

Looking More Like God!" - p. 4

Friday
February 20, 2026
Vol. 12, No. 25
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Olye B. Conley



"... You love despite; not for the virtues, but despite the faults." — William Faulkner

Landmark FICO Program Extends Relationship with A&M, Drake

Global analytics software leader FICO has announced the continuation of its FICO® Educational Analytics Challenge for the Spring 2026 semester. Building on a successful Fall term in the program's third year, FICO welcomes Dillard University as a new participating Historically Black College and University (HBCU) to the program. With this addition, the program has partnered with eight HBCUs since its launch – including Bowie State University, Delaware State University, Morehouse College, **Alabama A&M University, Drake State Community & Technical College**, North Carolina Central University, Fayetteville State University, and Dillard University – and continues to

advance FICO's mission to foster the next generation of data scientists nationwide. The semester-long program brings together students with data science, engineering, and technology backgrounds to apply data science and AI to real business problems. The current challenge focus enables student participants to deepen their understanding of how AI language models and chatbots used by financial institutions are developed and trained, including exposure to FICO's focused language model approach. The program is led by FICO's Chief Analytics Officer, Dr. Scott Zoldi, and the analytics team of industry data scientists. The team combines weekly lectures with hands-on mentor-

ship throughout the semester. "The Analytics Challenge program provides students the opportunity to learn how industry data scientists use AI—how they work with data, create models, and ultimately realize the value of AI," said Dr. Zoldi. "We're proud to support students at the university

level and serve as mentors ahead of their careers and to provide this industry real world experience. As AI becomes more deeply embedded in the workforce, understanding how to create impact responsibly and ethically will be a much desired technical skill." For more, click [HERE](#).



Jack and Jill to Host Annual Ball

The Greater Huntsville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated will host its annual Pink, White, & Blue Children's Ball on March 7, from 6-9 p.m. at the Stovehouse.

This signature fundraiser brings families together for an elegant evening while raising critical funds for local youth organizations. Richele Jordan Davis is president.



JACK AND JILL
of America, Inc.

Since 2010, this event has generated significant community support. Each chapter plans annual programming activities guided under a five-point programmatic thrust: Cultural Awareness; Educational Development; Social/Recreational; Health and Civic.

The 2025 ball raised over \$25,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of North Alabama and the JJ Swims Initiative. This year's proceeds will continue supporting organizations that serve children throughout Huntsville and Madison County. For [TICKETS](#).

TVW Columnist BHM Speaker

The Valley Weekly columnist and award-winning author Tim Allston will deliver a much-anticipated Black history presentation next week.

Allston will speak on "Celebrating Black History: Honoring Our Past ... Empowering Our Future" on Saturday, February 28, at 6 p.m. at the First National Bank located at 206 S. 1st Street, in Pulaski, Tenn.

The event is part of a banquet and Black excel-



lence awards program sponsored by Philadelphia SDA Church and the Giles County NAACP.

Allston is a four-time Amazon best-selling author, motivational speaker and certified Christian

life coach. For ticket information (\$35), contact Thea Baskerville at (931) 655-6502; Kenneth Dawkins at (931) 292-0546 or Beatrice Coleman at (256) 797-8328.

The Valley Weekly

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

IN 1 MINUTE



HAMM
CONSULTING GROUP

Here are the top issues and events in Washington, D.C., for the week of February 16.

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate were in recess this week. Congress left town last Thursday without reaching an agreement on immigration reform; as a result, a lapse in appropriations has put the Department of Homeland Security in shutdown mode since Saturday, affecting the Coast Guard, TSA, Secret Service, and FEMA (ICE and CBP are using dedicated funding from last year's Reconciliation/Tax bill). However, Punchbowl News reports that 90% of the 260,000 DHS employees are designated essential workers who must remain on the job even without pay.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. Under pressure from GOP governors, the President has reversed course on his decision to exclude Democratic governors from a Friday White House meeting (part of the National Governors Association's 2026 Winter Conference). The Gaza Board of Peace, tasked with overseeing governance in the Gaza Strip as part of a US-led peace plan, will convene in Washington

on Thursday for its first meeting. Last week, the U.S. EPA revoked its own 2009 endangerment finding on greenhouse gases, a scientific conclusion that for 16 years has been the central basis for regulating planet-warming emissions from power plants, vehicles, and other sources.

