

The Valley Weekly

*"The difference between genius and stupidity is:
genius has its limits."*

- Alexandre Dumas-fils

FREE

Volume 2, No. 23

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, February 19, 2016

Deadline Extended for A&M Trustee Nominations

The deadline has been extended to February 23, 2016, by the AAMU Board of Trustees Nominating Committee for interested individuals.

Details about the nomination process and procedures can be found on the AAMU website

at www.aamu.edu. Nomination packages must be submitted and received by close of business on Tuesday, February 23, 2016.

Additional information or questions should be directed to Attorney Rod Steakley, in care of Alicia Ford at (256) 518-3607.



IN STEP: Dr. Renae Myles and Coach Willie Totten of the Department of Athletics at Alabama A&M University formed the coupled winning first place in the "Dancing with the President and First Lady" fundraising event Friday, February 12, in the Ernest L. Knight Center, sponsored by President Andrew Hugine, Jr., First Lady Abbiegail Hugine and the Bulldog Pride Committee. (Photo by J. Saintjones)



Local Utility Supports Flint (Mich.) Water Crisis: Earlier this month, Huntsville Utilities sent cases of its award winning drinking water to support Flint, Michigan, in its Lead Water Crisis. Employees of the local Water Department loaded and unloaded the bottled water to send to Flint.

March Opens with Annual Kite Festival

AshaKiran and the City of Huntsville are inviting the Tennessee Valley to the Fourth Annual Community Kite Festival on Saturday, March 5, 2016.

Once again the theme is "Soaring for Social Justice," and dozens of non-profit organizations in the local community who selflessly provide aid to marginalized demographics will be showcased.

Organizers hope every member of the community finds a

moment to enjoy "a beautiful afternoon filled with kite-flying, scrumptious foods, fellowship and entertainment while learning more about the wide-range of services offered throughout the city of Huntsville."

The Community Kite Festival will be held at John Hunt Park, located at 2151 Airport Road SW, Huntsville, Ala., from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

With each passing year, the event attracts tremendous growth

in attendance, and more than 5,000 people are anticipated.

Persons interested in participating should complete the kite booth registration form at the web link below.

Booth Registration Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1K4DTQU6rWatlP6FwMkP5Hy7fDj8gjH4zY6w8UgZUtUA/viewform>.

Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

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Big Oh's

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

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Bryant Bank - Church Street

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Excellence

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Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church

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

Maxtin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

New Transportation Ordinance Passes Huntsville City Council

Huntsville City Council President Will Culver carried a unanimous vote at the most recent meeting of the Huntsville City Council, approving taxi-style private driver services Uber and Lyft to operate in Huntsville.

After much research, debate and long anticipation, Huntsville joins the ranks of larger cities in offering the mobile app private driver services.

While the Huntsville City Council has approved Uber and Lyft to operate within the city of Huntsville, each company will still have to seek licensure and other approvals.

With the safety of the citizens at the forefront of its decision, the Huntsville City Council amended the taxi ordinance and will require Uber and Lyft to conduct annual background checks on their drivers, annual vehicle inspections and additional liability insurance.

Although neither Uber nor Lyft has yet to submit the formal paperwork to the City of Huntsville requesting to operate, with the expressed interest from the companies and the frequent business travelers to Huntsville, I am certain that it will not be long before at least one is operating within the city limits.

- Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

PowerShot

"I am not
what You
think I am.
You are what
You think I
am. Your
thoughts
create your
world, not
mine."

-Liam Tinker



www.jahnitheartist.com

OUC Honors Congresswoman

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, was honored at the Oakwood University Church and received the 2016 Black History Achievement Award on Saturday, February 13.



Lee is currently serving her 11th term as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Considered the "Voice of Reason", she is dedicated to upholding the Constitutional rights of all people.

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Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Education Assistance Ministry
Presents

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

HBCU COLLEGE FAIR

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

@Union Chapel - Family Life Center
315 Winchester Road | Huntsville, Alabama 35811

Join us and learn about the different programs these colleges have to offer.

* DOOR PRIZES

* FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP @ 10:30 A.M.

For additional information, contact Pamela Thompson at: (256) 509-4554

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The Valley Weekly

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6 Month/1 Yr.-10% & 20% Discount!		



From the Editor

Black History Month ... Ah, the People who are IMPACTFUL!

There are people of all races, colors, creeds, nationalities, and make-up who have contributed to Huntsville's accomplishments as a city--then and now. Having attended Alabama A&M University in the 1970s and returning to Huntsville in the 1990s, I have had the opportunity to read about, meet and get to know a few of the African-Americans who deserve a "shout out" before the month of February ends.

