

The Valley Weekly

"All living beings are equally important."
- John Africa

FREE

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Friday, June 5, 2015

Longtime RFCU Board Member Dies

Dr. Delia W. Black, a longtime member of the Board of Directors at Redstone Federal Credit Union, passed away on May 23, 2015. Dr. Black served on the Board of Directors from 1980 until February of this year.

Dr. Black was a passionate advocate for employee training and development at the Credit Union and guided the organization's growth into one of the most desirable employers in the Tennessee Valley.

She was instrumental in establishing the Credit Union's core values of Respect, Integrity, Soundness, and Excellence—values that Dr. Black exemplified in all of her professional and volunteer work. She also led Redstone's successful initiative of reaching out and serving those in the community who are underserved by traditional financial institutions.

"It is your example, Delia, over the years that has positioned the Credit

Union to serve its now over 373,000 members both humbly and prudently," Dr. Dorothy W. Huston, then Chair of the Board of Directors, said at a ceremony honoring Dr. Black in September of last year.

"Redstone's success, Delia, is in fact, your success."

In August of 2014 Dr. Black was inducted into the Defense Credit Union Hall of Honor, the highest honor bestowed by the Defense Credit Union Council. Dr. Black was awarded the honor in part because she



was a tireless advocate for military and defense

industry personnel. In both her career and personal life she continually worked to ensure they had the ability to reach their maximum potentials in all areas of their lives.

Dave Hargrove, chair of the Board of the Directors expressed his sadness over the loss of Dr. Black. "Dr. Black played an invaluable role in shaping the Credit Union into the successful and thriving institution it is today. She saw dignity in every person she met and

set an example of kindness and respect that most of us continue to aspire to. She was extremely intelligent, thoughtful, and above all else, devoted to serving others. The world is a better place because of the many lives she touched. She will be sorely missed."

Dr. Black served on Redstone's Board of Directors for over 30 years, and as its First Vice Chair from 1990 to 2012.

General, Educator: "Movers and Shapers"

The popular *Business Alabama* magazine has placed four-star General Dennis L. Via and Dr. Helen McAlpine among its distinguished "Movers and Shapers"



list for Madison County. General Via is the 18th Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, while Dr. McAlpine serves as president of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College. For additional local honorees, visit: <http://www.businessalabama.com/Business-Alabama/>

Revisiting CDC, Pew Studies on Involvement of Fathers

About a year ago, just when you thought it was absolutely safe to say anything you very well pleased about black men and their familial responsibilities came along a new study that could have placed many among that band of 'followers' who simply talk too much.

As a Father's Day 2015 approaches, it might prove fitting again to revisit a Pew Research Center survey that offered enlightening findings, as well as a separate report from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which collected data on more than 10,000 fathers across the spectrum.

What it found, and what was captured by media, too, was interesting.

One thing is that, although black men were more likely to live apart from their children, that in no way meant that they were not a part of their children's lives. Of those who lived apart from their children, more than two-thirds (67 percent) saw their children at least monthly, compared with 69 percent for whites and 32 percent for Latino fathers who don't live with their children.

It gets even more interesting for fathers who reside with their kids. Among this demographic, black fathers (70 percent) were determined to

be "more involved" with their children's lives, from bathing to dressing to diapering on a daily basis, compared to 60 percent for white dads and 45 percent for Latino dads.

The study also noted that black fathers were much more likely to engage their school-age kids about their day 50 percent, compared to 34 and 23 percent among whites and Latino fathers, respectively.

The CDC report also indicated that black fathers led the list of stay-at-home dads (13 percent), but also noted that 29 percent of black fathers are single heads of their households.

Moreover, data from the Pew Research Center indi-

cated that black fathers who were not married to their children's mother were more or as much involved in raising their children, and that co-parenting and co-habitation were not necessarily weaker family structures. According to the study, absent no longer means uninvolved, and in some cases absent black fathers are the most involved of all.

For so long, many of the problems confronting black communities have been penned to the non-existence of black fathers in their children's lives. Throughout the nation's blogs and forums, when the report was first released, many a would-be statistician seemed ready and

hell-bent on refuting the stats and any undue praise it might have unwittingly accorded to black males. Their angst was understandable.

If the often commonly accepted assumptions about the parental involvement of black fathers fell apart, then to what other sources could the problems impacting the black community be attributed? *Real* racism, prejudice, redlining and numerous other factors perhaps? Getting to the innermost part of an onion means going through the trouble of peeling away its layers. Sometimes, we all have to cry.

by Jerome Saintjones

June 21 Event to Honor Fathers



A Stepp N Out on Faith Father's Day Celebration and gospel concert will be held at Fellowship of Faith Church on Sunday June 21.

