

The Valley Weekly

Volume 1, No. 44

Friday, July 10, 2015

FREE

“... But things change; things blossom in time.”
- Butterfly McQueen

Nation's YMCAs Promoting Water Safety

Teaching children how to be safe around water is not a luxury; it is a necessity. The YMCA's Safety Around Water program can help parents and caregivers make sure children learn essential water safety skills, which can open up a world of possibilities for them to satisfy their curiosity safely. *What Is Safety Around Water?* Through learning how to perform a sequenced set of skills over eight lessons of 40 minutes each, the risk of drowning is reduced and gives children confidence in and around water.



- Instruction in “Jump, Push, Turn, Grab” and “Swim, Float, Swim,” two skill sets kids can use if they unexpectedly find themselves in the water
 - Specific safety topics like what to do if someone in the water is in need of help
 - Fun activities that reinforce skills
- Help Keep Children Safe.*
Drowning can happen nearly anywhere with standing water. But parents and caregivers can't

keep their children sidelined. They need to equip them with the tools needed to be confident in and around water so that they don't lose out on the health benefits of exercise, the opportunities to bond with family and friends and the sense of accomplishment when they learn new skills.

The national YMCA organization urges enrollment in a YMCA Safety Around Water Program.

YMCAs across the country are taking part in the YMCA Safety Around Water Program, available to all kids and families. Visit “Find a Y” to locate a program in your community.

Revisiting *Forbes* Best Cities for Black Prosperity

At the onset of 2015, *Forbes* magazine took a look at “The Cities Where African-Americans Are Doing the Best Economically.” Thanks in part to a reverse migration of blacks from the Northeast, Midwest and West Coast, the South boasts 13 of the 15 top metro areas that have become “promised lands” for blacks.

Leading the list is, no big surprise, Atlanta, which, according to *Forbes*, “has arguably the strongest infrastructure for African-American advancement in the country.” The complete list follows.

1. Atlanta, Ga.

2. Raleigh, N.C.
3. Washington, D.C.
4. Baltimore, Md.
Charlotte, N.C.
6. Virginia Beach/Norfolk, Va.
7. Orlando, Fla.
8. Miami, Fla.
Richmond, Va.
San Antonio, Tex.

Although Huntsville, Ala., did not make the list, *Forbes* has smiled on the Rocket City in a number of other important distinctions. For instance, *Forbes* has placed Huntsville on its lists for 1) STEM jobs, 2) employee engagement and 3) employee recognition.

J.F. Drake State Honors Former Cosmetologist with Lasting Symbol

J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College has recognized Norma L. Powers through the naming of the renovated cosmetology building in her honor. The official name of the facility is the “Norma L. Powers Salon Management Center of Excellence.”

Powers was a pioneer in the development of the school of cosmetology in 1964 with her appointment as the cosmetology instructor during the tenure of J.F. Drake Presidents S. C. O'Neal and Johnny Harris, respectively. During the initial years of the

program's development, Powers commuted from Chicago, Ill., to Huntsville, Ala., weekly, allowing her to continue operating her 24-hour Frau-Lynn's Beauty Salon #1 in the Windy City.

She served the college and community with many years of selfless dedication and personal effort. The rigorous teaching strategies that she incorporated in her instruction were critical to the later success of her students as cosmetologists, salon managers, and cosmetology instructors. Powers implemented service

learning by having her students provide hair care services in her Frau-Lynn's Beauty Salon #2 here in the city and other salons throughout the community.

She modeled lifelong learning to her students by continuing her education, taking courses at Alabama A&M University and Oakwood University, in addition to maintaining her personal affiliations with several professional organizations. Powers was an exemplary instructor and leader at Drake State for 32 years, leaving a legacy of countless individuals she trained and influenced.

Special thanks and gratitude have been extended to Dr. Helen T. McAlpine, president of J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College, for her efforts in getting the Alabama State Board of Education to grant approval for this project. This honor comes 18 years after Powers' death in November 1997.

A scholarship fund has been established in Powers' honor. Interested persons may make contributions through J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College.

Submitted by Rev. Willis Temple



Gloria Batts, late honoree's niece

AKAs Hold Annual White Linen Brunch

The Ivy Center of Huntsville/Madison County Foundation, Incorporated, recently held its 9th Annual White Linen Brunch in the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the campus of Alabama A&M University.

The brunch is the Ivy Center Foundation's fundraiser, and all proceeds are used for charitable purposes. This year's "Making A Difference Awards" were presented to Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff-Social Services; Dr. Bridget Floyd-Health; Dr. Ernest Davis-Education; Art 'N Soul Poetry-Arts; Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs-Religion/Spiritual; Mr. Michael Lundy-Economic; The Food Distribution Team, Fellowship Presbyterian Church-Community Service. This year's grant recipients are Greater Huntsville Chapter, The Links, Incorporated; Harris Home for Children;

HEALS, Incorporated; North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence; North Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation, Incorporated; Operation Making A Difference, Incorporated; RiahRose Home for Children; Tennessee Valley Jazz Society; and Union Hill Personal Growth Center.