Upfront: this list is not exhaustive by anyone's yardstick. It's our humble attempt to say "Thank You" to a few, with the understanding that many are deserving of recognition. A lack of information, photos, time and space will not allow us to include everyone who has demonstrated grit, guts and gumption to take care of immediate and extended families, jobs and the village --all at the same time. So, if there is a question about why we celebrate Black History Month, keep reading:

Mr. Hundley Batts, Sr., Hundley Batts & Associates Insurance

Dr. John Cashin, Dentist and Community Activist

The Late Dr. William Hooper Council - Founder and President, AAMU

The Late Dr. James I. Dawson - AAMU Administrator, Entrepreneur and Huntsville City School Board

Dr. George Grayson, First African American elected from Huntsville to State Representative*

Rep. Laura Hall - AL State Representative

Dr. Sonny Hereford - Physician and Community Activist (right)

Mrs. Rosetta James - Servant-Leader, Community Activist*

Dr. Dave McGlathery and **Dr. Marvin Carroll** - Applications denied to attend UAH, led to African-American enrollment at UAH.

Dr. Ann Roy Moore - First African-American Superintendent, Huntsville City Schools

Mr. Albert Morris - Albert's Flowers and Greenhouses

Dr. Prince Preyer, First African American elected to the Madison County Commission*

The Late Mr. Charles Ray, Jr. - Nelms Memorial Funeral Home and AMCOM EEO Officer

Royal Funeral Home founded in 1918 by Charles K. Binford (currently owned by **David and Karen Jones Smith**)

Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, Pastor and President National Baptist Convention

Mr. Fletcher Seldom, First African American elected to the Huntsville School Board (no photo)

Atty. Martha Lynn Sherrod, First African America Circuit Judge in Huntsville

Dr. Richard Showers - First African-American Member Huntsville City Council

Mrs. Delois Smith - Vice President for Diversity, UAH

John Stallworth - NFL Owner and Hall of Famer, Founder - John Stallworth Foundation

Mr. Thornton Stanley, Sr. - Stanley Construction Company

GEN Dennis L. Via, Commander, U S Army Materiel Command (right)

Although TVW did not have a photo of Freeman & Battle Barbershop, it is the oldest African American barbershop in the city, still operating on Meridian Street. So for those of us who believe it is easy to own and operate a business of any type, we encourage strongly entrepreneurial activities and innovation. It is akin to the cliché about PhDs being a "dime a dozen." Likewise, we encourage those who believe that to take a dime and toss it into a reputable university and get a Ph.D. Owning and operating a business ain't easy. You've gotta really love it.

Until next week ...



HSC Takes on Baton Rouge

Huntsville Spiritual Chorale, Negro Spirituals for the Next Generations

Last week, the Huntsville Spiritual Chorale, under the direction of Brenda and William Davis, performed in Baton Rouge, La., at the HERITAGE Festival of Negro Spirituals.

Negro spirituals are an enduring legacy and more than a century later, their messages are no less powerful or inspiring.

Where will we be acquiring the next generation of dedicated vocalists who will preserve and perform

the Spirituals? Yes, we are relying on the upcoming generations to "passionately articulate the message," according to the late W.E.B. DuBois.

Brenda and Bill are being proactive, trying to keep the authentic dialect or traditional phrasing alive by conducting workshops on the Spirituals and soliciting scholarships for students to participate in the workshops and the traveling performances.

As a 501 (c) (3), the Chorale, a non-profit organization, depends on dona-

tions. However, reaching out to the younger generation is critical.

We applaud the students who rehearsed and traveled with the Chorale for volunteering to add another musical style to their repertoire. So, as you look at the photos below, the Chorale has included Generation X and Generation Y, among them young adults Stefanie and Diedre Davis to keep the Negro Spirituals alive.

by Linda Burruss



The Huntsville Spiritual Chorale members in Baton Rouge, LA. Demetrius Davis (bass) (Far Right Second Row) Calhoun Community College.



L-R: Kelsey Wilson (soprano), Korinne Mitchell (alto), Matthew Walker (tenor), Demetrius Farley, (baritone) Indigo Askew (alto) Chrystal Turner (soprano) and Michelle Burgess (center) (soprano). Alabama A&M University.

Calendar of Events

February 20

HBCU College Fair
Union Chapel MB Church
Family Life Center
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

March 3

Black Tie Dinner/Live Auction
2016 Gala Art Exhibition
Huntsville Museum of Art

March 4-5

Savannah State University Southern Region Conference
Marriott Huntsville

Huntsville, Ala.

March 12

10th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration
Tickets: (256) 536-9717
The Jackson Center, 5 p.m.