In related news, last Wednesday the administration announced that it would use a \$625 million fund at the Department of Energy to pay for upgrades at coal plants in Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, and West Virginia to keep the plants open.

3. ICE DETENTION CENTERS. As reported in The Washington Post, New Hampshire's official state website posted U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement documents on Thursday showing that ICE plans to spend \$38.3 billion on its "Detention Reengineering Initiative" to buy and convert 16 buildings nationwide into regional processing centers, each holding 1,000 to 1,500 immigrant detainees at a time, and to build another 8 large-scale detention centers to hold 7,000 to 10,000 detainees at a time and serve as the primary

locations for international removals. See the ICE plan here: <https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt971/files/inline-documents/merrimack-detention-reengineering-initiative.pdf>

4. SUPREME COURT. The Court has no oral arguments scheduled until Feb. 23. Court watchers have been speculating about when the Justices may issue their much-anticipated ruling on the legality of the President's fentanyl and reciprocal tariffs, with some observers saying it could come this Friday, when they return to the bench for a private conference.

5. REDISTRICTING NEWS. The Virginia Supreme Court handed Democrats a big win on Friday, allowing the state to move forward with an April 21 referendum that could add 4 Democratic seats in Virginia's congressional map, shifting from the current 6D-5R map to a 10D-1R delegation.

6. DELAYED JOBS REPORT. The Department of Labor released its delayed January 2026 jobs report last Wednesday, showing a surprisingly strong 130,000

jobs added last month, with 95% of the gains coming from the healthcare field (note: the oil industry lost 1,000 jobs as low oil prices pushed down oil drilling). However, the key headline was that the Labor Department issued a significant revision to jobs created in 2025, announcing that only 181,000 jobs were created in 2025, down from the previous estimate of nearly 600,000. Another key economic indicator, the Consumer Price Index's January inflation report — released on Friday — showed prices up at an annual rate of 2.4% from the same time a year ago, down 0.3 percentage

point from the prior month and the lowest since May 2025.

7. HIGHER EDUCATION. Last week, Hamm Consulting Group joined Lansing Community College's trustees and leadership at the 2026 Community College National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). The Summit brought together more than 1,000 community college leaders nationwide to engage directly with Congress and federal officials on issues that matter most to our nation's

community colleges. We also arranged and accompanied LCC in meetings with members of Michigan's congressional delegation to present the college's 2026 Federal Legislative Agenda and advocate for key funding and policy priorities that support LCC's students and the greater Lansing community.

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The Valley Weekly

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A Bulldog Statement: Alabama A&M Women on a Historic Run

There is something special happening on The Hill.

The Alabama A&M University women's basketball team is not just winning — they are making a statement. With a dominant 95-55 victory over Mississippi Valley State at the AAMU Event Center, the Lady Bulldogs avenged their only Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) loss and extended their winning streak to an impressive 12 straight games. That kind of consistency is not accidental. It is earned.

At the heart of this surge is extraordinary leadership. The temperament of Head Coach Dawn Thornton and her coaching staff reflects discipline, composure, and confidence. Great teams mirror their coaches, and this squad carries itself with poise under pressure and hunger in every possession. At the game against Mississippi Valley State University last Saturday, February 14th, there was no panic, no overreaction — only focus. The ability to pump in 95 points in the goal speaks volumes about the program's mental toughness.



Credit: Alabama A&M University Athletics

The players themselves embody resilience and unity. They play unselfish basketball. They defend with intensity. They execute with precision. Most importantly, they compete with heart. A 40-point conference victory is not merely a win; it is a display of preparation, depth, and belief in one another.

As a proud 1979 graduate who has always loved basketball, watching this team ascend brings deep pride. Alabama A&M has long represented opportunity, excellence, and perseverance. Seeing the women's program rise to prominence in the SWAC is not just exciting — it feels personal. Alumni understand what The Hill stands for, and this team represents it with dignity and strength.

Twelve straight wins signal more than momentum. They signal possibility.

With the SWAC championship playoff on the horizon, anticipation is building. The Lady Bulldogs have positioned themselves as legitimate contenders. If their current temperament — disciplined, united, and relentless — continues, there is every reason to believe that a championship run is within reach.

This team is not just playing for wins. They are playing for legacy.

