



AUNT IRMA SAYS ...

POSITIVE-INSPIRATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL

# HBCU Elephant in the Room: Education & The Prince - p. 8

# FREE

THE VALLEY WEEKLY  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
 FEBRUARY 2026

## PRESTON: "The Power of Forgiveness" - p. 4

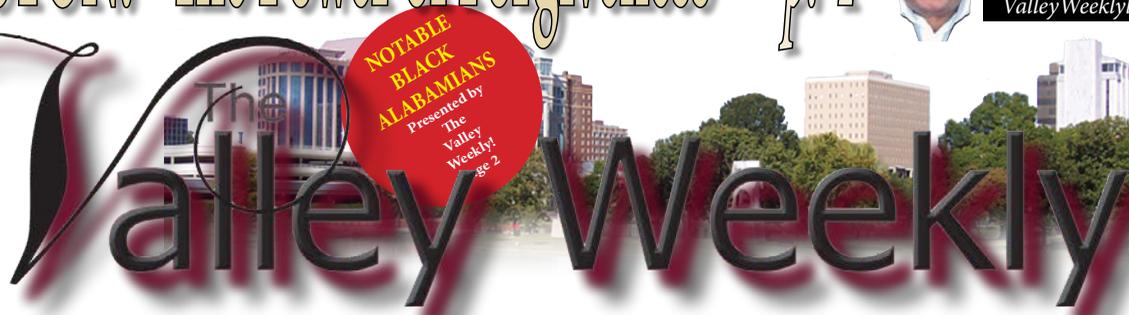


Friday  
February 6, 2026  
Vol. 12, No. 23  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Nancy Van Valkenburgh



"The giving of love is an education in itself." — Eleanor Roosevelt

### Citizens Police Academy Now Accepting Applications

The Huntsville Police Department (HPD) is accepting applications for its Spring 2026 Citizens Police Academy.

The academy is a hands-on program designed to build stronger connections between the community and the police. Participants will gain a closer look at the department's structure, policies and day-to-day operations through classroom sessions and demonstrations.

Classes will be held weekly at the Huntsville Public Safety Training Academy, 5365 Triana Blvd., March 24-May 26. The nine-week program will meet every Tuesday evening from 6-9 p.m.

The program is open to individuals who: Are at least 19 years old; Live or work in the city of Huntsville; Successfully complete a background check; No prior felony convictions; No outstanding warrants; and No pending criminal cases.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 6. Click for more information and to apply.



The dynamic members of the Delta Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated

### Area Zetas Will Host April's "Blue Revue"

The members of the Delta Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, will host their 19th Annual Blue Revue on Satur-

day, April 18, at The Summit at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala., from 7-10 p.m. Guests will enjoy a VIP Hour at 6 p.m. The event's theme

is "Finer en Blanc," and the scheduled entertainment includes performances by DJ 4Klub and The Brightlight Experience, accord-

ing to Soror Deidra Stewart.

Requested garb calls for all-white cocktail attire and fashionable hats "to

honor the spirit of the occasion."

Proceeds support scholarship and service initiatives. For information on

tickets, donations, sponsorship opportunities and silent auction details, visit [www.deltaomegazeta.com](http://www.deltaomegazeta.com).

### AshaKiran Foundation Announces 14th Annual Community Kite Festival

Sponsored by the AshaKiran Foundation, the 14th Annual Community Kite Festival will be held Saturday, March 7, at John Hunt Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The festival is an annual event that

fosters inclusiveness, diversity, equity, and harmony across all ethnic and social backgrounds by bringing people together through kite flying and family-friendly activities.

This is a free activity with an



entertaining array of activities to enjoy if the winds die down, such as free art proj-

ects, clowns, music, and more.

Attendees are welcome to bring their own kite, purchase one at the event, or simply show up and enjoy the celebration as kites and gliders soar across the sky. Local food trucks will be on-

site. The public is encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to comfortably enjoy the spectacular sight of kites over the Huntsville skies.

Event sponsors include AshaKiran Foundation and the City of Huntsville.

## The Valley Weekly

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# Honoring Some of the State's Finest: Alabama-Born African-American Notables

by Jerome Saintjones, *The Valley Weekly*



**Hank Aaron**, baseballer, Mobile  
**Ralph Abernathy**, activist, Linden  
**Joel "Jojo" Adams**, bluesman, Rural  
**Tommie Lee Agee**, MLB, Magnolia  
**Arthur Alexander**, singer, Sheffield  
**Inez Andrews**, gospel, Birmingham  
**Lloyd Austin**, Sec. of Defense, Mobile  
**Robert Avery**, activist hitchhiker to 1963 March, Gadsden

**Charles Barkley**, NBA star, Leeds  
**Paul Bascomb**, saxophonist, Birmingham  
**Wilber Odell "Dud" Bascomb**, trumpeter, Birmingham  
**Andrew Jackson Beard**, inventor of railroad coupler, Pinson  
**Ed Bell**, blues singer, Fort Deposit  
**Regina Benjamin**, U.S. Surgeon General, Mobile  
**Jo Jo Benson**, R&B/soul singer, Phenix City  
**Blind Boys of Alabama**, gospel group, Talladega  
**Herman Blount aka "Sun Ra"**, Visionary musician, Birmingham  
**LaTosha Brown**, political strategist, Selma  
**Willie D. Burton**, Oscar-winning sound engineer, Tuscaloosa  
**Clarence and Curtis Butler "Butler Twins"**, Detroit blues, Killen  
**George "Wild Child" Butler**, Blues harmonica player, Autaugaville