March 18

Inaugural Education Banquet for the Julius R. Scruggs Child Development Center and Academy
Guest Speaker: Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.

First Missionary Baptist Church
Blue Spring Road
Huntsville, Ala., 6 p.m.

April 11-May 20

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH Spring Term
OLLI is a learning community designed for adults 50+
Daytime and evening classes.
Details: Osher.uah.edu/Catalog or 256.824.6183.

April 30

Civil War Symposium



The Board of the Rosetta James Foundation
-proudly presents-

The 10th Annual

Rosetta James Foundation

"Honoring Our Elders"

CELEBRATION



Dr. Marvin
CARROLL



Mother Betty
CRAIGHEAD



Mr. James
FOSTER



Mr. Freeman
HOLIFIELD



Mrs. Janie
HOLIFIELD



Mrs. Jacqueline
REED



Hon. Richard
SHOWERS



With Special
"Pioneer" Tributes to
Mrs. Dorothy Davidson
Rev. Dr. Julius Scruggs



Saturday, March 12, 2016
Five O'Clock in the Evening
The Jackson Center
Huntsville, Alabama

Tickets: (256) 536-9717



The Hamm Consulting Group



A Washington Recap

Hello, everyone. Here are your top issues in D.C.:

1. The House and Senate were both in session. The Senate tried to finish work on the Energy Policy Modernization Act, which has stalled due to GOP objections to an amendment that would authorize \$600 million for lead abatement in Flint, Michigan (where on Sunday, Hillary Clinton spoke to a crowd of 1,000 at Flint's House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church and called on Congress to fix the problem). It was also slated to vote on a North Korea sanctions bill.

The House took up several bills, including a bill to rein in the National Science Foundation by requiring that all research grants support the "national interest," a bill to require the Treasury Secretary to appear before Congress not less than 21 days before the federal government anticipates reaching the national debt limit, and legislation to revise the current federal food calorie labeling regime and penalties so that it is more suitable for convenience stores and other non-chain restaurant concerns that do not have a uniform menu format.

2. On Tuesday (Feb. 9), President Obama submitted his proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget to Congress, which will reportedly include:

- o \$300 billion in new spending for transportation projects (paid for by a \$10 per-barrel oil tax);

- o \$1.1 billion to address prescription opioid abuse and heroin use;
- o \$755 million for cancer research, as mentioned in his State of the Union speech;
- o \$1.8 billion for 45,000 smart bombs to use against ISIS;
- o a proposal requiring every employer not currently offering a retirement savings program to set up an auto-enrollment individual retirement account for workers (and tripling the startup credit that employers receive for offering a retirement plan); and
- o a proposal to extend the federal government's 100% funding share of Medicaid expansion costs for the first 3 years of a state's expansion, regardless of when the expansion begins (currently scheduled to decrease to 90% in 2017).

3. Recently, House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) unveiled his long-awaited FAA Reauthorization bill, which includes a controversial plan to privatize the federal government's air traffic control

system funded by user fees. The new non-profit air traffic control corporation would have an 11-member board, which would include the federal government, mainline airlines, general aviation users, and union representatives. The current FAA bill expires on March 31.

4. Senators Gillibrand (D-NY), Kirk (R-IL) and Moran (R-KS) introduced the "Made in America Manufacturing Communities Act," which will create a program similar to the Obama Administration's Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative, which incentivizes communities to establish manufacturing partnerships by providing preferential consideration for up to \$1.3 billion in existing federal economic development assistance across 11 federal agencies, reducing current burdens faced by communities and small manufacturers in navigating and accessing federal support. For more information, go to: www.manufacturingalliance.us.

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"ADVANCING YOUR FEDERAL INTERESTS IN WASHINGTON"

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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

DLC Accepting Nominations

Coordinators are now receiving applications for Cohort V of the upcoming Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) Cohort V.

For candidates to be considered, please refer to the website at www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com for the application form.

Interested individuals should e-mail (info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com) or fax (256-

536-9718) the application by Thursday, February 25.

Cohort V will begin on Tuesday, March 8. Nominations by a graduate or Subject Matter Expert (SME) of DLC do NOT need additional references beyond the said personal reference.

Organizers are looking forward to successful Spring and Fall Cohorts V and VI in 2016.

MAYHEM IS EXPENSIVE. ALLSTATE IS NOT.



