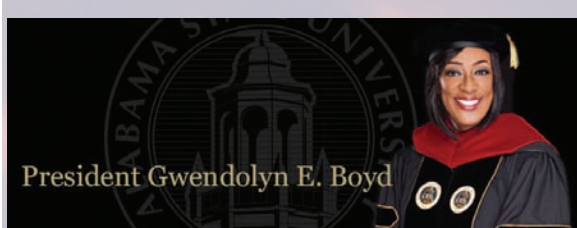
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The Valley Weekly

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President Gwendolyn E. Boyd

From the Editor



Can Somebody Tell Us What's Going on at ASU?

Last month, the Board of Trustees at Alabama State University placed Dr. Gwendolyn Elizabeth Boyd on leave with pay, without much explanation. Some media outlets have reported that she is "out." However, the Board has basically been silent since this action was taken against Dr. Boyd.

According to the ASU website, Dr. Boyd returned on February 1, 2014, to Alabama State University--her alma mater--as its new President after an extraordinary career of leadership and public service that has spanned more than three decades in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Short of insight into the internal and external affairs and politics of what could be going on in the State's capital, I encourage you to read and decide for yourself:

A Montgomery, Ala., native, Boyd earned her undergraduate degree from Alabama State University (ASU), with a major in mathematics and a double minor in physics and music. Upon graduation, Boyd received a fellowship to pursue graduate work at Yale University, where she was the first African-American female to earn a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering from this Ivy League institution. She also has earned both the Master of Divinity and the Doctor of Ministry degrees from Howard University.

Boyd's relationship with ASU actually began when she was a child, living just a few blocks away from the University. Despite her humble beginnings, Boyd excelled early and consistently as a student. Her life as a trailblazer began when, as a teenager, she was one of five black students chosen to integrate Montgomery's Baldwin Junior High School. Continuing as a pioneer, she helped to establish an interracial council while at Jefferson Davis High School, was a member of the National Honor Society, performed in the school choir and graduated as valedictorian of her class in 1973.

Boyd came to ASU on an academic scholarship, and in her words, the University "embraced me, invested in me and changed my life inexorably." As a college student, her academic and leadership skills were evident, as she was inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society, Beta Kappa Chi Education Honor Society and Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society; pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and was the Beta Eta Chapter president on campus; was a member of and traveled with the Young Hearts gospel singers; was elected Miss Alabama State University (1976-77) and graduated summa cum laude in 1977.

Boyd's professional career at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) was highlighted by exemplary leadership and dedicated service. Early in her career, she was an analyst in the Strategic Systems Department, where she was part of engineering teams that conducted independent analyses and operational performance evaluations of Strategic Weapons Systems on Polaris, Poseidon and Trident submarines. In 1999, she became the Assistant for Development Programs and was later named Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff at APL. In 1997, Boyd was selected to serve on the Johns Hopkins Diversity Leadership Council, and served as chair from 2001-2014, reporting directly to the President of Johns Hopkins University as the council worked on issues of diversity, inclusion, civility and respect across the various divisions of Johns Hopkins.

A nationally recognized champion of education, Boyd has spearheaded efforts across the nation and in other countries to help broaden the scope of educational offerings, especially as it relates to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines. Because of her efforts in advancing education, Boyd was nominated by President Barack Obama and received U.S. Senate confirmation to serve as a trustee to the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation in 2009. In January 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Boyd and 14 other individuals to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African-Americans. This Commission is charged with strengthening the nation by improving educational outcomes for African-Americans and ensuring that all African-Americans receive an education that prepares them for college, productive careers and satisfying lives.

Boyd also is a minister and an ordained itinerant elder in the AME Church. While in Maryland, she served on the ministerial staff of Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington, Md. In 2000, Boyd was elected to serve as the 22nd National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., an international organization of more than 250,000 members. Known as the "Technology President," Boyd helped to establish technology in all facets of the sorority's activities and administration. Her four-year tenure as president included a number of transformative accomplishments, including the launching of Project SEE (Science in Everyday Experiences), an initiative funded by a \$1.6 million National Science Foundation grant with a goal of promoting math and science for middle school African-American girls. She also led the sorority's humanitarian and education advocacy efforts in various parts of Africa, including Swaziland, Lesotho and Soweto, South Africa. In 2013, Boyd served as chair of the sorority's Centennial Celebration, which involved organizing a year-long series of events culminating in a Washington, D.C.-based convention that drew more than 40,000 participants from around the world.

