

The Valley Weekly

*"No person is your friend who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow."
- Alice Walker*

FREE

Volume 1, No. 15

Friday, December 12, 2014

Calhoun's Beck Goes Out on High Note



Calhoun Community College hosted several hundred community leaders and supporters on December 5 for the Groundbreaking of the Math, Science and Computer Science Building on the Huntsville Campus located on Wynn Drive (above).

This event also served as a grand farewell to President Marilyn Beck (2nd photo, right). Dr. Beck presented a medallion of support to Mayor Tommy Battle. (William S. Propst was recognized for his support of the College, although he was unable to attend).

Remarks and special presentations were made by Dr. Mark



Heinrich, chancellor of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, Mary Scott Hunter of the Alabama State Board of Education, along with Congressman Mo Brooks, Senators Arthur Orr, Bill Holtzclaw and Steve Livingston, Representatives Laura Hall, Howard Sanderford and Dan

Williams, President Linda Young of Wallace Dothan Community College, and Joe Campbell of the Calhoun Foundation.

Immediately following the groundbreaking, all attendees were invited to a buffet lunch catered by Bubba's Silver Spoon Catering.

Entertainment was provided by Jimmy Cantrell and the Calhoun Jazz Band. Faculty, staff and students served as hosts and hostesses, and the Grand Foyer was replete with banners of area businesses that support Calhoun Community College. It was a grand event! - VW

ASU President Visits Hornets in the Rocket City



Dr. Gwendolyn E. Boyd, president of Alabama State University in Montgomery, Ala., poses with Minister Harold Weatherly of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.

The Rocket City Alumni Chapter of the Alabama State University (ASU) National Alumni Association hosted its Annual Christmas Scholarship Banquet on December 7, 2014, at Von Braun Center's North Hall.

The theme was "The Future of HBCUs," featuring Dr. Gwendolyn E. Boyd, president of ASU. Dr. Joseph Henderson, legendary track and field coach and Alabama A&M University retiree, was banquet chairperson.

The Rocket City Alumni Chapter officers are Miyocco Florence, president; Ellis Bishop - vice president; Veronica Edwards, secretary; Yvonne Holmes, financial secretary; Narry Tillman, treasurer; and

Laura Chalk, historian.

Mrs. Alfreda Green, a member of the ASU Board of Trustees, introduced Dr. Boyd to the audience. Mrs. Laura Chalk was the program chair for this event, which offered inspirational and soul-stirring music by Mr. Colby Smith, a sophomore at ASU; Mrs. Carla McAlpine-Franklin of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and Mr. Justin Jordan, a freshman at Oakwood University.

Presentations were made by Mrs. Terry Green, a former Miss ASU, and Mr. Miyocco Florence. Dr. Boyd was a 'preaching and teaching' speaker who ousted all myths about the relevancy of HBCUs.

Mag Recognizes Alabama's Largest Charitable Foundation, President

Popular monthly *Business Alabama* recently featured the state's largest charitable foundation and the man who heads it.

According to *Business Alabama*, the Alabama Power Foundation is the largest charitable foundation in the state and the 29th largest corporate foundation in the country. The private entity has helped Alabamians for the past 25 years, helping to strengthen educational programs and enhance quality of life.

Alabama Power shareholders voted in 1989 to create and provide an endowment to the foundation. A total of \$15 million was donated from stockholders' share of Alabama Power profits during the foundation's first seven years.

Through prudent money management, the initial endow-



ments generated so much income that no further shareholder donations have been necessary for the past 18 years, says foundation President John O. Hudson III, who also serves as vice president of public relations and charitable giving for Alabama Power.

Hudson is an attorney who serves as executive director of the Alabama Business Charitable Trust. Prior to joining Alabama Power, Hudson served as senior vice president of corporate diversity and public affairs at Regions Financial Corporation (RFC). Before joining RFC, Hudson was engaged in the private practice of law, and he also served as president and chairman of The Hudson Group. He is licensed to practice law in all Alabama state courts, as well as the United

States District Courts of the Middle, Northern and Southern Districts of Alabama.

