



# AUNT IRMA: Measuring Society by Its Medicine Cabinet - p. 2

FREE

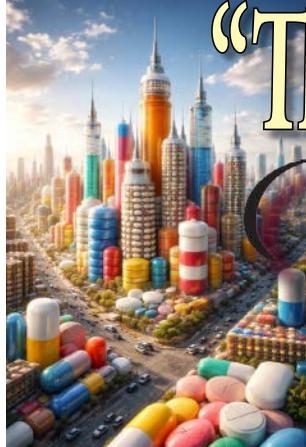
# "The Power of Giving Back" - p. 3

Friday  
March 20, 2026  
Vol. 12, No. 29  
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!  
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Col. (Ret.) James O. Heyward



# The Valley Weekly

"People can cry much easier than they can change." — James Baldwin

## Girls Garage Parks & Rec Hosts Car Care Lessons

City of Huntsville residents asked and Huntsville Parks & Recreation delivered. Back by popular demand in 2026 is the Girls Garage program at Brahan Spring Recreation Center.

Girls Garage empowers women and girls to build confidence in handling basic car care

and maintenance. The free, hands-on program is open to ages 15 and older.

Participants can choose from three Saturday sessions: **March 21, April 18 or May 16 from 9-10 a.m. at the Brahan Spring Recreation Center, 3370 Ivy Avenue.**

**Registration** is required through



Parks & Recreation's online registration platform. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes. Space is limited and expected to fill quickly. Par-

ticipants will learn practical skills such as checking oil levels, jumpstarting a battery, changing a tire and more.

"The strong turnout in 2025 showed us just how much interest there is in hands-on learning opportunities like this," said Director of Parks & Recreation James Gossett.

## Jack and Jill Scheduled 'Fun Run'

The Greater Huntsville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., in partnership with Fleet Feet, proudly invites families to participate in the GHC Children's Fun Run: Road to 26.1 on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at John Hunt Cross Country Running

Park in Huntsville, Alabama. This free community event is open to children ages 4-18 and is designed to promote physical activity, discipline, and healthy habits in a fun and engaging environment.

In the weeks leading up to race day, participants will track their physical

activity as they work toward completing 25.1 miles through walking, running, sports, dance, or other forms of movement. On event day, each child will complete one final mile — reaching 26.1 miles, the distance of a full marathon.

"The Children's Fun Run reflects our

chapter's commitment to supporting the physical and personal development of all children," said Richele Jordan-Davis, President of the Greater Huntsville Chapter.

Registration is free and available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ghc-fun-run-tickets-1982859654604>

## Arts Huntsville Announces Panoply 2026

Art, music, and more collide this spring as the Panoply Arts Festival returns. The festival continues to evolve, blending the technical precision of Huntsville with vibrant innovation to create the Southeast's premier three-day arts destination. Presented by Mazda Toyota Manufacturing, the festival officially takes over Big Spring Park from April 24-26, 2026.

### Panoply 2026 hours by Day are:

- Friday, April 24, from 5 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
- Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. (Art Marketplace closes at 7:30 p.m.)  
- Sunday, April 26, from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

From the juried Art Marketplace to the high-tech

STEAM interactives, Panoply is more than a tradition—it's a dynamic showcase of the creativity that powers North Alabama.

The celebration begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 24, launching a full weekend of regionally acclaimed musical performances, the fan-favorite juried Art Marketplace, STEAM Street, interactive art experiences, craft beer and wine, local food trucks,

and more.

For ease of convenience, Panoply 2026 will feature three entrances presented by Huntsville Utilities. Guests may enter on Church Street near the crosswalk to Big Spring East Park, on Williams Avenue at Big Spring Park, or on Monroe Street across from the Von Braun Center. Arts Huntsville is offering a \$20 weekend pass, available online and at Panoply ticket booths through Saturday at

8:30 p.m.

The weekend pass provides an affordable way to enjoy all the entertainment and activities throughout the festival.

Day passes are \$15 and may be purchased in advance online or at the festival ticket booths, presented by Redstone Federal Credit Union. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Tickets are on sale now at [artshuntsville.org](http://artshuntsville.org).

The Valley Weekly

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# AUNT IRMA MAKES IT PLAIN...