Boyd is a lifelong community servant, having served on boards of local, national and international organizations, including the Links, Incorporated; Children's National Health Center in Washington, D.C.; the National Partnership for Community Leadership; the United Way; and the APL Federal Credit Union. Her work has earned dozens of awards and honors, including two honorary doctorates and Congressional recognitions. She has been honored with 28 keys to various cities throughout the country, declarations of Gwendolyn E. Boyd Day in eight cities in the country, civic citations, and various leadership and volunteer awards, as well as professional awards for her achievements in the fields of engineering and higher education.

Could this be an assault on excellence in an effort to settle for mediocrity? Not sure what ASU's board is looking for in presidential leadership, but they seem to have what most of us would consider excellent leadership! Are we losing our grip on what is needed to lead to what we want and a desire to control?

Until next week ...

Dorothy

OU, HBCUs Receive Cluster Grant

After a six-month planning phase, UNCF announced Oakwood University as one of 24 colleges and universities that will receive five-year grants totaling \$35.3 million for the UNCF® Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), a transformative effort to design and implement programs to improve employment outcomes for graduates. Oakwood, along with Talladega College and Tougaloo College worked together over the past few months to apply for a CPI cluster grant, which will collectively award \$6M to the three institutions.

"I am pleased and excited that Oakwood University, along with our sister

institutions Talladega and Tougaloo have been able to work together to receive this award of up to \$6M, remarks Dr. Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood University. "We know that our students are the cream of the crop and this grant from UNCF and the Lilly Foundation is going to give us the edge that we need to make sure that when our students finish their degree they will be eligible for employment because of the career expose we will provide."

Made possible through a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the UNCF® Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) is a unique pilot program for select

historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and predominantly black institutions (PBIs) that is helping them enhance career readiness for their 54,000 enrolled students. Many of these students will be the first in their families to earn college degrees. The majority of students are from low-to-moderate income families and must receive federal financial aid to pursue their undergraduate studies.

Oakwood University submitted a proposal that reflects a commitment to strengthening career advising and mentoring, enhancing curricula, and supporting integrated co-curricular engagement.



DOLLY! Country music legend and Tennessean Dolly Parton recently charmed a Huntsville audience at the Von Braun Center. The multi-talented entertainer is also noted as a songwriter, record producer, actress and businesswoman. (Photo by Reggie Allen)



On This Day - Friday, December 9 - REDD FOXX - Redd Foxx was born John Elroy Sanford in St. Louis, Mo. Foxx was an American comedian and actor best known for his starring role on the long-running television sitcom, "Sanford and Son." - *BlackinTime.info*



BOOKSIGNING:
Dr. Kendra Harris, associate professor of marketing at Alabama A&M University's College of Business and Public Affairs and author of the new 120-page book "Happily Never Married," conducted a recent booksigning ceremony at Hilton Garden Inn in south Huntsville. She has earned degrees from The American University, Duke University (MBA) and George Washington

Museum 'Skate in the Park' Ends Jan. 3

The Huntsville Museum of Art will hold "Skating in the Park" through Tuesday, January 3, at HMA's outdoor ice skating rink --it's very own version of "Rocket-fella" Center--4-10 p.m.

Grab your family and

friends and experience a magical winter wonderland right here in downtown Huntsville.

The 2016/2017 season of "Skating in the Park" began last month, but there is still nearly an entire month of fun-loving skating left for

fans of the ice. The rink is located behind the Huntsville Museum of Art.

The hours run Monday-Thursday from 4 to 10 p.m.; Friday from 4 p.m. to midnight; Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 midnight and Sunday, 12 to 8 p.m.

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Pokémon: Sun and Moon Hits Stores

by Reggie Allen

Nintendo released Pokémon: Sun and Moon, the most recent installment to the popular video game franchise, on November 18. As with the previous installments, gamers have the option of buying one of two versions of the game. Though almost identical, each version comes with Pokémon exclusive only to that game.

Deviating from its predecessors, Nintendo announced that Sun and Moon would take more a narrative approach, instead of using their standard competitive gameplay formula. Players will no longer have to face Gym Leaders, the boss characters of the game, but compete in various interactive challenges.



Taking place in the new Alola region, a fictional archipelago modeled after Hawaii, gamers can experience and explore the new terrain with the game's newly implemented full-scale, three-dimensional environment.

