

The Valley Weekly

"My entire life has been devoted to breaking down barriers, to finding common ground."
- Edward Brooke

FREE

Volume 5 No. 33

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, April 26, 2019

HU VP Speaks to OU Academy Students

On April 16, Dr. Harry Hobbs, vice president for employee engagement for Huntsville Utilities, presented a briefing on developing community projects that can improve the quality of life for their residents locally or globally.

Hobbs provided the briefing to the Pan

Africa Youth Leadership Program participants and students from the Oakwood Adventist Academy grades 9-12.



The Pan Africa Youth Leadership program is sponsored by Global Ties Alabama. The Chief Executive Officer for Global Ties Alabama is Ms. Jacqui Shipe.

Alabama New South Coalition Announces Local Meeting

The Alabama New South Coalition will hold a meeting Sunday, April 28, at 3 p.m. in the Dr. Richard Showers Center on Blue Spring Road, NW, Huntsville, Ala.

Persons who have not joined the chapter yet and who would like information should attend the April 28 meeting.

Additionally, Chapter Past President Buelah Toney's Annual Scholarship Luncheon is Saturday, April 27, at 12:30 p.m. at the Ernest Knight Center on the Alabama A&M University campus.

Tickets for this event are \$35/person and can be paid at the door. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Call Ms. Toney directly at (256) 859-1948 for more information.

Interested person may also call Jessica Barker, president, at (256) 640-2483.

A&M Honor Society Inducts First Group



The inaugural induction ceremony of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) was held Tuesday, April 16, at the LRC Auditorium on the Alabama A&M University.

Based in New Jersey, the NSLS is the nation's largest leadership honor society. Students are selected by

their college for membership based on either academic standing or leadership potential.

Candidacy is a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction. With 656 chapters, the NSLS currently has 1,027,746 members nationwide.

Medicaid Town Hall Held

Alabama State Representative Laura Hall and Anthony L. Daniels held a Town Hall Meeting on Monday, April 22.

The meeting was held at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, located at 226 Church Street in Downtown Huntsville, Ala. Among the topics

TOWN HALL MEETING

Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church
226 Church Street NW, Huntsville, AL

Monday, April 22, 2019



for discussion were Medicaid Expansion, Medical Marijuana and other current issues.

Backyard Bar-B-Q, Car Show Scheduled at Bob Harrison Center

The Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness & Advocacy Center is holding a Backyard BBQ and Car Show, Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Participating car clubs include the Low Riders Classic Car Club and the Corvette Car Club.

Entertainment will be provided by the Jemison

High School Band, the H-Town Steppers, the Baby Bulldogs, DJ Mike Miller, and emcee Jeff Johnson.

Barbecue plates, fish plates, and hot dogs will be available. There will be games for kids. The Harrison Wellness Center is located at 6156 Pulaski Pike.

For additional information, phone (256) 519-2050.

The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



OK, OK, OK! I hear you. It's springtime, the weather is sporadic, everything is in bloom and there's much to do. I have been busy with family, work and community. Busy can be interpreted as both positive and negative. It's okay to be busy as long as we are productive and impactful. I don't have to tell you about the flip side. There is much busy, destructive, unproductive activity going on these days.

When I was growing up, we were too busy to do anything beyond mining our own business, doing our own work and keeping our heads above the water. When you had time to speculate and try to take care of other folks' business, that always meant you didn't have enough work to do.

Even when we raised our three children, we kept them busy. When they weren't in school or church, they were involved in extra curricular and community activities that kept them focused on self-improvement, personal growth and development, community service and helping others.

Our children used to cut three or four yards during the spring, summer and fall. Yes, all of them: William, James and Katie. Bill was the driver, William did the cutting, James was the trimmer and Katie wore the backpack blower. Everyone had a job, and they split the earnings and made deposits into their own accounts. They even had a few yards that they had to cut but were not allowed to charge.

At the end of the week or month, depending on when they were paid, they had to give 10 percent to church; they could buy things they wanted that we were not willing to buy; and they saved the rest. Our limit on tennis shoes was \$50; so, when they wanted shoes for \$70, they had to pay the difference from their accounts. You bet that changed some spending habits! It was important for them to work, earn, and learn. We hope they are still using those skills today. When their friends and buddies were 'hanging out' and just having fun, ours were learning some foundational things about how to navigate life, including cutting grass, mulching the flower beds, pulling weeds, changing tires, washing cars, folding clothes, making beds, budgeting and the like.