## A Different Vital Sign: Measuring a Society by Its Medicine Cabinet

### The Medicine Cabinet as Social Barometer

Consider high blood pressure medication alone. Tens of millions of Americans take drugs each day to control hypertension. Add medications for Type 2 diabetes, statins for cholesterol, antidepressants, anti-anxiety medications, and sleep aids, and a striking picture emerges: a large portion of the population relies on pharmaceuticals to maintain basic physiological balance.

These drugs perform remarkable and often lifesaving work. No serious observer would argue against their value. The issue is not whether the medications help—they clearly do—but why so many people *need* them in the first place.

A society in which half the adult population requires long-term medication to manage preventable conditions might be compared to a city that measures its safety not by crime rates but by the number of police officers it employs.

The presence of treatment does not necessarily indicate the absence of disease.

### The Paradox of Medical Success

Modern medicine excels at keeping people alive with chronic conditions. Hypertension can be con-



trolled. Cholesterol can be lowered. Blood sugar can be regulated. Depression can be moderated. Sleep can be induced.

In effect, medicine has become extraordinarily good at compensating for the stresses and distortions of modern life.

But compensation is not the same as cure.

If a society requires a large pharmaceutical infrastructure simply to stabilize everyday health, the deeper causes may lie not in biology but in culture—diet, stress, inequality, sedentary lifestyles, environmental factors, and economic pressures.

The medicine cabinet, in this sense, becomes a cultural artifact.

### What the Pills Are Trying to Tell Us

### A More Honest Health Metric

If policymakers truly wished to measure public health, they might track:

- The percentage of adults taking daily prescription medications
- The number of medications per person
- The age at which chronic drug use typically begins
- The prevalence of preventable metabolic conditions

These figures might reveal far more about the condition of a society than the number of hospitals it builds.

After all, the healthiest communities in the world—whether in certain Mediterranean regions, parts of East Asia, or small rural societies—are not distinguished by towering medical complexes. They are distinguished by the relative absence of chronic disease.

Their health systems are quiet because their bodies are not constantly sounding alarms.

### Health Before Healthcare

A truly healthy society might be defined not by the sophistication of its medical interventions but by how rarely those interventions are needed.

In such a society:

- fewer people would require daily blood pressure medication
- diabetes would be the exception rather than the norm
- sleep would come naturally
- stress would not routinely push physiology into crisis

Doctors would still exist, of course, but their work would focus more on acute care and prevention rather than managing large populations of chronically medicated patients.

The ultimate success of medicine may not be the expansion of treatment but the shrinking of necessity.

### A Final Question

If we walked through a typical household and quietly counted the pill bottles in the medicine cabinet, what story would they tell about our society?

They might reveal something that hospital statistics and physician counts cannot: the degree to which modern life itself has become a chronic condition.

A society's true health may not be measured in its clinics, but in how many people can live well without visiting them.

- TVW Staff

The Valley Weekly

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**The Valley Weekly**

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Eighth Page	5x5 inches	\$300
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Sixteenth Page	2.5x2.5	\$75
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# A LIFE OF SERVICE: Kenneth Anderson's Lasting Impact

Every community is shaped by individuals who dedicate their lives to service. In Huntsville, Kenneth "Kenny" Anderson stands among those whose commitment to helping others has created a lasting and meaningful legacy.

A nationally certified counselor with more than forty years of experience in the mental health profession, Anderson has spent his career guiding and encouraging people through life's challenges. A graduate of Oakwood University and Alabama A&M University, his professional journey has included roles in education, counseling, and public service.

Many in our community know Anderson from his time with the City of Huntsville, where he served as Multicultural Affairs Officer after being appointed by Mayor Tommy Battle in 2013. Before that, he spent 16 years at Calhoun Community College, ultimately serving as Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. In each role, he worked to strengthen relationships and expand opportunities for others.



For more than three decades, Anderson has also used his voice to uplift the community through his weekly radio talk show, "2nd Chance," broadcast every Sunday on Oakwood University's radio station. The program offers conversations about faith, personal growth, and the power of redemption.

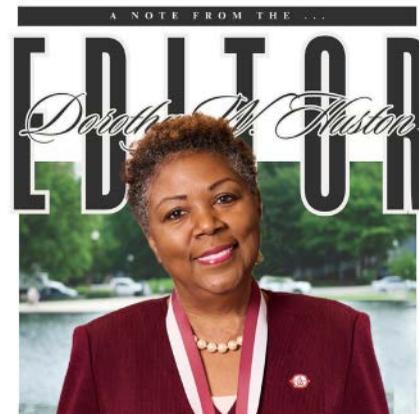
One of Anderson's most significant contributions has been his investment in education. He has established five endowed scholarships at Calhoun Community College, Oakwood University, Alabama A&M University, and Drake State Community & Technical College. Through these scholarships, students will continue to receive opportunities long into the future.