**James Anthony Carmichael**, Grammy-winning arranger, Gadsden  
**Johnnie Carr**, activist, Montgomery  
**Clarence Carter**, singer, Montgomery  
**Nell Carter**, actress/singer, Birmingham  
**Tamia Monique "Flo Milli" Carter**, hip hop artist, Mobile  
**Reg E. Cathey**, actor, Huntsville  
**John Henrik Clarke**, Pan Africanist, Union Springs  
**Mattie Moss Clarke**, gospel, Selma  
**Lorenzo Clemons**, actor, Birmingham  
**Nat King Cole**, icon, Montgomery  
**Burl C. "Jaybird" Coleman**, blues harmonica player, Gainesville  
**Mitty Collier**, singer, Birmingham  
**Marva Collins**, educator, Monroeville  
**Laverne Cox**, actress, Mobile  
**Tony Cox**, actor, Uniontown

**William Dawson**, composer, Anniston  
**Anthony Daniels**, Alabama's first black minority House leader, Midway

**Angela Davis**, activist, Birmingham  
**James Huston "Thunderbird" Davis**, guitarist, Prichard  
**Radric Delantic "Gucci Mane" Davis**, rapper, Bessemer  
**Sam Dees**, singer, Birmingham

**Brenda Lee Eager**, soul singer, Mobile  
**Cleveland Eaton**, bassist, Fairfield  
**Dennis Edwards**, singer, Fairfield  
**James Reese Europe**, composer, Mobile

**Maria Fearing**, ex-slave educator and missionary, Gainesville  
**Vonetta Flowers**, Olympian, Birmingham  
**Eddie Floyd**, singer, Montgomery  
**Clarence Fountain**, blind singer, Tyler  
**Melvin Franklin**, singer, Montgomery

**G-Side**, hip hop duo, Huntsville  
**Oscar Gamble**, MLB outfielder, Ramer  
**A.G. Gaston**, businessman, Birmingham  
**Kenneth Gibson**, Newark, NJ mayor, Enterprise  
**Fred Gray**, civil rights atty. (Rosa Parks, Tuskegee Study), Montgomery  
**Urban Clifford "Urbie" Green**, trombonist, Mobile

**Albert Hall**, actor, Brighton  
**Vera Hall**, Folk singer, Livingston  
**Lionel Hampton**, jazz musician, Birmingham  
**W.C. Handy**, "Father of the Blues," Florence  
**Trudier Harris**, author, Mantua  
**William R. Harvey**, Hampton U. president, Brewton  
**Erskine Hawkins**, trumpeter, Birmingham  
**Alexis Herman**, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, Mobile  
**Andre' Holland**, actor, Bessemer  
**Condredge Holloway**, CFL, Huntsville  
**Evander Holyfield**, boxer, Atmore  
**James Hood**, Education pioneer, Gadsden  
**Brittany Howard**, singer, Athens  
**Jimmy Hughes**, singer, Leighton  
**Zora Neale Hurston**, novelist, Notasulga

**Bo Jackson**, athlete, Bessemer

**Katherine Jackson**, matriarch of The Jackson Family, Clayton  
**Rosetta James**, activist, Akron  
**Mae Jemison**, astronaut, Decatur  
**Mick Jenkins**, Hip hop artist, Huntsville  
**Angela Johnson**, children's book author and poet, Tuskegee  
**William Manuel "Bill" Johnson**, jazz musician/banjo, Talladega  
**Orlando Jones**, actor, Mobile  
**Vivian Malone Jones**, pioneer in higher education, Mobile  
**Albert Joyner**, entrepreneur, Tuskegee  
**Tom Joyner**, radio personality, Tuskegee  
**Percy Julian**, inventor, Montgomery

**Eddie Kendricks**, R&B singer/songwriter, Union Springs  
**Tiera Kennedy**, country music singer, Gardendale  
**Coretta Scott King**, civil rights advocate, Marion  
**William King**, musician, Birmingham

**Frederick Knight**, R&B singer and record producer, Birmingham  
**Mathew Knowles**, talent manager, father of Beyonce, Gadsden  
**Simmie Lee Knox**, painter (official portrait of Clinton), Aliceville  
**Eddie Levert**, singer, Bessemer  
**Carl Lewis**, track star, Birmingham  
**John Lewis**, congressman, Troy  
**Shorty Long**, singer, Birmingham  
**Joe Louis**, famous boxer, LaFayette  
**Joseph Lowery**, minister/civil rights leader, Huntsville  
**Autherine Lucy**, pioneer, Shiloh

**Sharon Malone**, OB/GYN, Mobile  
**Gucci Mane**, rapper, Bessemer  
**Kerry James Marshall**, artist and professor, Birmingham  
**Will Mastin**, dancer/singer, Madison  
**Willie Mays**, baseball legend, Westfield  
**Jerry McCain**, electric blues musician, Gadsden  
**Iverson Minter** - "Louisiana Red," blues guitarist, Bessemer  
**John 'Jahn' Moore**, artist, Huntsville  
**Johnny Moore**, R&B singer of Drifters fame, Selma  
**Albert Murray**, novelist and literary critic, Nokomis

