

The Valley Weekly

*"Realism and absurdity are so similar in the lives of American blacks, one cannot tell the difference."
- Chester Himes*

FREE

Volume 2, No. 17

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, January 8, 2016

Clemens High School Senior Signs with Mississippi State

Kayla Williams, a senior at James Clemens High School in Madison, Ala., has signed with Mississippi State University to run track. Williams is not only a track champion, but she has excelled academically.

Currently, she is ranked 30th in her class of 385, having earned a 4.5 weighted GPA. She has been running track for three years, after having played basketball for 5 years.

The well-rounded student-athlete holds membership in the

National Junior Honor Society, the Madison City Student Advisory Board, the Clemens Student Advisory Board, Huntsville/Madison County Challenge Leadership Camp, UAH's Students Introduction To Engineering (SITE) and Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science (GEMS) Program of the U. S. Army Aviation and Research Development and Engineering Center on Redstone Arsenal. She has participated in GEMS for three summers.

Williams is a six-time All State Track and Field Champion. Her events include the long jump, triple jump, along with the 60m and 100m dashes. She is the anchor in relay races. She holds three State Championships in the long jump and twice in the triple jump, along with one gold in the 60m dash. Last year, she competed in New York in the Indoor Nationals, placing 10th in the triple jump.

She volunteers at Mana House and tutors K-12 students who

need assistance with their homework.

"MSU is my dream school, and I am honored to have signed as one of their future athletes," said Williams. "I've worked very hard to get them to notice me and my athletic accomplishments, and I would like to thank all the people in the community who have helped me achieve my goal. I will be attending MSU in the fall of 2016, joining my brother, Reginald Williams, who will be an upcoming sophomore."



Williams

TV Civil War Roundtable to Feature Unique Insight on The Birneys



Battle of Mobile Bay - 1864

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table attendees will hear a special talk at their meeting on Thursday, January 14. The group will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge at 725 Franklin Street in Huntsville, Ala.

Topper Birney will discuss

"The Second Coming of the Birneys to Huntsville: Presidential Candidate and Generals"

According to TVCWRT planners, Topper Birney comes from a long line of remarkable Americans. His ancestral family included a twice-nominated

presidential candidate, two distinguished Union generals and a number of adult males who served in the Civil War.

While living in Huntsville, the patriarch of the Birney family became known as an ardent abolitionist and for his views was "encouraged" to leave town.

Birney lived in Pennsylvania and Texas before coming to Huntsville with his parents for the Von Braun rocket team in 1950.

He is a graduate of Huntsville High School and the University of Alabama, where he earned a degree in engineering. His working career was spent at Redstone Arsenal, working both for the Department of Defense and NASA.



There is no charge to attend the program, and a 5:30 p.m. buffet (\$8.95) is optional. Visitors

are always welcome.

For more information call (256) 278-5533.

Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

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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

Maxtin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

CWJC Works Toward Self-Sufficiency



Since 1998, Christian Women's Job Corps® of Madison County, AL, Inc., has been serving women in Madison County and surrounding counties to help move them toward self-sufficiency.

CWJC partners with local churches, corporations, and organizations to offer its services FREE of charge to women in need.

The agency provides life and work skills classes, mentoring, an internship program, GED tutoring, a free career clothes closet, continuing education classes, educational and vocational scholarships, a vehicle donation program, a computer donation program, and resource referral services to women

between the ages of 18 and 60.

The women in the program take extensive classes for 10 or 12 weeks. Classes are held at four locations in Madison County--one in the City of Madison, and three in the City of Huntsville. Since 1998, 571 women have graduated from CWJC's program.

Above: Spring 2015 Class



Ask yourself... Do I need computer skills? Do I need help with my budget? Do I need job search skills? Am I ready to improve my life?

Christian Women's Job Corps® of Madison County, AL, Inc. provides FREE training in computers, money management, career development, GED tutoring and more!

Classes start soon! For more information, please call Charmika Merriweather at 256-428-9461 or visit us at www.cwjc.net.

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Oh, the Places You'll Go! Take a look at some of special people and places TVW has visited in 2015:

January:
Alpha Phi Alpha's Unity Breakfast



February:
TN Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium with Tharon Honeycutt, Marshall England and Lori Womack.

March:
Bloody Sunday's 50th Anniversary March in Selma

April:
Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff greets Mrs. Linda Via at the UAH

May:
State Representative Steve Livingston and Bob Baron Preparing to Judge BBQ at the Whistle Stop Festival



June:
Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford and daughter Andrea at the Bradford's Legacy Choir Celebration

July:
Lunch at Another Broken Egg with Dr. Charles Smoot, Butch and Jerry Damson

August:
Johnson High School Back to School Parade

September:
Janie and Freeman Holifield's 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

October:
Lifetime Achievers Julian Butler and Earla Lockhart--Ready, Set and Go!