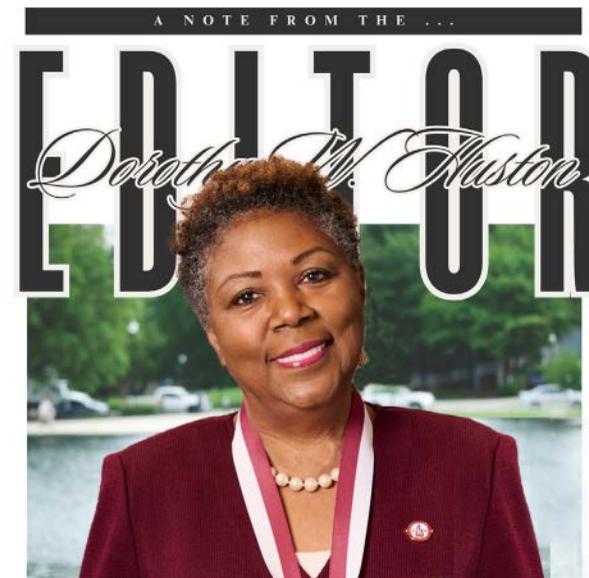
And Bulldog Nation is watching with pride. Until next week ...

Dorothy

FEBRUARY 20 - RIHANNA - Robyn Rihanna Fenty is a Barbadian singer, songwriter, fashion designer, actress and businesswoman, who has been recognized for embracing various musical styles and reinventing her image throughout her career. Born in Saint Michael and raised in Bridgetown, Barbados, Rihanna moved to the US in 2005, when she signed with Def Jam Recordings. She earned significant recognition following the release of her first two studio albums *Music of the Sun* (2005) and *A Girl like Me* (2006), both of which were influenced by Caribbean music and peaked within the top ten of the US Billboard 200 chart.



- Blackcelebritybirthdays.org



Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



The Valley Weekly

Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "Looking More Like God"

The violence that continues to take place all over our country as well as all over the world made me think about this question. What does God look like to you? In 1 John 1:5, it says, "God is light; in him, there is no darkness at all."

So, if we are believers in God and followers of Christ, we should know what He looks like. Does He look like love (because God is love) or does He carry a gun? Does He look like peace, (because God is peace) or does He advocate violence? You see, whenever we see peace, God is there. Whether it be in your marriage or your relationships with your family and friends, or any random circumstance that just happens in life, can you handle it peacefully? Our peaceful hearts and minds come from the relationship that we develop with God. Philippians 4:7 says the peace that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

You see, there are a lot

of people with messed up minds out there, just waiting to be used by the devil. They don't know what God looks like. They don't know that they are walking in darkness. But I believe that when we walk in love, joy, peace, self-control, and kindness, we represent what God looks like. Remember we are the salt of the earth, and we are the light of the world. We may never understand why people commit such senseless acts of violence, but we all need to start looking more like God and representing Jesus.

We all can learn to do this by renewing our minds by reading God's word on a daily basis and stop being so consumed by the things of this world that keeps us offended and stirred up about everything.



Prayer: Father God, help us to look more and more like you each day.

Question: What does God look like to you? Do you represent what He looks like?

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:
"A Marriage That Works!"



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Funeral service for **MRS. KATHERINE FITCHERD** (b. 1955) is incomplete and will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MR. GLEN GARY FARRIS** (b. 1949) will be held Saturday, February 21, at 12 p.m. at The Fellowship of Faith Church with Pastor Troy Garner officiating.



Funeral service for **MR. JOHN WILLIAM HARDIN, JR.**, (b. 1956) was Sunday, February 15, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Pastor Donald Barney officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. TERESA DIANE BRISTER** (b. 1972) was Saturday, February 14, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Carolyn Baker officiating.

Funeral service for **MS. SHERIKA B. THOMPSON** (b. 1992) was Friday, February 13, at St. Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Perry Clark officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. KEVIN DWAIN THOMPSON** (b. 1973) was Thursday, February 12, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis officiating.

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

Funeral service for **MRS. VIVIAN "BOOTS" JORDAN JONES** (b. 1934) was Friday, February 6, at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Dr. Oscar Montgomery 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.

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

“Untreated Pain ...”

Why won't most people take the time to deal with themselves?

We start feeling sick, and instead of getting ourselves treated and resting, we insist on continuing with our schedules until we are sick to the point where we MUST rest and take medication.