The budgeting lessons were quick and swift. At the point that everyone could count money, we started allocating for food while on family trips and vacations. As working adults, we had to work within budgets at home and at work. Thus, we felt like it was an important skill set. When everyone had their allocations, and we were ready for the road, the eating habits made dramatic twists. On some trips, they were never hungry, depending on where we were going. Once they had to go into their own allocations to pay for what they ate, their behavior altered without failure.

We taught them the harsh realities about having "nice" things. With those things came duties and responsibilities. Yes, we worked hard and we played hard. At the end of long days, we would stop at the neighborhood service station for cold treats, rent--yes, rent--good movies, invite friends over for fun and games and fall out at bedtime to get up and do it again and again, day after day.

Some things we shouldn't just throw out, regardless to how much the world changes. For instance, I use a video from time-to-time about making your bed in the morning. The essence of it has to do with the notion that, regardless to how your day turns out, at the end when you return home you will have accomplished something. Sometimes people ask me if I make my bed and put all of the pillows on it each morning. Of course, I put them on each day because I want it to be inviting at the end of the day. With that said, some people just detest making their beds. Our son, James, never liked making his bed. As a youth at bedtime, he would take his sleeping bag and sleep in it on top of his bed. The next morning, all he had to do was roll the bag and stuff it in the closet. Thus, his bed was always made. Sometimes I think James would still rather sleep in a sleeping bag than make his bed. So, no matter how hard we try, we win sometimes and at other times, we let it go!

So as we **busy** ourselves with the things of this Spring season, let's include inspiring youth, establishing a budget with some limits, encouraging an elder, working hard and playing hard, and making our beds each morning. During the last month, we have celebrated with Aunt Catherine Willis in Columbus, Ohio, as the Columbus Orchestra honored her for her active work with youth as founder of Columbus Urban Strings; awarded \$28,500 in scholarships to diverse, deserving students with diverse local connections; honored some elders for their active work in the community; attended a dinner and presentation hosted by Lady Cathy Anderson, where Huntsville's native son, Fred Toney, president of Ford Motor Company Global Customer Services Division, shared with us some of the many innovations taking place in the automotive industry; and visited with Elder Nell Lane Bradford and Elder Rosetta James.

Happy Spring! Trust me and know that **busy** can be positive, but choose from your choices carefully. Until next week ...

When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at www.valleyweeklyllc.com.

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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Dorothy

Washington in One Minute



Here are the top issues in Washington, D.C., for this week's edition.

1. The House and Senate are in week #2 of their spring recess and will reconvene next week. On Monday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) conducted a conference call with House Democrats to discuss the recently-released, 448-page report of Special Counsel Robert Mueller. On Friday, the House rejected an offer by the Justice Department to make a less-redacted version of the Mueller report available to key congressional leaders in a secure setting, opting instead to subpoena the full, unedited report (note: the report contained nearly 1,000 redactions with 7 entire pages blacked out). The Justice Department has until May 1 to comply and Attorney General William Barr will testify before the House Judiciary Committee on May 2.

2. The President and Mrs. Trump returned to D.C. from a 4-day stay at Mar-a-Lago on Sunday and Monday hosted the annual Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House. On Thursday, the President met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and then traveled to Indianapolis to speak at the National Rifle Association's

annual conference. On Saturday, President Trump will travel to Green Bay, Wis., for a campaign rally.

3. Tuesday at 5 p.m. was the deadline imposed by House Ways and Means Committee Chair Richard Neal (D-MA) for IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig to turn over 6 years of President Trump's tax returns. Last week, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told Fox News that the President will not release his tax returns, adding that she did not believe that Members of Congress were "smart enough to look through the thousands of pages that [she] would assume that President Trump's taxes will be."

4. Last week, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said that U.S.-China trade negotiations are making "very good progress." According to published reports, China's GDP grew by a better-than-expected 6.4% in the 1Q of 2019, which may allow China to be in a stronger bargaining position. Among other items, the U.S. is asking China to lift its ban on the drug racetopamine, used by U.S. hog producers to boost growth, and its ban on U.S. poultry and eggs, barred since January 2015 due to a past avian influenza outbreak.