His commitment to empowering others also led him to launch Leadership Empowerment Enterprise, a nonprofit dedicated to mentoring, professional development, and philanthropy. The organization hosts a free monthly seminar known as First Wednesday, providing guidance and encouragement for individuals seeking to grow both personally and professionally.

Throughout the years, Anderson has served on numerous boards and civic organizations, always working to bring people together. Many describe him as a bridge builder—someone who believes that communities are strongest when people work across differences to serve the greater good.

Kenneth Anderson's life reminds us that true legacy is not measured by titles or recognition, but by the lives we touch and the opportunities we create for others. His decades of service continue to strengthen our community and inspire those who follow.

Until next week ...



*Dorothy*

**MARCH 20 - SPIKE LEE - Shelton Jackson "Spike" Lee is an American film director, producer, writer, and actor. His production company, 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks, has produced scores of films since 1983. Lee's films have examined race relations, colorism in the black community, the role of media in contemporary life, urban crime and poverty, and other political issues. He has won numerous accolades for his work, including an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay, a Student Academy Award, a BAFTA Award for Best Adapted Screenplay, two Emmy Awards, two Peabody Awards, and the Cannes Grand Prix. He has also received an Academy Honorary Award, an Honorary BAFTA Award, an Honorary César, and the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize.**



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

# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



The Valley Weekly

Today's Spiritual Game Plan:

## "Is Life Fair?"

In Matthew 20:12-15, a hired man says to the landowner, "These who were hired last, worked only one hour and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day." The landowner answered, "I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for one denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do whatever I want with my money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

Does it ever feel to you that life is not fair? As we read here in the text, God blesses whoever He wants to bless and there is no rhyme or reason to it. The problem that so many of us have is we try to look at the fairness of it all. For example, how many of us felt like those who worked the longest should have been paid the most? Most of us see life from our own limited experiences and our own perceptions. When we feel that life is not fair, perhaps we need to look at the reason we feel that way.

I believe that one of

the reasons we feel that life is not fair is because of comparisons. In other words, we are constantly comparing ourselves to other people. This is a trap by the enemy. He will always make you feel like what you did or what you have is not enough. I pray that you don't fall into this trap.

There is nothing wrong with trying to aspire to be like someone else, but that is completely different from the parable explained in this scripture. When we make comparisons, that will keep us from the blessings that God wants us to have. Remember, what God has for me is for me.

Our pride will make us feel like life is not fair. Pride has always been the downfall of people. The pride of these hired workers made them feel like they were better than the people who worked for

only an hour, even though they agreed to the conditions and the pay.

Whenever we feel that life is not fair, we may need to check our perspectives and ask God for wisdom in this area.

May God grant you spiritual success in seeing life from His perspective.

*Question:* Have you ever been in a situation where

you felt like life was not fair?

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](http://amazon.com).

**NEXT WEEK:**

"No Fear"



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

## VALLEY DEATHS



### NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816  
[www.nelmsmemorial.net](http://www.nelmsmemorial.net) - (256) 539-8189

*Funeral service for MRS. RUTH ANN BARLEY THOMPSON (b. 1943) of Chicago, Illinois, formerly of Huntsville, Alabama, will be held Saturday, March 21, at 2 p.m. at Center Grove United Methodist Church.*

*Funeral service for MR. WILLIE WILLIAMS (b. 1943) was Saturday, March 14, at Hurricane Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Gary Battles officiating.*

*Funeral service for MRS. TERESA MURPHY (b. 1967) was Saturday, March 14, at The Fellowship of Faith Church, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Troy Garner officiating.*

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

## Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

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 BUT WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER"



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 HUNTSVILLE, AL 35816  
 (256) 539-8189 • (256) 539-8183 (FAX)  
[WWW.NELMSMEMORIAL.NET](http://WWW.NELMSMEMORIAL.NET)

### 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.

## When Leaders Refuse to “Glance Back”

Leadership mistakes can cost money. But sometimes they cost lives.

