



The Brutal Realities of the 'Starving Artist!' - p. 8

FREE



Terrified, But Qualified!" - p. 4



Friday
March 13, 2026
Vol. 12, No. 28
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SAUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



"KRISTI-KREMED" and the Jonah Lesson - Page 5



The Valley Weekly



Mrs. Marion Barley Hall

"Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." — Albert Einstein

AAMU Announces First Suicide Prevention Walk

Alabama A&M University will host its inaugural Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Awareness Color Walk/Run on Saturday, April 18, from 2-5 p.m., with registration beginning at 1 p.m. The 5K event will start and end at The Quad and is

open to students, families and members of the surrounding community.

Organized by the AAMU Athletics Mental Health Services, the Color Walk/Run aims to raise awareness about mental health and suicide preven-

tion while creating a supportive space for reflection, remembrance and open dialogue.

Participants are encouraged to wear green in support of mental health awareness, arrive early for check-in and dress comfortably. Color powder

will be featured along the route, and attendees are advised to bring a towel.

Registration fees are \$5 (age 14+). The registration fee for adults 21 and older who are not AAMU students is \$20.

REGISTER



The 20th Annual Rosetta James Honoring Our Elders Celebration will be held at The Jackson Center, 6001 Moquin Drive, Huntsville, Ala., at 12 noon on Saturday, March 14.

In addition to awarding scholarships to students with exemplary volunteerism, the organization will honor 12 men and women ages 70 and above who still actively volunteer.

Revisiting the Rocket City's Most Impressive Recent Rankings

Huntsville continues to earn top rankings for growth, housing affordability, tech and job opportunities, and family-friendly amenities — even as some national lists reshape their methodologies.

Recent data underscores its economic resilience, expanding job market, and appeal to families and professionals alike.

1. One of America's Fastest-Growing,

Most Resilient Cities

Huntsville is ranked #2 among the nation's best-performing large cities in 2026 — highlighting strong job creation and economic resilience.

2. Tech and Job Market Strength

In recent local rankings, Huntsville metro scored Top 5 in the South for tech workers and high tech-job density and growth.

Reports also

show the area has diversified job growth with tens of thousands of new positions across sectors.

3. Best Places to Live & Raise a Family

Huntsville and the surrounding area (Madison County) have been highlighted in multiple "best places to live" lists:

Madison County ranked 7th best county to live in the U.S. in Niche's 2025

list and #1 in Alabama, with strong schools, jobs, and cost of living.

A national real estate media article lists Huntsville among cities young families are flocking to in 2026 for affordability, good schools, and amenities.

4. Housing and Rental Rankings

WalletHub has ranked Huntsville #7 among the best places to rent in the

U.S. based on rental affordability and quality of life.

5. Mixed Results from Some Major Lists

In one expanded U.S. News & World Report list (with many more cities ranked), Huntsville was reported around #85 overall — but analysts note that this reflects more competition rather than a collapse in quality, and the city remains highly competitive

overall regionally.

6. Other Recent Positive Mentions

Recent coverage

highlights Huntsville being talked about as a major relocation destination, especially with

continuing investment in aerospace, defense, and technical career opportunities.

The Valley Weekly

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Here are the top issues and events in Washington, D.C., for this week.

1. CONGRESS. The Senate is in session this week, while the House is in recess. The Senate will resume consideration of an affordable housing bill that passed the House on Feb 9 with a 390-9 vote. The bill aims to streamline federal programs, modernize zoning guidelines, and expand financing for manufactured housing. The Senate Armed Services Committee had a closed briefing on Operation Epic Fury on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. House Republicans will hold their annual policy retreat this week in Miami at the Trump National Doral Resort. Punchbowl News reported that House GOP Leadership has decided to pursue

another mandatory spending package, known as a Budget Reconciliation bill, this year. The bill could codify the President's now-canceled reciprocal and fentanyl tariffs and provide additional defense funding for the Iran War. Last year, Congress approved a \$3.4 trillion Reconciliation package of tax cuts and Medicaid reductions in the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act." Last week, Reps. Darrel Issa (R-CA) and Ryan Zinke (R-MT) became the 57th and 58th Members, according to the House Press Gallery's list, to announce they would be leaving the House. In the Senate, Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) withdrew his reelection bid minutes before the state's filing deadline on Thursday, joining nine other Senators not seeking reelection.