5. On Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in Department of Commerce v. New York, to determine whether the Trump Administration may add a question on citizenship to the 2020 Census. In January 2019, a New York federal district court barred the government from including the question on the census, concluding that the Trump Administration's purported reason to add the question--to wit, to better enforce the Voting Rights Act--was simply a rationale that the government came up with after it had already decided to add the question. After the loss in the district court, the Trump Administration asked the Supreme Court to bypass the normal appeals court process and take up the case immediately so that it can finalize the census questionnaire by the end of June and get the forms printed on time.

6. The Department of Education on Monday held a day-long event in which Trump administration officials heard from state and local officials about successful education initiatives for incarcerated students. It's part of the "administration-wide goal of rethinking education for incarcerated individuals," according to the announcement. One of the most notable issues includes support for expanding Pell Grants to students in prisons, something Congress outlawed in the 1990s. There is also bipartisan growing support to scrap the ban as Congress rewrites the federal higher education law. The Obama administration began a pilot program to expand aid to some prisoners, and Education Secretary DeVos

has continued the initiative.

7. On Saturday, the White House Correspondents' Association hosts its annual dinner at the Washington Hilton, which this year has jettisoned the tradition of bringing in a

famous comedian to toss out acerbic jokes aimed at the President, his cabinet and other D.C. luminaries and will instead allow its featured speaker, historical author Ron Chernow, to set a more solemn tone.

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BIRTHDAY - APRIL 26 - GERTRUDE "MA" RAINEY - Born in Russell County, Alabama, the legendary singer was known as the "Mother of the Blues" and was one of the first blues artists heard on a phonograph record.
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ROAR, Tiger, ROAR! A Case Study in Recovering

by tim allston

Read Proverbs 24:16-18
Britain's Daily Telegraph:
"Greatest Comeback since
Muhammad Ali"

Yes, a Trump and Obama agreement: Each tweeted congrats to Tiger Woods for one of sports' most famous comebacks/greatest moments, from arguably golf's greatest player at its most famous tournament.

While Christendom was commemorating Jesus' triumphal return to Jerusalem this Palm Sunday, similarly golf enthusiasts cheered Tiger's 5th Masters, 15th major championship (vs. Jack Nicklaus' 6th and 18th, respectively) and 81st PGA Tour (chasing Sam Snead's 82nd) titles.

Others, however, celebrated Woods' recovering from personal and professional adversities.

From Riches-to-Rags-to-Riches

Once golf's 21-year old wunderkind, Woods the self-identified "Cablinasian" (Caucasian, Black, American Indian, and Asian) was a: #1-ranked golfer for 683 weeks; Corporate sponsorship branding machine; and Few putts away from joining the exclusive Black Billionaires circle ...

...And then came Matthew 23:12, Contemporary English Version.

In Tiger's own Words (press conference, Feb. 19, 2010)

Although many of us won't become celebs, Tiger's journey nonetheless illustrates for us characteristics of the "tim commandments of ego-holism recovering": **Target the Problem:** "The issue involved here was my repeated irresponsible behavior. I was unfaithful. I had affairs. I cheated";

Own the Problem: "What I did is not acceptable. And I

am the only person to blame. I stopped living by the core values that I was taught to believe in."

Now, Proceed to ... : "As I move forward, I will continue to receive help, because I have learned that is how people really do change. Starting tomorrow, I will leave for more treatment and more therapy . . . I do plan to return to golf one day. I just don't know when that day will be."

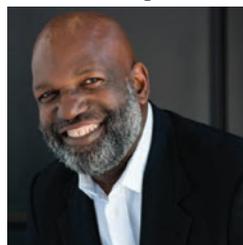
1. To Change Lanes Effectively, Glance Back quickly before moving Forward.

2. Dig Deeply to un-earth your Buried Treasures: "Part of following this path for me is Buddhism, which my mother taught me at a young age . . . until I drifted away from it in recent years";

3. Listen Aggressively: "Buddhism teaches that a craving for things outside ourselves causes an unhappy and pointless search for security. It teaches me to stop following every impulse and to learn restraint. Obviously, I lost track of what I was taught";

4. Re-start your Engine for Better Mileage: (4/14/19) Trump announced Woods would soon receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, "because of his incredible success and comeback in Sports (Golf) and, more importantly, LIFE" - the first active athlete;

5. Convert your Lemons into Lemonade: History's wisest man (King Solomon) "congratulated" the greatest golfer's riches-to-rags-to-riches journey approximate-



ly 3000 years ago, declaring "a good man may fall seven times (i.e., four back surgeries/rehab, sex scandal/rehab, DUI suspicion arrest, and positive Vicodin/Dilaudid/Xanax/Ambien/THC testing/rehab) and get back up again" Proverbs 24:16, The Voice Bible.

