



Muscle Shoals Chapter Summer 2018 Issue

Upcoming Meetings:

September 12, 10:00 a.m.
 TVA Community Credit Union
 Program: Scholarship Presentations
 Free Lunch, Door Prizes

December 12, 10:00 a.m.
 TVA Community Credit Union
 Program: To Be Announced
 Free Lunch, Door Prizes

March 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
 TVA Community Credit Union
 Program: Robotics, County Sheriffs
 Free Lunch, Door Prizes

*Be sure to receive this newsletter—
 enter/update your email address by
 sending it to Reba Whitson at
 rjwhitson@tva.gov@tva.gov*

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Muscle Shoals TVARA is on Facebook now!

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MS CHAPTER TVARA QUARTERLY MEETING

Hello everyone.

It was good seeing everyone who attended the Annual Health Fair and Picnic. We had a very good turn out, and I hope everyone had a good time.

Thanks to all of the exhibitors that participated and provided door prizes and handouts.

This year, the for-profit exhibitors donated to our University of North Alabama Endowed Scholarship.

I especially thank the TVA Community Credit Union for their generous contributions to support the event.

Our next Muscle Shoals Chapter Meeting is scheduled for September 12th, 10:00 a.m. (Lunch will be provided by TVACCU).

The location is the TVA COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION, 1405 Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

The planned program is as follows:

* Introduce the TVARA Muscle Shoals Chapter 2018 Endowed Scholarship recipients.

* Introduce the TVARA Valley-wide President, Dewitt Burleson.

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Wilson Dam Visitors WT: Lewis Frederick

Endowed Scholarship: John Ingwersen

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Brentwood Retirement Community

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Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Safeplace

TN Valley Arts Association (TVAA)

United Cerebral Palsy

* Presentation by John Blackwell on the recent book *Testosterone Workout* by Jerry Williams, MD, FACC, FACC and John Blackwell.

Hope to see you there.

Tim Cornelius

Meet our 2018-2019 Scholarship Winners

Meet our new scholarship winners for this year. They are Anna Wilson and Michael Smith. Anna is also the winner of our annual essay award, for which she will be presented a \$100 check at our September meeting. Our President, Treasurer, and Scholarship Chair met these winners for lunch, and we can verify that they will represent our Chapter at UNA very well. In the photo above, from left to right: Michael Smith, John Ingwersen, Tim Cornelius, Joan Marsh, and Anna Wilson.



See the articles on each and the winning essay later in this newsletter

Chattanooga Bound

October 4, 2018

Ride the Bus to Chattanooga for the annual 2018 TVA retirees' valley-wide picnic. We will leave Florence, Academy Sports Parking area at 6:45 a.m. and will return directly after the meeting and picnic lunch. We should arrive back in Florence by 4:30 p.m.



Cost is \$25 round trip.

Call or see:

Billy Baggett (256 394 1435)

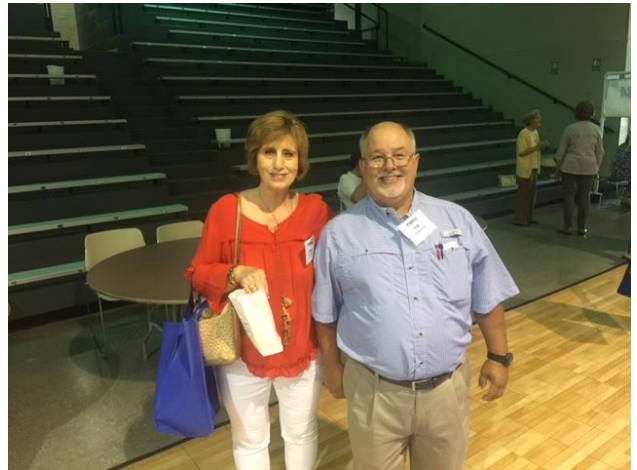
Cameron Kay (256 810 6569)