According to a March 11 report by The New York Times, a preliminary U.S. military investigation has concluded that an American Tomahawk missile strike destroyed an elementary school in Minab, Iran, on February 28. The strike reportedly killed about 175 people, most of them children.

Investigators say the strike resulted from outdated targeting data that mistakenly identified the school as part of an Iranian military base.

Even more troubling, President Donald Trump initially suggested that Iran might be responsible for the strike, despite the fact that Tomahawk missiles are used only by the United States and its allies.

For those of us who study leadership, this tragedy illustrates a painful but important lesson.

Leadership begins with accountability.

In the Ego-holism Recovering leadership model, we teach three preliminary steps before leaders act:

- Target the problem.
- Own the problem.
- Proceed to action.

These steps are followed by the first core discipline of responsible leadership: “Glance back quickly.”

That does not mean dwelling on the past. It means verifying facts before moving forward. It means confirming data before making decisions. And it means acknowledging mistakes when they occur.

War is complicated, and mistakes can happen even in the most sophisticated military operations. But leadership is not measured by perfection.

Leadership is measured by honesty.

History shows that the most respected leaders are those who face difficult truths directly rather than shifting blame elsewhere.

When leaders target problems clearly, own mistakes openly, and proceed responsibly, trust can be rebuilt.

But when ego replaces accountability, missteps multiply—and the consequences can be devastating.

In leadership, as in life, the courage to admit error is often the first step toward real progress.



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.

Join us Weekdays for

7am, 1pm and 7pm CT

4pm CT

Contact us at [info@timallston.com](mailto:info@timallston.com), 256-212-0949

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

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Email Address: [leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com](mailto:leadingfromthemiddle.tim@gmail.com)

Website: [www.timallston.com](http://www.timallston.com)

# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## “Nah, You Can ...”

Hey You! Yeah, *you!* You're sitting there hesitating. For no reason other than you just don't really want to. You want to say, I will try, or I tried, but you didn't. A try is a justified excuse in your head to give a lackluster attempt to do something half-heartedly. But why? Because doing it will take some real effort? Stop it!



The majority of the world operates off this ridiculous mindset! It's so easy to say, I can't. But the real phrase is, “I won't because I'm too lazy, too afraid, too intimidated.” What's gonna happen? You fail? So what? At the very least you learn something, right? You learn to take a new direction. You learn what not to do. As my father says, “They

can't beat your behind just because it didn't work!” So again. “Why aren't we just doing it?”

You ask, “Doing what?” Writing, reading, exercising, eating healthier, not cursing, fixing your negative attitude, mistreating people, giving your best. Fill in whatever you need to place in that blank. It differs for everyone. Simply coming off the wack way of thinking and actually applying what you already know will

fix the hangup you have. This isn't rocket science. I spent 24 years in that industry, trust me, I know. It's just a simple decision.

You say, “I can't, but Nah, you can! You just don't want it bad enough. I said what I said.

Lace Up! Let's Go! Life is waiting!

God loves you, and so do I.

He has given you a gift; *open it.*

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### Craig E Satterfeal

Financial Consultant

[craig.satterfeal@thrivent.com](mailto:craig.satterfeal@thrivent.com)

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The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**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](http://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

Huntsville, Ala.

**April 18**  
"Finer en Blanc"  
19th Annual Blue Revue  
Delta Omega Zeta Chapter  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.  
Entertainment by DJ 4Klub  
and The Brightlight Expe-  
rience  
(Attire: All-white cocktail  
attire and fashionable hats  
are highly encouraged to  
honor the spirit of the oc-  
casion)  
The Summit at Redstone

Arsenal  
VIP Hour: 6-7 p.m.  
Main: 7-10 p.m.  
[www.deltaomegazeta.com](http://www.deltaomegazeta.com)

**April 24**  
Cake  
Orion Amphitheater  
MidCity  
Huntsville, Ala. - 8 p.m.

**May 2**  
Ethel Cain  
Orion Amphitheater  
8 p.m.

## A&M Accepting Applications for TRIO Upward Bound Program

Alabama A&M Univer-  
sity is accepting applica-  
tions from area high school  
students for its TRIO  
Upward Bound program, a  
federally funded initiative  
designed to help students  
prepare for and succeed  
in college, including a  
six-week summer residen-  
tial college experience on  
campus.