**Ozzie Newsome**, former NFL player, Muscle Shoals  
**Fayard Nicholas**, "Nicholas Brothers," Tap dancer/choreographer, Mobile  
**Cliff Nobles**, American pop singer, Grove Hill

**Odetta**, folk singer, Birmingham  
**Yavo "Big Yavo" Osama**, rapper, Birmingham  
**Jesse Owens**, athlete, Oakville  
**Terrell Owens**, football notable, Alexander City

**Satchel Paige**, pitcher, Mobile  
**Henry Panion**, conductor/professor, Birmingham  
**Rosa Parks**, civil rights icon, Tuskegee  
**Avery Parrish**, jazz pianist, Birmingham  
**Imani Perry**, author, Birmingham  
**Jesse Lee Peterson**, conservative activist, Midway  
**Wilson Pickett**, singer, Prattville  
**Pat Powdrill**, Ikettes, Birmingham

**Sun Ra**, bandleader and composer, Birmingham (aka Herman Blount)  
**Martha Reeves**, singer, Eufaula  
**Condoleezza Rice**, former Secretary of State, Birmingham  
**Maurice "Rich Boy" Richards**, rapper, Mobile  
**Lionel Richie**, singer, Tuskegee  
**Robin Roberts**, broadcaster, Tuskegee

**T.Y. Rogers**, civil rights leader, Panola columnist, Monroeville

**Sonia Sanchez**, noted poet, Birmingham  
**John Solomon Sandridge**, artist/sculptor, Gadsden  
**David Satcher**, former U.S. Surgeon General, Anniston  
**Eugene Sawyer, Jr.**, former mayor of Chicago, Greensboro  
**Peggy Scott-Adams**, singer, Opp  
**Naomi Shelton**, singer, Midway  
**Percy Sledge**, singer, Leighton  
**Broderick "Rickey" Smiley**, comedian, Birmingham  
**James Foster Smith**, teen hitchhiker to the 1963 March, Gadsden  
**Limmie Snell**, soul singer, Dalton  
**Octavia Spencer**, actor, Montgomery  
**John Stallworth**, former Pittsburgh Steeler, Tuscaloosa  
**Candi Staton**, singer, Hanceville  
**Tommy Stewart**, trumpeter, Gadsden  
**Ruben Studdard**, former "American Idol", Birmingham (Germany)

**Take 6**, a cappella sextet, Huntsville  
**Glenn "Doe B" Thomas**, rapper, Montgomery  
**Robert Frank Thomas**, teen hitchhiker to 1963 March, Gadsden  
**Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton**, singer and songwriter, Arton  
**Oscar Toney Jr.**, soul singer, Selma  
**Cynthia Tucker**, syndicated

**Don Varner**, singer, Birmingham

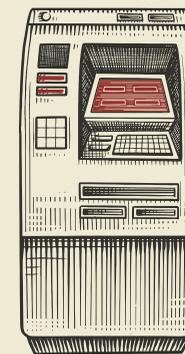
**Mervyn Warren**, composer, Huntsville  
**Sharon Warren**, actor, Opelika  
**Dinah Washington**, blues queen, Tuscaloosa  
**Thomas Weatherly**, poet, Scottsboro  
**Cootie Williams**, trumpeter, Mobile  
**Dootsie Williams**, record producer, Mobile (Walter D.)  
**Doug Williams**, comedian, Montgomery  
**Paul Williams**, Temptations singer, Ensley  
**Palmer Williams, Jr.**, actor, Camden  
**Bill Winston**, televangelist, Tuskegee  
**Jameis Winston**, football player, Hueytown  
**Holland Dai'mon "Mr. Envi"** Witherspoon, rapper, Uniontown  
**Ella Ramah Willis Wofford**, mother of Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison, Greenville  
**Roy Wood, Jr.**, comedian and actor, Birmingham  
**Ali-Ollie Woodson**, singer/musician, Town Creek  
**Coleman Young**, former mayor of Detroit, Tuscaloosa  
**Jean Childs Young**, children's advocate, Marion

## Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Meetings

The **Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** will meet on **Monday, February 9, 2026, at 5:00 pm**, on the **6th Floor of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building**, at **305 Fountain Circle SW**. The **Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board** will meet on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 4:00 pm** on the **2nd Floor, (Council Chambers) of the City of Huntsville Municipal Building**, at **305 Fountain Circle SW**. To review items on the agenda for these meetings, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>. For more information on the MPO, visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/>

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## The Valley Weekly

Ad Rates Single Issue

Back Cover	10x10-inches	\$1,500
Full Page	10x10 inches	\$1,200
3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$900
Half Page	Horizontal	\$600
	Vertical	\$600
	10x5 inches	\$600
Fourth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
Eighth Page	2.5x5 inches	\$150
Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
Classified	1 col.x1 inch	\$100/Flat Fee

# Trust Your First Instinct: *They're Smarter Than We Pretend*

Maya Angelou said it best: "When people show you who they are, believe them the first time." My mother said the same thing with fewer words and more side-eye: "Grown folks don't change."

Recently, I asked a fellow community leader to support an initiative I'm deeply invested in. When colleagues ask me to support their projects, I usually say yes—sometimes for the mission, sometimes for the relationship. That's how community is supposed to work.

This colleague declined. Fine. But his reason? *I didn't need support, because I drive a BMW.*

Interesting.