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(STEM)

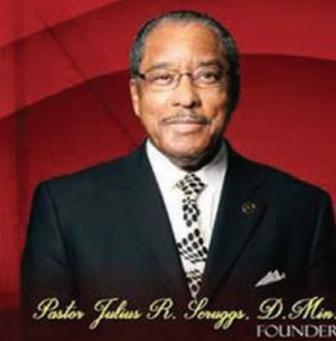
Friday, MARCH 18, 2016

6:00 PM

AT THE
FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH



GUEST SPEAKER
Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICINE
AND DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AT UAB



Pastor Julius R. Scruggs, D.Min.
FOUNDER

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

Bogus Refund Claims Again Makes the IRS Take Notice

You need to be on the lookout for unscrupulous tax return preparers pushing inflated tax refund claims.

Please be wary of tax preparers that advertise outlandish refunds based on federal benefits or tax credits you've never heard of or weren't eligible to claim in the past. You should choose preparers who file accurate tax returns. Illegal scams can lead to significant penalties and interest and possible criminal prosecution.

Don't Fall Victim to Promises of Outlandish Refunds. Scam artists routinely pose as tax preparers during tax time, luring victims in by promising large federal tax refunds or refunds that people never dreamed they were due in the first place.

Scammers build false hope by tricking people into making claims for fictitious rebates, benefits or tax credits. They charge good money for very bad advice. Scam artists also victimize people with a filing requirement and who are due a refund by promising inflated refunds based on fictitious Social Security benefits and false claims for education credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), or the American Opportunity Tax Credit, among

others.

While honest tax preparers provide their customers a copy of



the tax return they've prepared, victims of scams frequently are not given a copy of what was filed. Victims also report that the fraudulent refund is deposited into the scammer's bank account. The scammers deduct a large "fee" before paying victims, a practice not used by legitimate tax preparers.

You are legally responsible for what's on your returns even if it was prepared by someone else. If you buy into such schemes, you can end up being penalized for filing false claims or receiving fraudulent refunds.

You can help protect yourself by doing a little homework before picking preparers who make refund claims that may sound too good to be true.

Start with the IRS Directory

of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications. This tool can help you find a tax return preparer with the right qualifications. The Directory is a searchable and sortable listing of certain preparers registered with the IRS. It includes the name, city, state and zip code of:

- Attorneys
- CPAs
- Enrolled Agents
- Enrolled Retirement Plan Agents
- Enrolled Actuaries
- Annual Filing Season

Program participants

Also check the preparer's history. Ask the Better Business Bureau about the preparer. Check for disciplinary actions and the license status for credentialed preparers. For CPAs, check with the State Board of Accountancy. For attorneys, check with the State Bar Association. For Enrolled Agents, go to IRS.gov and search for "verify enrolled agent status" or check the Directory.

To find other tips about choosing a preparer, better understand the differences in credentials and qualifications, research the IRS preparer directory, and learn how to submit a complaint regarding a tax return preparer, visit www.irs.gov/chooseataxpro.

by David Herron



Ivory W. Reedus, LUTCF

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SCHOOL SHOW:
FEBRUARY 25 • SHOWTIME @ 9:30 AM

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WNBA Head Named

Lisa Borders, who brings more than 25 years of experience in operations, marketing, government relations and public service, has been appointed President of the WNBA, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver announced recently.



Borders, who served most recently as Chair of The Coca-Cola Foundation and Vice President, Global Community Affairs at The Coca-Cola Company, will lead the world's premier women's basketball league, which tips off its historic 20th season on May 14. She will join the WNBA on March 21.

Borders was instrumental in bringing the WNBA to Atlanta in 2008, when she served as Vice Mayor of Atlanta and President of the City Council. The Atlanta Dream has since become a mainstay of the Atlanta sports scene and part of the fabric of the local community.

"As a proven executive with a passion for the WNBA and the game of basketball, Lisa is the right leader at a pivotal time in the league's history," said Silver. "She will be responsible for spearheading our efforts to strengthen the WNBA and accelerate its growth."

"The WNBA has reached a significant milestone, and I feel privileged to be joining the league at such an exciting time," said Borders. "I have always been a staunch supporter of this league and its tremendous athletes. I am impressed by their talent and inspired by their passion. The

athleticism of the game and the sportsmanship exhibited between teams offers clear evidence of our ability to grow women's basketball."

Borders has worked and delivered results in all three sectors: public, private and non-profit. Prior to The Coca-Cola Company, Borders was President of the City Council and Vice Mayor of Atlanta, where her duties included managing the legislative branch of government and maintaining the relationship with the Mayor's office during Mayor Shirley Franklin's administration. Among her community initiatives were increasing the availability of affordable housing and addressing the region's traffic challenges.

ValleyScopes

by Melissa Wilson/Seloma

Here are the current horoscopes:

Leo: Employment resources are looking up, and with Venus factoring in, so is your romantic outlook.