The Muscle Shoals Chapter of TVARA 2018 Picnic

The Muscle Shoals TVARA chapter held its 20th annual picnic on June 19, 2018, at the Florence Lauderdale Coliseum. A crowd of about 500 retirees, guests, and vendors, gathered and enjoyed, not only a great meal, but lots of time to renew old friendships and to meet representatives of health and investment



Crowd at Muscle Shoals Chapter picnic



Judy Allen and Tim Cornelius

companies. Plenty of door prizes were awarded. Sonja Denton, a TVA retiree, won the grand prize of a \$500 gift card. In addition, the chapter raised \$6,300.00 for the endowment of scholarships at the University of North Alabama for relatives of TVA retirees.

August Valleywide Meeting Summary

The TVA Retirees Association Board of Directors met on August 2, 2018.

The following are some highlights of the meeting:

- The meeting began with a presentation by Brentwood School of robotics. The students not only demonstrated their robotics but also expressed appreciation for the support of TVA and the TVARA.
- Susan Laver, of TVA, reported that TVA is continuing to maintain a good fiscal outlook. For example, the agency has spent \$13B on capital investments, with no borrowing.
- Browns Ferry Nuclear plant has undergone an upgrade that increases electrical output by 14%. The new Memphis Gas Turbine plant is now operational.
- TVA is seeking public comments concerning the Natural Resource Plan.



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- Economic Development is continuing to bring in jobs and investments. In the past 6 months, 40,000 jobs have been created, with investments of \$8.5 B. A Facebook Data Center will be opening in Huntsville. Our main attractant for industry is low-cost electrical power.
- In Muscle Shoals, the agency has sold 900 acres, and it has about 500 employees in the Shoals.
- No one in the valley is supporting the Trump administration plans to sell the TVA Transmission System.
- Justin Vineyard, with the TVA Retirement System, reported that the system is experiencing

growth above plans. Over the past 5 years, the fund has grown by 6.97% per year.


- New York Mellon will be offering retirees the opportunity to go paperless with all documentation to include tax papers such as 1099.
- The TVA Retirement Board has implemented term limits of 3 terms for Board members.
- The Board is implementing a plan to have the system fully funded in 20 years. This will involve TVA's committing to spend \$300 M a year.
- The TVA Retirement Board is reviewing applications from 30 individuals for the 7th Board member.
- Jerry Landon was introduced as the newest TVA staff to head up Employee benefits.
- John Blackwell discussed plans for distributing his newest book *Testosterone Workout*. Members can request a hard copy from their chapter president.
- Richard Wilson reported that the association is a little behind last year in membership; however, plans are being made to remind retirees to pay their dues.

Muscle Shoals TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship Winners

This year the UNA criteria gave us a tie for the scholarship winner; thus, we have two scholarship winners. They will each receive around \$800 for the year. In addition, Anna Wilson won our Essay competition and will be awarded \$100 at our September meeting. Following is information about each of our winners. Anna's essay is printed in this newsletter beginning on page 13.


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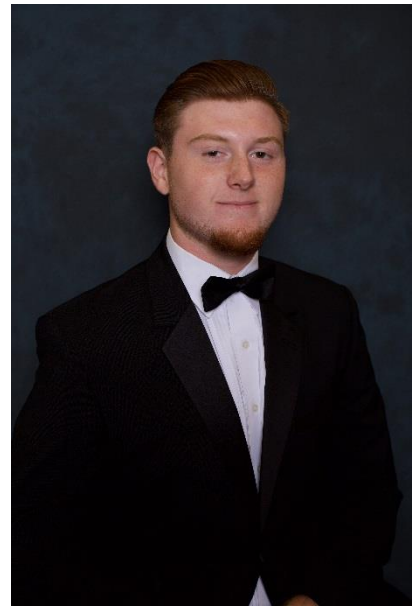
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Trey Smith