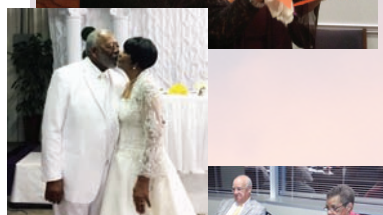
November:
Major General and Mrs. Larry Wyche of the U S Army Materiel Command and Dr. Juanita Harris at Open House

December:
Developer Jeff Enfinger, Dr. Shaik Jeelani of Tuskegee University, Howell Lee and Friend at Huntsville/Madison County Builder's Association Holiday Reception

We look forward to seeing you around town in 2016. Let's make it Positive, Inspirational and Educational.

Until next week,

Dorothy



The Hamm Consulting Group



Washington in 60 Seconds

Here are your top issues in DC this week:

1. The House convened the Second Session of the 114th Congress Tuesday, January 5, 2016. The Senate is out until next week.

2. On Monday, January 4, President Obama met with Attorney General Loretta Lynch as a prelude to issuing executive orders this week on gun control, including: (1) a

proposal to expand the number of federally-licensed, small-scale gun sellers who will then be required to conduct background checks and (2) a proposal to impose tighter rules for reporting guns that get lost or stolen on their way to a buyer. On Thursday, he joined CNN's Anderson Cooper for a 1-hour town hall televised live from George Mason University. The White House also announced recently that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will

make a state visit to the U.S. on March 10 and that President Obama will travel to Germany in late April to attend the world's largest trade show for industrial technology, known as the Hannover Messe Trade Fair, and to meet with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. 2016 is the first time that the U.S. will be the Messe's official partner country.

3. Following through on a promise he made last year, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) will bring the Senate-amended budget reconciliation bill to the House floor this week for a final vote on repealing key pieces of Obamacare.

After receiving the bill, President Obama will have 10 days to issue an expected veto. Reportedly – because the bill also contains language to prohibit federal funding to Planned Parenthood for 1 year – the House will vote to override the veto on January 22 to coincide with the annual March for Life on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

4. On December 22, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced it will fund

up to 2 institutes as part of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), which currently operates 7 institutes and is a major initiative of the Obama Administration. NIST (part of the Department of Commerce) will provide up to \$70 million per institute over 5-7 years. This will be the first NNMI solicitation in which the funding agency has not predetermined an institute's area of focus. NIST is open to receiving proposals in any topic of interest to industry, particularly those relevant to manufacturing robotics and biopharmaceutical manufacturing. For more information, go here: <http://www.manufacturing.gov/welcome.html>

5. On December 28, President Obama signed the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015 into law, which will ban plastic microbeads from personal care products by July 1, 2017. Plastic microbeads have become known as a serious threat to clean drinking water, especially in the Great Lakes, and as a danger to the food chain, where they are can be mistaken by fish and other organisms as food.

6. On December 30, House Permanent Select Intelligence Committee Chair Devin Nunes (R-CA) announced that his committee would investigate charges reported in the Wall Street Journal that the National Security Agency had listened in on phone calls between Israeli officials and Members of Congress at the time that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was lobbying lawmakers against the U.S.-Iran nuclear deal.

7. 2016 Presidential Watch. The campaigns have started releasing their 4th Quarter totals: Clinton (\$37 million); Sanders (\$33 million); Carson (\$23 million), and Cruz (\$20 million). Last week, Jeb Bush announced that he was canceling a \$3 million TV ad buy in Iowa and South Carolina.

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"A good place to start is where you would if you had a do over."

-J.T. Moore



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The Dawn of Your Day

by John 'Jahni' Moore

Some years ago I was on a kayaking trip with some of my buddies. Padding down river, we talked about a little bit of everything. At some point the conversation turned to things we wished we had done earlier in life. I mentioned some things that I'd liked to have done at 20. My brother chimed in, "You can do that now." BAM! Revelation; how simple the words and even simpler the thought. Nevertheless the succinct implication was abysmal yet epic in its profundity. For some reason it had not dawned on me in that light, that I could actually do a rewrite or rather an addendum since my book is far from sunset. In the event you could have a conversation with your younger self, what would the present you, with all you've come to know, share in terms of direction? What kinds of things would you give him/her permission to do? Make a list and begin.

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.

Roll, Titles, Roll!