This annual gospel concert will headline performances by the

nation's #1 gospel quartet group Lee Williams & the Spiritual QC's, several other gospel artists, Pastor Shawn Jones & the Believers, New Converted Voices, N 2 Christ and local area artist Shawn Moore & New Fellowship.

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"Of course everyone wants to be the butterfly ...until then, let's see the beauty in the caterpillar."

-J.T. Moore



Colloquium I Alumnus Graduates from UTS

The United Theological Seminary (UTS) of Dayton, Ohio, a United Methodist seminary, is the second largest and one of the fastest-growing schools belonging to the Association of Theological Schools.

During their 2015 Spring Commencement, pastors, ministers, denominational leaders and Christian educators from all over the United States were awarded master's and doctoral degrees. Among those receiving degrees was Dr. Terrance D. Vickerstaff, associate minister, First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., who received the Master of Divinity (Pastoral Care Concentration) with honors.

Vickerstaff is a graduate of Cohort I of the Tennessee Valley's Diversity Leadership Colloquium.



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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



Ah, Fathers!

One of the special days on the calendar this month is Father's Day. I think we should celebrate fathers everyday. Many of you have heard me say, "my papa was a rolling stone, wherever he laid his hat was his home, and when he died, all he left us was a LOAN." We certainly were not alone, there were plenty of us to move forward.

Now, when I say that, the people who really know me, understand that I had a deeply-rooted love and unusual respect for my father. Actually, he used to do and say the "darnest" things. There were 12 of us who lived to become adults, with one brother passing as an infant. As far as I know, my father never attended school. He was a career farmer, raising cotton and corn crops, cows and hogs for the local market. He farmed our land and leased land from other landowners. Later in life, he bought heavy equipment for harvesting those crops. Although I never understood it, he was a consummate businessman. He had a family, financial responsibilities, hired help as needed, inventory and accounting functions, marketing, selling and strategic planning requirements. In addition, he experienced both the joys and stresses of growing and managing a business from day-to-day.

We owned our land, our home and always had plenty to eat and drink--literally. Most of it we grew and brewed. When the necessary things aligned and the planting season was productive, we had good crops, livestock and earnings. He could take care of the notes to the local bank for the seeds, equipment and stuff needed to manage a productive farm. On the other hand, some seasons and years he could not meet the obligations because of the lack of annual start-up funding, lack of yield due to weather, the cost of goods and services, aged and broken equipment and the like.

When I look back, I wonder how he survived in the farming business for as long as he did. At the time of his death, he was still raising livestock, bailing hay and 'making it.' How is it that he could own land, a home, have a wife with 13 children, run a business and remain sane with too much rain, cold winters, dry springs and long, hot summers with notes and obligations he could not meet? I actually stood at the window as a child and watched "the people" come and load our livestock on trucks because they were the collateral for the past due notes. Like some, he did not get a 'pass' until next year. He had a heart of gold, compassion for all, and his word and handshake were his contracts. I am still simple enough to believe that all dads love their families. I often say, a dog would not deliberately destroy his puppies, and a cat would not throw her litter away, so when a dad makes choices, there are life circumstances that drive those choices. As simple as it appears to be, its challenging to show love when stuff is coming at you from many different directions.

According to Wikipedia, "KISS is an acronym for "Keep it simple, stupid" as a design principle noted by the U.S. Navy in 1960s. The principle states that most systems work best if they are kept simple rather than made complicated; therefore, simplicity should be a key goal in design and unnecessary complexity should be avoided." By 1970, it was a popular phrase with variations that include "keep it short and simple", "keep it simple and straightforward" and "keep it small and simple". The older I get, the more I understand some of life's simple, stupid lessons.

We welcome your 'father' stories. More about my dad next week,

Dorothy



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

Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) Graduates Cohort II

Participants in the second cohort of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) achieved another milestone as they graduated Tuesday, May 26, 2015, at The Jackson Center.

The group received information from local businesswoman

Sonya Enfinger about the value of networking, and Gary T. Whitley, Jr., of Huntsville Utilities provided the class with its charge.

DLC is designed for individuals interested in gaining access to networks, mentors,

and sponsors not traditionally available to diverse members of the broader community.

The members of Cohort II were exposed to such topics 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.

The DLC program is led day-to-day by Georgia S. Valrie, program coordinator. For additional information, call (256) 536-9717.



Clockwise: Businesswoman Sonya Enfinger; Councilman Wil Culver; Gary T. Whitley, Jr., Huntsville Utilities; and Municipal Court Judge Sybil Cleveland and Linda Via, wife of four-star Gen. Dennis L. Via, 18th Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.



COHORT II: Coordinators of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium program (first row, first and last) Dorothy Huston and Georgia S. Valrie congratulate 13 graduates of the second class.