Integrally involved in the community, Hudson serves as a member of the Board of Directors of several civic organizations. He also serves as a distinguished member of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, the Newcomen Society of Alabama, Kappa Alpha Psi Inc., and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, also known as the Boule'. Moreover, Hudson serves on the boards of Miles College, Miles College School of Law and the Jefferson State Community College Foundation.

Hudson received a bachelor's degree in political science from Alabama A&M University, is a cum laude graduate of Miles College School of Law, completed the Executive Accounting and Finance Program at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and has worked toward an LL.M. in taxation at the University of Alabama School of Law.

"We have invested more than \$150 million in grants and scholarships to benefit local communities throughout the state," Hudson told the magazine. "Our view is that investing in nonprofits and community programs will reap major returns for the state, particularly in terms of educational achievement, workforce develop-

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ment and economic growth."

Only a few years after its founding, the foundation's endowment grew to \$55 million in 1992, making the foundation the largest in Alabama, noted Alabama Power community initiatives manager Hallie Bradley,

who spends about 60 percent of her time supporting foundation efforts. By 2000, the foundation was passing \$50 million in giving and by 2007, passing \$100 million in giving.

Sources: Business Alabama
 Alabama A&M University



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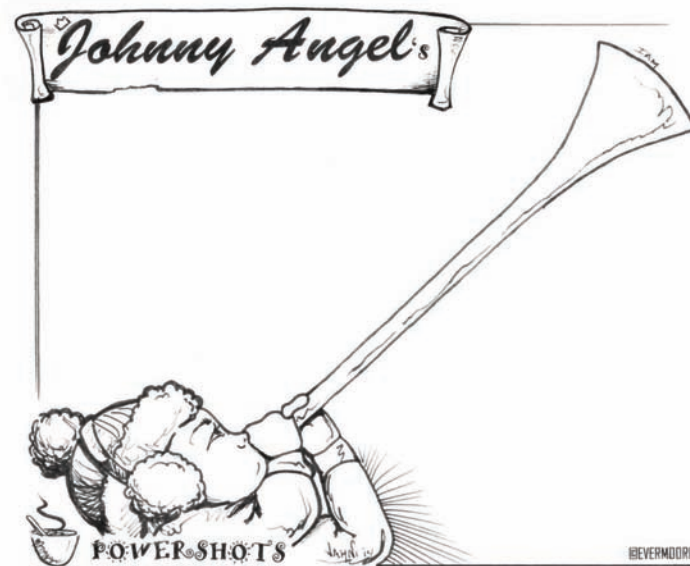
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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



Having lived in four states over the past 33 years, I value the fact that I can leave the office and drive to almost any appointment around town in less than 30 minutes, including visits on Redstone Arsenal. I often share with my colleagues around the U.S. how much I treasure the short commutes and light rush hour traffic in Huntsville. Friday, December 5th, was very different. It took me about an hour to drive home, a trip that usually takes me about 15 minutes.

I had not seen the news earlier in the day. Mondays and Fridays are typically busy with required meetings, weekly reports, telephone calls and requests from customers, scorecards, and various reviews of corporate commitments and community projects. Once I crossed Jordan Lane, heading west on University Drive, I could see only brake lights in all three westward lanes. Upon approaching the Sparkman Drive overpass, University Drive had been completely closed. All three lanes had been closed and motorist had only once choice, to exit at Sparkman Drive. Traffic was everywhere, and I was still oblivious to what was happening. Last week, I wrote in my editorial about the fact that most of us have no clue about what is going on around us from day to day.

I called home to announce my delayed arrival to find out that the local news was reporting that students from Oakwood University were marching peacefully from the campus down Wynn Drive to University Drive to express their frustration regarding the deaths of African-American citizens recently by police nationally. A slight drizzling rain did not stop the group of about 300 who organized under #ShutItDownHSV.

I applaud President Leslie Pollard, the president of Oakwood University, for addressing the students regarding the purpose of the activity. He welcomed those assembled and encouraged them to participate in a peaceful and lawful manner. Education occurs both inside and outside of the classrooms. Therefore, rather than threaten to expel students, order the campus police to harass and arrest the students, or retreat to his comfortable offices behind layers of staff, Dr. Pollard demonstrated leadership by addressing the students and community participants, embracing the purpose with appropriate instructions and courage. I love it when leaders actually lead, rather than hide behind campus security, police officers and staff bullies. After actually participating in the march, Dr. Pollard issued a second statement indicating that he felt their unrest and sensed their desire for equality and justice. Thank you, Dr. Pollard, for leading in such a time as this.