Funded by the U.S.  
Department of Education,  
TRIO Upward Bound is  
a national college access

program that provides aca-  
demic support, mentoring  
and enrichment opportu-  
nities to students who are  
the first in their families to  
pursue a bachelor's degree  
and who meet federal in-  
come eligibility guidelines.  
The Alabama A&M Uni-  
versity program has served  
students in the Huntsville  
and North Alabama area  
for nearly 60 years and is  
funded annually to sup-  
port 104 local high school  
students.

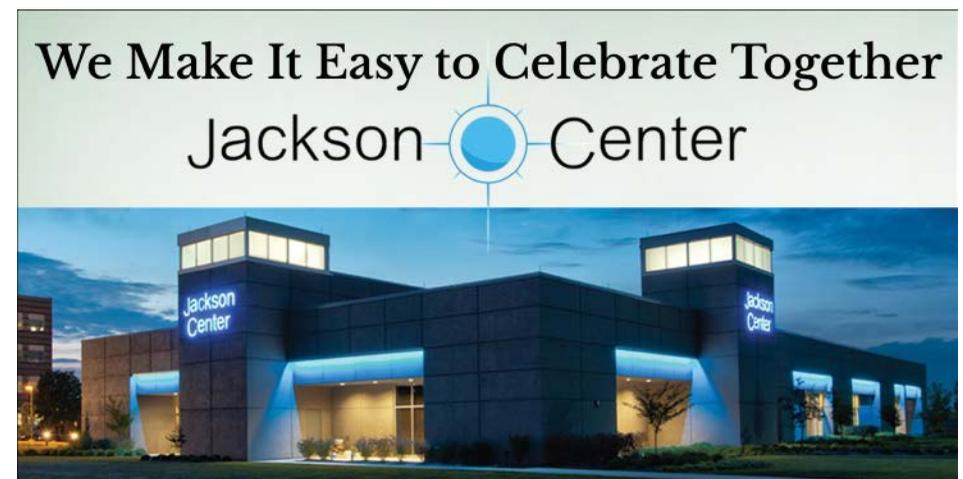
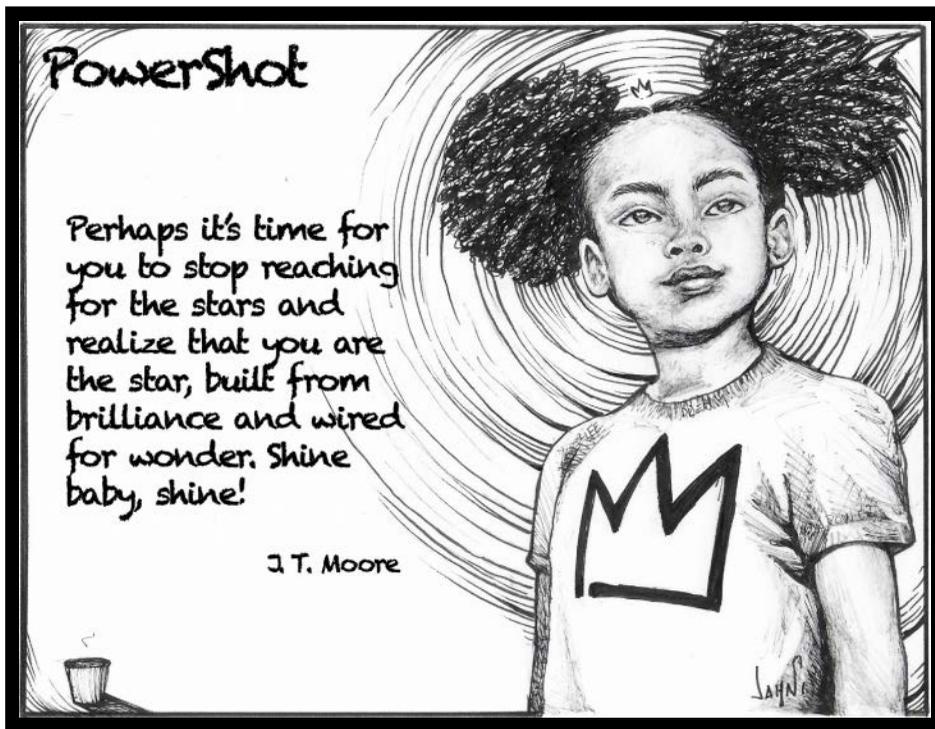
The program operates  
year-round, offering ser-  
vices during the academic  
year. Participants receive  
academic tutoring, men-  
toring, financial aid and  
financial literacy educa-  
tion, college preparation  
guidance, ACT preparation  
including free ACT fee  
waivers, college tours and  
campus visits, cultural and  
educational enrichment  
activities, stipends and  
additional college readiness  
support.