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Pilot Urban Fellowship Program Achieves Successes

by Tricia Kerney-Willis

Redeveloping urban areas is a task that cannot be tackled alone. To succeed, you need the cooperation and partnership of local governments, the business community and philanthropy among others.

In 2012, the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities partnered with the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) to manage the Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Fellowship Program, providing opportunities for young and mid-career professionals to examine critical policy issues and challenges common to metropolitan regions. The SC2 Fellowship Program served as a strong example of the importance of place-based fellowship to build local capacity for change.

The White House Council on SC2 and GMF recently hosted a virtual briefing to celebrate the official release of the SC2 Fellowship Report at the White House Conference Center.

The event marked the conclusion of the two-year SC2 Fellowship Program, which was one of four core components of the SC2 Initiative. The Fellowship Program placed fellows in key positions within the first seven cities of this pilot initiative—Chester, Pa.; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Fresno, Calif.; Memphis, Tenn.; New Orleans, La; and Youngstown, Ohio.

The fellows worked alongside the embedded federal team leads to help produce some of the innovative ideas that have been instrumental to the success of SC2. SC2 still has active engagements with deployed team leads in seven cities through 2016, though no new fellows. Over the course of the fellowship, the fellows enhanced the capacity of their host institutions through substantial



Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

contributions in policy, program, and operational matters.

From launching new systems to prioritize vacant property demolitions in Cleveland, to establishing a Performance Management Platform, to helping to strategically align resources and federal investments in Memphis, the SC2 fellows were vital members of the Obama Administration's SC2 program.

GMF and its partners—Virginia Tech and Cleveland State University—together with the White House Council on Strong Cities Strong Communities, released a report outlining the specific accomplishments of the

fellows and the results of the pilot urban fellowship program.

We couldn't be more proud of our SC2 Fellows for their contributions to our success in SC2 cities and their ongoing commitment to helping cities achieve their economic and community development goals.

We are also appreciative of the strong partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Cleveland State University, Virginia Tech and our cities which helped make the program a success and a model that can be used by other communities in the years to come.

For more information about the SC2 Initiative and Fellowship Program, please visit:

<http://www.gmfus.org/initiatives/strong-cities-strong-communities-fellowship>

<http://www.huduser.org/portal/SC2/home.html>

Tricia Kerney-Willis is the Deputy Director, White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities.

(See even more at: <http://blog.hud.gov/index.php/2015/05/27/strong-cities-strong-communities-fellows-and-their-contributions-to-the-programs-success/#sthash.iKUraxpi.dpuf>)



AKA Chapter Regenerates Playground

by Erica Fox

The 2014-2018 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated International Program "Launching New Dimensions of Service" has converged on a local playground!

Huntsville's Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (EGO-AKA) launched International Program-Target IV: Environmental Ownership, AKA 1908 Playgrounds Project. EGO-AKA has adopted the James A. Lane Boys & Girls Club on Abingdon Avenue, Liz Clemons, director.

After five months of planning and partnering with several local organizations, the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially present the newly refurbished playground on Saturday, May 16, 2015, was a huge success for the neighborhood and its young people.

The day was filled with certificate presentations, music and dancing, healthy food, arts and crafts and lots of excitement! Under the leadership of Brenda Chunn, Natalie Steele and LaDonna McCann and the Target IV Environmental Ownership Committee, EGO-AKA is part of the international goal of restoring and refurbishing 1,908 playgrounds over the next three years. EGO-AKA President is Dr. Wilma Ruffin. EGO-AKA Vice-President is Dr. Cheryl R. Davis.

Photo credit: KarenTurnage

EGO-AKA Members with Boys & Girls Club youth

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Businesses Must File Form 8300 with IRS on Cash Transactions of \$10,000 or More

Businesses, including individuals who are sole proprietors that receive more than \$10,000 cash in a transaction or in two or more related transactions in any U.S. possession or territory must file Form 8300 with the IRS.

Examples of businesses that may have to file Form 8300 include those that sell jewelry, furniture, boats, aircraft, or automobiles, as well as those that are pawnbrokers, attorneys, real estate brokers, insurance companies and travel agencies.

Cash includes the coins and currency of the United States as well as foreign currency, cashier's checks, bank drafts, traveler's checks and money orders. The law also requires that businesses report related transactions occurring within a 24-hour period.

If the same payer makes two or more transactions totaling more than \$10,000 in a 24-hour period,

the business must treat the transactions as one transaction and report the payments. The IRS provides additional information on the filing of Form 8300 in a reference guide (Form 8300 Reference Guide).