Apparently, somewhere between the parking lot and his conscience, the needs of hardworking students vanished. My yearn for a great education changed the trajectory of my life. I thank God for the people who invested in me as a college student.

Let me be clear. I don't ask for support for anything I'm not invested in personally and financially. I went to school early, long, and hard so I could earn choices—like what I drive and how I give back. I graduated from Alabama A&M at 20, earned a master's from Ohio State at 21, and completed my PhD at 24. I've worked at every level of education, from k-12 to two-year college, to research level university to the Tennessee Board of Regents, the governing board for the State University and 2-Year College System; and, owned a business for 20 years. None of it came with a trust fund.

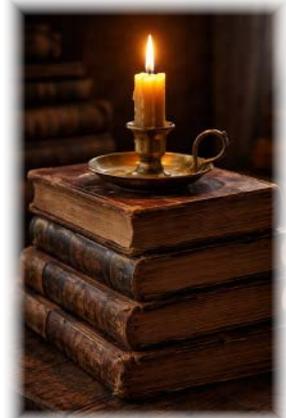
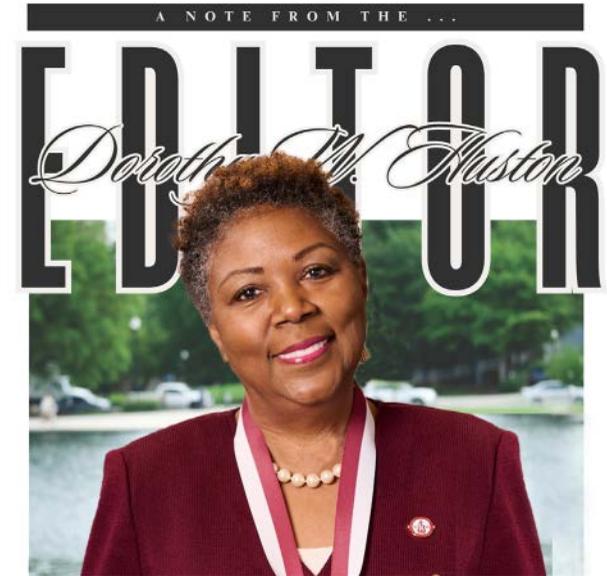
My parents didn't have money to send me to college. I worked. They later died from hard labor, poor healthcare, and lack of resources—realities this country still treats as personal failures instead of policy choices.

What that response really revealed wasn't about money. It was about discomfort. Ordinary people are often unsettled by high-performing, successful people—especially people of my hue and gender. America loves grit stories, but only if they never actually succeed.

One of our country's biggest problems is trying to silence people who paid their dues and then turned around to help others climb. Success is celebrated in theory and resented in practice.

If you're not going to support something, just don't. No explanations needed. And don't confirm what people already know about you.

My dear friends, trust your first instinct. It's not cynical—it's experienced. And when people show you who they are, believe them. The first time.



*Dorothy*

**FEBRUARY 6 - NATALIE COLE** - Natalie Maria Cole was an American singer, voice actress, songwriter, and actress. Cole is daughter of the acclaimed and pioneering American singer and jazz pianist Nat King Cole. She rose to musical success in the mid-1970s as an R&B artist with the hits "This Will Be", "Inseparable" (1975), and "Our Love" (1977). Cole re-emerged as a pop artist with the 1987 album *Everlasting* and her cover of Bruce Springsteen's "Pink Cadillac". In the 1990s, she re-recorded standards by her father, resulting in her biggest success, *Unforgettable... with Love*, which sold over seven million copies and also won Cole seven Grammy Awards. She sold over 30 million records worldwide. On December 31, 2015, Cole died at the age of 65 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California, due to congestive heart failure.

- [Blackcelebritybirthdays.org](http://Blackcelebritybirthdays.org)



# Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly  
PRESTON BROWNS



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

## "The Power of Forgiveness"

*Job 42:10 says, "After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before."*

The Bible tells us to pray for our enemies and care enough about them to want to see them go to heaven. But it's interesting to me that so many Christians today are angry and upset over people who have hurt them.

But we need to remember that "hurting people" hurt *other* people.

They hurt others due to the pain they have in their own lives.

So, it's time to forgive those who have hurt you.

There is a song that goes, "I want a heart that forgives, a heart full of love, one with compassion like yours above, one that overcomes evil with goodness and love, like it never happens, never holding a grudge." I think this says it all.

You see, the promises of God come with conditions. We can't be blessed and also be mad at everybody at the same time. Remember that love gives and forgives.

*Prayer:* Dear God, help us to forgive those who have hurt



us, even when we don't feel like it.

*Question:* Is there anybody in your life that you need to forgive today?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure

you purchase a copy of my books, *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com.

**NEXT WEEK:**  
"Are We There Yet?"



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY  
**VALLEY DEATHS**



## NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral service for **MR. PAUL TOWNSEND** (b. 1940) and celebration of life service for **MRS. PATRICIA S. CARR** (b. 1956) will be announced at a later date.



Funeral service for **PASTOR ROBERT L. DOUGLAS, SR.**, (b. 1930) will be Sunday, February 8, at 11 a.m. at Oakwood Seventh-Day Adventist Church with Dr. Carlton P. Byrd officiating.