On New Year's Eve, our state was given the opportunity to compete once again for the BCS Championship game when Alabama Crimson Tide defeated Michigan State 38-0 at the Cotton Bowl.

As an Alabama alumnus, I am absolutely thrilled that my team is title bound! During my collegiate experience, I was blessed to be a student during all three of the most recent titles and one of the best football runs in history.

Even on the years that the Tide didn't make it to the championship game, Alabama still had a superb season. On January 11, 2016, Alabama will take on the Clemson Tigers for the chance to be crowned the best team in college football.

When it comes to sports, we tend to take titles seriously. Players practice hard all year long in order to be the BCS National champions. The same way we root for our teams to receive the top title in sports, we must strive for the top titles in our careers.

Climbing the corporate ladder is a great way to reach success. It's always best to strive for promotions that lead to positions such as: Senior Marketing Executive, General Manager, Product Manager, Principal, Purchasing Supervisor, Accounting Manager,



Creative Director, Sales Agent, Publicist, Chairman, Brand Ambassador, Chief Operations Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Logistics Officer, Vice President, and CEO.

Your title in your career typically determines your task and your salary. It indicates the value of your expertise. Like athletes, we compete for our titles as well.

We start early in life by competing academically in grade school so that we can get into good colleges and universities. We receive education and degrees to enhance our skills so that we can graduate and work in our desired positions. Then we apply for jobs to gain experience and to eventually work our way up to highest title that our position allows. Generally, when we get these titles, our income increases.

The prize for most people in the top positions is usually rewarded in earnings of six figures or more. Never get complacent with your current status, especially if you are in Corporate America, or in careers where you can get promoted. If there is room to improve or excel, be sure to strive for the best.

Never feel as if big titles with big companies are impossible to fill, or that they are non-existent because people get in them and rarely leave or lose them. Yes, titles can be tenure-based but that should never discourage you from pushing yourself toward a promotion.

As The University of Alabama hits the road for 16 championship titles, let this be an inspiration for you to earn the title of your dreams!

by Amoi Savage

Have Yourself a Jazzy Little New Year



Photo: Kenny Anderson with Jeanette Harris, smooth jazz saxtress for the Jack & Annie Anderson 2nd Chance Scholarship Foundation "Have Yourself a Jazzy Little New Year" event at Baron Bluff, located at Burritt on the Mountain - Wednesday, December 30, 2015.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter
"Being In Tune With Your Heart Player"

Annual
Go Red
Luncheon



12 o'clock pm
Saturday February 6, 2016
Huntsville Marriott Hotel
5 Tranquility Base
Huntsville, AL 35808
\$40

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter

Founders Day Gala 2016

Saturday, March 19, 2016
Six o'clock p.m.

The Jackson Center
6001 Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35806
\$50 | Formal Attire

Featuring: Mrs. Cynthia Butler - McIntyre, Past National President

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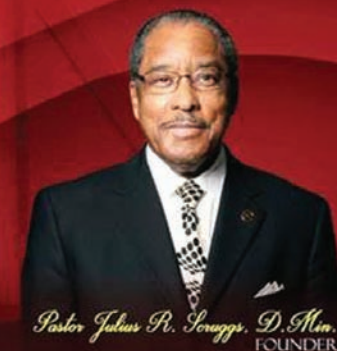
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Friday, MARCH 18, 2016
6:00 PM

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AND DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AT UAB



Pastor Julius R. Scruggs, D.Min.
FOUNDER

Point of Contacts: RONNIE AND FLORA DAVIS AT 256-852-4052

Black Male Teachers Needed to Fill Widening Void

The Hechinger Report, which covers both innovation and inequality in education, recently compiled an article on the new programs that are making a difference in educational needs of young black males.

One such program is the Southern University at New Orleans' Honoré Center for Undergraduate Achievement. The Center is an intensive new program that provides full scholarships to young African American males "who show promise despite unremarkable transcripts."

All of the program's participants, called "Honoré Men," study to become teachers, simply because the program's originators believe that promising young men who grew up in tough circumstances are uniquely equipped to connect in classrooms with youth facing similar challenges.

The Honoré Center is but one of a small but increasing list of programs aimed at building the number of black male schoolteachers, who only make up about 2 percent of America's teaching force.

Another example of this teacher-training approach identified by the Hechinger Report is the Call Me MISTER program (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models),

which began 16 years ago at Clemson University in South Carolina.

Recently, a group of four small colleges and universities in Pennsylvania launched their own Black Men Teaching Initiative, which helps to mold black male high school students and teaching assistants into teachers.

