

# MICHAEL FORD: Impact & Legend - p. 3



FREE



## Remembering Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford - p. 2



Friday

July 31, 2026

Vol. 12, No. 48

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

**SALUTE!**

Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Eugene Dickerson

*"What we achieve inwardly will change outward reality." — Plutarch*

## 'Inclusive' Huntsville Aim of Forum

The City of Huntsville's Office of Multicultural Affairs, in partnership with the Huntsville Human Relations Commission, will host a public forum Community Conversation: How to Build a More Inclusive Huntsville on Thursday, July 30, from 5:30-7 p.m. at

Huntsville City Hall, 6th floor, 305 Fountain Circle SW.

The event will focus on discussions about how residents and government can work together to make sure Huntsville excels at being inclusive and welcoming to people of different ethnicities, ages,

abilities, faiths and economic status, as the city continues its growth.

"An inclusive community doesn't happen by accident. It is built through honest dialogue, shared experiences and a commitment to valuing every resident," Multicultural Affairs

Director Dr. Randy Barbour said. "This conversation is an opportunity for all of us to come together, listen deeply and help shape a Huntsville where every voice is welcomed, respected and empowered."

To register, complete the form [HERE](#).

## Women in Jazz Gets Trademark

The Alabama Women in Jazz Festival proudly announces that its name and brand have received official trademark registration from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Registration No. 8,361,126 marking an important milestone in the organization's continued growth and commitment to celebrating women in jazz.

For more information about the Alabama Women in Jazz Festival and upcoming events, please contact: Patrice Bivins, founder, at Alabama Women in Jazz Festival at (256) 262-7911 valleyartsent@gmail.com

## HMA Launches 'Warhol' Exhibit

The Huntsville Museum of Art will open the coveted exhibit "WARHOL: Film, Fashion, Photography" on Friday, July 31. The exhibition presents an expansive look at one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, featuring more than 150 works that reveal how Warhol shaped—and was shaped by—the visual culture of his time.

Fashion plays a central role in



Warhol's creative universe, and the exhibition highlights his deep engagement with style and design.

Film and photography further illuminate Warhol's creative orbit. Spanning illustration, film, photography,

fashion, and print-making, the exhibit captures the full scope of Warhol's creative vision.

The exhibit will continue through October 18.

Call HMA at (256) 535-4350 for more details.

## Bulldogs, Howard Kick off Season

The Alabama A&M University Bulldogs and the Howard University Bisons will kick off the 2026 college football season in the Cricket MEAC/

SWAC Challenge on Saturday, August 29, 2026.

The game is scheduled for a 7:30 PM ET kickoff at Center Parc Stadium in Atlanta,

Georgia, and will be broadcast nationally on ESPN.

This is only the second time the two programs have met, with Howard taking the first matchup

in 1992. For ticket availability and to secure seats in Atlanta, browse options via SeatGeek, TickPick or the AAMU ticket office.

## Tuskegee Puts It Foot Down

Tuskegee University students will no longer be permitted to wear bedroom shows, bonnets or do-rags in classes, according to several media sources, nearly all pulling from HBCU Gameday.

Sources claim that President Dr. Mark A. Brown announced the changes in a letter to parents of incoming students expected to form the historic institution's largest freshman class in over three decades.



The Valley Weekly

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# The Tennessee Valley Mourns the Loss of an Institution: Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford



The entire Tennessee Valley and beyond mourns the recent passing of a woman who had become a living institution and whose impact on the field of music knows no parallel.

Mrs. Nell Lane Bradford was recognized as one of the most scholarly musicians in the United States. Her versatility as lecturer, performer, author, conductor and teacher were widely respected and honored. As the Director of University Choir at Alabama A&M University (AAMU) for 40 years, she brought an unprecedented standard of distinction to the AAMU Choir.

Mrs. Bradford initiated the Annual Christmas

Musicale at AAMU in 1948, elevating it from a Christmas concert to a full production. Under her leadership, the Christmas Musicale became a beloved holiday tradition for hundreds of families and individuals throughout the North Alabama region.

Mrs. Bradford's teaching was designed to challenge her students to achieve their maximum potential, and she demanded excellence from the classroom to the performance stage. Thus, the University Choir traveled and performed at many functions in the local community and various cities, consistently receiving high ratings. Further, at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian

Church, she led the qualitative expansion of the church's music ministry by instituting a children's choir, women's choir and the chancel choir. Her work in the field of choral music consistently received fond appreciation from the public, as well as high accolades from music aficionados, professionals, and composers and conductors such as Professor Roland Carter and composer William Dawson.

Mrs. Bradford received her degrees from Sherwood Music School in Chicago, where she received the Bachelor of Music; Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin College, where she earned the Master of Music; and she pursued additional studies with Madeline

Marshall (a specialist in English diction); with Maxine Lagerstrom of Chicago Musical College; and Oakland University in Michigan under the oversight of Robert Shaw, who music critics often regard as one of the greatest choral conductors in the world.

