

The Valley Weekly

*The job of the writer is to make
revolution irresistible.*

- Toni Cade Bambara

FREE

Volume 1, No. 36

Friday, May 15, 2015

NHCUA Shares Stand on Deseg Consent Order

The North Huntsville Community United for Action (NHCUA) Group held a press conference on Monday, May 4, at 9 am, in front of the Annie C. Merts Administrative Building.

NHCUA's goal was to share their stance on the recent desegregation order. The group spoke for the first time since a federal judge approved a desegregation consent order for Huntsville City Schools (HCS).

About a dozen local pastors, elected officials and community leaders discussed their reaction to the consent order and how they believe it will impact Huntsville City School students in the future.

Members are working to ensure education equality for all students within the Huntsville City and Madison County School Districts. The group will continue to monitor school boards and staff members



and evoke change within local school districts.

Dr. Oscar Montgomery, spokesperson for the group, indicated that the press conference was called for the purpose of conveying their "reaction to the recent court ruling on the consent decree submitted jointly by the Huntsville City Schools (HSC) and the Department of Justice."

He reported that the presence and action of NHCUA had a "definite positive impact on the court-ordered mediation, the modified mediation agreement, and the ruling of United States District

Judge Madeline H. Haikala."

Montgomery expressed "cautious optimism" and applauded Judge Haikala's ruling with regard to the consent order in this 52-year-old desegregation case. NHCUA views the ruling as a win for all children in HCS.

Dr. Montgomery expressed a commitment to working together with HSC and community stakeholders through proactive participation and closely monitoring HCS's implementation of the consent order.

Burritt Starts 'City Lights'

Burritt on the Mountain kicked-off its 22nd Season and 2015 City Lights & Stars summer concert series on May 8.

Mo'Sol of Atlanta was featured before several hundreds who enjoyed a lovely evening

on the mountain. Future outdoor concerts will be held at Burritt on May 22, June 12, July 3, July 24 and August 14. Additional information can be found at burrittonthemountain.com.



Rep. Hall Brings National STEM Program to Local Girls

State Representative Laura Hall hosted "Girls Gigabytes & Gadgets" (3G) at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center on Saturday, May 2. The event, 3G, is a national initiative of N.O.B.E.L. Women.

Participation was limited to the first 100 registered girls that resided in or attended a school in Huntsville. Several girls who attended the event received scholarships to Space Camp and one child received a Google Chromebook donated by Rep. Hall and N.O.B.E.L. Women.

"Girls, Gigabytes

and Gadgets" is a free day-long Saturday session to introduce young women and girls ages 8-18 to Internet development, technology, and the digital space while exposing them to the various careers in STEM. The event consists of a series of workshops featuring topics that range from "app" development to social media responsibility and mastery.

Over 50 volunteers and 100 girls experienced hands-on science activity periods with classes led by Hudson-Alpha, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. 3G immersed area students in physics, programming, engineering, genetics, math-

ematics and science.

"Programs such as 3G are needed to provide our children with essential tools to build their foundation if they choose to enter a STEM field. Statistics have shown that we as a community have work to do to adequately prepare our girls for the type of success for which they deserve," states Rep. Laura Hall, event sponsor.

For further press inquiries, contact the Madison County Legislative Office at (256) 539-5441 or via e-mail at info@RepLauraHallD19.com.



3G: A room of talent crowds the stage at a STEM event hosted by State Representative Laura Hall.



NACEE Hosts National College Signing Day

The North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence (NACEE) held its first annual National College Signing Day and student picnic on Saturday, May 2, at the Richard Showers Center in Huntsville, Ala.

National Signing Day is a student initiative, launched by First Lady Michelle Obama, geared toward promoting a college-going culture among participating students by celebrating their decision to commit to attending a college or university of their choice.

The Huntsville Drum line kicked off the signing day event by performing for a crowd of eager parents, students, college representatives, NACEE staff and guests. Next, a warm welcome was delivered by Dr. Earnest Davis, NACEE president, followed by greetings from Dr. Denver Betts, chairman of the NACEE Board of Trustees.

Tory Greer, a NACEE alum and graduate of both Jacksonville

State University and Athens State University, gave a motivational talk.