Additionally, the Teacher Quality and Retention Program, in operation since 2009 thanks to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and the recently formed Boston Teacher Residency Male Teachers of Color Network, aim to support existing black male teachers, who are more likely to leave the profession.

The programs are a small part of a growing national imperative: to increase the number of black men working in the nation's public schools, where "minority" students now constitute a majority.

Honoré Center founders consider their program unique because it starts with an unlikely group of students, sometimes referred to by education analysts as "the bottom quartile" of scholars because they lack the requisite grades, test scores, and financial means to attend college.

Former Southern University president Ronald Mason designed the Honoré Center as

a national pilot program with hopes of boosting the numbers of African-American males in two key areas: college graduates and teachers in urban schools.

Mason views Honoré Men as "hidden stars" who can, with several years of concerted investment, reach their full potential in a way that breaks through barriers. The Honoré Center is part of Southern University's Five-Fifths Initiative (a name derived from the nation's 1787 Three-Fifths Compromise, under which each male slave was counted as only three-fifths of a man).

In exchange for a full scholarship—free room and board and a small monthly stipend—each Honoré Man receives a loan that is forgiven if he teaches in public school for at least two years. That commitment to putting more black male teachers in schools was a big selling point for the Louisiana legislators who helped finance the center, starting with its launch in 2012.

Incoming students must have a high school GPA of at least 2.0 and an ACT score between 14 and 19. Their income must also be low enough to qualify for a Pell Grant.

Basically, the program recruits intelligent kids who lack resources, said Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, the retired U.S. Army man

and hero of post-Katrina New Orleans who, at Mason's request, gave his name and oversight to the center.

"All things being equal, the only difference between these young men and some kid going through prep school off his endowment and driving a new Mustang is money and opportunity," Honoré said. But most of the center's participants lack those resources. Instead, many come from dire poverty, Honoré said, recalling a young man who cried when he first saw his dorm room; he had never before had even a bed to himself.

A few years ago, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan kicked off an effort

to increase teacher diversity, noting that when he headed up Chicago Public Schools, most of the students were black but many schools lacked a single black male teacher.

Black teachers were not always scarce—in 1950, half of all black professionals were classroom teachers working in the nation's dual-race, segregated schools. But in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court declared segregated schools unconstitutional in its landmark decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*. In the subsequent decade, roughly half of black teachers lost their jobs, as black students were sent to presumptively superior white schools to be taught by white teachers.

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Calendar of Events

Thru January 24, 2016

"Blow Up: Inflatable Contemporary Art"

Sponsors: Sarah and Carl Gessler
Huntsville Museum of Art

January 9

Bulldog Basketball vs. University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Alabama A&M University
T.M. Elmore Building
6 p.m.

January 10

Harlem Globetrotters
VBC Arena

January 11

Alabama A&M University vs. Mississippi Valley Basketball Doubleheader
Elmore Gymnasium |
Women 5:30pm & Men 7:45pm

January 15

The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Emancipation Proclamation Celebration
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., Charlotte, N.C.
Progressive Union MB Church
1919 Brandontown Road
7 p.m.

January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Parade
Downtown Huntsville

MLK Christian Jazz Fusion
First Seventh Day Adventist Church
1303 Evangel Drive
6 p.m. (Free)

"Journey's Escape"
Black Jacket Symphony
Von Braun Center Concert

Hall
Downtown Huntsville
8 p.m.

MLK Weekend Black Affair brought to you by Sunny 98.1 and McCloud Entertainment

Cahaba Shrine, 1226 Blake Bottom Road
9 p.m. - Until
First 100 Advance Tickets \$10
Free food and premium drinks while they last
Contact: 256-479-1169 or 256-693-2004

January 16-18

Oakwood University MLK Basketball Classic

January 17

Art-N-Soul Society of Expression MLK Poetry Event
Bob Harrison Center

6156 Pulaski Pike, NW

January 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast
Von Braun Center North Hall
8 a.m.

January 23

"Building Blocks to Financial Freedom"
Free Workshop for 20 Participants (who need to build or rebuild credit)
Sponsor: RiahRose Home for Children, Inc.
www.RiahRose.org
(256) 489-4348

We have to realize we are building a movement.