Funeral service for **MRS. BETTIE J. PARKER** (b. 1941) was Saturday, February 1, at Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Rev. Maurice Irving officiating.

Funeral service for **MINISTER REMARCUS COLLINS** (b. 1980) was Saturday, January 31, at St. Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church with Rev. Stacey Stewart officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. SHIRLEY ANN FULLER WILSON** (b. 1961) was Saturday, January 31, at House of Hope and Restoration Church.

Funeral service for **MRS. ROSETTA WYNN** (b. 1948) was Saturday, January 31, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. James Battles officiating.

Graveside service for **MR. JAMES CARL NANCE, JR.**, (b. 1947) was Friday, January 23, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Rev. Earla Lockhart Officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. ANNIE (ANN) AARON DICKERSON** (b. 1939) was Tuesday, January 20, at Progressive Union M.B. Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Graveside service for **MR. WILLIAM D. FAILS, II** (b. 1981) was Monday, January 12, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Elder Dr. Oscar Montgomery officiating.

Celebration of Life service for **MS. ELIZA BELL MC-CAULLEY** (b. 1963) was Friday, January 9, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Pastor Dave Fulford, Jr. officiating.

# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## “Compassion ...”

### Compassion ...

What does it take to extend a little grace to someone else? A little compassion and understanding?

Sometimes, things get a little tricky. You know how that feels, right? Every now and then, a person hits a bump ... you do, too. Think about those moments when you are in a funk. Or moments where it feels like things are caving in on you. What about the moments when it rains, and it's pouring? It would help if you had a moment to regroup without being called weak, lackluster, or incapable. Well, think about those times and be mindful that it happens to all of us. Extend a little grace. Offer up some compassion.

Compassion can pull someone up. Isn't that what we are put here for? Each one reaches one. We pull



each other through to accomplish our goals and realize our purpose.

Helping someone get out of a trying time also teaches you about yourself. It allows you to tap into your self-awareness.

Reflect.

It is a reminder that you overcame something. It is a beautiful thing.

Psalms 103:13 says: The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

Aren't we striving to be

more like Him? Well, if you aren't a believer, are you conscious enough to understand that this is necessary?

Compassion helps with improved happiness, good mental health, and a more robust immune system. It is said that it also reduces anxiety, stress, and depression.

So, you win from being compassionate.

Extend a bit more compassion ... It will do you good.

## Is Prayer in Your “National Breakfast, . . . Lunch, . . . AND Dinner”?

“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.” - Luke 18:1

On February 5, 2026, and each first Thursday in February since the 1930s, Washington, D.C.'s Hilton Hotel and members of the U.S. Congress host the National Prayer Breakfast. This annual event gathers top business, social, and political leaders to pray together.

In a world grappling with daily business, social, and political upheavals, prayer must become more than an occasional practice—it should be our “national breakfast, . . . lunch, . . . and dinner.”

For the next two weeks, let's dive into how prayer can serve as our essential, everyday sustenance.

### How Important Is Prayer?

Protestant Reformer Martin Luther once famously told his barber, “I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.”

For many, our nation feels as though it's plummeting to its lowest point. I recall hitting my own low in 1989—financially and emotionally. During that challenging season, Mom and Dad sent me a pick-me-up quote. Its message was so transformative that I committed it to memory (hint, hint):

*“Prayer is the answer to every problem in life. It puts us in tune with Divine wisdom which knows how to adjust everything perfectly.”*

*“So often we do not pray in certain situations because from our standpoint the outlook is hopeless. But nothing is impossible with God.”*

*“Nothing is so entangled that it cannot be remedied.”*

*“No human relationship is so strained that God cannot bring about reconciliation and understanding.”*

*“No one is so weak that he cannot be made strong;*

*“No one is so ill that he or she cannot be healed; and*

*“No mind is so dull that it cannot be made brilliant.”*

*“Whatever we need, if we trust God, He will supply it.”*

*“And if anything is causing you worry or anxiety, let us stop rehearsing the difficulty and turn to God for Healing, Love, and Power.”*

I share this timeless message with you because it remains powerful, personal, and portable. Read it, reflect on it, recite it, and even memorize it. I did—and it works. Every day.

So, is prayer on your breakfast, lunch, or dinner menu today?

Next week, we'll explore prayer's “secret sauce”.

**Tim Allston**

Leadership Player-Coach and Four-time Amazon Best-Selling Author, “Leading from the Middle”

Contact: (256) 212-0949

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Join us Mondays through Fridays for *Tim Allston's Leadership Nuggets: Educating, Equipping, and Empowering Emerging Leaders to Manage Ego Problems in 60 Seconds* (7am, 1pm, and 7pm), as well as for *The Tim Commandments of Leadership* (4pm), all Central Time and all available on Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

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The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
"A Century of Black  
History Commemorations"

**February 6**  
"God's Trombones: Seven  
Sermons in Verse"  
Black History Month Stage  
Play  
Oakwood University  
Church  
5500 Adventist Boulevard  
Huntsville, Ala.  
Contact: Patti Conwell,  
(256) 714-3822 - 7 p.m.

Diana Krall  
Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7:30 p.m.

**February 6-7**  
Dedrick Flynn  
Comedian  
Huntsville Levity Live  
2012 Memorial Parkway SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 261-3374

**February 7**  
"God's Trombones: Seven  
Sermons in Verse"  
Black History Month Stage  
Play  
Oakwood University  
Church  
5500 Adventist Boulevard  
Huntsville, Ala.  
Contact: Patti Conwell,  
(256) 714-3822  
6 p.m.