Lastly, the highlight of the event, graduating seniors were presented with certificates congratulating them on making the decision to attend college, and each certificate was presented by a representative from that institution.

Universities and colleges in attendance included Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Stillman College, Calhoun Community College, J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, Tuskegee University, Troy University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Also supporting the event was Redstone Federal Credit Union, which provided students with information on student financial planning, as well as student loan responsibility. The Rock Family Worship Center donated "goody-bags" for seniors.

Former Miss AAMU Earns Master's from American U.


Morgan Saintjones, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Saintjones of Toney, Ala., achieved another milestone when she received the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from American University May 9.

Saintjones was Miss Alabama A&M University 2012-13 and earned the bachelor's degree in English with a minor in telecommunications.

She plans to work in the



Washington, D.C., metro area a year or two as she contemplates pursuing further studies leading toward a Ph.D.



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From the Editor



Ah, Graduation!

I have graduated a few times, actually four. Graduation! Commencement! My first graduation was May 1975, from Monroe County High School. This July, we will return for our 40th high school reunion. I always knew that I wanted to go to college, without exception. I have always been fascinated by Dr. Seuss' book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go." According to USA Today, this book is among the most popular books given to high school and college students each year. Sales of this books continue to spike each spring (Blais, Memmott and Minzesheimer, 2007). If I had to go to college again, I would do it the same way, meet the same people, join the same sorority and learn the same lessons.

Upon graduation with a bachelor's degree, still I knew I wanted to keep going. I absolutely loved college. For me, I figured the longer I stayed in college, the more likely I would be able to go places. I dreamt of college degrees, a good job, a sports car and an apartment in a high rise. I earned the degrees and have had wonderful jobs; but, I never did get the sports car or live in the high rise apartment. All in all, life's been good and I have been able to live in four states and travel to some of the world's most exciting places since graduating from high school.

Reunions are interesting. For the most part, when we return for our high school and college reunions, the classmates come from near and far to see each other. The most glaring--missing--piece is that locals from the class tend not to attend. So, those of us who 'went places' are more likely to attend the events than those who are already there. I guess when we are local, we tend not to see the events as a huge idea--too close to the forest to understand that we need to "go." Not that I am a local, but I do find myself not as *excited* about my college reunion as I used to be.

After earning the PhD from Ohio State University, I went to the bookstore and purchased a study guide for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). It occurred to me after several weeks of study that I had had enough college and that it was safe to focus on family and career. I had a job and it was fairly safe, so I would not have to return to south Alabama to the farm. Yeah!

During this season of graduation and commencement, let's live out the true meaning--originate, rise, begin, award, complete. "Congratulations. Today is your day. You're off to great places. You're off and away. You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose ..." Dr. Seuss (1990). This was the last book published by Dr. Seuss during a phenomenal ifetime. Oh, The Places You'll Go!

Until next week,

Dorothy

7 Symptoms that Could Spell Cancer

When it comes to cancer, catching the signs and symptoms early is crucial, according to BlackDoctors.org. Although several cancer symptoms can be shared with other common illnesses, it's important to note aches and pains that last longer than usual or get worse with time. Below are some of the common red flags that you should never ignore.

Mouth Sores. While many people suffer from an occasional cold sore or canker sore, it's important to keep any eye on any sores in the mouth that don't seem to be healing. Lingering mouth sores may be an indication of oral cancer, especially if you smoke, drink or use chewing tobacco. Keep an eye out for unusual white patches inside the mouth or on the tongue, as well—these patches are known as leukoplakia, a precancerous lesion that can lead to oral cancer if left untreated.

Rapid Weight Loss. Unless you are starting a new diet or workout routine, notice any sudden, large loss of body weight. While there are a number of other potential explanations for rapid weight loss, it is also a symptom of certain types of cancer, such as pancreatic, lung and stomach cancer. Even if you lead an active lifestyle, extreme weight loss in

a short period of time (such as 5 to 10 pounds in a week) should be a warning sign to speak with a medical professional.

Chronic Fatigue. Feeling tired isn't unusual after a busy day, but you might have cause to be concerned if you are dealing with constant fatigue that does not improve with rest and a balanced diet. As with many other signs of cancer, fatigue is a symptom shared by dozens of less serious illnesses, so don't panic just because you're feeling tired. Instead, speak with your physician to explore the root cause.