We get injured and try to walk it off and maneuver around the injury. We can be abused, or hurt, and feel we are strong enough to work through it, and act as if it doesn't exist! We're too lazy to deal with the problems we have until they deal with us!

If we don't address the root, it WILL keep resurfacing! The sickness can turn into an infection, or the beginning of a serious disease!

Our bodies can become weakened which triggers more ailments. Untreated



pain and injury not dealt with causes you to over-compensate by using another area of your body, setting up additional injuries. You overwork another part because you never dealt with the source!

Emotional damage, not confronted, spills over into other areas of your life causing you to repeat hurt, unknowingly, not trust, or be unable to open yourself to be loved. It can cause

you to fail in many different relationships.

Deal with the root! You must in order to make a change. When we address the core, we can move forward, more freely, in the proper direction of healing and restoration.

Be strong enough to treat the pain!

You only have one you! Address it now, or it will handle you later!

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Maxine Is Maxed Out? Or, Is This a Leadership Wake-Up Call for All of Us?

There comes a moment in every leader's journey when the real test isn't how long you can hold power — it's whether you know when to pass it on.

The news that Maxine Waters (D-CA) is being challenged by a younger candidate isn't just politics.

It's leadership. Succession. And ego.

NOTHING against Maxine Waters, but EVERYTHING for leadership development and succession planning.

This moment can't be reduced to racism or sexism or even ageism, but something deeper:

- Knowing when to say when.



Painful 20th Century Black History Lessons

In the 20th century, we were blessed with messianic figures — Malcolm, Martin, Medgar, Muhammad, and Marcus. But when they left, their movements struggled because second-generation leaders had not been fully developed.

No bench. No succession. No transition plan.

Yet too often — especially in our community — once we grab the reins of power, we don't know how to loosen our grip. So we end up getting pushed out instead of stepping aside with dignity.

We see it in Sports, and in Presidential Politics

Joe Biden demonstrated the same dilemma. Whether inflated institutional ego or deflated personal ego, he stayed too long. No meaningful primaries. No transition runway. After his June 2024 debate debacle, it took party leaders to intervene — leaving just 107 days for a national campaign.

That's not succession planning. That's scrambling.

Now we're watching a youth movement emerge — from congressional races to city halls. These moments are signals. They are not accidents. They are leadership alarms.

This is why I salute Myla Rahman — not because she's young, but because she represents what I call leading from the middle.

Here's the hard truth:

Maxine Waters still has a chance to control her legacy:

Step aside with honor. Mentor the next generation. Become known as a successor-builder.

Because even if she wins this re-election, she will be challenged again. And again.

This is ego-holism in leadership — a distorted sense of self that tells us we are indispensable.

Recovering leaders know better, build benches, pass batons, and know when to say when.

The question for every leader is simple: *Will you make room for that truth — or wait until it pushes you out?*

#LeadershipDevelopment #SuccessionPlanning #SilverMettleLeaders
#EgoHolismRecovering #LeadingFromTheMiddle #LeadershipLegacy

Tim Allston

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

Contact: (256) 212-0949 - <https://bit.ly/4aB9Lwm>

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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.

The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH "A Century of Black History Commemorations"

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
Huntsville, Ala.

March 5

KC and The Sunshine Band
Mark C. Smith Concert
Hall/Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala. - 7:30 p.m.

March 6-7

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

March 12

Season Sips Cocktail Class
The Orion Amphitheater
701 Amphitheater Drive NW

Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 964-9556 - 6:30 p.m.

Aaron Branch
Comedian

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

March 13

Akeem Ali
Live
Mars Music Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

March 15

3rd Annual Rocket City
Blues Festival
Featuring:
West Love, J-Wonn, Tucka
King George, Mike Clark
Jr., EJ Jones
(Ticketmaster)
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