2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH. On Monday, the President addressed House Republicans at their annual retreat at his Doral Resort in Florida. Last Friday, the administration announced an emergency \$20 billion insurance program for oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, with U.S. crude oil prices jumping 35.6% for the biggest weekly gain in the history of the futures contract dating back to 1983. Last Wednesday, major tech companies, including Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft, OpenAI, Oracle, and xAI, signed a "Ratepayer Protection Pledge" at the White House — a voluntary agreement that aims to protect American households from rising electricity costs driven by AI

data centers by ensuring tech firms fund their own energy infrastructure and power generation. Last week, the House Oversight Committee voted (with 5 R's joining all D's) on a motion by Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC) to subpoena Attorney General Pam Bondi for testimony as part of its investigation into the federal government's handling of the Epstein files. Rep. Mace had also intended to move for an Epstein-related subpoena for Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick — an outcome he preempted by announcing he would sit for a transcribed interview with members of the panel voluntarily. Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt (R) is expected to quickly fill a vacancy to be created when Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) resigns to replace Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, fired by the President on Thursday (the new Senator will serve until an election this November). The Food and Drug Administration announced on Friday that the nation's top vaccine regulator, Vinay Prasad, will be leaving the agency at the end of April (Prasad had recently faced backlash after refusing to review a Moderna application for the first mRNA-

based flu vaccine and for claiming without evidence that the coronavirus vaccines had caused the death of children).

3. SUPREME COURT. Last Wednesday, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Galette v. New Jersey Transit Corporation* that two men seriously injured in New York and Pennsylvania by buses operated by New Jersey Transit can sue the transit agency in those states. The Court held that New Jersey Transit is not an extension of the state of New Jersey and thus does not share the state's immunity from lawsuits.

4. FEBRUARY JOBS REPORT. Last Friday, the Labor Department announced that the U.S. economy lost 92,000 jobs in February—a sharp contrast to the 50,000 job increase that economists had expected, with the unemployment rate rising to 4.4 percent from January's 4.3%. December 2025 job gains were also revised downward, showing the labor market lost 17,000 positions that month. The labor force participation rate, the share of people either working or searching for work, fell to its lowest level since 2021, at

62%. The February report showed 28,000 job losses in the heretofore booming health care industry, an 11,000 drop in the information sector, and 11,000 fewer jobs in transportation and warehousing.

5. HIGHER EDUCATION - WORKFORCE PELL GRANT. On March 6, the U.S. Department of Education announced its proposed rules for the new Workforce Pell Grant Program, with the official Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) expected to be published in the Federal Register on March 9, initiating a 30-day public comment window. The rules result from a December negotiated-rulemaking session agreement in which stakeholders, including community college representatives, reached consensus on the regulatory text, covering eligibility, a value-added earnings measure, and program reinstatement procedures.

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Black Auburn Alums Plan Reunion

The Black Alumni Council is inviting Auburnites to the Black Alumni Reunion, a two-day celebration of engaging social events and networking opportunities on April 17-18.

Tour Auburn's athletic

facilities, tailgate for the A-Day Spring Football Game, honor recipients of the 2026 Black Alumni Awards and more!

All members of the Auburn Family are welcome to attend.

Don't miss out! The deadline to register is April 11. For a complete agenda, nearby accommodation options and registration, click [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events at Drake State!

Career Week
April 13-16

April 27 – 30

Drake State Retiree Luncheon, April 28

Career Fair
April 15

Ellenae Fairhurst Automotive Center Announcement,
April 27

Jazz in the City
June 19

Founder's Week Celebration

Giving Day, April 28

Mars Music Hall/VBC
Downtown Huntsville

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly, LLC

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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valleyweeklyllc.com. Items published do not necessarily reflect the views of

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ASSOCIATION**

The Valley Weekly

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3/4 Page	7.5x10 inches	\$900
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Legacy of Giving: Marshall England and the Power of Intentional Impact

In every community, there are individuals who quietly and consistently build bridges — across generations, across institutions, and across lines that once divided us. In Huntsville, Marshall England stands as one of those pillars.

A retired agent of State Farm, Marshall England broke barriers early in his career, becoming the first African American State Farm agent in the State of Alabama on July 1, 1983. That achievement alone secures his place in history. But what defines his legacy is not simply what he accomplished professionally — it is what he has poured back into the community year after year.

Although a graduate of the University of Alabama, Marshall has long demonstrated that true support transcends alma maters. For decades, he has faithfully supported Alabama A&M University — attending football and basketball games, supporting golf tournaments, encouraging growth initiatives, and bringing his family and friends alongside him. His presence has not been symbolic; it has been consistent, visible, and heartfelt.



He understands that institutions thrive when communities invest in them — not just with words, but with time, attendance, resources, and advocacy.

Marshall's generosity extends far beyond the university campus. For 19 consecutive years, he has financially supported the Rosetta James Foundation, ensuring that students and young professionals have access to opportunities that shape their futures. His giving has reached a broad range of nonprofits and fundraisers across Huntsville and Madison County, each focused on strengthening the pipeline for the next generation.

He has also lent his voice and expertise to initiatives that cultivate economic empowerment. As an inaugural Subject Matter Expert for the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium, Marshall has participated on panel discussions encouraging small business ownership, sustainable growth, and responsible development. He understands that ownership matters — and that economic literacy is a cornerstone of generational stability.

Those who have watched closely over the years also recognize another quiet act of generosity: his consistent advertising in local media outlets to support community causes. For some, advertising is transactional. For Marshall, it has often been relational — a way to ensure that community voices, events, and missions continue to thrive.