In addition to this, Sun

and Moon also includes "Aloah" forms, special variations of popular Pokémon from the series' first generation.

The release of Sun and Moon coincided with the 20th anniversary of the franchise. Debuting in 1996 with the release of Pokémon Red and Blue, the franchise has since spawned a long-running anime series, a popular trading card game and various films and merchandise. The game's release also quenched the thirst of many fans since the release of temporary hit "Pokémon Go."

In July, game developer Niantic released "Go," an

augmented reality-based game for IOS and Android, which enabled players to catch their favorite pocket monsters in the real world. Since its Summer debut, the mobile platform has gradually lost a considerable amount of its players.

Originally, players could

only capture 149 of the franchise's original characters, but it was announced that additional Pokémon would be available to gamers this Fall.

Image: Engadget.com

City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Meetings City Council 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.

City Council work sessions also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

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The Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation provides financial scholarship to undergraduate students who demonstrate sound academic principles; commitment to community volunteerism, civic engagement and unselfishness to assist others in Huntsville/Madison County.

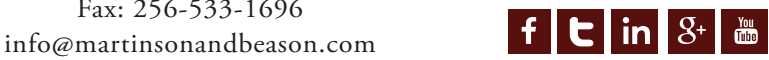
The Rosetta James Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization with a 0% Administrative and Fundraising Rate (AFR). For additional information, contact (256) 536-9717 or write P.O. Box 17452, Huntsville, AL 35810.



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Valley Deaths

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, December 10, for **Mrs. Polly Haywood** (b. 1910) at Indian Creek P.B. Church with Rev. Johnny Clay officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Alanda Stewart, Jr.**, (b. 1952) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service will be announced at a later date for **Mr. William T. Ross, Jr.** (b. 1951).

Funeral service was held Tuesday, December 6, for **Mr. James "Bubba" Wherry** (b. 1932) at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Larry Davidson officiating.

Funeral service was held Monday, December 5, for **Mr. James Earl "Fuzzy" Moore** (b. 1937) at St. Luke Christian Church with Pastor T.C. Johnson officiating.


Funeral service was held Saturday, December 3, for **Mr. Howard "Hoss" Bone** (b. 1928) at Meridianville Primitive Baptist Church with Rev. Walter Peavy officiating.

Funeral service was held Saturday, December 3, for St. Bartley P.B. Church for **Ms. Bertha M. Williams** (b. 1933) with Dr. John Clay officiating.

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

PowerShot

"People who are truly strong lift others up. People who are truly powerful bring others together."
-Michelle Obama



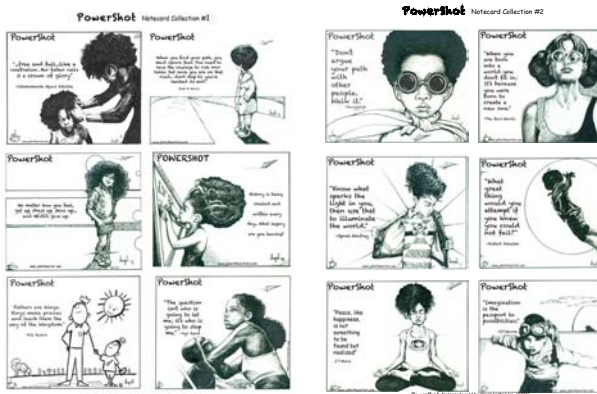
Michelle Obama

Ten Keys To Success

1. Keep moving forward
2. Be authentic
3. Keep your head up
4. Don't be afraid to fail
5. Choose your own path
6. Earn success
7. Take your role seriously
8. Dazzle them
9. Do the hard work well
10. Have fun

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Calendar of Events

December 8
AAMU ROTC Commissioning
Knight Center, 3:30 p.m.

December 9
Winter Chill Holiday Party
The Phoenix
3000 Johnson Ferry Road
(Proceeds Support the Harris Home for Children)
(256) 529-5870
5-10 p.m.

December 11
Art 'N' Soul Holiday Social
Bob Harrison Wellness Center
6:30 p.m.

December 17
17th Annual 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville Holiday Gala
Von Braun Center North Hall
7-11 p.m.
Contact: (256) 536-8050

December 21
Basketball
University of Alabama vs. Arkansas State
Von Braun Center Propst Arena, 8 p.m.

January 14
Alpha Phi Alpha MLK Unity Parade
Downtown Huntsville
12 Noon

February 4
Huntsville Symphony Orchestra
Free Family Concert
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
Von Braun Center
11 a.m.

