

The Valley Weekly

*"Powerful people cannot afford to educate the people that they oppress, because once you are truly educated, you will not ask for power. You will take it."
- John Henrik Clarke*

FREE

Volume 1, No. 16

Friday, December 19, 2014

P.A.W.S.

Partners in Action at Whitesburg School

by Allie Swann, PAWS Volunteer

Whitesburg School, pre-school through 8th grade, is a racially diverse school in south Huntsville. It may become even more diverse as a result of the pending Court case on Huntsville school zoning.

Several months ago, Mayor Tommy Battle, adhering to the old adage that the mission field is in our own backyard, challenged a small group at a neighborhood church, Trinity Methodist, to work with school staff and others in order to support the effort at Whitesburg School to be a truly exemplary school within the City, state and nation. An organizational meeting at the school brought together two neighborhood civic associations, several churches, the PTA and the outstanding Principal and staff at Whitesburg in an effort to help meet these challenging goals.

On December 12, 2014, Katie Huston and Brandon McBride, students at Mississippi State Uni-



versity (left and right in Photo) spoke to the boys and girls at Whitesburg School about academic achievement and track and field, both at the K-12 and collegiate level.

PAWS, under school staff leadership, currently provides one-on-one mentors for a group of at-risk 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. PAWS has organized a speakers group that provides community leaders that talk to these children about life's challenges and opportunities and PAWS has invited elected community leaders to participate in monthly meetings where the overall effort is discussed and coordinated.

Other ongoing efforts will provide for weekend food backpacks, club sponsors (math, photography, homemaking skills, etc.), a program for welcoming families of new students and an effort to enhance community-wide involvement, support and acceptance for our young people in an evolving and challenging environment.



Celebration! Some 400 Alabama A&M University students shout jubilant cheers at the close of the fall commencement program on December 12. President Andrew Hugine, Jr., delivered a message about living a life with meaning



ASU-Delta Connection. Area members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., were all on hand December 7 to show their support for Alabama State University President Gwendolyn E. Boyd (seated, center), who highlighted the festive recent scholarship event for the Montgomery-based institution.

Happy Holidays!

(No issue December 26, 2014)



Glad Tidings to Second Mile



John and Sharon Olshefski held a holiday cheer and benefit for the Second Mile's Neighborhood Store on December 13.

Second Mile desires to empower the community where the hopeless can find hope; where children can find love and laughter, where young men and women can look to the future with pride and eager anticipation rather than with fear and dread; where men and women of all

ages can discover the depth and the breadth of Christ's love.

The ultimate dream of Second Mile is to bring about, through Christ, reconciliation between all people: the rich and poor, the educated and uneducated, the fortunate and less fortunate.

Second Mile serves the Huntsville community through the following divisions: Pride for Parents, Second Mile Preschool, Parent Initiative and the Neighborhood Baby Thrift Store.

Holiday Magic at Burritt on the Mountain

December 12



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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



General Via and Tracy Pinson



Happy Holidays!

For so many of us, this is a busy season. Family, food, fellowship, presents, celebrations and parties, gifts, weddings, birthdays, shopping, travelling and, most importantly, worship.

In this Holy Season, we should be aware of the real reason for the Season and remember that there are people in the world who do not have warm spaces to live and sleep, food to eat, coats, socks, boots or shoes to cover them or even clean water to drink.

To the extent that we can, let's share our blessings with someone else. It would be awesome if each of our more than 20,000 on-line readers could share, throughout next week, something of a basic, foundational need with someone who needs it. No, I am not talking about presents to each other. I am talking about a gift to someone we might not know but who has a bonafide basic need--like at the lowest level of Maslow's hierarchy.

The mother of my former colleague, Mrs. Marilyn Saintjones, passed away this past week. I have never met Mrs. Willie Delores Orange; however, she really has a sweet daughter. Some people say, "The apple does not fall far from the tree," and I believe they were correct. I know she had to have been a lovely lady to have such a loving daughter. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jerome, Marilyn and Morgan (former Miss AAMU) as they travel to California to be with their family and to say good-bye to their mother. You all are loved.