Is it too much for any one of us to desire equality and justice? All of us can contribute to the goals of One Huntsville. We may not be part of an organized plan, but we can embrace and respect the differences of fellow citizens, regardless of their race, gender, religion, disability, color or creed. We must individually be the change we desire to occur. Until next week,

*I love it when
leaders actually
lead, rather than
hide behind campus
security, police
officers and
staff bullies.*

Dorothy

Delta GEMS Host Christmas Fiesta



The Delta GEMS committee hosted a Christmas Fiesta on November 29, 2014. With a Mexican buffet, the party was full of fun, laughter and dancing. The lovely tunes of karaoke hummed throughout the night, and ended in a fun-spirited game of Dirty Santa. The ladies enjoyed the fellowship, and the Sorors had an even better time.

The next day, the GEMS gathered at two local nursing

homes to give some Christmas cheer. During the programs, the ladies sang Christmas carols and entertained the residents with crafts and conversations.

At the end of the program, the residents of Regency Health-care and Rehabilitation Center and Millennium Nursing and Rehabilitation Center were presented fleece blankets made by the GEMS during our November meeting.

Rice Retires from HCS after 38 Years

Family and friends gathered at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church on Saturday, December 6, to celebrate Robert L. Rice's 38 years in education and his retirement from Huntsville City Schools.

The theme for the retirement reception was "Integrity, Strength, Leadership, Excellence and Honor." Keith and Patricia Williams were Master and Mistress of Ceremonies.

The program included contributions, tributes, music, toasts and reflections by Ricky Gosa, Cleopha Pair, Boy Scout Troup #947, Pastor James Childress, Lamont Hyter, Rep. Laura Hall, Roosevelt Rice, Inell Rice-McCrary, Linda Childress, Elder Will Sledge, Arvella Malone, Elaine Tibbs Rice, representatives from J.O. Johnson High School, the Academy of Science and Foreign Language and Columbia High School, along with Principals Tom Drake, Evalyn Humphrey, Ollye Conley, Arthur Booker, Fredonia Williams, Jennifer Garrett and Greg Hicks. The closing prayer and benediction was given by Pastor Timothy Rainey of Indian Creek P. B. Church.

Rice attended Council Training High School, Sparkman High School and Alabama A&M University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1975.

Later, he obtained a master's degree in biology and a master's in school administration and supervision, both from AAMU. He ended his educational career after 38 years as Assistant Principal at Columbia High School.

In addition to his educational accomplishments, he was an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 947 at Indian Creek PB Church. An active pastor, administrator, teacher and leader, he has simultaneously served as pastor of Antioch Cumberland Pres-



Friends and family congratulate and pay tribute to Robert L. Rice (center) during his recent retirement celebration at Indian Creek PB Church.

byterian Church in America in Athens, Ala.

Rice has been married to Evangelist Elaine Tibbs Rice for 36

years, and they have three adult children, Devin, Deveka and Jonathan, along with two sons-in-law and six grandchildren.

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Book Celebrates Legacy of Delaney Sisters

Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters, The First 100 Years
Great Reading-Great Example of Civil Rights Pioneers' Oral History

There are many civil rights pioneers whose stories we have yet to put to pen and paper. One that I have enjoyed is about the Delany sisters. It would be described as oral history, non-fiction. It was through oral history that *New York Times* writer Amy Hill Hearth heard the stories of sisters Sarah and Elizabeth Delaney.

In the book, the sisters narrate historic moments in their lives from sometimes different points of view. The sisters were the daughters of a former slave who became the first African-American elected Bishop in the Episcopal Church in the United States. Their mother, Nanny Logan, was a teacher and administrator. Their mother's parents were a free African American woman and a white Virginia farmer. They were not writers but they could tell stories of triumph and tragedy that would inspire four books, a movie and Broadway play.