6. Got Healing? Start Revealing. And

7. Now that you Know, ... Go, Elevate, and Grow!
When asked what he learned about himself from Sunday's Masters' win, the 43-year old said, "I can win majors now."

tim allston is the author of the free book, 7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Someone Else," free and downloadable now at www.GetEgoHelp-Now.org.

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Guest Speaker
REV. BRENNUS M. MITCHELL, SR.
Mt. Gilead M. B. Church
Nashville, Tennessee

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Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

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The Valley Weekly Calendar of Events

April 25
Patricia Haley Charity
2nd Annual Day of Action
Banquet
Advocating for Change
Featuring Comedic Guest
Rickey Smiley
Historical Huntsville De-
pot & Roundhouse
patriciahaleycharity.com
320 Church Street
Huntsville, Ala.
6:30-9:30 p.m.

April 26
Alabama A&M University
Annual Black Tie Scholar-
ship Gala
Von Braun Center North
Hall

Tickets: (256) 372-8344

April 27
The Inauguration of Dr.
Patricia Sims as the Fourth
President of J.F. Drake State
Community and Technical
College
Tickets: (256) 539-8161
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.-11:30 a.m.

May 3
Alabama A&M University
Founder's Day
T.M. Elmore Building
11 a.m.

Alabama A&M University
Spring Commencement

Speaker: John O. Hudson
III, president, Southern
Gas Company Foundation
Von Braun Center
6 p.m.

May 17
Community Free Clinic
Inaugural Golf Tourna-
ment
The Links at Redstone
4-Person Scramble
\$60/\$240
(256) 337-1662

May 18-19
The League of Women Vot-
ers of Alabama
Annual State Convention
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

“WORTH SAVING”

Isaiah 53:5 says: *“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”*

You know, to be crucified on a cross was a horrible way for anyone to die, especially for Jesus, who was the Savior of the whole world.

To be crucified was even more horrific, especially when you are innocent of all charges. And, yet they crucified Jesus. So, to be crucified and endure both the pain and the shame of the cross could only mean that Jesus thought that we were worth saving.

To be bruised for our iniquities could only

mean that He thought that we were to die for. So, he sacrificed his life. And, it doesn't matter what you have done, Jesus wants all of us to be saved.

In Luke 23:39-43, it talks about two criminals that hung on the cross with Jesus. Now one of the criminals was filled with hate and pride and anger, because he was still not willing to admit the need to be saved.

However the other criminal represented the need for repentance and the need for God's grace and mercy for a life gone bad.

I believe that Jesus thought that both of these

men were worth saving, but only one of them asked for it.

In Luke 23:42-43, it says: *“Then he said, Jesus remember me when you*

come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him “truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

So, it doesn't matter

what you have done or how long it takes, Jesus is still waiting for you. Because to be crucified on a cross could only mean that any of us, from the worst of people to the best of people are worth saving ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.



Millennial Thought

by Josh Alex Baker

Playing the Po- litical

So, you lost.

You strategized. You positioned yourself. You shook hands. You stayed up late. You got up early. And you lost.

Playing the political is playing the game. And playing the game is accepting that loss is a possibility—even when the loss is not fair.

If we—as my generation colloquially says—keep it a buck, there were certain decisions that were made

for you before you even entered the room.

There was no outsmarting. There was no out-thinking. There was no outworking. It wasn't fair, but it happened.

So, do you sulk?

Absolutely LOL. I told you it wasn't fair! (Isn't it cool using your millennial card to work in an initialism like LOL into semi-academic work?) But you don't just sulk. You survive. So, take your time to rinse off the defeat.

Cry.

Take a day-trip somewhere. Run a marathon.

Acknowledge the hurt, but don't succumb to it. You could sulk forever, but why would you if surviving is an option?

You are capable.

You are powerful. And you will manifest many glories. The loss did not disqualify you. It never had that power to begin with.

Take now to recover. To re-root. To rebuild.