We just never know. Two individuals I knew very personally passed away this past week. On Sunday, Mrs. Tracey Pinson - SES, former Director of the United States Army Small Business Programs at the Pentagon passed away. She retired earlier this year from the government and joined The Boeing Company. What a shock when I received the call from a mutual friend that "things were not looking good for her." Tracey was with us in February 2014 at Tuskegee University speaking at the DOD Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity "Taking the Pentagon to the People" initiative. She was a beloved colleague and will be missed by all of us who labored in the small business and HBCU/MI community with her. Blessings to her husband, Darryl and daughter, Maya. She was intelligent, insightful and inspiring. Skee-wee!

We really, just never know. The next day, former AAMU instructor, Ms Edna Freeze's sister called me to say that Edna had passed away. At one time, she actually lived in the Home Management Residence/Guest House at AAMU. Unbelievable. I had just recently posted an old photo of Edna and me on Facebook, wondering what she was up to these days. Committed to attending the 100 BMOA Holiday Gala on Saturday evening, I would love to go to Forkland, Alabama to say 'good-bye' to Edna on Saturday. Places to go and choices to make. She was a fellow AAMU Bulldog and OSU Buckeye. Ole, the good ole days we once shared. She was like family to us. Skee-wee!

With that said, please enjoy some of the scenes *The Valley Weekly* has been able to capture around Huntsville. Be safe and enjoy, until next week ...

... We should be aware of the real reason for the season ...



Huston and Edna Freeze

Dorothy

Huletide at Inisclee's Elder's Care

December 13



Bonds Between the Young and Seniors

What bonds the young and seniors?

The theme for a program I am working with for next year centers on celebrating the bond between the young and senior women. I thought about that when the 2014 Nobel Prize recipients were disclosed.

Nobel prizes are awarded on Dec. 10th each year, presented on the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel. The awards offer prizes in the fields of science, culture and literature.

Co-recipients for the Nobel Peace prize this year are Yousafzai and Satyarthi. Malala

Yousafzai, is a 17-year-old Pakistani female advocating for the rights of all young children and women to receive an education.

Kailash Satyarthi, age 60, is credited with saving around 80,000 children from slave labor, sometimes in violent confrontations.

Although separated by 43 years of age, there is no separation when we focus on the basic human rights. Can you think of other young and senior bonds?

During this season of hope, love, peace and joy, the ability of the young and seniors working together to make a change is one constant.



by Linda Burruss

KWANZAA
CELEBRATION!

PLACE: RICHARD SHOWERS CENTER

ROOM: COMMUNITY HALL

4600 Blue Spring Rd.

DATE: DECEMBER 27th, 2014 (SATURDAY)

TIME: 12-4PM

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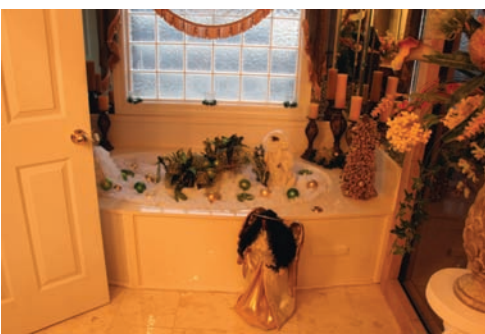
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"Opening Up" for the Holidays

Do you enjoy decorating your home for the Christmas Holiday Season? If so, showcase your unique decorating ideas through a Holiday Open House. It is an excellent way to open your home to family and friends to start the holiday season.

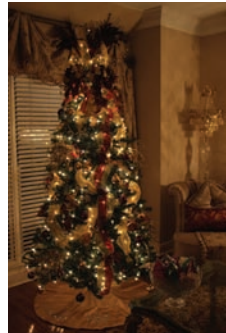
On December 14, one Normalite couple hosted their semi-annual Holiday Open House. The festive

and unique decorations were seen throughout the house. Beautifully decorated trees, garland swags and wreaths were positioned in every room. The decorations in each room were coordinated with the color scheme of the room. There were several "eye catchers," pieces such as bathrooms sinks adorned with beautiful ornaments and ribbon; bathtubs and Jacuzzi filled



with snow-like cotton and a very merry Santa on his sleigh.