Skin Changes. Skin cancer is one of the easiest cancers to detect early, due to the presence of visible skin changes. If you discover a wart, mole, freckle or skin tag that seems to be changing color, shape or size, speak to a professional right away. Dark patches on the skin are another common sign of melanoma, especially if the border of the discolored area begins to fade. If you spend much of your work or recreational time outdoors, always take proper precautions and stay vigilant for any changes to your skin.

Unexplainable Pain. While it is rare, unusual or long-lasting pain can be a symptom of brain, bone

and testicular cancer. If you suffer from chronic pain that doesn't seem to have any cause, and if the pain doesn't lessen over time, you should make an appointment with a doctor to pin down the cause and ensure that you are not dealing with a cancerous growth.

Lumps. A lump or painful swelling in the breasts, testicles or lymph nodes is often a warning sign for cancer. Both men and women should examine themselves for lumps at least once a month, since breast and testicular cancer can take hold rapidly. While it is much less common, keep in mind that cancerous lumps can form in other places as well, so don't hesitate to contact your physician if you notice an odd lump under your skin, especially near your joints.

Strange Bleeding. Several forms of cancer are commonly accompanied by bleeding, which should never be ignored. Coughing up blood may be a sign of lung or throat cancer, particularly if you are having trouble swallowing. Blood in your urine or stool may indicate colon, bladder or prostate cancer. Finally, women should watch for excessive spotting between periods, as this symptom is commonly associated with cervical cancer.

Few people visit the doctor as often as they should, which makes it even more important to pay attention to warning signs to catch cancer before it has the chance to grow or spread. If you notice symptoms that worsen or linger for an unusually long period of time, don't waste time. Speaking with your health care professional.

Source: BlackDoctor.org

MAMA Develops Next Generation of Creators



Media Arts Mentoring Academy (MAMA) hosted a reception and capital fundraising campaign kickoff on May 7 at the Valley Hill Country Club at 5 p.m.

A crowd of about 100 attended the event. MAIA used this event to thank sponsors and supporters for contributing to their ground breaking Huntsville 2 Hollywood student filmmakers travel program. MAMA's three-year history and accomplishments were provided by Founder Leon Burnette. He introduced MAMA's Friends, MAMA Kids and MAMAs future. He encouraged the local community to support the

various youth programs they have the the Academy.

Entertainment was provided by Grammy nominated producer and songwriter Kelvin Wooten, with special guest artist DeQn Sue. Persons who would like to support the organizations can give online at www.Come2Mama.org.

Media Arts Institute's MAMA initiative is an innovative workforce development and mentoring program that provides underserved teens and young adults. Media Arts Institute of Alabama is an IRS designated non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.



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SAEOPP Student Initiative Contest Held

A group of motivated students were up early on Saturday, April 18, 2015. They had made the drive to Atlanta the previous evening on a tour bus, and after several hours spent at a local Atlanta mall, they had a jam study session that lasted until midnight. This proved to be time well spent, along with the time they invested over the past several months in practice sessions.

Each year, The Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SAEOPP) sponsors "Student Initiatives", which includes several competitions: Education Talent Search Academic Bowl, Education Talent Search High "Q", Upward Bound Scholars Bowl, and Student Support Services & McNair Debate. Most of the competitions would be represented by the eight states that make up the SAEOPP (Southeastern Association of Educational



Opportunity Program Personnel) Region: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The High "Q" Competition is comprised of four rounds: Open Questions, Face Off, Quick Quiz and Final Exam. One session lasts approximately 20 heart-stopping minutes in which questions are being fired off by a person designated as the reader, while another person operates the scoreboard and clock. Team members are supplied with paper,

pens and hand-held buzzers. It is a very competitive game!

Eleven students from the North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence (NACEE) attended the High "Q" Competition in Atlanta on April 14. The team won a gold award for the past two years, and it was confident it would be the team to beat this year. After five grueling rounds with six other states involved, the NACEE team won

place 1st in overall competition for the third straight year!