Legacy is not built in a moment. It is constructed in steady decisions made over time.

Marshall England understands that building legacy in Huntsville requires more than individual success. It requires intentional investment in people, institutions, and ideas that will outlive us. It requires showing up — at games, at fundraisers, at forums, in community conversations. It requires believing that the next generation deserves both opportunity and example.

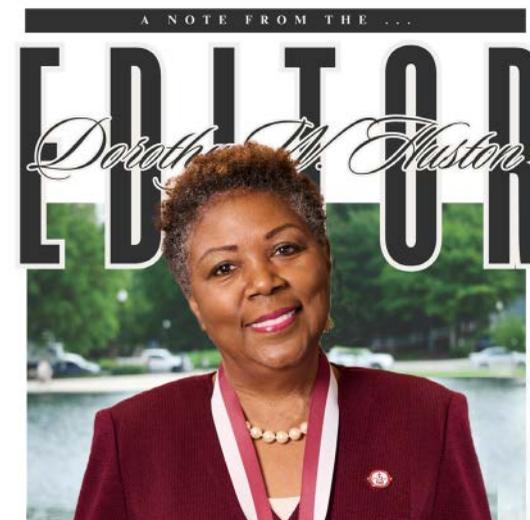
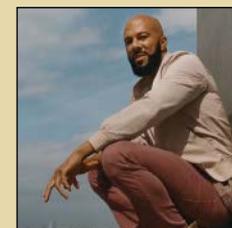
Over the coming weeks, as we continue to highlight the legacy of giving in our community, we are reminded that generosity is not always loud. Sometimes it is measured in decades of steady commitment. And, in that measure, Marshall England's impact speaks volumes.

Until next week ...

Dorothy

MARCH 13 - COMMON - Lonnie Corant Jaman Shuka Rashid Lynn aka Common (formerly Common Sense), is an American rapper and actor. Common debuted in 1992 with the album *Can I Borrow a Dollar?* and maintained an underground following into the late 1990s, after which he gained mainstream success through his work with the Soulquarians. Common was born at the Chicago Osteopathic Hospital in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood, the son of educator Dr. Mahalia Ann Hines and former ABA basketball player turned youth counselor Lonnie Lynn Jr. Common won the 2015 Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song and the Academy Award for Best Original Song, for his song "Glory" from the 2014 film *Selma*, in which he co-starred as Civil Rights Movement leader James Bevel.

- Blackcelebritybirthdays.org



Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly
PRESTON BROWN'S



Today's Spiritual Game Plan:
"A New Level of Praise"

Jesus lives today—and because He lives, we can face tomorrow.

You see, Jesus forgave Peter, and now he has a new level of praise. There is a different kind of praise that you give when you are on the other side of the pain. Remember that your faith cannot be proven if you never go through any storms in your life.

But don't focus on the distractions that come in this life in the form of past hurts and disappointments; let us focus on the journey that God has placed before us and the victories that we win by continuing to believe that God does forgive the mistakes that we make and remembers them no more.

First Peter 1:3–4 says, *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade."*

As we read this text, we should all realize that Peter is showing us a new level of praise. Remember that Peter was the one who denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed.

And, since Jesus died on the cross, there was no way for him to tell Jesus just how sorry he was for doing that. I can't imagine the pain and the hurt that he must have gone through. But the good news for Peter and for all of us is that Jesus did not perish on the cross. He lives—Christ



Prayer: Holy God, thank You for not only forgiving us but allowing us to be reconnected with you.

Question: Has there ever been a time in your life where you needed forgiveness?

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:
"Is Life Fair?"

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY
VALLEY DEATHS



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Funeral service for **MRS. RUTH ANN BARLEY THOMPSON** (b. 1943) is incomplete and will be announced by staff at a later date.

Funeral service for **MRS. TERESA MURPHY** (b. 1967) will be held Saturday, March 14, at 11 a.m. at The Fellowship of Faith Church, Huntsville, Ala..

Funeral service for **MRS. JUDY ANN WILLIAMS-MCCARVER** (b. 1950) was Thursday, March 5, at Rudder Funeral Home—Scottsboro, Ala., with Reverend George Clay officiating. [Mrs. McCarver is the cousin of Ms. Brenda Friend, staff member at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home, and a member of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Woodville, Ala.]

Funeral service for **MR. FREDDIE N. SCOTT** (b. 1954) was Saturday, February 21, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor C. Jermaine Turner officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. KATHERINE SUE HAMLETT FITCHERD** (b. 1955) was Saturday, February 21, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **MR. GLEN GARY FARRIS** (b. 1949) was Saturday, February 21, 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 Chapel 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.