The Ivy Center was established by Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, on July 28, 2005. It was incorporated on September 8 of that same year. The center represents the evolution of members' desire to be of greater "service to all mankind." The Foundation President is Dr. Jeanette Jones. The President of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is Dr. Wilma J. Ruffin.

Submitted by Erica Fox Washington

Valley Student Heaps Praise on AAUW-Sponsored Conference

An Alabama A&M University secondary education major is calling her recent participation in the 2015 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Conference (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland an awesome opportunity.

"I was blessed to be able to join six other University of Alabama in Huntsville students at the conference," says California-native Monique Jefferson. "Everything was great--from the scholarship, the airline ticket, conference and workshops to the Washington, D.C. tour and connections."

Her participation was made possible by the diligence of Dr. Molly Johnson of the UAH history department, who serves as director of the women's studies program.

"We had awesome women who have pressed onward inspite



of cultural, physical, gender identification and other barriers," said Jefferson. "They showed us, through their testimonies, that you can be what you dream of if you press on and never stop dreaming."

Participants navigated the city by bus and train and met with other women from diverse backgrounds, even from Qatar and the island state of Hawaii. According to Jefferson, all of the women seemed to have the mindset that anything is possible with the right tools and help.

Conference organizers also set up a job fair and graduate school fair. Jefferson had been considering graduate school, along with the Teach for America program. Fortunately, she was able to interact with Teach for American representatives and the graduate program of Temple University.



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We regret that child care will NOT be provided.

*You have the opportunity to earn \$100 as a COUPLE, or \$50 per person, for filling out BOTH the pre-survey AND the 6 week follow-up survey. Must attend entire event. Payment will be mailed by check.

The purpose of this information is the dissemination of technical information. Funding is provided through a grant from: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Healthy Marriage Demonstration Grant #94078006. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

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Publisher

The Valley Weekly, LLC

Editor-in-Chief

Dorothy W. Huston

Assistant Editor

Georgia S. Valrie

Editorial Assistants

Linda Burruss

Gary T. Whitley

Layout & Design

James Huston

Photographer

Eugene Dickerson

- Contributing Editors -

Hortense Dodo

Dave Herron

Daryush Ila

TuVy Nguyen

Bonnie Spencer

JaLissa Williams

Website Administrator

Calvin Farier

Editorial Consultant

Jerome Saintjones

Mailing Address:

The Valley Weekly
415A Church Street-Suite 100
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 651-9028

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

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From the Editor

Ah, July!

The 4th of July was always a time of celebration and excitement. Other than New Year's, this was the only time of the year we would buy fireworks. Actually, firecrackers and sparkles were about the extent of it. Family and friends would come from all over for reunions. I remember sitting outside hours upon hours on the porch or in the yard eating, playing cards and listening to Old School music. You seldom heard of drinking and driving violations because everyone parked their cars, walked and enjoyed the variety of drinks offered. In the end, you either walked home or spent the night. We enjoyed life.

I was scheduled this 4th of July weekend to go home to Monroeville to my 40th high school class reunion. Well, Bill had surgery almost two weeks ago, and we thought the trip might be too much for him. Of course, I was not going without him so I missed the entire reunion. I hope they had fun. Have you pre-ordered your copy of Nell Harper Lee's new book - "Go Set a Watchman" - that will be released on July 14th? Not sure how she plans to top "To Kill A Mockingbird" but I have my copy on order. This 89-year-old Monroevillian might just do it again. If any of our readers still have doubt about my life in Monroeville, go read "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Things have changed. Now that I look back, we did not even fear the things we should have feared. When it was time to celebrate, we forgot about the cares of the world. You seldom heard of anyone having a "nerve" problem or being treated by a doctor for all the things we hear about today. For most of us children, a keen switch would cure our problems and the adults would deal with them head-on, work, drink or sleep them off. I am sure our families were challenged, but we just didn't know it and children stayed in their space. That was not a bad idea. On Sunday evenings, a peanut butter sandwich, "Lassie" and "The Ed Sullivan Show" were treats.

My children do not remember black and white TVs, party lines, rotary phones and brush brooms. I doubt they will ever see them or that they even care. For our readers who do not know, brush brooms were small branches of trees that were twisted and tied together and used to sweep the grounds around the house. In other words, when we didn't have rakes, we made and used brush brooms. We made it happen!