**February 9**  
"Adult Coding Club"

In-Person Class  
North Huntsville Public  
Library  
Sparkman Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 851-7492  
5:30 p.m.

**February 11**  
"Internet Safety"  
In-Person Class  
North Huntsville Public  
Library  
Sparkman Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 851-7492  
3:30 p.m.

**February 12**  
"Basic Canva"  
In-Person Class  
North Huntsville Public  
Library  
Sparkman Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 851-7492  
10 a.m.

Season Sips Cocktail Class  
The Orion Amphitheater  
701 Amphitheater Drive NW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 964-9556  
6:30 p.m.

**February 17**  
"Budgeting Basics"  
In-Person Class  
North Huntsville Public  
Library  
Sparkman Drive  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 851-7492  
1 p.m.

**February 13-15**  
Joe Gatto  
Comedian

Huntsville Levity Live  
2012 Memorial Parkway SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 261-3374

**February 22**  
Heart  
Concert  
Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
7 p.m.

**February 24**  
"A Senior's Guide to Gam-  
ing"/In-Person Class  
Downtown Huntsville Pub-  
lic Library  
Sparkman Drive  
Huntsville, Ala. - 1:30 p.m.  
(256) 851-7492

**February 26-March 1**  
Disney on Ice  
Propst Arena  
Von Braun Center

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"You can pray  
until you faint,  
but unless you  
get up and ... do  
something, God  
is not going to  
put it in your lap."

Fannie Lou Hamer



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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Mrs. Nancy Van Valkenburgh

Nancy Wilkinson Van Valkenburgh is a native of Swainsboro, Georgia. Her Dad was in the U.S. Marines serving in the Pacific during her earliest years, but she was reared by her mother and grandparents until his return. She grew up in Claxton, Georgia, where she attended Claxton schools and was active in school activities, particularly music, and even served as Drum Major of the Claxton High School Band. She graduated from Emory-at-Oxford on an early admission combination high school and college program and then went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree from Auburn University.

Van Valkenburgh met her husband Richard while they were interns at NASA. They married in 1963 and have lived in Huntsville since their graduation from college. The two started their real estate business 40 years ago in 1985. A 2016 Realtor of the Year honoree, she has been an active member of the Huntsville Area Association of REALTORS (HAAR) and has served on several committees. In 2004, she became the recipient of the Girl Scouts Scroll of Honor Award for Outstanding Professional Woman.

Mrs. Van Valkenburgh was affiliated with the Claxton Methodist Church and now is a member of Hunts-

ville First United Methodist Church. She served as President of United Methodist Women in 2016 and has been Church Historian since 1983, following her authorship of an update of the Church History. She is Past Communications Committee Co-Chair and serves on the History and Archives Committee of North Alabama Conference of United Methodist Church.

Past Chairman (1978) and a Founding Member (1974) of the Historic Huntsville Foundation, she volunteered to write the contract for that Foundation's purchase of Harrison Brothers Hardware. Moreover, Mrs. Van Valkenburgh was a Founding Member in 1982 of the Gothic Guild, Inc. and Past President (1986). The Guild's Victorian Cotillion has raised nearly \$1 million for cultural, educational and historic organizations in Huntsville and Madison County.

She was a Trustee for the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra and its Foundation, as well as a member of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild, since 1983, serving several terms on the Board. The HSOG raises approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year for the Symphony.

Since 1982, she has been a member of the Huntsville Museum of Art Guild and chaired one of the Decorator Showhouse fundraisers. In



2016, she received the Doris Darling Award, the Museum Guild's highest award for a volunteer.

For more than 25 years, she has been a supporter of the Burritt Museum and currently serves on its Advisory Committee. She has been Past President and is a current member of the Tennessee Valley Scottish Society. As a member of Twickenham Town Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, she has served as chair of Native American Heritage month and on a committee to serve Veterans.

Finally, she is a supporter of the Huntsville Botanical Society. She received the Virginia Hammill Simms Award, given by Arts Huntsville for her work in the Arts.

Her mother, Sibyl McDougald Wilkinson, was honored with the Rosetta James Elder Award in 2017 and she set a standard of service for her family. Her daughters and family strive to follow in her example.

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



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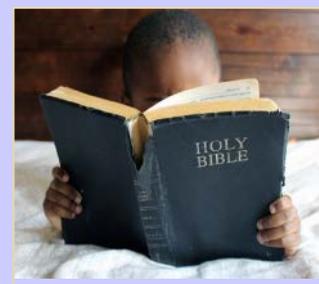
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What Have You Been Missing?

## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Isaiah 58:1-12

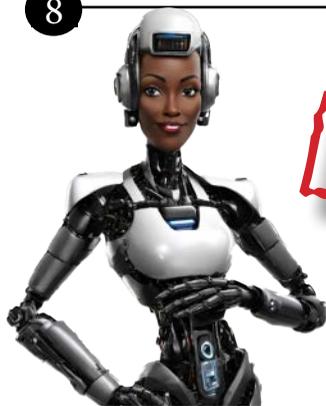
Psalm 112:1-9

Second Lesson:

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

GOSPEL:

Matthew 5:1-13-20



# AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN...

## Is Your HBCU Plagued by Machiavellian Leadership?



Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have long stood as sacred institutions—places where academic excellence, cultural legacy, and community advancement meet. But like any human institution, HBCUs are not immune from internal politics.