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF COMPLETION

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that **Apex Architectural Metal, LLC.**, Contractor, has completed the **Contract for the Reroofing and Repairs** for the **James A. Lane Boys and Girls Club**, a Stephen Ward and Associates, Inc. Project, at 103 Abingdon Ave. N.W., Huntsville, AL 35801 for the Boys and Girls Club of North Alabama (Owner), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Stephen Ward and Associates, Inc. PO Box 6815, Huntsville, AL 35813.

“Kristi-Kremed” and the Jonah Leadership Lesson Fired DHS Secretary Kristi Noem: Jonah 2.0?

When I heard that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem had been fired, my mind went immediately to an ancient story from the Bible: Jonah.

Jonah boarded a ship headed in the opposite direction of God’s assignment. Soon a violent storm threatened to destroy the vessel. The sailors began throwing cargo overboard to lighten the load.

Finally Jonah confessed: *“I am the reason this storm is upon you. Throw me overboard.”*

They did—and the storm stopped.

Leadership storms often unfold the same way.

When problems escalate, organizations begin discarding weight.

Sometimes that weight is people.

Noem de-Plumed?

In recent months, Noem had become increasingly controversial due to allegations of past personal misconduct; criticism over public mis-statements following the two Minneapolis ICE fatalities; and media scrutiny over costly promotional campaigns that appeared more focused on optics than results.

Leadership Magnifies Defects

What may be survivable in quieter environments becomes magnified under national scrutiny.

In my leadership framework called T-O-P, transformation begins with three steps: **Target the problem, Own the problem, and Proceed to action.**

In this case, the problem was targeted. But the ownership step—acknowledging mistakes—never fully happened. That accelerated the final step: action.

Interestingly Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), tapped as the replacement nominee, immediately struck a thoughtful tone. He said there are opportunities to build on successes and on things that did not go well.

That’s wise leadership.

It honors the past without being trapped by it.

Emerging leaders must learn a delicate balance: support the leader above you without attempting to outshine them—while still demonstrating independent judgment.

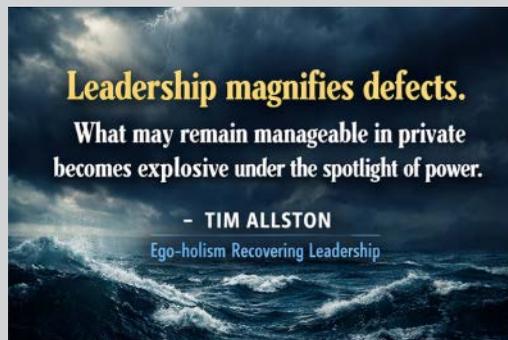
Robert Greene calls this the first law of power: **Never outshine the master.**

But the deeper leadership lesson may come from the Jonah story itself.

Throwing Jonah overboard calmed the storm.

But storms rarely begin with cargo alone.

Sometimes they originate from the bridge.



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.

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

“Terrified, but Qualified ...”

I know, you’re saying, *What?* How do you know whether I am Qualified or not? Well, Sir, or Ma’am, I don’t, but God does.

Has God ever put something in your spirit, your mind, your dreams, that you know you should be doing? He’s made it plain, but you’ve missed the call.

Ignored the call, or are simply delaying the call? Don’t act like you are clueless here because I’ve written about this several times, but, you won’t get somewhere, sit down, and listen to God’s voice. You want to ignore it because you’re too afraid of what people will say, don’t have enough money yet, don’t have the contacts, or don’t know how to get it out there!

So, here’s the kicker. Do you think God would give YOU the entire plan when He can’t even depend on you to take 1 step? You are



still sitting there rationalizing it. Funny thing is, you’re the same person that would stand in a crowd and try to come up with ways to explain how you have leveled up in life. Trying to frame your life up to others as if you are in control and moving forward. Trust, no one is trying to display the fact that they are some lazy, mediocre, procrastinating person that is getting nothing done. But the hard truth is, in essence, that’s what you’re doing.

God knows what He has allowed you to tread

through...and guess what? You’re still here. Which means, you have already been Qualified for the things He has put you here to do. You’re just terrified and won’t move. Shame on You! Get to moving. As I said before, “If He gave it to you, He is going to sustain you through it!” Trust Him!

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; open it!

Lace Up! Let’s Go! *It’s time to Move!!*

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The Valley Weekly

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

March 12 701 Amphitheater Drive NW
Season Sips Cocktail Class Huntsville, Ala.
The Orion Amphitheater (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.

March 20-21
DeRay Davis
Comedian
Huntsville Levity Live
2012 Memorial Parkway SW
Huntsville, Ala.

(256) 261-3374
March 27-29
The 6th Annual Women's
Expo Conference
The Westin Hotel
Huntsville, Ala.
www.thewomensexpohsv.com

April 10
The R&B Lovers Tour
Featuring Keith Sweat, Joe,
Dru Hill and Ginuwine
Propst Arena
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.

8 p.m.
April 17
Concert
Rod Stewart
"One Last Time"
(with Special Guest How-
ard Jones)-RodStewart.com
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala.