February 21
The CornerStone Initiative C4 Conference
The Jackson Center
6001 MoQuin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
8:30 a.m.

Black Jacket Symphony to Pay Tribute to Prince

The Black Jacket Symphony will perform "Prince's Purple Rain" with two shows on December 17 (4-6 p.m. and 8-10 p.m.) in the Mark C. Smith Concert Hall of the Von Braun Center. (\$28, \$23)

The Black Jacket Symphony announces a special

performance to honor one of the greatest musicians of our time--Prince. More than an artist, he was a legend...an icon...otherworldly. His music transcended boundaries that nobody knew existed. While he has left this earth, his music will live on forever. Join

the Black Jacket Symphony as they celebrate the life of this iconic musician by recreating "Purple Rain" in its entirety--plus a full set of Prince's greatest hits.

The Black Jacket Symphony offers a unique concert experience by recreating classic albums in a live

performance setting with a first class lighting and video production. A selected album is performed in its entirety by a group of hand-picked musicians specifically selected for each album.

With no sonic detail being overlooked, the musicians do whatever it takes to musically reproduce the album. Following the album and a brief intermission, the Black Jacket Symphony returns to the stage to perform a collection of greatest hits by the evening's artist.

Tickets are available at the VBC Box Office, www.ticketmaster.com or by phone at 800-745-3000 & all Ticketmaster outlets. *Plus applicable fees and service charges. For more info, contact: www.blackjacketsymphony.com

"The thing that makes you exceptional, if you are at all, is inevitably that which must also make you lonely."

- Lorraine Hansberry

Winter Solstice Celebration Set

The North Alabama Freethought Association, Humanists of North Alabama and REACHSV will celebrate the winter season Sunday, December 18, at Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment, from 1-4 p.m.

The session will begin with a pot luck, followed by networking and info on the origins of common holiday traditions, making new friends and celebrating the season.

Donations will benefit: Free2Be on the occasion of the great loss suffered at its building; Crisis Services of North Alabama for its ever-vigilant services to victims of domestic and sexual violence; or the North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless, which agreed to share these donations with their member organizations for essential needs of the homeless population.

CornerStone Initiative C4 Conference to Launch in February

The CornerStone Initiative C4 Conference scheduled for 2017 will extend the conversations that started in 2013. The conference will be held Tuesday, February 21, at 8:30 a.m. at The Jackson Center.

However, organizers are hoping to delve a bit deeper to discover ways to provide tangible solutions.

The conference aims to tackle the fact that individuals, groups, and churches encounter multiple barriers when it comes to engaging in the long process of walking with someone from "poverty to plenty."

How to move volunteers beyond the "necessary and immediate relief" toward diagnosing and solving the problem? What are the barriers that prevent the forming of relationships in many of the vulnerable communities right here in Madison County?

Registrants can join the search to move beyond



simply identifying the problem, to moving towards providing tangible solutions.

The speaker will be Tom Bassford, founder and executive director of Significant Matters, a 501(c)



(3) nonprofit organization that works with faith-based groups, other community stakeholders and philanthropic organizations to tackle complex societal issues in sustainable ways.

Another featured presenter will be Gregory E.

Ealey, Th.M., senior pastor of Paseo Baptist Church. Ealey is a native of Austin, Tex. He attended Texas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a focus in accounting.

He received a Master of Theology degree with a focus on pastoral leadership from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Ealey has worked with The Urban Alternative, a ministry of Dr. Tony Evans.

He has also been trained in teaching the "Walk Thru the Old Testament" and the "Walk Thru the New Testament" seminars.

The conference is \$79 (Early Bird Registration), and \$99 after December 31, 2016.

HBG Features Galaxy of Lights Thru Dec. 31

The Huntsville Botanical Garden's annual Galaxy of Lights event will continue through Saturday, December 31.

Galaxy of Lights is a holiday light extravaganza featuring larger-than-life animated light displays.

Viewers can see Santa soaring over a delightful winter village; see nursery rhyme characters dance and frolic among traditional scenes of the season;

and, best of all, they can experience the magic of the twinkling icicle forest.

Thus, Galaxy of Lights is the perfect holiday treat for the young and young-at-heart.

Persons are welcome to purchase "Walking Night" tickets at the Shoppe at the Garden. Those purchasing a "Driving Night" ticket, should be sure to print out their e-ticket to drive through Galaxy.

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