Fanfare Quilt Show This Weekend

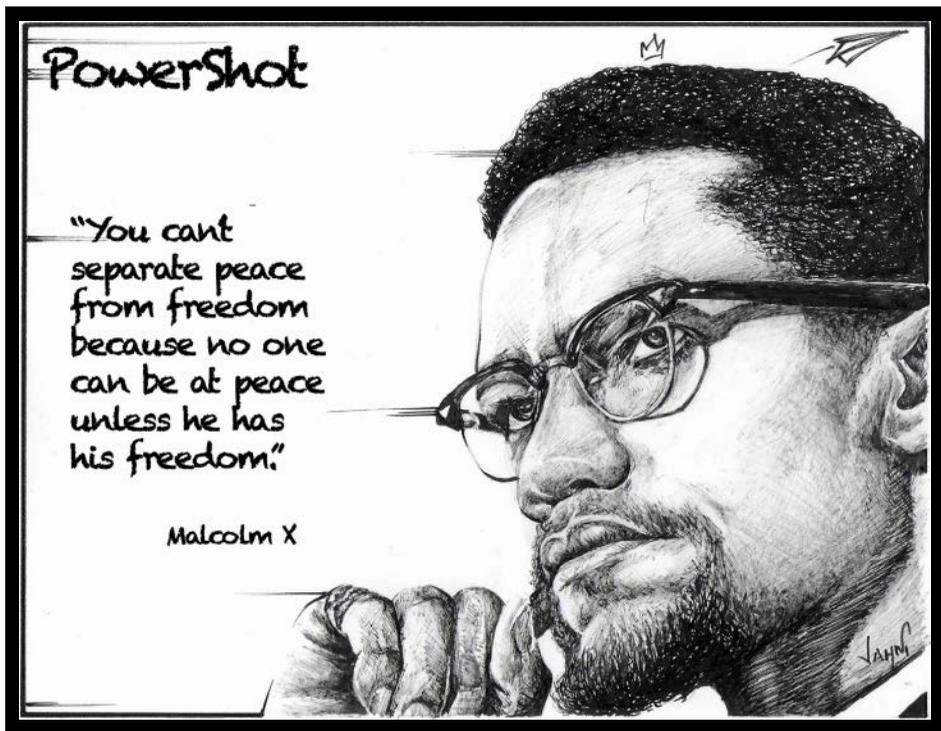
Heritage Quilters of Huntsville's Fanfare Quilt Show is set for February 20-21 at the Von Braun Center East Hall. Fanfare features more than 225 quilts and quilting activities.

The show has been a vital part of the Huntsville art scene since the first quilt

show in 1987, and is the largest be featured in the judged show as well as in special displays, demonstrations and vendor booths.

This year, a special Red, White and Blue quilt display will honor the nation's 250th birthday. Visitors to the show come from quilt guilds

throughout North Alabama and even out of state. Local attendees include art and quilt lovers of all ages. Show hours are 10-6 on Feb. 20 and 10-5 on Feb. 21. There is a \$10 general charge, and no charge for children 12 and under. For details, call (256) 508-9409.





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

Mrs. Ollye B. Conley

As President of Delta Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Ollye B. Conley led in the sponsorship of the first Black Heritage Stamp presentation at the Huntsville Museum of Art, honoring Soror Zora Neale Hurston. She also spearheaded the unveiling of each Black Heritage Stamp thereafter.

Conley was much honored for her educational efforts and numerous successes in the field of education and education administration. The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville organization was among the impressive list of organizations bestowing honors to Conley.

The educational administrator further distinguished herself as a sought-after speaker and motivator for several churches and civic organizations in Huntsville and surrounding areas.

She served as the past director of the Bo Mathews Center of Excellence, offering help to students in the field of education throughout northwest Huntsville.

Her numerous organizational affiliations and positions included: principal, Huntsville City Schools (the first African American female since the end of segregation era policies); member, Huntsville Principal Association; member, Alabama



Historic Project, Maple Hill Cemetery, Incorporated; 5th District Co-Chair, Huntsville Bicentennial; past president and regional director, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; member, Conley Chapel CME Church, Huntsville, Ala.; and many others.

Although she has retired, Conley participates in numerous church, civic and educational activities.



"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. 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.

A&M's YMTF Marks 51st Year of Impact

For more than half a century, Alabama A&M University's Youth Motivation Task Force has played a quiet but powerful role in preparing students for life beyond the classroom, connecting Bulldogs with professionals who motivate, mentor and model what is possible with an AAMU degree.

Now in its 51st year, the Youth Motivation Task Force, commonly known as YMTF, stands as one of the longest-running university-based programs of its kind in the nation. Its roots trace back to a national youth employment initiative launched in 1967 under President Lyndon B. Johnson and later reinforced by President Gerald R. Ford. Alabama



A&M adopted the model more than 50 years ago under the leadership of former Career Development Services Director Benjamin T. Davis and has sustained it ever since, building a legacy centered on workforce readiness, exposure and opportunity.