April 17-19
Jim Cummings
Huntsville Comic & Pop
Culture Expo
Von Braun Center

AAMU's NAHB Chapter Competes in First National IBS Competition

Alabama A&M University's National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Student Chapter recently made its national competition debut at the International Builders' Show (IBS) and NAHB Student Competition in Orlando, Florida.

The event brought together thousands of construction professionals, students and industry leaders from across the country

for education sessions, exhibits and one of the nation's premier collegiate construction competitions.

Representing Alabama A&M were seniors Eric Lytle II of St. Louis, David Jackson of Birmingham, Alabama, Lauryn Baker of Atlanta and Hailey Fowler of Apopka, Florida; juniors Jayden Head of Montevallo, Alabama, and Kortney Adkins of Louisville, Kentucky; sophomore Madison Everett of Mobile,

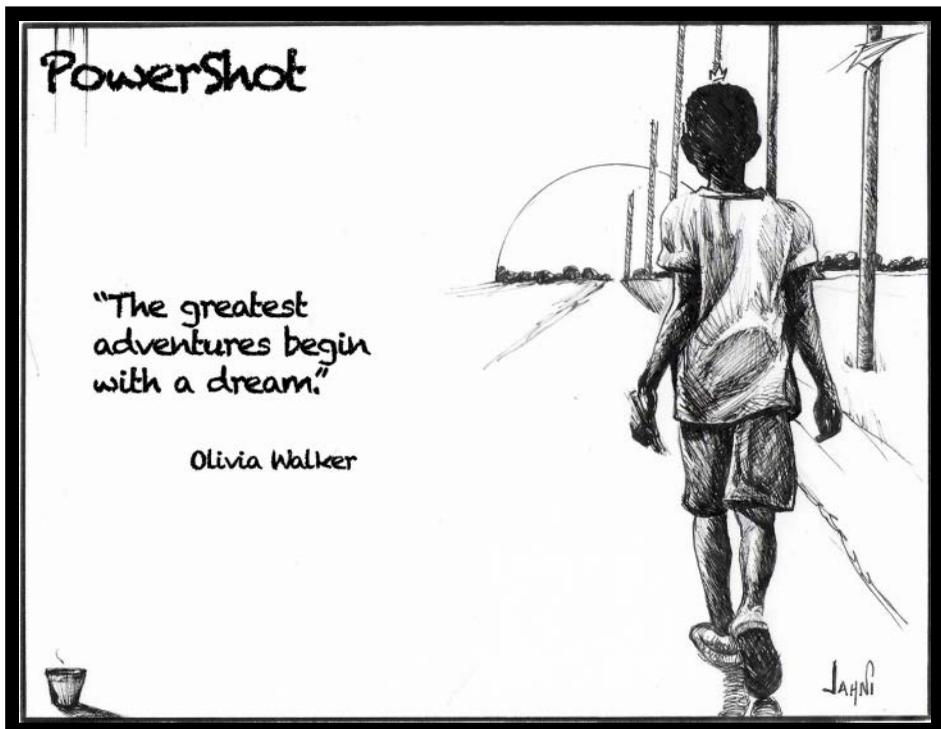
Alabama; and freshman Makenzie Carter of Fort Deposit, Alabama. All are construction management majors except Adkins, who majors in finance. The students are enrolled in the University's Construction Management program and School of Business and are advised by Professor Mahub Hasan, NAHB faculty adviser.

"Being able to compete at IBS was a great experi-

ence that I hope other students at the university are able to experience in

the near future," said Lytle II. "Presenting in front of industry professionals

at a national competition helped us build confidence and sharpen our skills."



We Make It Easy to Celebrate Together

Jackson Center



Host Family Reunions, Pastor Anniversary Dinners, Church Banquets, and other special events at the Jackson Center.

New events held in June, July, and August qualify for special summer incentives. Pastor Anniversaries celebrated during these months also include a contribution back to the local church. Family Reunions will also qualify for a donation back to the local church or local charity in the family's name.

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

Mrs. Marion Barley Hall

Marion Barley Hall was born in Madison County, Alabama, on December 10, 1936, to the late Daniel and Orell Draper Barley. She attended Council Training High School and graduated in 1954. Upon completion of high school, she enrolled at Alabama A&M University, where she was an

active member of the Marching Band (1954-1955). Hall also received a business school-business education certificate from Manpower in 1963. She was later employed by Marshall Space Flight Center, where she was a Documentation Analyst for over 18 years. A lifelong member of Center Grove United Methodist Church, Hall served in various ministry areas, including Chancel Choir member, president of United Methodist Women, chairperson and cochairperson of the Harvest Committee, chairperson of King's Care, chairperson of Stewardship, member

of the Finance Committee, and chairperson of Burns-Northside, to name a few. In 1978, she established the first Mother-Daughter Luncheon at Center Grove United Methodist Church.