The team members for the 2015 High "Q" competition were: Ishmael Hannah (team captain), Magnolia Wilson, Atchima Klomkaew, Leopold Nkengbeza, Olaoluwa Douglas, Michaela Maxton, Dipshikha KC, Cody Holland, Justin Rogers, Sasha Thalluri and Nyochembeng Nkengbeza, and team alternates were Joy Nixon, Celine Sullivan, Kolton McCamy, Cameron McCamy, Conner McCamy and Kevin Mai.

NACEE President, Dr. Earnest Davis, gave special thanks to Priscilla Cowart for dedicating her time and service to coaching and mentoring such a talented group of students for the past three years.

Chamber Workshop Focuses on Gov't Business

The Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County will sponsor "2015 Doing Business with the Government-Small Business Workshop" on May 21 in the Chamber auditorium from 9-11:30 a.m.

The U.S. Army Contracting Command-Office of Small Business Programs will introduce Dawn Robinson, who will present "Game Changer," an interactive and informative session that "will make a difference" in government contracting.



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Computer Science Camp for Girls!

If you know any girls (4th-8th grade) interested in Computer Science, Auburn has open registration for a camp during May 26-30th. Visit <http://eng.auburn.edu/outreach/k-12/eng-summer-camp.html>



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We will climax on the 23rd with a health/education screening fair from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center on Blue Springs Road. All are invited to attend.

Chris Calhoun, Polemarch
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Alabama A&M University Observes 140th Anniversary

Scenes from Founder's Day



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: Dr. Thomas Calhoun (left), administrator at the University of North Alabama, was the speaker for the annual Community Breakfast held in the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center prior to the Founder's Day Convocation. Calhoun is shown with Alabama A&M University President Andrew Hugine, Jr.,



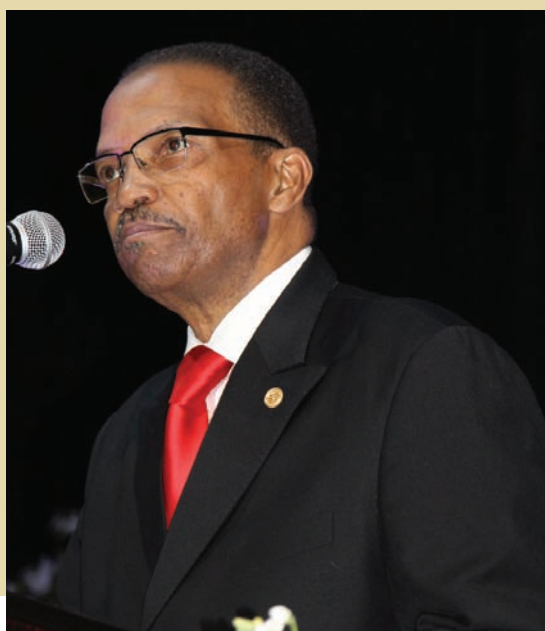
WINNER: Brendlyn Hall (3rd) of the Knight Complex accepts award as winner of the Founder's Day dorm competition with Bulldog Pride Committee members Pat Henderson, Cynthia Smith and Mary Hurt.



ON POINT: Alumna Adrienne P-K Washington delivers Founder's Day address.



STAFF OF THE YEAR: Shirley K. Alexander (2nd, left) receives recognition at Alabama A&M University for being "Staff Member of the Year" during the Founder's Day Celebration at the T.M. Elmore Building. Pictured (l-r) are President Andrew Hugine, Jr.; Archie Tucker, interim vice president for marketing, communications and advancement; and Dr. Kevin Rolle, executive vice president.



REFLECTION: Setting a mood of reverence is Rev. Dr. O. Wendell Davis of Union Chapel MB Church.



IN MEMORIAM: Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority present scholarship check in memory of the late AAMU employee Cheryl Witt.



INDUCTEES: The Brices become newest members of the Normal Legacy Society.

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Tennessee Valley

Diversity Leadership Colloquium



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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

Summer July 7 – August 25 - Deadline to register (June 7, 2015)

Fall Oct 6 – Nov 24 - Deadline to register (September 6, 2015)

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- Application Form
- 3 References
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College(s) Attended _____

Highest Degree _____ Career Field _____

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