Trey Smith has been awarded the Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA 2017-2018 Scholarship. He is the son of Michael Smith and Jamie Russel, and the grandson of Donny Cansler (TVA Retiree). Trey attended Sheffield High School, where he was an active student council vice-president, Aim High Mentor, and football and baseball team captain. Trey graduated from Sheffield with an honors diploma and AP college credit in 2017 and chose to further his education at the University of North Alabama. He chose to continue participating in student government at UNA and was the Service Chairman of Freshman Forum his first year at UNA. He is currently beginning his sophomore year at UNA as the Spirit Chairman of UPC, and looks forward to classes. Trey is currently a business major; however, he is considering switching to engineering. In his free time Trey enjoys working out, jogging, and spending time with his dog. “I would like to thank the TVA Retirees Association for providing me with, not a scholarship, but an opportunity to further my education. Without this scholarship, it would be difficult to afford college, and I feel it is important to educate oneself so that you can reach your full potential in life.”



Muscle Shoals TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship & Essay Winner

Anna Wilson

Anna Wilson is a recent graduate of Muscle Shoals High School, and will be attending the University of North Alabama this fall, where she plans to major in marketing. She is the daughter of Mike and Ouida Wilson. Her father, Mike Wilson, was employed by TVA for 28 years as an electrician, retiring in 2008. During Anna’s senior year of high school, she began working at Black and Hughston, P.C. as a part of Muscle Shoals Career Academy’s Work Based Learning Program (formerly known as co-op). Her involvement with the program has led to her obtaining a job with the firm following completion of high school. In her free time, Anna enjoys writing, being outdoors, and working with children. After graduating from college, Anna aspires to serve as a marketing director in the business realm.



Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship Your Support Needed!

We have several businesses and charities who are supporting our endowed scholarship by providing financial support through the purchase of ads for our newsletter, and booths at our Annual Health Fair/Picnic. We thank them for their generous support and hope that each of our members will look at their advertisements in this and future newsletters and support these businesses and charities as they support us.

As of April 30, of this year, our endowment has reached \$55,684.93, up more than \$10,500 from our January 2018 balance. In the three-month period from January 2018 through April 2018, we have had contributions from the following: Brookdale Senior Living.

The endowment for 2018-2019 will support an endowment of more than \$1,600 (half in fall, half in spring). As the fund continues to grow, we can start looking forward to increasing the endowment so that we can either give more than one scholarship or increase the amount of the scholarship. The scholarship award gives preference to relatives of active Muscle Shoals TVARA members. The application process is defined in the next article. The scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year will be presented at our September Quarterly meeting, along with a \$100 award for the best essay submitted with an application.

Donations are tax deductible. Make your check payable to Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship and mail it to:

UNA Foundation Office (Attn: Endowed Scholarships)
Box 5113
Florence, AL 35632-0001.

Muscle Shoals TVARA/University of North Alabama Endowed Scholarship Application Process

Through the efforts of the University of North Alabama Foundation and the generosity of private donors, the Office of Student Financial Services awards numerous scholarships each academic year. Scholarship award amounts vary and may not represent total tuition costs.

- The application process will begin on **December 1, 2018**.
- The **Deadline for submission is Friday, February 1, 2019**.

The scholarships listed below are UNA scholarships offered by various colleges, departments, and offices throughout the University. Click on the scholarship name to learn more about the opportunity. Get started on your scholarship search now. It's as easy as 1-2-3-4!

1. Go to <https://una.academicworks.com/> and sign on the system with your UNA ID and password.



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2. Complete the General Application and any supplemental applications presented. The system syncs with your data. You are automatically matched with **ALL** scholarship opportunities for which you meet the criteria, and the system provides additional “recommended” scholarships that may be available to you. **Matching does not guarantee you will receive a scholarship**, and you will not receive a list of scholarships that you are automatically matched to.