So next Monday will be my birthday. Family and friends wonder why I have never made a big fuss about celebrating my birthday. I am grateful for each day and see each day as a birthday, another opportunity to fuss about what we ought to be doing. Today, I had lunch with Jerry and Butch Damson and Dr. Charles Smoot, some of my most favorite people. Several years ago, this became part of our annual routine. And, that's as big as it gets. Let's make every day count.

Until next week,



Above: Huston with (l-r) Dr. Charles Smoot, Jerry and Butch Damson.

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



Dorothy

Needed Updates Scheduled for Richard Showers Center

The Dr. Richard Showers Recreation Center, located on Blue Spring Road in northwest Huntsville, Ala., will receive slightly more than \$1 million in needed updates.

The architectural design calls for an added outdoor splash pad, along with updates to the locker room, restroom and pool areas.

Additional changes to the 20-year-old structure will occur inside. The city intends to completely redo the Showers Center bathrooms and locker rooms, which date to the building's previous life as the Northwest YMCA. The city acquired the property in 1995.

Updates will focus on the showers, the floor tile, the lockers, the lighting, among other areas," said Jeff Easter, director of Huntsville General Services to AL.com. "Those are very old areas. We're going to modernize them and bring them up to current standards."



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Riders Association Set for VBC

The Gold Wing Road Riders Association is scheduled for the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Ala., from September 3-6.

Organizers are calling the event a "motorcycle convention unlike any other," one that will allow the enjoyment and company of friends, as well as live entertainment in "a beautiful location."

Participants will learn about motorcycle safety, discover all the latest products for their bike, and even test drive a new one.

Although the event kicks off September 3, some events will take place on September 2.

The \$1,050,000 construction budget also includes re-coating the indoor pool deck.

Huntsville-based William M. Boehme & Associates is being paid \$84,375 to design the improvements. The city is aiming to have the modernized Showers Center ready by late spring or early summer 2016.

The facility is named for Dr. Richard Showers Sr., who has represented northwest Huntsville

"People who cannot find time for recreation are obliged... to find time for illness."

- John Wanamaker

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Calendar of Events

July 10

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church Revival Services
1919 Brandontown Road, 7 p.m.

July 12

Fantasia and Friends
Featuring Noel Gourdin, Lenny Williams and Comedian Shan Jones
VBC Concert Hall, 7 p.m.

July 16-18

Play: The Pirates of Penzance
Admission Charged
Von Braun Center Playhouse
7:30 p.m. (Fri.); 2 & 7:30 p.m.

July 17

Space Exploration Celebration
U.S. Space and Rocket Center
Admission Charged, 5-9 p.m.

July 23

Drum Corps International-North Alabama

Featuring:

The Cadets - Allentown, Pa.
Crossmen - San Antonio, Tex.
The Academy - Tempe, Ariz.
Troopers - Casper, Wy.
Pacific Crest - Diamond Bar, Calif.
Oregon Crusaders - Portland, Ore.
Jersey Surf - Camden County, N.J.
Cascades - Seattle, Wash.
Pioneer - Milwaukee, Wis.
Southwind - Mobile, Ala.
Louis Crews Stadium, 7 p.m.

August 7

Omega Psi Phi Las Vegas Night
Von Braun Center East Hall
7p.m. to 1a.m.
\$30 advance | \$40 door
Proceeds benefit Scholarship foundations and Harris Home for Children
Rick Suttle 256-655-6769 or Gerald Vines 256-682-1071

August 8

Back to School Parade

August 20

Writing a Business Plan
Chamber of Commerce
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

August 21

Taste of Kappa
Huntsville Museum of Art | 7pm to 10pm
Cost \$30 | Available at www.HuntsvilleKappas.com

September 3-6

GWRRA Rocket City Road Trip
WING DING 37
Von Braun Center
(800) 843-9460
Wing-ding.org

September 18-19

Alabama Women in Jazz Festival
Visit <http://valleyartsandentertainment.org> for more

Learning Key Lessons from Children

by Timeka Bowers

Although Shakalaka Extreme Air Sports has only been open for less than a year, it has already developed a reputation as one of Huntsville's most fun and hottest attractions. It invites all ages, ranging from one-year-olds all the way to 60 and beyond. It also hands out important life lessons to the casual observer of countless kids--and adults--having fun.

But first, a little bit more about the place. The park has many different activities for children of all ages to participate in while on the extremities of the trampolines. There is a main jumping area with some 36 miniature trampolines that are matted together to create an intensified jumping experience.

The two large foam pits allow flipping, rolling or jumping to one's delight. There's the 'flatline', the basketball goals for extreme dunking and other tricks, the legendary dodgeball pit, the trapeze and the new attraction--The Ninja Course.