And, in some cases, those politics can become toxic when certain leaders embrace what psychologists call Machiavellian leadership: manipulation, secrecy, intimidation, and power maintenance at all costs.

The term “Machiavellian” comes from Italian philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli, who argued that rulers often succeed not by virtue but by strategy—sometimes ruthless strategy.

In today’s workplace, Machiavellian leaders often appear polished, persuasive, and visionary, but behind the scenes their methods may erode morale, trust, and institutional stability.

So, how can faculty, staff, and administrators identify when leadership dynamics at an HBCU are turning Machiavellian?

### 1) A culture of “information control”

One of the biggest clues is when leadership tightly controls communication. Decisions are announced without explanation.

Policies change without warning. Meetings produce vague “talk,” but no transparency. When information is treated as a weapon rather than a tool, fear fills the vacuum.

### 2) Divide-and-conquer tactics

Watch for leaders who subtly pit groups against one another: faculty vs. staff, academics vs. athletics, administrators vs. students. A Machiavellian leader thrives when people distrust each other—because unity is their biggest threat.

### 3) Rewarding loyalty over competence

A healthy HBCU promotes qualified people based on performance, fairness, and long-term vision. Machiavellian systems promote allies and “yes-men.”

You may see sudden appointments, inflated titles, or roles created for insiders—while experienced professionals are pushed aside or undermined.

### 4) Scapegoating and selective enforcement

When problems arise, Machiavellian leadership rarely accepts responsibility. Instead, blame is assigned to a target. Rules are enforced harshly on some and ignored for others. This inconsistency keeps employees

off-balance and overly cautious.

### 5) Public charm, private hostility

These leaders often excel at external relations—donors, ceremonies, photo ops, and speeches. But internally they may retaliate, intimidate, or punish dissent. A campus can look unified to outsiders while quietly unraveling behind office doors.

HBCUs deserve leadership rooted in integrity,

transparency, and service—not manipulation. The solution is not gossip or rebellion, but strong governance: empowered boards, fair HR systems, secure reporting channels, and a culture where concerns can be raised without career destruction.

The mission of an HBCU is too important to be sacrificed on the altar of ego. When leaders play games, students and communities ultimately pay the price.

- TVW Staff

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## CFCU Offers Legacy of Financial Empowerment

Council Federal Credit Union, the only HBCU-based credit union on a college campus in Alabama, has quietly served Alabama A&M University students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community for more than 70 years, providing access to financial tools designed to build stability, opportunity and financial empowerment.

Established May 28, 1954, Council Federal Credit Union was created with the signing of Charter No. 9554 before Probate



Judge Ashford Todd in Huntsville, Alabama.

The original 10 signers included then-Alabama A&M College President Dr. Joseph Fanning Drake and community leaders R.A. Carter, John A. Browder,

George H. Hobson, Leon W. Bonner, W.H. Hollins, Charles W. Orr, G.R. Ragland Jr., William S. Edmond and Leander R. Patton. Each invested \$5 to launch an institution designed to increase purchasing power and create financial opportunities for minorities at a time when access to traditional banking was limited.

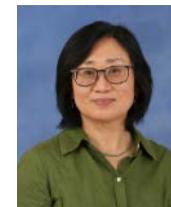
Talbot Malone, who became manager in April 2024, leads the credit union alongside service representative Danielle Johnson.

## UAH Atmospheric Scientist Reshapes Discussions on Impact of Air Pollution

An atmospheric scientist at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) has helped uncover a previously unknown chemical pathway that plays a major role in the formation of air pollution particles in environments influenced by both natural and human-made emissions – an advance that could reshape how scientists understand air quality and climate impacts.

Dr. Shanhu Lee, a professor of Atmospheric and

Earth Science at UAH, led a study published in *Geophysical Research Letters* showing that oxygenated organosulfates (OOS) – a class of sulfur-containing organic compounds – can form directly in the gas phase in aerosol emissions and act as powerful “seeds” for new particle formation in the atmosphere. These particles can grow into fine particulate matter that



affects cloud formation and adversely impacts air quality, human health and climate well-being.

“This research represents a breakthrough in aerosol science,” Lee says. “Future studies will focus on how these processes affect air quality in cities and how emerging sources of emissions may further influence particle formation.”

- uah.edu



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## AAMU Names New CDS Director

After eight years leading one of Alabama A&M University's largest student operations, Karla Miller has been appointed director of Career Development Services.

Miller, who most recently served as director of Residential Life and Housing, returns to career development with an understanding of student needs and institutional operations developed through more than a decade of service to the University.

The Huntsville, Alabama, native holds a bachelor's



philosophy in management with a focus on leadership and organizational change from Walden University. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. degree in curriculum and instruction in educational administration at AAMU.