At the helm of this next chapter is Sylvester C. Johnson, a 1989 Alabama A&M graduate, former U.S. Army captain and Fortune 25 operations executive who currently serves as se-

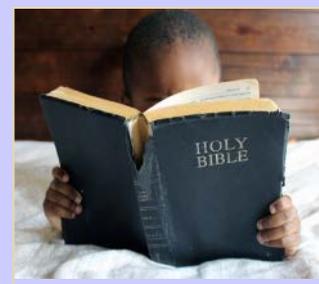
nior director of The Home Depot Equipment Services. Johnson, who has been involved with YMTF for two decades, is now serving his second year as chair after previously co-chairing and leading the program's 50th anniversary.

Johnson said his decision to lead the task force is rooted in both service and responsibility.

"I have the privilege of leading a major transformation of this long-standing program, supported by our advisory board members, industry leaders, Career Development Services, and University faculty and staff," Johnson said. "That evolution is captured in this year's theme, 'The Next Chapter: Leading Forward.'"

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, February 22, 2026
The First Sunday
in Lent



(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

Genesis 2:15-17-3:1-7

Psalm 32

Second Lesson:

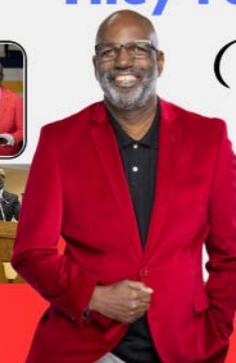
Romans 5:12-19

GOSPEL:

Matthew 4:1-11

THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

They're Not Like Tim!



The Valley Weekly

"A thought-provoking and insightful take on the latest news and views. Join TIM ALLSTON every week for interesting perspectives you can't find anywhere else!"

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AAMU Launches Online Food Science Business Master's

As the food and beverage industry becomes more complex, employers are seeking professionals with expertise in both food science and business strategy. Alabama A&M University's Master of Science in food science business online (FSBO) is a fully online, nonthesis graduate program created to address that demand.

Now in its second year, the 34-credit-hour program prepares working professionals and aspiring leaders for roles in food production, research, safety, quality assurance, product development and management. Courses are delivered in four eight-week sessions, allowing students to complete the

degree in about one year.

The curriculum integrates scientific and business coursework, covering food systems, product development, food safety, marketing, innovation strategies and executive decision-making. Students examine the full lifecycle of food and beverage development, from formulation and packaging to branding and retail strategy.

Graduates of Alabama A&M food science programs work at companies including General Mills, Kellogg's, Nestlé, Land O'Lakes, Ingredion and Wayne-Sanderson Farms.

The FSBO program enrolled nine students in its first cohort and graduated its inaugural class in December 2025. Six

students are enrolled for the spring 2026 semester, with additional graduates projected this year.

"Building on our initial cohort, we aim to enroll and retain 10 to 15 new students annually, progressing toward a sustainable total enrollment of approximately 20 to 30 students across cohorts within five years," said Dr. Judith Boateng, program coordinator. "High-quality instruction, individualized mentoring, proactive advising, experiential learning and industry engagement are central to our approach, with targeted outcomes of at least 80 percent annual student retention and a 60 to 70 percent degree completion rate."



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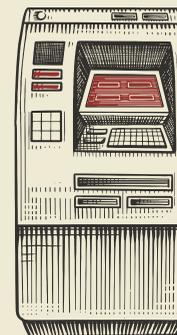
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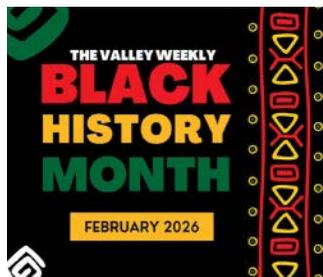
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Honoring Some of the State's Finest: Alabama-Born African-American Notables

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 hitchhiked 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
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
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

Gucci Mane, rapper, Bessemer
Will Mastin, dancer/singer, Madison
Willie Mays, baseball legend, Westfield
Jerry McCain, electric blues musician, Gadsden
Iverson Minter - "Louisiana Red," blues guitarist, Bessemer
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
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, television broadcaster, Tuskegee