We can worry about fixing corrupt systems in the morning. But you owe yourself tonight. You owe yourself the anger. The disappointment.

The devastation.

But tonight does not have to be forever. Tonight will not be forever. So hurt tonight. Heal tonight. And in the morning, we ride.

The Ivy Center Offering Grants

The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Inc., is accepting proposals from non-profit organizations for funding up to \$2,000.

The project/program submitted must be related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), cultural awareness, education, and/or economics for disadvantaged youth and their families and be

submitted by April 20. The RFP is now available to download at www.Ivycenterfoundationhsv.org.

Applicants will be notified of approval and later awarded during the 13th Annual White Linen Brunch on June 15, 2019.

The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Incorporated, will present scholarships (up to \$1,500 each) to

single parents planning to begin or continue their education at an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational, or technical school (in fall 2019).

The application is now available to download at www.Ivycenterfoundationhsv.org.

The deadline for submission is May 18, 2019. Please call (256) 457-1020 for info.



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Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MS. BRIANNA S. ROBINSON (b. 1993) was held Wednesday, April 24, at Taylor's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Lorenzo Moore officiating.

Funeral service for MR. LEWIS ("SONNY") SLEDGE (b. 1941) was held Saturday, April 20, at First Missionary Baptist Church.

Funeral service for MR. ROBERT EDWARD THOMPSON (b. 1934) was held Tuesday, April 16, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Emeritus Julius R. Scruggs as eulogist.

Funeral service for MS. DEBRA E. THOMPSON (b. 1969) was held Sunday, April 14, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Carl Pruitt officiating.

Memorial service for MRS. PATSY JEAN JOHNSON STATEN (formerly of Huntsville, Ala.) was Saturday, April 13, at the 13th Street Church of Christ (3100 13th Street, NW - Washington, D.C.) with Brother Christopher Bradley officiating.

Funeral service for COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (RETIRED) REGINALD RICHARDSON was held Saturday, April 13, at True Light Church of God in Christ (6380 Pulaski Pike NW - Huntsville, Ala.) with the Reverend Dr. Terrell Harris officiating.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service MRS. LASONJA BELL KING (b. 1969) will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, April 29, 2019 at Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ (313 Beirne Street Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Dave Draper, Jr., officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. LEOLA THERESA KENNEMORE (b. 1953) was held Saturday, April 20, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Gregory McGlathery officiating.

Funeral service for MS. CONNIE RAY JONES (b. 1964) was held Saturday, April 20, at Syler Tabernacle (904 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Richmond Malone officiating.

Funeral service for MR. LARRY DONALD WADE (b. 1952) was held Saturday, April 20, at Saint James Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (2950 Jeff Road Harvest, Ala.) with Reverend Byron McGlathery officiating.

- Serenity Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MS. LASHAUNDR A LOGAN (b. 1998) was held on Saturday, April 20, at Serenity Funeral Home (2505 University Drive NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Huey Hudson officiating.

Funeral service for MS. REGGIEANN STRICKLAND (b. 1952) was held on Monday, April 15, at Serenity Funeral Home, located at 2505 University Drive NW, with Elder Jesse Simpson officiating.

Called 2 Preach

by Pastor/Founder Michael D. Rice
Grace Gethsemane Mission Church

Competing Confidence

Isaiah wrote that God works on behalf of those who "wait" for Him. The word, wait, carries the meaning of having "complete" confidence in Him. This was another case of God providentially using a typo in my journal to speak directly to my own heart. As I wrote, instead of typing the word, "complete," I typed the word, "compete." What was supposed to say, "complete confidence," actually read "compete confidence." As I was reading over what I had written, the Spirit of God pointed out to me how easy it is to have a "competing" confidence, that is, instead of having complete

confidence in Him, the heart can have hidden away beneath the surface, something or someone else that "competes" with God. That is what the prophet Elijah was addressing when

he raised the question; "How long will you halt or limp or waiver between two opinions?" He went on to say, "If the LORD be God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, follow him." God does not force Himself on anyone. It's a choice and His God-ness is not diminished if He is not chosen. The Creator

is not codependent on the creature. He is Self-Contained and Self-Confident. He is Transparent and Transcendent. He can be trusted. Here is how Isaiah put it; "From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who works for those who WAIT FOR HIM."