Her professional teaching experiences include assignments in the public-school system of Edwardsville, Illinois; Baltimore, Maryland; and at Leland College in Baker, Louisiana. She came to Huntsville in the 1940s for the first time to teach music in the laboratory high school of Alabama A&M Institute.

At AAMU, she was an Associate Professor and the Director of the

University Choir. As a gracious steward of her God-given musical ability, she served for more than three decades as Director of Music Ministry at Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church, serving as primary pianist and choir director.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Bradford was an active leader and member of several organizations. Some of her past and current affiliations include founding member, The Society of Professional Women; charter member, Huntsville Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and member, National Association of Choral Directors.

For her contributions and service to mankind,

she received scores of awards, honors, citations and resolutions, such as Professor Emeritus, Alabama A&M University; Lifetime Achievement Award, Honoring Our Elders, Rosetta James Foundation; Alabama A&M University Award of Merit, Alabama A&M University National Alumni Association; and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Award, Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

She was married to the late Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., and was the mother of two: Ms. Andrea Bradford and Dr. Henry Lane Bradford. She also had one grandson, Dr. Henry Lane Bradford, Jr.

The Valley Weekly

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# Making Impact & Building Legacy: Michael T. Ford--Leading with Purpose, Lifting Others Along the Way

Success is often measured by titles, salaries, and professional accomplishments. Legacy, however, is measured by something far more enduring—the lives we touch, the opportunities we create for others, and the communities we leave stronger than we found them. Few individuals embody that distinction more fully than Michael T. Ford.

A distinguished corporate executive, veteran, mentor, philanthropist, and proud graduate of Alabama A&M University, Ford has built an extraordinary career spanning more than three decades. Yet, despite leading at the highest levels of some of the world's most respected corporations, he has never forgotten the importance of investing in people.

Today, Ford serves as Senior Vice President of Global Real Estate & Security for AT&T, where he oversees the company's worldwide real estate portfolio and global security operations. His responsibilities include strategic planning, workplace transformation, investigations, executive protection, crisis management, and operations that support one of the world's premier communications companies.

Before joining AT&T, Ford spent eighteen years with Microsoft as Corporate Vice President of Global Workplace Services. There, he led a worldwide organization responsible for creating secure, sustainable, and innovative workplaces across

more than 100 countries, serving over 200,000 employees. His career also includes executive leadership with Spherion Corporation, ANC Rental Corporation, and Aramark Services, following his distinguished service as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

These accomplishments alone would define an exceptional career. But Michael Ford's greatest contributions extend far beyond the boardroom. Leadership, in its highest form, is about helping others discover what they are capable of becoming. Ford has dedicated his life to doing just that. Long before he became a Fortune 100 executive, he was coaching youth football, basketball, hockey, and community sports. Those early experiences reflected a philosophy he has carried throughout his career: every person deserves someone who believes in them.

Today, he continues that commitment by mentoring senior military officers transitioning into corporate leadership and helping professional athletes prepare for careers beyond sports. His guidance has opened doors, expanded possibilities, and helped countless individuals recognize that leadership is not confined to a title—it is demonstrated through service, character, and integrity. In a world that often



celebrates personal achievement, Michael Ford reminds us that true success is measured by how many people rise because we took the time to lift them.

His commitment to service extends well beyond mentoring. Throughout his career, Ford has served on numerous nonprofit, corporate, and advisory boards dedicated to education, athletics, leadership development, and community advancement. His service on the Advisory Board of the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame reflects his belief that leadership and character development should accompany athletic excellence.

Perhaps nowhere is his heart more evident than in his continued commitment to Alabama A&M University. Like so many graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Ford understands that the education he received was about far more than earning a degree. It was about developing confidence, purpose, leadership, and a lifelong commitment to service.

As a member of Alabama A&M University's President's Advisory Council and the AAMU Legacy Society, Ford continues to help shape the institution that helped shape him. Together with his wife, Chala, he established the Michael and Chala Ford Endowment for Campus Im-

provement, ensuring that future generations of students will benefit from opportunities they may never fully realize were made possible through their generosity. That is the essence of legacy.

Ford's philanthropy reaches across North Alabama and beyond. His support for Alabama A&M University, Girls Inc. of Huntsville, the American Heart Association, the Northeast and Madison County Enrichment Program, Buckhorn High School Athletics, and numerous scholarship and youth initiatives reflects a deep understanding that strong communities are built by people willing to invest in others.

His contributions are not simply charitable gifts—they are strategic investments in the next generation of leaders. In 2023, Ford received the prestigious William Hooper Councill Award from the Alabama A&M University Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter, recognizing both his professional excellence and his unwavering commitment to community service.