She also served in various civic organizations in her community that include member, Elk Lodge #977 Daughters of Elk; member, Corner's Homemaker and Community Club; member, ABWA (American Business Women Association); member, Red Hatters (Hill Top-Rough Chapeaux); and member, Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Hall's greatest joy in life was caring for the sick and underprivileged, and her adopted motto was, "Let My Work Speak For Me." Her work has spoken, and it is still speaking for her through the tireless care she gave to her family and friends.



She always made herself available to assist others with their needs. Whether it was doing laundry, preparing meals, driving to doctor visits, administering medication, and/or any other personal needs they required.

Hall took upon the role of primary caregiver for her mother and father during their latter years. In her home, she cared extensively for relatives and other loved ones for a combined span of decades.

She and her late husband of more than two generations, Richard Hall, had two adult children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



"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.

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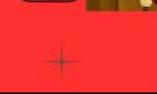
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THERE ARE MANY COLUMNISTS, BUT ...

They're Not Like Tim!



The Valley Weekly

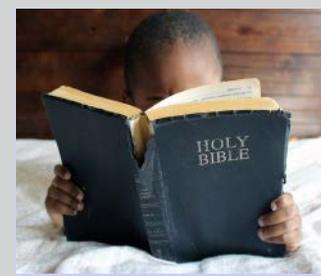
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This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, March 15, 2026

The Fourth Sunday
in Lent



(Track 2, Year A)

First Lesson:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Second Lesson:

Ephesians 5:8-14

GOSPEL:

John 9:1-41



AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN...

How Artists Are Being Squeezed by Our New Way of Doing Things!

For generations, committed artists—musicians, writers, visual artists, and performers—have accepted uncertainty as part of the calling ...

What feels different today is not the existence of struggle, but its structure. New industries and business processes, built for scale and efficiency, are quietly eroding the economic foundations that once sustained creative lives.

The most obvious shift is digital distribution. Streaming platforms promise global reach, but they operate on micropayment models that reward volume over depth. A musician may accumulate thousands of streams and still receive less than the cost of a modest meal. Algorithms, not artistic merit, often determine visibility. The same holds true for writers navigating online marketplaces where discoverability is dictated by data metrics—click-through rates, keywords, and en-

agement cycles—rather than craft.

Self-publishing, once liberating, now demands that authors become full-stack entrepreneurs. Beyond writing, they must manage metadata optimization, cover design, advertising dashboards, email funnels, and analytics. The creative act becomes one component in a complex production-and-marketing machine. For many, the hours required to sustain visibility compete directly with the time needed to create meaningful work.

In visual art, online marketplaces have globalized competition. Artists are no longer measured against peers in their region but against thousands worldwide. While this expands exposure, it compresses pricing. Buyers conditioned by mass-produced prints and digital reproductions often expect fine art at commodity rates. Meanwhile, platform fees, shipping costs, and promotional spending eat into margins.

Live performers face similar pressures.



Ticketing platforms, venue cuts, promotional expenses, and touring logistics leave little room for profit unless an act reaches significant scale. Even then, revenue increasingly flows to intermediaries—management firms, distributors, data brokers—whose systems are optimized for predictable returns rather than artistic risk.

Underlying all of this is the rise of data-driven decision-making. Creative industries once relied on tastemakers and long-term development. Today, short-term performance metrics dominate. Projects are greenlit based on projected engagement curves. Songs are shortened to fit platform preferences.

Books are tailored to trending genres. Risk, experimentation, and slow growth—hallmarks of artistic evolution—are harder to finance.

None of this means art is dying. In fact, creative output has never been more abundant. But abundance without equitable compensation produces burnout. Many committed artists now sustain their work through teaching,

consulting, or unrelated employment.

The paradox of our era is this: technology has made it easier than ever to share art, yet harder than ever to live by it. For artists determined to remain committed, the challenge is no longer simply mastering craft—it is navigating an economic ecosystem that rarely prioritizes it.

- TVW Staff



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**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
CITY OF HUNTSVILLE
CLOSEOUT PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of Huntsville's **Community Development Department** will hold a **Public Hearing** on **Friday, March 27, 2026, at 12:30 P.M.** to receive input and discuss the **close-out of the City of Huntsville's CDBG Project**. The meeting will be held online via Microsoft Teams Meeting at: **CDBG Public Facilities - BGC Roof Rehab Closeout Public Hearing**. Meeting ID: 299 775 267 249 27, Passcode: 5QM2RR9Q.

The City of Huntsville is interested in obtaining all citizens' input on the performance of local officials, City of Huntsville staff, consultants and administrators, engineers, contractors, and the use of CDBG funds throughout the implementation of the Project. The City of Huntsville does not discriminate based on disability for the admission or access to its programs or activities. If you have any questions, or will need special accommodations, please contact Community Development Department prior to the Public Hearing at 256-427-5400 or comdev@huntsvilleal.gov.