Students must complete  
an application packet to be  
considered for the pro-

gram.

For more information  
and to apply, visit [TRIO](http://TRIO)

[Upward Bound - Alabama  
A&M University.](http://UpwardBound-AlabamaA&MUniversity)



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

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

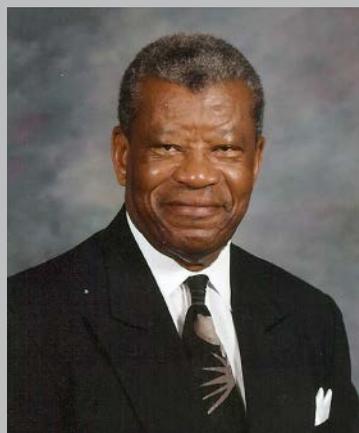
## Col. (Ret.) James O. Heyward

A native of Sumter, S.C., James O. Heyward, Sr., was a career Army officer who retired from active service in 1983 with the rank of Colonel. Col. (Ret.) Heyward served in key command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, amassing a diverse background of extensive experience in planning, management and operations to include training, logistics, resource management, counseling and investigative work. His last military assignment was Professor of Military Science at Alabama A&M University (AAMU).

Since his retirement, he held the position of Director of Admissions at AAMU from 1984 to 1997. Some of Col. (Ret.) Heyward's significant past military assignments were Commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Field Element, Fort Monroe, Virginia; coordinating world-wide

liaison network in the United States and five foreign countries; Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Military Community, Baumholder, Germany; member, U.S. European Command, J-3, Joint Task Force Division, Germany; and many others.

Heyward holds a B.S. degree from South Carolina State University and an M.A. from Shippensburg State University. He graduated from the Armed Forces Staff College and the U.S. Army Personnel Management for Executives Program. In 1979, he was inducted into the South Carolina State University Army ROTC Hall of Fame. In 1996, he received the South Carolina State University Distinguished Alumni Award. Heyward was also a former Paratrooper and received numerous military awards and



citations, including the Legion of Merit.

Heyward remained active in community activities for decades. He was a member and past president of the local graduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; member of Epsilon Kappa Boule, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; holds membership in the Royal College of Papal Knights in the Americas; former member of the Board of Directors of LIFT Housing; and many more.

Col. (Ret.) Heyward was married to the late Willie Mae Thompson, and they had two sons and two grandsons.



"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).



**State Farm**

**Mary F Spears, Agent**

(Behind McDonald's)  
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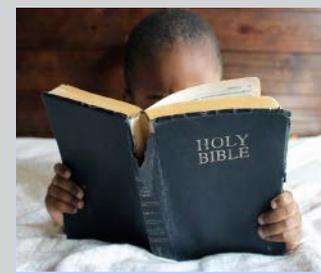
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## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, March 22, 2026

The Fifth Sunday  
in Lent



(Track 2, Year A)

**First Lesson:**  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130

**Second Lesson:**  
Romans 8:6-11  
**GOSPEL:**  
John 11:1-45



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

**1. CONGRESS.** The House and Senate are in session this week. At the President's insistence, the Senate is expected to begin extended debate on the House-passed "SAVE America Act," which would require a birth certificate or passport to prove U.S. citizenship when registering to vote and require a picture ID when voting in federal elections (the President is also demanding that the bill be amended to include a ban on mail-in voting, a ban on gender-affirming care for minors, and restrictions on

transgender participation in sports). Last Thursday, the Senate again failed, with a 51-46 vote, to break the filibuster on the FY2026 Homeland Security Appropriations bill — now shut down for 31 days — with Senate negotiations on ICE reforms at a reported impasse.

The House will vote on two bills to increase deportations for aliens who: (1) have been convicted of or admit to defrauding U.S. government benefits and (2) have been convicted of or admit to harming animals used in law enforcement. On Wednesday, the Senate

Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) to replace Kristi Noem as Secretary of Homeland Security.