Yet those who know him best would likely say that his proudest accomplishments are not found on a résumé. They are found in his devotion to his wife, Chala, and their three children—Mike, Moné, and Maya. Together, they have built a family grounded in faith, education, generosity, and service. Their lives demonstrate that



legacy begins at home before it reaches the boardroom, the university campus, or the community.

As I continue this series highlighting individuals who are making an impact and building lasting legacies, Michael T. Ford reminds us that influence is not reserved for those seeking recognition. It belongs to those who quietly, consistently, and intentionally use their gifts to improve the lives of others. His journey from Alabama A&M University to executive leadership at Microsoft and AT&T is remarkable. But even more remarkable is that he has carried with him the values of service, humility, mentorship, and generosity every step of the way.

Professional success may open doors. Character keeps them open. And the greatest legacy we leave is not the position we held, but the people who are better because we cared enough to help them succeed.

Michael T. Ford has spent a lifetime proving exactly that.

Until next week ...

*Dorothy*

**JULY 31 - WESLEY SNIPES** - Wesley Trent Snipes is an American actor, director, film producer, martial artist, and author. His prominent film roles include New Jack City (1991), White Men Can't Jump (1992), Passenger 57 (1992), Demolition Man (1993), and the Marvel Comics character Blade in the Blade film trilogy (1998–2004). He formed a production company, Amen-Ra Films, in 1991, and a subsidiary, Black Dot Media, to develop projects for film and television. He has been training in martial arts since the age of 12, earning a 5th dan black belt in Shotokan Karate and 2nd dan black belt in Hapkido.



# Spiritual Game Plan

PRESTON BROWN'S



The Valley Weekly

## Today's Spiritual Game Plan: "What's in It for Me?"

In Matthew 19:27, Peter answers Jesus, saying, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

Remember Colin Kaepernick, the former NFL quarterback who took a knee at the beginning of a game while the national anthem was being played? Many people viewed his gesture as being disrespectful to our nation's flag as well as those who served in the military.

Many of us know that he was protesting social injustices in our country. He was not being disrespectful to the flag or to people who served in the military. However, that's not what's important here. It doesn't matter whose side you are on. Mr. Kaepernick was willing to pay the cost for something that he believed in, even though it cost him his job, as well as his career. In life, there will be costs and rewards for everything that we do.

In this scripture, we read that the disciples were willing to lose everything for something that they believed. All of them had left their homes, their jobs, and their families to follow Jesus. However, they still wanted to know what was in it for them. Jesus was trying to get them to see that there is

something greater than this world has to offer. He was also trying to get them to see that there was something greater than what's in it for them. Sometimes we can't see past this world that we live in: a world full of politics, egos, wealth, possessions, and compromise.

I applaud Colin Kaepernick for his courage and for kneeling for something that he believed in enough to lose it all.

The same can be said about our ancestors, who were willing to risk it all so that we could have the right to vote, the right to an education, and the basic right to equality.

Whenever we celebrate days like Juneteenth and Martin Luther King's birthday, let us be mindful of the many sacrifices that our ancestors made. Let us also be thankful and grateful that they knew what was in it for them: better lives for so many people of color.



May God grant you spiritual success in seeing past the idea of what's in it for your own personal gain instead of what will help more people.

*Question:* When you are deciding whether or not to help someone, do you first consider the consequences of helping that person or are you led by the spirit to

make the right decision?

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:**  
"Roses Among Thorns"

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2501 Carmichael Avenue NW | Huntsville, AL 35816  
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Funeral services for **MS. MILDRED A. SCRUGGS** (b. 1942) and **MR. ROBERT TOWNSEND** (b. 1933) are incomplete and will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for **MRS. HATTIE JORDAN** (b. 1925) was Saturday, July 25, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral service for **MRS. LUCILLE JORDAN** (b. 1953) was Saturday, July 25, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Pastor Phil Ford officiating.

Public viewings for **MS. MILDRED A. SCRUGGS** (b. 1942) were held Wednesday, July 22, and Thursday, July 23.

Funeral service for **MRS. MARY MCDONALD** (b. 1952) was Sunday, July 19, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, 292 Cemetery Road, New Market, Ala.

Funeral service for **MR. ROBERT EARL TOWNSEND** (b. 1933) was Saturday, July 18, at St. James Primitive Baptist Church with Rev. Joe L. Hereford, eulogist, and Elder Patrick Arrington officiating.

Funeral service for **MR. REGINALD LAVELL RANDOLPH** (b. 1976) was Friday, July 17, at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Lance Kelly officiating and Pastor Dr. C. Jermaine Turner as eulogist.

Funeral service for **MS. TAMARA RECHELLE ANDERSON** (b. 1977) was Thursday, July 16, at Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church in Harvest, Ala., with Pastor Jackie Wilson officiating and Pastor Emeritus Annias Green as eulogist.