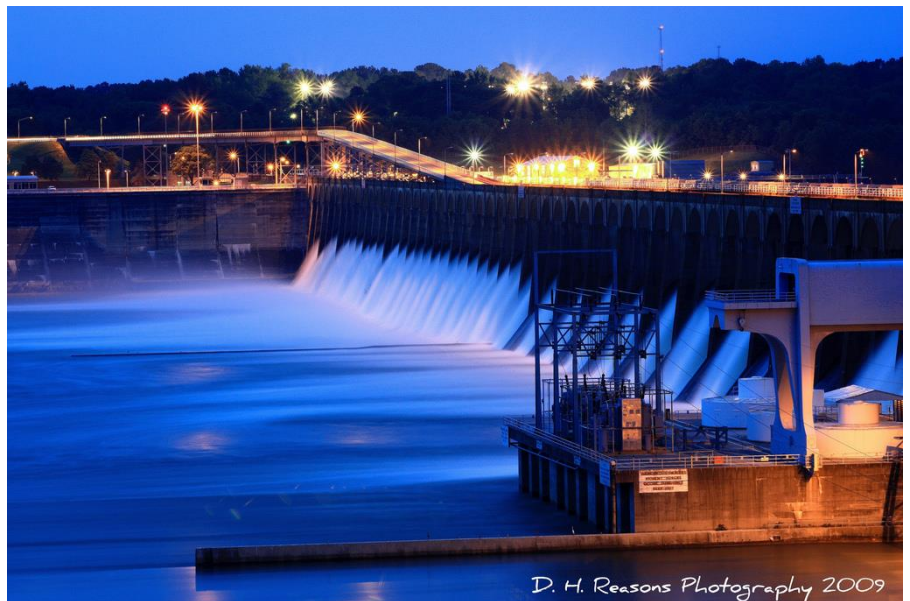


3. After you complete the applications, you’re finished! If you are awarded a scholarship, you will receive an award email to your UNA email address within 6-8 weeks of the application deadline. You can also check on the status of your application by logging back into the system at any time.
4. Follow up! The system also includes information on external scholarships. These deadlines change often, so check back under “External” opportunities.

The Lights are on and the Water is running.

Back in early 2009, I purchased my first Canon XSi DSLR camera, and it came with a couple of kit lens. I spent many hours mastering the settings on the XSi and loved taking night pictures with it. Although it wasn’t the best camera that Canon sold, it was a great camera for learning to take better images than the previous point and shoot cameras I’d been using.

During May of 2009, there had been lots of rain up and down the Tennessee River, especially over in the eastern part of the system. All the dams on the Tennessee River were opening their flood gates and spilling massive amounts of water. Local news reported that Wilson had all of their flood gates open to relieve the pressure on the dam and to lower Wilson lake’s level to prevent flooding.



After seeing this on the news, I decided I wanted to see the water flow, as I’d never seen Wilson with all gates open. So, I gathered my photography equipment up and drove over to the southside of the dam and went to the overlook behind



the Wilson Powerhouse. Amazingly, I was the only person there that evening, so I didn't have to compete with anyone for a good vantage point and took advantage of it. I would set up my tripod, take a shot and then look at it on the back of the camera. I kept working on my composition until I had what I thought was the best shot.

The image has some great leading lines in it that draws your eye across the dam, and the retaining wall tends to anchor the image in place. So, in retrospect, as a beginning photographer, I had applied the "blind hog theory", and it had worked (i.e. "Even a blind hog gets lucky and finds an acorn occasionally.").

I processed the image and posted it to my Flickr account, and it immediately started receiving a lot of views. I was thrilled that at least a few folks liked it also.

In about 2014 or 2015 time frame, I can't remember exactly the date, TVA contacted me and wanted to use my image on the information sign behind the Wilson Powerhouse. So, I licensed it for that use, and it is still in use on the current sign. I still get a kick out of seeing my image and name on that sign when I go over to the visitor overlook.

Then, earlier this year, Sharon Bates, with TVA's Office of Inspector General, emailed me and wanted to print my photo for display in their office in Knoxville. Again, I was shocked and surprised that someone else liked my photograph. I responded back to her that I would be more than happy to license it for a 16 x 20 print and requested that a donation be made to the Muscle Shoals TVARA.