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The Rosetta James Foundation Exclusive Event

The Deke and Danielle Damson Automotive Showroom
Friday, March 6, 2026 - 1101 Washington Street - Huntsville, Alabama



The Hill's CEIED Executive Director Selected for Marquis Who's Who

Dr. Teresa Merriweather Orok, founding executive director of Alabama A&M University's Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Economic Development, has been selected for inclusion in Who's Who in America by Marquis Who's Who.



Founded in 1899, Marquis Who's Who in America has chronicled the lives of influential leaders and innovators across politics, business, medicine, law, education, arts and entertainment. The publication remains a longstanding biographical resource for researchers, journalists and executive search firms worldwide.

"I am deeply honored by this recognition from Marquis Who's Who," Orok said. "For me, it reflects not just a personal milestone, but the collective work of Alabama A&M University and our partners who believe that higher education must be a catalyst for inclusive growth, innovation and opportunity. This acknowledgment affirms our responsibility to continue building

systems that expand access, strengthen communities and position HBCUs as essential architects of America's economic future."

An accomplished expert in economic and business innovation, Orok brings more than 35 years of experience in grants management, economic development, government partnerships and higher education administration.

At Alabama A&M, she leads the Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Economic Development, aligning research, workforce systems, entrepreneurship and industry engage-

ment to strengthen regional competitiveness and expand economic opportunity.

Formerly, Orok served as vice president of the AAMU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and Community Engagement.

Her national profile expanded during her tenure as president of the University Economic Development Association, where she made history as the first Black woman to lead the organization. Under her leadership, Alabama A&M hosted UEDA's national conference, marking the first time in the association's 50-year

history that a historically Black college or university served as host. Prior to that, Orok was appointed to UEDA's Board of Directors.

Throughout her career, Orok has built what she describes as the "connective tissue" of economic ecosystems, integrating government, industry, philanthropy, community leadership and academia into coordinated strategies designed to produce long-term impact. Her work bridges federal agencies and local communities, ensuring economic systems are both competitive and inclusive.

Before joining Alabama A&M, Orok held leadership roles at Fort Valley State University and Albany State University in Georgia and served within the Fulton County Board of Commissioners in Atlanta during a transformative era of civic leadership.

She has helped secure tens of millions of dollars in federal and philanthropic funding from partners including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Labor and NASA, expanding workforce development initiatives, housing programs and youth opportunity efforts. These

initiatives aided in building out opportunities for communities to realize economic competitiveness, revitalization, and sustainability.

Among her landmark achievements, she helped her institution become the first historically Black college or university to receive a HUD HBCU Economic Development Grant, reinforcing institutional capacity and national credibility.

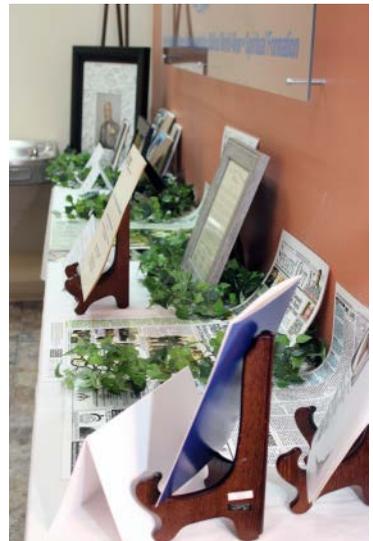
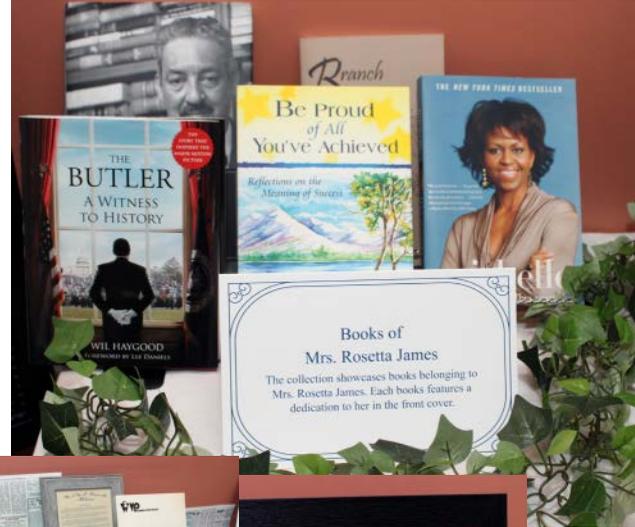
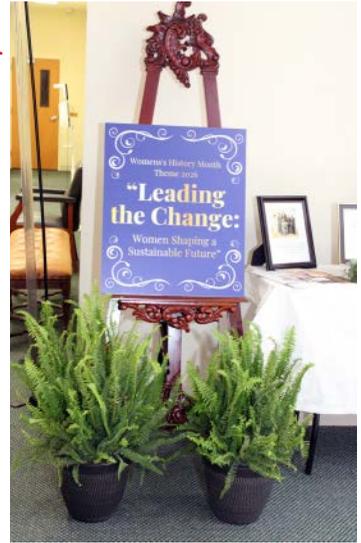
Orok also has served in leadership roles with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and, in 2020, was selected as a fellow of the Appalachian Regional Commission, becoming the first African American and first representative of a historically Black college or university to receive that distinction.