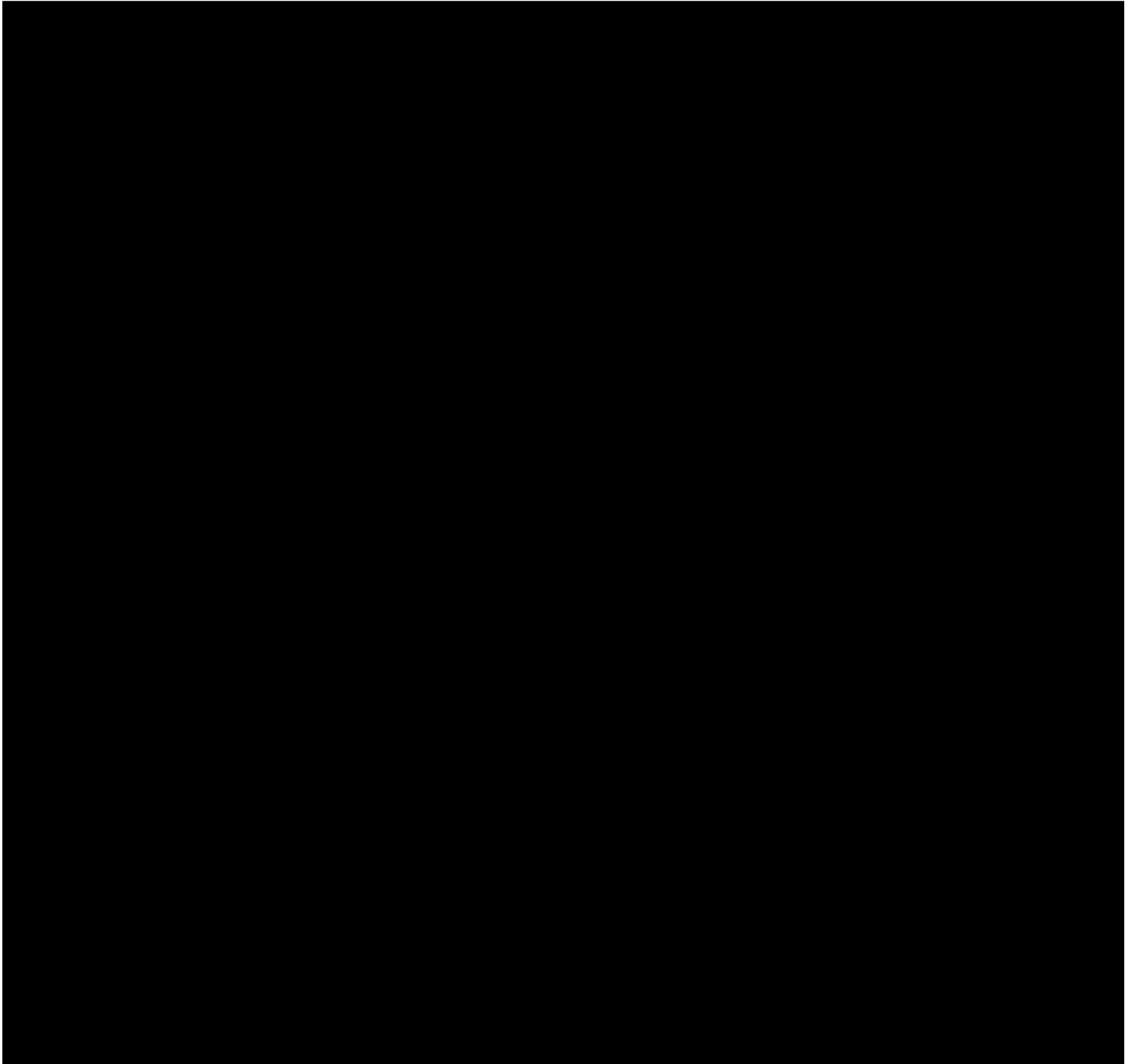
John Solomon Sandridge, artist/sculptor, Gadsden
David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General, Anniston
Eugene Sawyer, Jr., former mayor of Chicago, Greensboro
Peggy Scott-Adams, singer, Opp

Naomi Shelton, singer, Midway
Percy Sledge, singer, Leighton
Broderick "Rickey" Smiley, comedian, Birmingham
James Foster Smith, teen hitchhiker to the 1963 March, Gadsden
Limmmie 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, Ariton
Oscar Toney Jr., soul singer, Selma
Cynthia Tucker, syndicated columnist, Monroeville

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





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