Again, I felt honored and proud that the office of the OIG would want to display the photograph. It's not often that an amateur photographer receives such recognition.

So that's the story of my Wilson Dam image, and when you go to the visitor overlook behind Wilson Power house, you can tell your friends that you know the photographer that took the image on the information board. Heck, I won't even charge much for an autograph.

Dave Reasons, Proud TVA Retiree since 1999



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An Eaglet has died

We were saddened to learn that one of the three eaglets has died. Steve Letson, Wildlife Photographer, found the eaglet near an electrical line with a transformer.



The last picture taken of the two adult eagles and the three eaglets. Picture taken by Larry McNutt.

Steve did not see any signs of an electrical burn. Steve notified the Alabama Department of Conservation. The state sent a wildlife officer to collect the eaglet and take it to a state biologist to determine the cause of death.



The three eaglets (Photograph by Steve Letson)

A few days later, we learned the eaglet evidently flew into a wire and broke its neck. This was the first death of the 13 eaglets that have hatched from the nest in our yard on Wilson Lake.

Exploring Portugal and Spain

By Joan Marsh

I, along with my daughter Lisa Thompson and grandson Tyler Thomson, went to Portugal and Spain this year, which was not only educational, but provided exposure to unbelievable architecture, cathedrals, landscapes, and art. An article about these ventures will be in the September 2018 TVARA NEWS published in Knoxville. The places we visited are shown to the right.

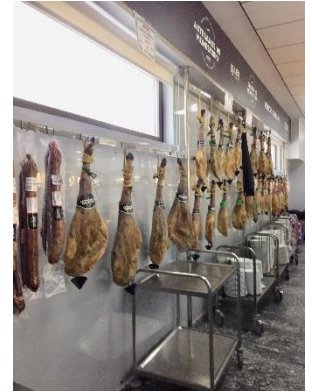




Aside from the cultural things we discovered, we learned other things that I thought noteworthy. Lunch one day was suckling pigs. Iberian ham is a specialty in both Portugal and Spain. This ham is recognized as the finest ham in the world! The ham comes from an ancient breed of pig found only on the Iberian Peninsula. It is cured for up to four years, resulting in an intense flavor with a note of sweetness.

An interesting statistic is that 80% of cork is from Portugal and Spain. Cork grows on trees. It is the bark of cork oak. The trees grow all over the rolling plains. They take thirty or forty years to reach maturity but live hundreds of years. They are now a protected species. It is illegal to cut them down or

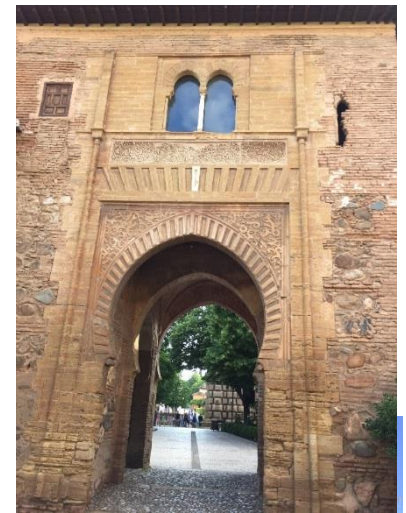
damage them. Cork is obtained by harvesting the bark of the tree without cutting it down or damaging it. New bark grows back in place of the old and can be harvested again every nine or ten years. Cork products abound!



Spain is the country with the highest number of **olive** trees (more than 300 million) and is nowadays the world's leading **olive** and **olive oil** producer and exporter. Of the 5.19 million acres of **olive** groves, 92% are dedicated to **olive oil production**. **Along our trip we viewed the many olive trees.**

A tribute to author Earnest Hemingway is in a park area at Ronda.