Shakalaka attracts families of all ethnicities (e.g., Asian, African American, Indian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Caucasian, etc.) from throughout north Alabama, all with a single goal, to have as much fun as humanly possible.

Some would ask how this single place could bring together such diversity to Huntsville, Ala.

While it is true that so many



different backgrounds are prevalent, each boy and girl share a single wavelength of wanting to have fun and enjoy themselves in their own unique ways.

Their young eyes do not see race and only hone in on the common equality they share in

desiring fun and as much of it as this point in time will allow.

Recapturing the essence of such youthful experiences could help adults solve some of the issues that too-constantly plague them.

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Valley Hosting Drum Corps International

Returning for its third year, the Drum Corps International Tour will march through Huntsville on July 23, for DCI North Alabama presented by U.S. Army Bands.

Set on Thursday, July 23, at 7 p.m. (CT), this year's event will feature a lineup of World Class corps competing at Alabama A&M University's 21,000-seat Louis Crews Stadium.

The list of talented performing groups includes the following:

The Cadets-Allentown, PA
 Crossmen-San Antonio, TX
 The Academy-Tempe, AZ
 Troopers-Casper, WY
 Pacific Crest-Diamond Bar, CA
 Oregon Crusaders-Portland, OR
 Jersey Surf-Camden County, NJ
 Cascades- Seattle, WA
 Pioneer-Milwaukee, WI
 Southwind-Mobile, AL



ADA seating is located at the top of the lower sections and is General Admission seating. To purchase accessible seating or group tickets, please call the DCI Box Office at (317) 275-1212. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$30.

Individual ticket prices do not include \$4.95 processing fee per ticket added during completion of order. Group tickets have \$2 processing fee per ticket added during completion of order. This results in a total savings of \$7.95 per ticket compared to individual purchases.

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-Mark Twain

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REFLECTIONS: The Life and Times of William Hooper Council - Part I

The Green Bottom Inn

by Eddie E. Davis, Jr.

From the nucleus of sorrowfulness and slavery, a male child would be brought to the earth filled with purpose to uplift the souls of the burdened. That male child would become a founding father in education, religion, civil rights, and politics in the South.

Struggling, yet succeeding, that male child would earn respect not only for himself but also for a race of people who were not acknowledged in the scope of humanity. William Hooper Council, that male child, was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, July 12, 1848, to William and Mary Council. Their father fled the oppressive chains of slavery in 1854.

Before the pursuit of freedom, William, his wife, and their four



The Green Bottom Inn. Although burned in 1931, part of its brick wall remains intact on the campus of Alabama A&M University. Archives, Alabama A&M University.

sons had never been separated. But due to financial losses on the slave plantation, the Council family was forcibly fragmented;

two of the Council sons were sold to southern slave traders. The others, young William, his youngest brother Cicero, and

their mother Mary were transported together to the famous Richmond Slave Pen in Virginia, then later to Madison County, Alabama.

Green Bottom Inn

Journeying southward, William age nine, along with his brother and mother, was brought to Alabama in 1857. Led by slave traders, the Council family and other slaves were taken to the aristocratic hotel known as Green Bottom Inn in Huntsville, Alabama—one of the first hostleries in the state.

Built in 1815 by Revolutionary War soldier John Connelly, the owner of the inn constructed a magnificent edifice as many

Southerners, Confederates, and famous politicians such as U.S. Presidents Andrew Jackson, James K Polk, and James Monroe would be among many of the welcomed guest. Here guests would feast, race horses, fight cocks, and even buy and/or sell slaves. It was also here where Madison County Judge, D.C. Humphreys would purchase the young William Hooper Council, his brother and mother as slaves.

NEXT WEEK: Part II

Eddie E. Davis, Jr., is the author of *William Hooper Council: The Greatest Negro the Race Ever Produced* (Normal, AL: Presh4word Publishing, LLC; ISBN: 978-0-9910258-0-0)

Sorority Chapters Host “Longest Day” Activity

Epsilon Gamma Omega (EGO) and Rho Chi Omega Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and its Target II-health committees, partnered to host “The Longest Day Activity for Alzheimer’s Awareness” Community Impact Day. The June 20, four-hour event was held at the Dr. Richard Showers Center Track.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., chapter members, family and friends walked to raise money to boost awareness and prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease. Members encourage the public to learn the 10 signs of Alzheimer’s:

4. Confusion with time or place
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
8. Decreased or poor judgment
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities

10. Changes in mood and personality

More information is readily available at www.alz.org.

EGO also partnered with its Target IV-environmental ownership committee for recycling awareness by ensuring the recyclable items were collected for proper disposal and processing.

Submitted by Erica Fox Washington

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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.

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2015 Schedule

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 IV 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.