The "wow" focal arrangement of red roses, holly and gladiolus with green apples at the bottom of the vase caught everyone's eyes. Approximately 50 family and friends attended the Open House hosted by the Alabama A&M University graduates.



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Rosetta James Scholarship Foundation

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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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Popular Gospel Vocalist Holds Master Class



The Master Class Series worship recital was held December 13, 2014, at Butler High School Auditorium. Master Instructor Jamel Strong presented some of the Tennessee Valley's finest gifts in an evening of high praise and intimate worship.

The recital was the culmination of an eight-week master class series, "Discovering Your Voice." Every participant was mentored regarding the practical and spiritual aspects of his or her voice, with two tracts: (1) "Knowing Your Voice" and (2) "Finding



Your Voice."

Also slated for the event was the attendance of noted recording artists to offer final mentoring tips for every ministry presented. The evening was a near-perfect way to celebrate the holiday season.

- Delinda Smith

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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

The highest test of the civilization of any race is in its willingness to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate.

- Booker T. Washington

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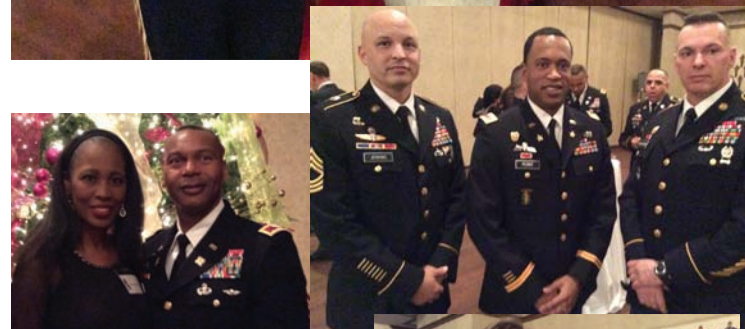


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Scenes from AMC Holiday Social

December 14, 2014

**The Summit on Redstone Arsenal
General and Mrs. Dennis Via**



Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Santa is coming!
Christmas is just a few short days away and then, after 2014, it will be brought to a close. If you are unaware, Santa's Village is now open in downtown Huntsville.

Located at Alabama Constitution Village at 109 Gates Avenue, Santa's Village is open nightly until December 23 between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Santa's Village is Huntsville's magical holiday attraction cre-

ated especially for families to enjoy all of the beauty of the holiday season.

At Santa's Village, there is something for all ages, meeting Santa's reindeer, chatting with the North Pole Elves, touring Santa's home, and of course meeting Santa before he leaves to do his Christmas deliveries.

Tickets to Santa's Village are \$5 per person, and children under

the age of one are absolutely free.

To purchase tickets to Santa's Village, you may do so online at <http://www.earlyworks.com/santasvillage/#tickets> or purchase in person at EarlyWorks Children's Museum, Santa's Village Gift Shoppe, Huntsville Depot Museum or any

Star Market location.

Visit Santa and his Village before he leaves on December 23.



Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

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Sam and Greg's Pizza
Sneed's Cleaners
St. Bartley PB Church
St. Luke Christian Church
Starbucks – Governors Drive, North Parkway at
Mastin Lake Road/
University Drive
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DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium

Vision:

The Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) advances leadership excellence by advocating and progressing the affirmation and inclusion of diversity in strategic markets and communities of interest for competitive intelligence.

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

DLC will run four quarterly, eight week colloquia. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Participant cannot miss more than 2 sessions.

Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville

Enrollment limited to: 16 - **Tuition:** \$795

2015 Schedule

Winter	January 13 – March 3
Spring	April 7 – May 26 - Deadline to register (March 7, 2015)
Summer	July 7 – August 25 - Deadline to register (June 7, 2015)
Fall	Oct 6 – Nov 24 - Deadline to register (Sep 6, 2015)



To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo
- Tuition Payable upon Acceptance

DLC

Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium 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-Ste. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com; or e-mail info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com. Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.