In 1937 Hemingway agreed to report on the Spanish Civil War for the 1940 North American Newspaper Alliance. Later he wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. It tells the story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the [International Brigades](#) attached to a [republican guerrilla](#) unit during the [Spanish Civil War](#). The novel is regarded as one of Hemingway's best works. Spanish bullfighting was first brought to the attention of the Western world in Ernest Hemingway's novel, *The Sun Also Rises*.

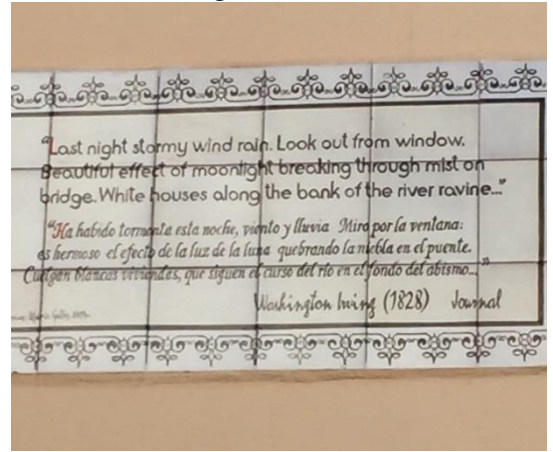


Alhambra





Alhambra is Granada's famed Moorish palace. Constructed to be a "paradise on Earth" by caliphs who ruled in the 13th century. Impressive would be an understatement! American Author Washington Irving wrote histories of 15th century Spain dealing with subjects such as Alhambra, Christopher Columbus, and the Moors. He served as the



U. S. Ambassador to Spain from 1842-1846. Several references were made to him during our tour.



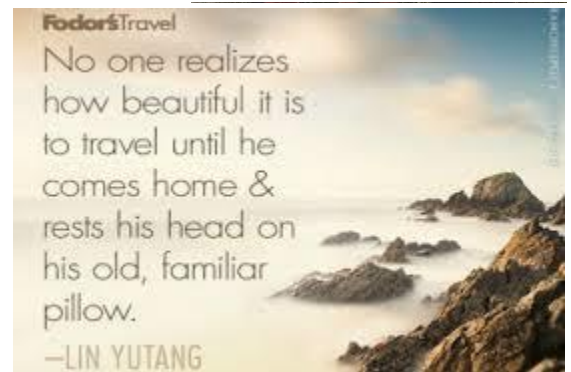
Our farewell reception ended with Castilian entertainment.

We set out to explore the Iberian Peninsula, and that we did!



At Don Quixote's statue, Lisa, Tyler, Joan

We arrived home for a much-needed rest! Lots of walking on cobblestone streets—2 ½ to 7 miles a day!



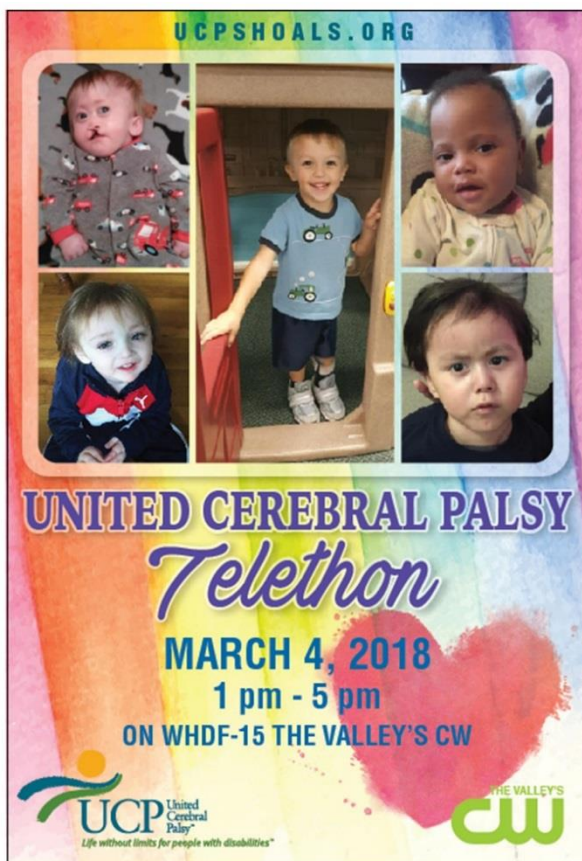
BEST Robotics Competition—2018

Volunteer today for BEST Robotics. Event dates are:

September 23—Mall Day (practice Robot driving), (tentative), Florence Mall.
Competition Week:

- Thurs., Oct. 4, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., can work a shift—Judging Marketing Presentations, T-shirts, Websites & Videos at NW-SCC.
- Thurs., Oct. 4, 9 a.m. – 12 noon ... tentative—Judging Programming Software Design & Simulation at NW-SCC.
- Thurs., Oct. 4, 5 – 9 p.m.—Judging Engineering Notebooks at NW-SCC.
- Sat., Oct. 6, all day—Game Day & Judging - Robotics Game, Trade Show Booths, and Spirit & Sportsmanship, etc.... at NW-SCC Gym & Grounds.

Volunteer at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BEST-VOLUNTEER-REGISTRATION>



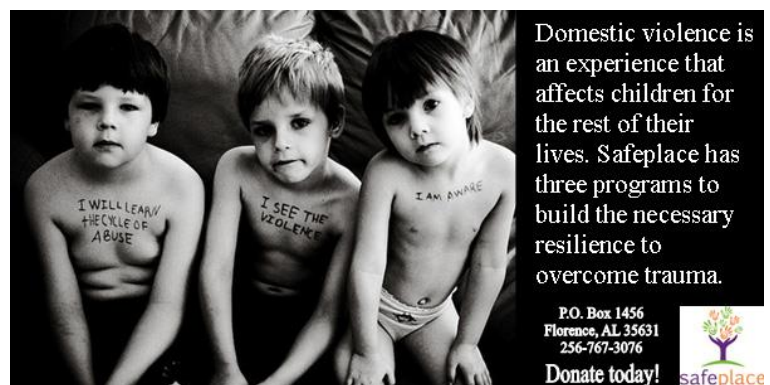
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The poster features a grid of six photographs of diverse children. The top row shows a baby in a patterned onesie, a toddler in a blue shirt standing in a doorway, and a baby in a yellow shirt. The bottom row shows a toddler in a blue and red jacket, a toddler in a blue shirt standing in a doorway, and a toddler in a black shirt.



Domestic violence is an experience that affects children for the rest of their lives. Safeplace has three programs to build the necessary resilience to overcome trauma.

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The image shows three young children sitting side-by-side. The child on the left has the text "I WILL LEARN THE CYCLE OF ABUSE" tattooed on their chest. The child in the middle has "I SEE THE VIOLENCE" tattooed on their chest. The child on the right has "I AM AWARE" tattooed on their chest.



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The advertisement features a glowing firefly jar in the foreground, with a firefly inside. The background is dark with many small, glowing fireflies. The text is in a mix of white and green fonts.



Join a Caring Community. Five clubs in Shoals area meeting at various times and days. Call Cameron Kay at 256-810-6569 for a club near you!

Winning Essay by Anna Wilson

The Tennessee Valley Authority has provided jobs to numerous individuals in the Tennessee Valley, ensuring a bright, promising future for those employed. For those who aspire to one day become engineers, electricians, welders, and much more, the Tennessee Valley Authority leads a pathway for an enduring career. TVA has helped to enrich local, state, and even the national economy, provided endless opportunities for those who work inside and outside of the company, and has made the areas where it is present more hospitable. TVA employed my dad, providing him opportunities for a long and fulfilling career. One of the primary reasons myself, along with a countless number of others, will be able to pursue a higher education can be accredited to TVA.