**2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.** This week, the President will hold meetings at the White House with Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Micheál Martin on Tuesday and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Friday. Last Thursday, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced in a court filing that it is between 40-80% finished with work to develop a four-part system to

refund \$166 billion in illegal tariff collections (with interest) to more than 330,000 importers who paid tariffs on 53 million shipments. Last Friday, the Commerce Department downgraded its 4th quarter 2025 GDP growth estimate to an unexpectedly sluggish 0.7% annual rate from an initial estimate of 1.4%.

### 3. SUPREME COURT.

The Court may announce opinions from its current docket on Friday at 10 a.m. EDT. Next Monday (Mar 23), the Court will hear *Watson v. Republican National Committee* to decide whether federal law requires ballots to be not only cast by voters but also received by election officials by Election Day in a GOP challenge to a Mississippi law (as well as similar laws in 30 other states and the District of Columbia) that allow mail-in ballots to be counted as long as they are received within 5 business days after Election Day.

### 4. FEDERAL RESERVE.

The Fed's Federal Open

Market Committee met this Tuesday and Wednesday, with observers eager to see the Fed's statement on interest rates set for release on Wednesday afternoon. The Fed is almost certain to keep the federal funds rate steady at 3.50%–3.75% during this session.

In related news, last Friday U.S. District Court Chief Judge James Boasberg dismissed grand jury subpoenas issued to Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell by federal prosecutors over renovations at Fed headquarters in Washington, stating that "there is abundant evidence that the subpoenas' dominant — if not sole — purpose is to harass and pressure Powell either to yield to the President or to resign and make way for a Fed chair who will," and that "the government has offered no evidence whatsoever that Powell committed any crime other than displeasing the President."

### 5. HIGHER EDUCA-

**TION.** On Friday, a federal judge granted colleges and universities temporary relief from a major new data-reporting mandate issued by the Education Department.

The Trump administration had required institutions to submit six years of detailed admissions data, including race, gender, and program-level information, by Wednesday. Judge Dennis Saylor of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts extended that deadline to March 25 while he considers a lawsuit brought by Massachusetts and 16 other states. The states argue that the rushed rollout risks significant reporting errors that could expose schools to penalties and federal investigations.

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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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# CFCU Serves North Alabama for More than 70 Years

*Nestled at the top of The Hill on Campus Road, next to the Department of Public Safety and across from Stephens Hall, sits a small building with a powerful legacy. Councill 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, Councill 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.

In its earliest years, the credit union operated out of the offices of accounting professors Henry Torrance and Wilbert Cooper. The University later provided space on the first floor of the Vocational Building, where Tessie Davis Horace became the credit union's first full-time employee. From those beginnings, Councill Federal Credit Union has grown to more than 600 members and manages millions of dollars in assets, remaining a trusted financial resource in Huntsville.

Today, membership is open to Alabama A&M University students, faculty and staff, as well as employees of Huntsville and Madison County public schools, ARA Slater (ARAMARK), J.F. Drake State Technical College, immediate family members of current and retired members, and organizations composed of eligible individuals.

Talbot Malone, who became manager in



April 2024, leads the credit union alongside service representative Danielle Johnson. “Our mission is simple: help our members build stability and confidence in their finances,” said Malone. “We want students, faculty, staff and community members to know they have a welcoming place right here on campus with competitive rates and real opportunities to grow.”

Joining the credit union costs \$30, which includes a \$5 membership fee and \$25 in shares. After three months of membership, individuals may apply for a short-term loan of up to \$1,000 with no

credit check. Members with lower credit scores may qualify for loans up to \$10,000, while those with higher credit scores may be eligible for loans up to \$15,000.

Councill Federal Credit Union offers a full range of services designed to meet every day financial needs. Savings accounts are insured up to \$250,000 through the National Credit Union Administration. Loan options include signature loans, new and used auto loans, share-secured loans, certificate-secured loans and short-term loans. Members can make deposits and withdrawals in person, by mail, by phone or through payroll deduc-

tion. Additional services include free notary service, Christmas Club accounts, share certificates, direct deposit and payroll deduction.

“This is a place where people can feel comfortable asking questions and learning how to better manage their money,” added Johnson. “We invite anyone who’s eligible to stop by or give us a call and see how we can support their financial goals.”

Beyond its services, Malone said the credit union’s presence on campus carries deeper meaning.

“Supporting Councill Federal Credit Union

means supporting a Historically Black-owned institution with deep roots at Alabama A&M,” said Malone. “As we approach 72 years of service, we’re proud to continue serving this community and helping our members move forward.”