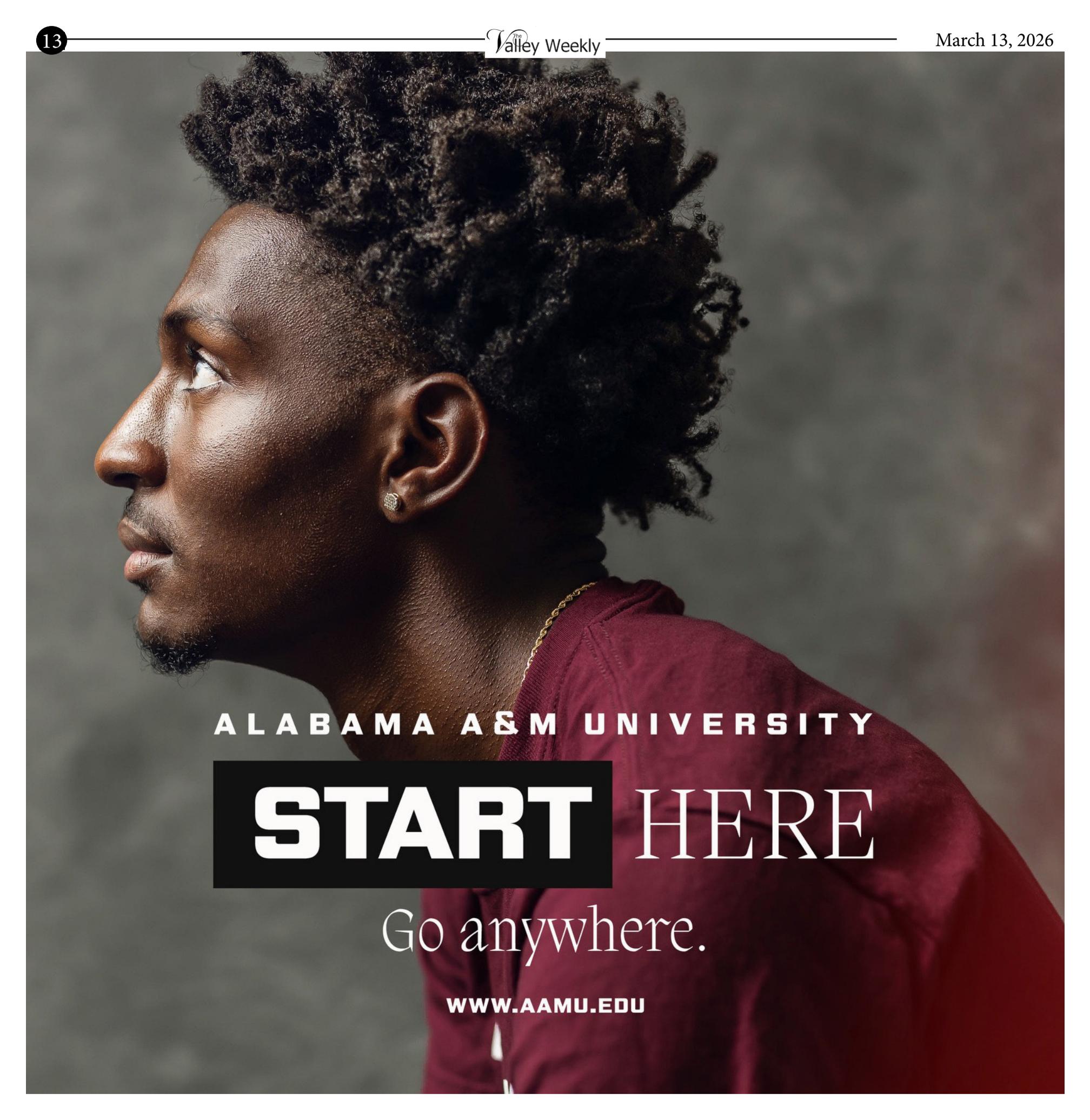
Her recognition by Marquis Who's Who underscores a career defined not only by positions held, but by systems built — platforms that expand opportunity, partnerships that scale impact and institutional models demonstrating how higher education can serve as the architecture of equitable and globally competitive prosperity.

The Rosetta James Exhibit/Women's History Month

Sponsored by Huntsville Bible College
Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, Alabama

Thanks to the creative skills of Dr. Carla Clift and Ms. Amy Wallace, Huntsville Bible College recently set up an exhibit to honor the legendary voting rights icon Rosetta James. The Alabamian and long-time New York City resident is the namesake of the Rosetta James Foundation, a 20-year-old non-profit organization that recognizes active volunteerism among citizens 70 years old and above. It also provides scholarships for students who are also active volunteers. For additional information, visit www.rosettajamesfoundation.org.





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