My dad worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority for twenty-eight years. During his time with the company, he was able to provide for my family, and earn his way as someone well-respected in the workforce. His job with TVA enabled him to travel across the Southeast in order to become a highly-skilled electrician and gave him life skills he would eventually pass on to me one day. My dad's strong work ethic and passion for his trade was something I started to notice at a very young age. I am forever thankful for having a dad so passionate about his career, but I am also eternally grateful for the Tennessee Valley Authority for granting opportunities for him to excel. One quality admirable about the Tennessee Valley Authority is that it provides jobs for so many individuals involved in fields outside of my dad's trade; engineers, chemists, accountants, biologists, and so many other professions





may be obtained by an employee of TVA. The company is highly distinct and commendable for that purpose. Many other rising college students across the Tennessee Valley can relate to myself in the way that TVA is one of the contributing reasons why they will be able to pursue higher learning. To be able to fulfill my dream of earning a college education and to one day work in the business realm is

something that would not be possible without my dad’s employment with TVA. And for that, I am truly grateful.

As previously stated, the Tennessee Valley Authority has granted thousands of individuals jobs. In doing so, the company has helped to strengthen the economy on numerous levels. In northwest Alabama, TVA is a large provider for work, bringing in high tax dollars for the northern region of the state and generating a chain-reaction for other businesses. TVA’s presence in north Alabama has generated jobs outside of its line of work. Suppliers have a strong existence in north Alabama, thanks to TVA. In addition, TVA’s low power rates give businesses an even greater incentive to be located in the region. While TVA serves the Tennessee Valley economically, it is also responsible for maintaining safe water levels, keeping areas surrounded by water from flooding and bringing in tourists for fishing. It is evident that the Tennessee Valley greatly benefits from TVA’s existence in the area and would not be the same without it. Many who work outside of the Tennessee Valley Authority may be unaware of the values it promotes. During my dad’s time with the company, I learned of the principles emphasized for helping others, serving the community, and giving to those in need. For example, TVA advocates for the United Way campaign, which is a way for employees, along with retirees, to give funds to numerous charitable organizations, such as St. Jude, the American Cancer Society, and many other nonprofits. Local charities in the Tennessee Valley and the Shoals also benefit. An example of a local charitable work provided by the TVA retiree association is the giving of farming seeds and other supplies for gardening to low-income families. The

Tennessee Valley Authority also promotes a healthy lifestyle through providing and maintaining nature trails and campgrounds in the Shoals area as well as other areas where TVA is present. As one can see, TVA helps those non-employed by the company and promotes a passion for serving to those in need.

From the information provided, it is evident just how honorable the Tennessee Valley Authority is in many numerous ways. The impact TVA has placed on local, state, and even national regions is remarkable. TVA promotes outstanding principles to its employees and has benefitted communities with its charitable work. The company has also helped to ensure the regions where it is present are hospitable to its residents.

TVA's presence in North Alabama is something locals greatly revere. I am truly grateful to TVA for not only providing a place for my dad to work, but also for making him a hardworking, respectful individual that would teach me the same values the company taught him.



The advertisement for Kairos Insurance features a green and yellow sun logo on the left. The text on the left reads: "KAIROS INSURANCE", "FINDING YOU THE RIGHT FIT, INSTEAD OF OUR ONLY FIT", and "256-712-2537 | www.kairosinsurance.com". On the right, the text reads: "The Smart Choice", "WITH MULTIPLE PROVIDER OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM, KAIROS WILL HELP YOU SELECT THE INSURANCE PACKAGE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU."

Help! We Need Your Help!

Do you enjoy writing or photography? We're working to make this newsletter the best, and your talents are needed. If you would like to occasionally write an article on your experiences, or on a TVA person who deserves recognition, please let me know, and I will schedule your article for a future newsletter. Do you enjoy photography? We could use a designated photographer to get pictures at our various events. We have been somewhat haphazard at this and would like to get better. Call John Ingwersen at 256-757-5325 or email him at jlingwersen@gmail.com.



Suggestions?

We want your feedback, comments, and suggestions. Let us know what you would like for TVARA programs, for our newsletter, and/or ways we can improve, in any way, our service to you.