Sarah Louise "Sadie" Delany was an educator, author and activist. She died at 103. Her sister, Annie Elizabeth "Bessie" Delany died at 107. Sadie was the first African American person permitted to teach domestic science at the high-school level in

the New York public schools. The sisters were successful career women and civil rights pioneers in their own right. They survived encounters with racism and sex-

ism in different ways, with the support of each other and their family. The sisters set their sights high, with both earning advanced college degrees at a time when

this was very rare for women, especially women of color. Both were successful in their professions from the 1920s until retirement.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Having_Our_Say:_The_Delany_Sisters'_First_100_Years

Submitted by Linda Burruss



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A Woman's Glory

by Dwight Pope

It is said that her breasts are a woman's glory, but what I saw before me on that day was a broken queen, head bowed in shame—a sort of sad embarrassment. As I removed her sweater, the discomfort was painfully obvious.

There was something I wasn't supposed to see. This once proud, independent woman who raised me from a child was in unfamiliar territory. But so was I. I was a son. The third of four boys, I had no sisters. When it came to a woman's needs, I was totally lost.

No son grows up with thoughts of ever having to bathe his mother; the very idea was as strange as a foreign language. But here we were in this terrible awkwardness. She didn't have the strength to help herself, and there was no one else to call. All of those years in the pews, all of the church sermons came down to this one moment—this moment in which the Spiritual Instruction became the test.

As I continued to prepare her to be cleaned, what was frightfully hidden was now exposed. She was so weak that she now struggled to move her arm to cover the gaping hole that was once her left breast. Sadness came over my spirit as I teetered back and forth between her self-respect and her needs.

In a situation like this, one quickly figures out that need trumps everything else, including personal emotion. There is

something in the humanity of a situation that takes you to a place of responsibility. What I saw in her was helplessness, but what I felt in myself was a spirit of help. I made her as comfortable as possible, and she became as trusting with me as I was with her growing up as a child all those years ago.



the things we will have to face or the test we will have to take. But we will all be tested according to our purpose and calling. We just have to be willing to be obedient enough to take the test.

These experiences aren't comfortable, and we won't always like them, but I am

convinced that they show us our true selves and make us all better.

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IN HER NAME
WE STAND STRONG
MEN HONORING WOMEN

Initiative Going Strong

Conceptualized by long-time local artist and activist Dwight Pope, the "In Her Name: Men Honoring Women" initiative extends beyond drawing awareness to the trials and perils associated with breast cancer.

The Men Honoring Women effort is an ongoing initiative that Pope has been inspired to take on to keep the brave women who have the struggle with the day-to-day toll the disease causes, either in their own bodies or the bodies of women they love.

From breast cancer awareness and support to men simply honoring women daily, Pope says



MEN HONORING WOMEN

this initiative is strictly produced by men "for women, to honor women."



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- * Senior's Holiday Concert, Thursday, Dec. 18
- * H.E.N.D. (Food-Clothing Drive) Friday, Dec. 19, 10AM VBC Arts Council Meeting Room
- * Holiday Jazz Concert, Dec. 20, 7PM Cooper House 405 Randolph St.

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Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ...

Where did 2014 go? This year has moved at lightning speed. We are so blessed to live in a community that serves as a positive example to so many others around the country.

As I was traveling through our city, I have started to notice all of the seasonal decorations and their beauty. Huntsville's Big Spring Park has been transformed into Tinsel Trail, where

over 200 Christmas trees are on display that are sponsored and decorated by local Huntsville entities.

This year, Tinsel Trail has grown and now occupies both sides of Big Spring Park. The Tinsel Trail area in downtown is free and open to the public. While you can see the Christmas trees in the daytime, it is wonderful to come in the evening when they are lit.

Although we are enjoying

pleasant weather this Holiday Season, please remember those who are in need of your generosity. There are numerous entities in our community that are in need of our time as volunteers and resources – 'Tis the season to give.

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Vision:

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Mission:

DLC's mission is to become a premier provider of diversity training for inspiring and experienced leaders throughout the lifecycle.

Values:

Our values are: Collaboration for Excellence; Appreciation with Insight; Respect for Understanding; and Empathy for all ... **C.A.R.E.**

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

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Spring April 7 – May 26 - Deadline to register (March 7, 2015)
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