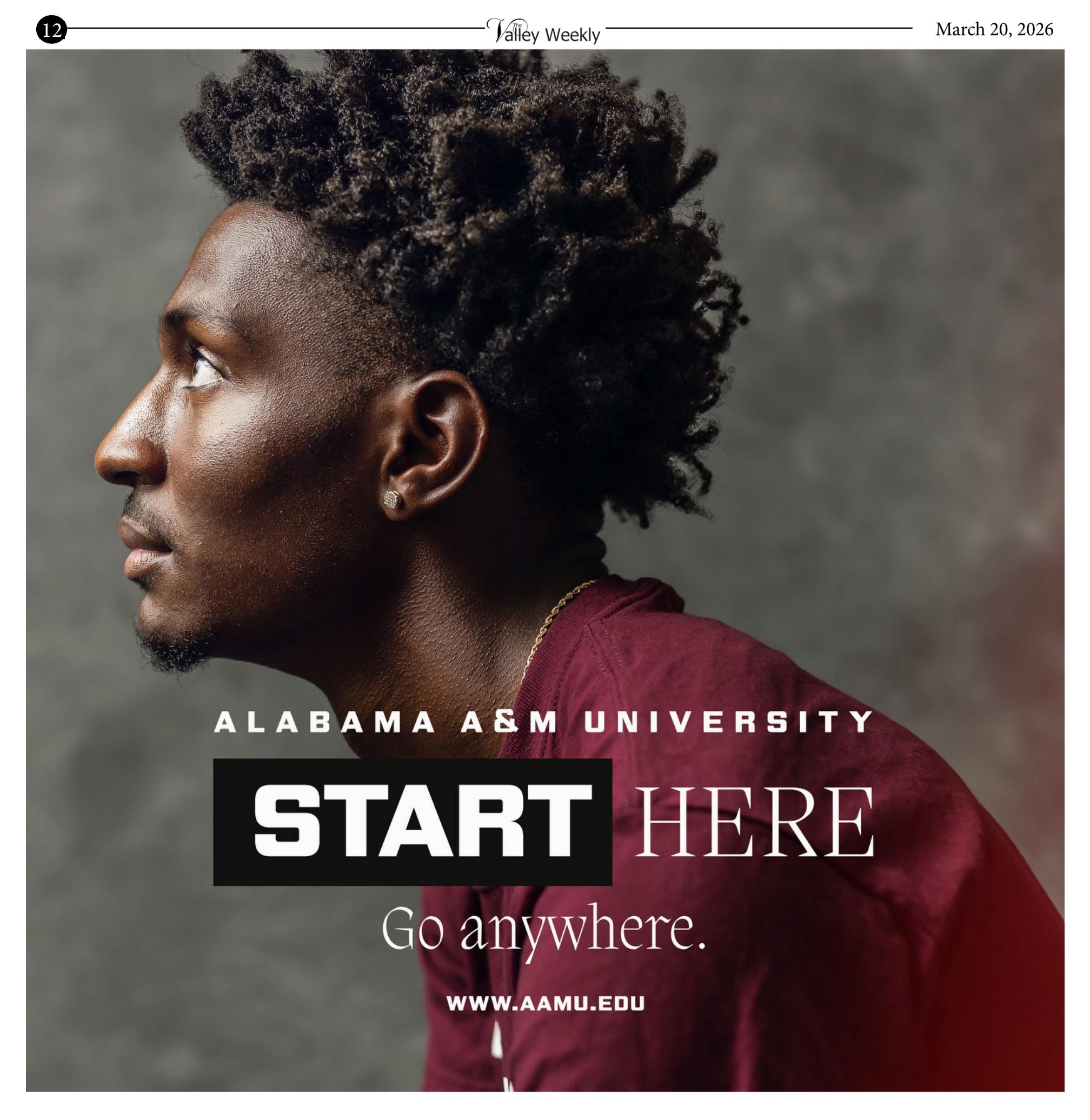
Councill Federal Credit Union is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and generally follows the Alabama A&M University calendar.

For more information or to begin the membership process, call 256-372-5706 or visit the office on Campus Road.

# The 20th Anniversary and 19th Annual Rosetta James Foundation “Honoring Our Elders” Celebration

Saturday, March 14, 2026 - The Jackson Center - Huntsville, Ala. (Visit [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org))





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