Submitted by
David E. Herron
DEH & Associates Consulting, LLC

First Baptist Empowering Parents

First Missionary Baptist Church will launch a new initiative at 5:30 p.m. on August 11, 2015, called "Parental Empowerment."

This initiative will help empower parents so they will be able to assist their children with their nightly homework. A team of educators hereafter known as the E-Team will help the parents help their children.

The empowerment classes will be held for one hour, one night a week; consisting of two

30 minutes sessions.

The first session will focus on math and the second session will focus on reading. These are not tutoring sessions for the students, but instead empowerment sessions for the parents. This initiative is open to the parents of students currently enrolled in the Huntsville City School District. If you have a child enrolled in the Huntsville City Schools system and you want to become better equipped to help him/her with the nightly homework, you

may make a commitment to participate in the sessions by registering at www.fmhc.org or at the church. A completed commitment form must be received to ensure the team has enough resources available for everyone.

For further information, you may contact Sis. Leadrester W. Granger at 256-653-1488 or leadrester.granger@hotmail.com or Deacon Joe Henderson at 256-683-5648 or at joedochenderson@verizon.net.

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Boys and Girls Club Launches Summer Brain Gain

School may be out for the summer, but for Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama members, lessons are still in session. Through its fun and educational Summer Brain Gain program, Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama aims to prevent summer learning loss and keep kids on track for the coming school year. Each summer, an estimated 43 million children in the U.S. miss out on expanded learning opportunities that could prevent them from falling behind before the next school year begins.

During summer, most youth lose about two months' worth of math skills. Low-income youth also lose more than two months' worth of reading skills, while their middle-class peers make slight gains.

To combat summer learning loss, Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama are expanding their Summer Brain Gain program to 10 Clubs across North Alabama. While the average low-income U.S. student lost at least two months of learning last summer, the average Summer Brain Gain participant did not.

In some areas, Club members showed significant gains, including improvements in reading

skills for fifth and eighth graders, and in math skills for fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

"We are committed to ensuring that North Alabama's youth, especially those who need us most, graduate from high school on time with a plan for the future," said President Patrick Wynn. "To fight the detrimental effect of summer learning loss, Summer Brain Gain offers fun, hands-on learning opportunities that keep kids' minds active and engaged."

Summer Brain Gain is comprised of six one-week modules for each grade level with themed activities for elementary school, middle school and high school students. Supported by Disney and Old Navy, each module takes a project-based learning approach; youth engage in a process of learning through discovery,

creative expression, group work and a final project or production. Examples of these modules include "Bio Motion" and "Bug Off!" where Club youth can explore how living things navigate their environments or examine the incredible amount of diversity in the insect world.

According to Afterschool Alliance, kids who participate in after-school programs are more likely to participate in summer learning programs.

Serving nearly 800 kids per day, Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama are the leading after-school and summer learning provider, helping close the educational opportunity gap. To learn more about Summer Brain Gain, visit greatfutures.org. To find a club nearest to you, visit bgcna.com or call 256.534.6060.

Calendar at a Glance

June 6

11th Annual Charity Car Show
Milton Frank Stadium Parking Lot
No Admission Charged to Public
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

14th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet

Sponsor: AAMU Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter
Ernest L. Knight Reception Center
Alabama A&M University
6 p.m.

June 13

5th Annual Cruizin' for a Cure
St. Rebecca P.B. Church
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

"Huntsville's Largest Family Picnic Ever"
Big Spring Park East
Downtown Huntsville
4-6 p.m.

June 19

Food Truck Rally
Downtown Huntsville

June 19-28

Oklahoma!
Rodgers & Hammerstein's beautiful first musical collaboration is presented by Independent Musical Productions.

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Main Stage at Lee High School

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June 22-28

Jazz-N-June Festival

June 28

Microwave Dave Day in the City of Huntsville

July 16-18

Play: The Pirates of Penzance
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7:30 p.m. (Fri.); 2 & 7:30 p.m.

July 17

Space Exploration Celebration
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July 23

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Pacific Crest - Diamond Bar, Calif.
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Jersey Surf - Camden County, N.J.
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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)

To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

Tuition Payable Upon Acceptance

DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium III APPLICATION FORM

Requirements: Application Form - 3 References - Resume -
Photo and Tuition (Both Required upon Acceptance)

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Apt. Unit # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (mobile) _____ Business/Home _____ E-mail _____

Company/Organization _____

Title _____

U.S. Citizen? Yes No Enrolling Quarter _____

Education

High School Attended _____ Graduated: Yes No

College(s) Attended _____

Highest Degree _____ Career Field _____

References

Name _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____ Association _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please mail this Application Form, 3 Letters of Reference, and Resume to: 415A Church Street-Ste. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com; or e-mail info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com. Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.