Pisces: You feel as if you were born to mediate & otherwise help others, who are close to you, keep in mind that fair efforts can pay off, beautifully, for everyone involved.

Capricorn: Brilliant ideas are taking shape, & new exit strategies provide a way which is leading to new entrances.

Aquarius: Your hard work & open minded attitude can set the credits rolling; for a whole new, satisfying show.

Virgo: Creativity, along with plenty of energy, makes tackling the job ahead a breeze, with achievement realized at this particular finish line.

Libra: You know exactly how to get plans into motion, & it's showing. After patient tending, proceeds the harvest.

Taurus: The train, that you're guiding is on time, your schedule is full of an array of activities, & progress is the destination that you are finally within eyeshot of. Keep going.

Sagittarius: Important deci-

sions need to be made, and you're just the person to do it; if someone's not on the same page, turn it- and keep right on moving, in the direction that your integrity dictates will make you genuinely satisfied, & one that is most importantly, right, for everyone around you.

Aries: Jupiter leaves you imaginative. Accomplishments are calling. Restrictions, where? Full charge ahead.

Gemini: Mars has aligned in a way that puts your personal power in increase mode, which maximizes advantageous opportunities, and creates an event that can create dynamics necessary, for prosperous vision congruencies.

Cancer: Your concentration levels are high, and this increases odds of your completion of deadlines.

Scorpio: Options abound, & due to your hard work, which has paid off, praise does, as well.

Local Alumni Chapter Gives Scholarship Opportunity

The Huntsville/Madison County Alumni Chapter of the Alabama A&M University National Alumni Association, Inc., announces the 2016 Dr. Rather G. Brown Scholarship.



The chapter will award two (2) scholarships for Fall 2016 semester expenses. Graduating high school seniors enrolled in Madison County, Madison City, Huntsville City Schools, or

parochial and private institutions in Madison County are eligible.

Madison County

residents that are currently enrolled at AAMU are also eligible for the scholarship.

The scholarship deadline is March 20, 2016. To apply, please visit the website: <http://aamuhsv-madison-alumni.org/resources>.

Educate Black Excellence

As a young girl, I attended an African-American private school, and we'd study and even dress up for class projects as: African-American inventors such as George Washington Carver, Garret Morgan, and Madam CJ Walker; or activists, leaders, and teachers, such as Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Mary McLeod Bethune, Dick Gregory, Ruby Bridges, Booker T. Washington, Congresswomen Shirley Chisholm, Thurgood Marshall, Malcolm X, W.E.B. Dubois, Frederick Douglas; or sport stars such as Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, Wilma Rudolph, Muhammad Ali, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, and Doug Williams.

Although there would be mentions of slavery and segregation, our main focus was black excellence. We were taught that we are intellectuals, leaders, sports/TV stars, politicians, educators, and more. This is the Black

History I like to celebrate. Now don't get me wrong, the struggles should be remembered and respected; however my attention is directed toward progression. It's always necessary to educate yourself on both the good and the bad in history--especially the way it tends to repeat itself.

As a product of two educators, a professor and administrator, it is somewhat innate that I value education. I do realize that curricula can vary, and everyone isn't taught or raised the same, but as long as excellence is taught and expected, that to me is true education. I was blessed with the opportunity to be the Brand Ambassador for The College of Business and Public Affairs at Alabama A&M University. It gives me great pleasure to work with a division that "provides a quality education that develops students into socially responsible managers, entrepreneurs, and leaders" at a notable HBCU.

We are hosting the first-ever "AAMU COBPA Silent Auction" on April 1, 2016, at The Huntsville Country Club (see notice to the left). Please be sure to save-the-date, and we would highly appreciate your support for a cause that benefits future business leaders in our community.

When studying any kind of history, whether it's Black History, American History, or International History, we have to be mindful to build up from past, and work toward a better future. Certain history we should work to keep from repeating, such as wars/brutality, slavery/captivity, slave/mental, discrimination, inequality, and segregation; and we should aim for growth and prosperity. Business-minded individuals prefer to be a part of the solution versus the problem, and they make an effort to make a difference, just like the civil rights leaders mentioned above.

by Amoi Savage

2016
SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY
APRIL 1ST

ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE of BUSINESS
& PUBLIC AFFAIRS
— SILENT AUCTION —

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM, BIDDING BEGINS AT 6:00PM
THE HUNTSVILLE COUNTRY CLUB
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OPEN: April–October: Tuesday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday: noon - 5pm
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On This Day - Friday, February 19

William "Smokey" Robinson - Grammy Award-winning music legend. As company Vice-President, he also helped establish Motown as one of the most powerful record labels in the world. - BlackInTime.info

STAY INFORMED: 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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