In her new role, Miller leads a seven-member Career Development Services team that serves as a central resource for students and employers, supporting career readiness, recruitment, experiential learning and strategic partnerships with faculty and administrators.

degree in business administration with a concentration in economics from Fisk University, a master's degree in economics and finance from Alabama A&M University, and a master of

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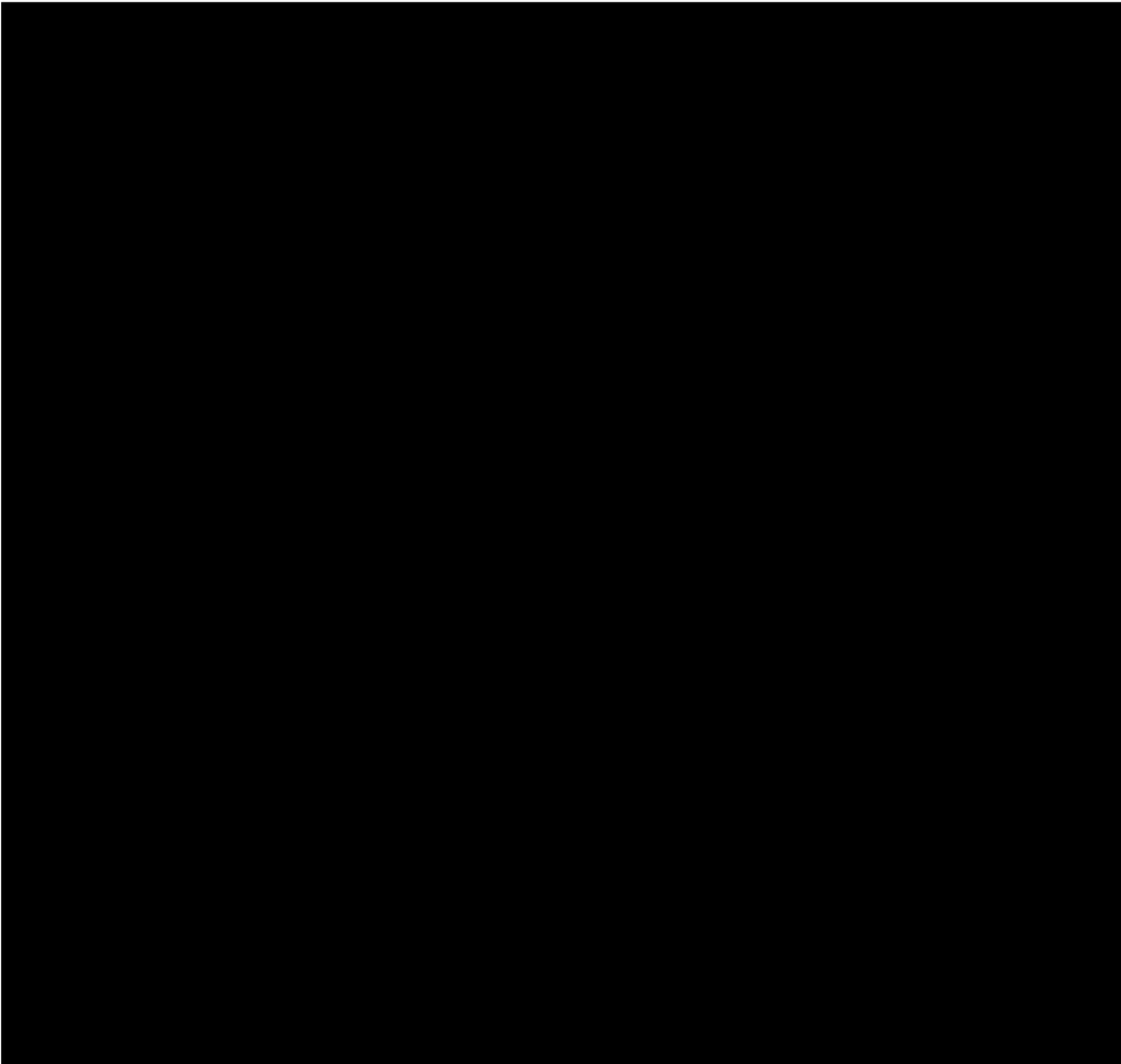
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**CITY OF HUNTSVILLE  
AMENDMENT TO THE 2024 ACTION PLAN**

The City of Huntsville, Alabama proposes to amend its 2024 Action Plan to include a project modification of CDBG Public Facilities funding to CDBG Rehabilitation funding.

<u>CITY OF HUNTSVILLE 2024 PROPOSED ACTION PLAN PROJECTS</u> <u>ORIGINAL</u>					<u>CITY OF HUNTSVILLE 2024 PROPOSED ACTION PLAN PROJECTS</u> <u>AMENDMENT</u>				
<b>PROJECT/ PROGRAM</b>	<b>SUBRECIPIENT/ PARTNER</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>	<b>Location/ PIN</b>	<b>PROJECT/ PROGRAM</b>	<b>SUBRECIPIENT/ PARTNER</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>	<b>Location/ PIN</b>
R.O.S.S. - Public Facilities Program	R.O.S.S. Recovery	\$478,754.00	CDBG	City of Huntsville	Rehabilitation Program	City of Huntsville	\$478,754.00	CDBG	City of Huntsville

A 30-day comment period beginning on Thursday, February 12, 2026 ending on Thursday, March, 19, 2026, is required before amendments can be made to the Action Plans. Submit public comments to Community Development at <https://huntsvilleal.seamlessdocs.com/f/CommunityDevelopment> or mail to the City of Huntsville, Department of Community Development, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804. For more information, please contact [comdev@huntsvilleal.gov](mailto:comdev@huntsvilleal.gov) or (256) 427-5400.

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