- Dorothy Height



Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Education Assistance Ministry
Presents

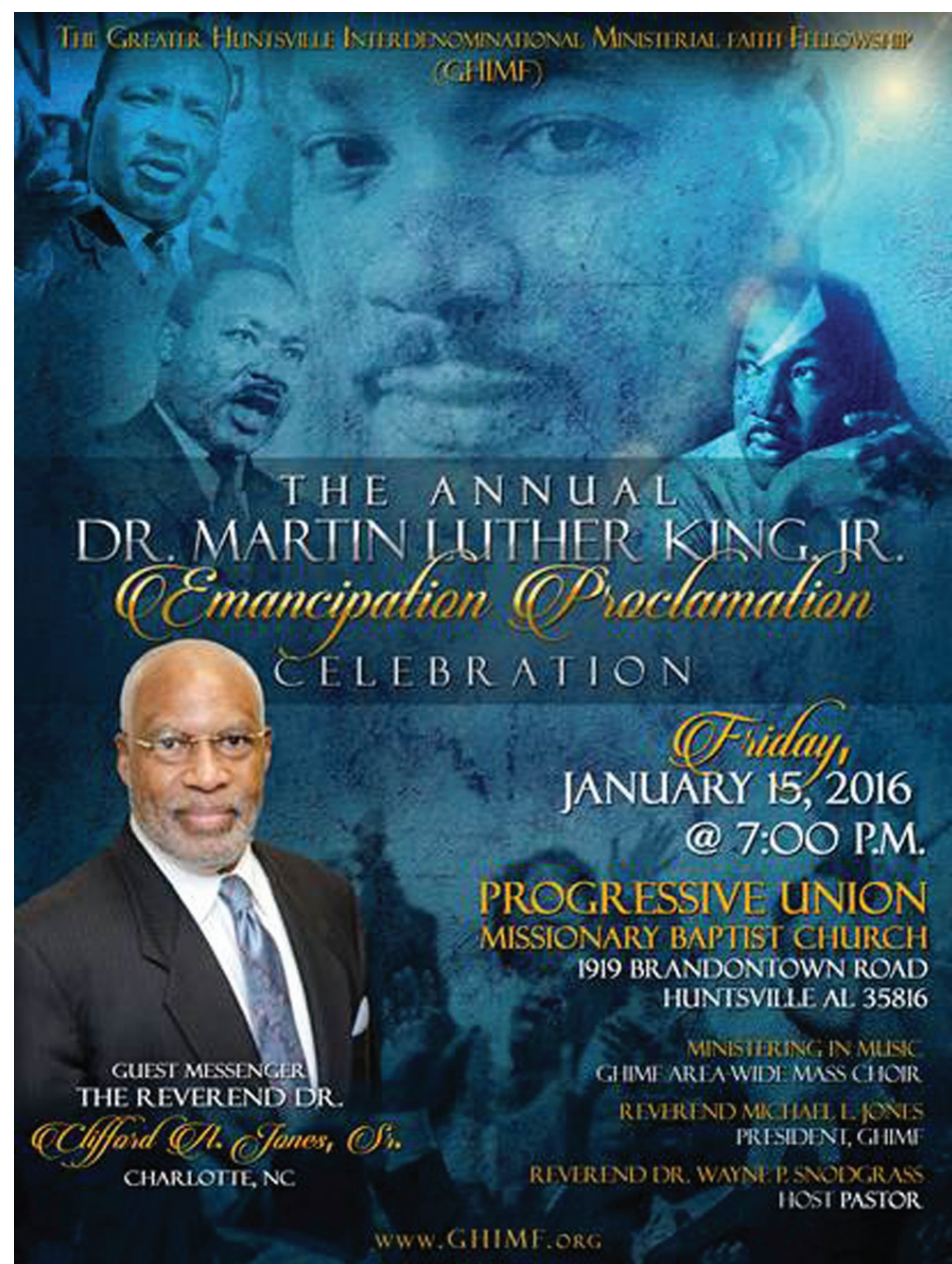
HBCU COLLEGE FAIR

Saturday, February 20, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

@Union Chapel - Family Life Center
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Join us and learn about the different programs these colleges have to offer.

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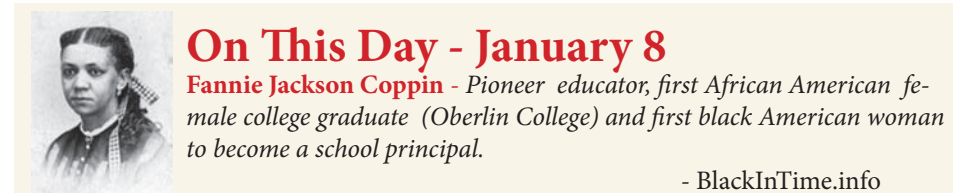
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On This Day - January 8
Fannie Jackson Coppin - Pioneer educator, first African American female college graduate (Oberlin College) and first black American woman to become a school principal.

- BlackInTime.info



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November-March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm

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*"There
are notes
between
notes,
you know."*

- Sarah
Vaughn