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Huntsville City Council Meetings



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

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Representatives Host 4G STEM Program

State Representative Laura Hall and State Representative Anthony Daniels recently hosted the "Girls, Guys, Gigabytes & Gadgets" (4G) Day Program at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center on Saturday, April 20. The STEM event is an expansion of the acclaimed national initiative. 4G has exposed hundreds of Tennessee Valley youth to STEM over the years with the

support of local volunteers and sponsors. Registered participants qualified to receive a number of prizes donated by sponsors. "Creating space through exploration" was the event theme. The 4G Day Program expanded into providing approachable STEM solutions in Huntsville. 4G is a free day-long Saturday session to introduce area youth ages

8-18 to the sciences. 2019 4G partners included AT&T, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama, Google Fiber, Huntsville Utilities, National Space Club - Huntsville, TVA, Chick-Fil-A, Jerry Damson Honda Acura, Inspire & Achieve, U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Wal-Mart and Woody Anderson Ford.



Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Dr. Arthur L. Walker

Dr. Arthur L. Walker is a former president of the 6,000-student Motlow State Community College in Moore County, Tenn. During his 18-year tenure with the college, he progressively advanced through the academic ranks from instructor to becoming the first African-American to hold the position of president.

Walker moved Motlow College forward in areas of student access, capital projects, and fundraising. He spearheaded a \$2.3 million fundraising drive to construct the first free-standing building for the Motlow College Smyrna Teaching Center, a building that was named in his honor in October 2017. As Director of the Fayetteville Center, Dr. Walker

facilitated the construction of the Fayetteville Center and the Sundquist Center for Advanced Technologies, all while directing enrollment growth, program development, marketing and community relations. Prior to his tenure at Motlow College, Walker served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force (USAF), including two tours in Alabama.

After retiring from Motlow College in 2006, Walker launched a third career: president of his own company—Empowerment Concepts, Inc.—a professional development firm. In this capacity, he consulted and provided training for a wide variety of organizations. Walker earned his associate



degree at Okaloosa-Walton Junior College (FL), bachelor's at Athens State University, master's at Troy University, and doctorate at the University of Memphis.

Dr. Walker is married to Rosa Rice Walker, a retired school teacher. They have one adult daughter, Angela, and are members of Saint John AME Church in Huntsville.

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Getting Kids to Think about Life after Graduation

(BPT) - Experiences and learning outside of the classroom can really shape a child's perspective, particularly when it comes to making decisions about what sort of work they might want to pursue. As important as formal education is, kids also learn from the school of life.

While it seems like kids need no help understanding technology in their day-to-day-lives, many might not necessarily think about technology in a career capacity. Particularly for young girls, there is an opportunity to encourage them to explore this sector. Research by the Computing Technology Industry Association found that 69 percent of women who have not pursued careers in information technology attribute their choice to not knowing what opportunities are available to them.

Programs like "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" are great tools for broadening kids' perspectives of different jobs that are available - roles they might not have even thought existed.

For Jo Amato-Tuck, global partner develop-

ment manager, Microsoft, the opportunity to inspire kids is deeply personal. She is a member of the Parent Employee Resource Group, which sponsors Bring your Kids to Work Day for the more than 40,000 employees in Redmond, Washington, and thousands more in remote offices at Microsoft. What's more, Jo is a mother of three children, all of whom are at an age where they are asking more questions not only about their mom's work, but about what sorts of jobs might interest them (besides being Adele someday).

She touts that sparking imagination and inspiration in kids is particularly important for young girls, who might feel like a career in technology isn't for them. "Young women visiting our office see diverse women working in myriad areas. It gives them real, tangible proof that there are many successful women in technology, so they can pursue a career in technology one day."

Amato-Tuck has the following advice for parents hoping to spark discussions about career ambitions with kids:

- * Find out what your kids are genuinely curious about, setting aside your own hopes or aspirations of what sort of work they'll pursue. Foster that interest through books, videos or other research in fun, relatable ways.

- * Take advantage of programs like Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. If your profession doesn't line up with their interests, don't take it personally: Perhaps see if you can arrange a visit with a family member or friend whose career piques their curiosity.

- * Bring your child to work, even for short visits. It helps them understand your life outside of being a parent and gives them context on what you do while they are at school.

- * It is never too early to build mentorships. Take them to places where they might meet a professional that they can look up to and encourage them to ask meaningful questions. It is also a great opportunity to build social skills like sending a follow-up note to thank that person for their time.

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