Funeral service for **MS. JEANETTE SANDERS** (b. 1952) was Friday, July 10, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home with Pastor Larry Davidson, Jr. officiating.

Celebration of Life for **MRS. PAULETTE MCCUTCHEN** (b. 1946) was Sunday, July 5, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Lorenzo Moore officiating.

Graveside service for **MR. HUBERT LANSDEN** (b. 1945) was Monday, June 29, at the Chattanooga National Cemetery.

Celebration of Life service for **MR. MICHAEL HOLMES** (b. 1957) was Saturday, June 27, at Chelsea Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Rev. Terence Haley officiating.

## The Courage to Call Things by Their Right Name

*"The greatest want of the world is the want of men; men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their innermost souls are true and honest; men who are not afraid to call sin by its right name; men who are as true to duty as is the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."*

Ellen G. White, Education, p. 57

When I was in the seventh grade in 1966, our teacher assigned our class a passage to read, memorize, and recite. That teacher happened to be my mother, Mrs. Zeola Allston.

Sixty years later, I can still recite those words from Mrs. Ellen White, co-founder of Oakwood Industrial School (now University).

Those words have become my lifelong measuring stick for leadership in men and women.

However, . . .

Unfortunately, our public square too often rewards image over integrity, spin over substance, and convenience over conviction. Leaders frequently calculate what is politically safe instead of what is morally right.

That is why I took note on Wednesday, July 22, when New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani publicly described Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a war criminal while acknowledging that, as mayor, he lacked the legal authority to enforce an arrest.

Whether one agrees with his position or not, he stated what he believed openly and accepted the consequences of doing so. (Reuters)

### A Right-now History Lesson

History reminds us that victory often becomes the greatest test of character. David defeated Goliath, but later stumbled. Success has a way of tempting leaders to exchange humility for pride and courage for calculation.

No leader deserves canonization. Every leader is flawed. But when leaders demonstrate the willingness to speak candidly, accept accountability, and place principle above popularity, those qualities deserve recognition.

The greatest need in leadership has never been perfection. It has always been courage.

The world is still waiting for men and women who cannot be bought or sold, who call wrong by its right name, and who will stand for what is right—even when the heavens seem ready to fall.

**Tim Allston**

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

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# Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

## TREES OF LIFE: The Single Point Failure ...

*Where are the gaps?*

Not the ones you'll admit to in public. The real ones. The places you've quietly decided nobody needs to know about. The functions you're covering alone because asking for help feels like weakness and weakness feels like failure and failure feels like confirmation of everything you're afraid people already think about you.

Even the most rooted tree has a weak branch.

The storm doesn't care how strong your foundation is if there's a single point of failure sitting unaddressed in your structure. One compromised branch. One gap in your system. One



place where you decided to go it alone instead of calling in what you actually needed. That's where it snaps. Not at the root. At the gap.

Even the most powerful companies don't put one person in charge of every function. CEOs don't do their own ac-

counting, their own legal, their own operations. Not because they can't. Because a single point of failure is a liability. And a liability in a storm is a casualty waiting to happen.

Stop being a single point failure.

The branch that snaps was already compromised before the wind came. The storm just exposed what was already weak. What in your life have you been ignoring hoping the storm won't find it?

It will find it.

**Next Week** — *What happens when the performance is finally over?*

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The Valley Weekly

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES &amp; MORE!

**July 31**  
Concert  
Lord Huron  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala.  
8 p.m.

Mindful Wellness Walk  
1300 Meridian Street  
Huntsville, Ala. | 11 a.m.

**August 1**  
Huntsville Food Fest  
The Royal at Stovehouse  
All-You-Can-Eat Small Plates  
3414 Governors Drive SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
Huntsvillefoodfest.com  
(Free Parking)  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**August 3**  
“Throw Your Rope Across the Fence”  
Career Mentoring and Networking Ministry Meeting  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
3509 Blue Spring Road NW  
Huntsville, Ala. | 1-3 p.m.

**August 6**  
Concert  
Tape B & Levity

The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala. | 7 p.m.

**August 7**  
First Fridays Summer Edition  
AC Hotel Huntsville Downtown  
435 Williams Avenue SW  
Huntsville, Ala. | 6-9 p.m.

Quarterly at Calvary Performance Series  
“Back to School: Improv Comedy and Community Arts”  
Cavalry Hill Community Center  
2800 Poplar Avenue NW  
Huntsville, Ala. | 6 p.m.

**August 7-9**  
Desi Bank  
Comedian  
Huntsville Levity Live  
2012 Memorial Parkway SW  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(256) 261-3374

**August 9**  
Sundays on the Greenway  
Tennessee Valley River Green-

way | 4-5 p.m.

**August 15**  
Huntsville Tea Fest  
Annabella at Cedar Glen  
www.huntsvilleteafestival.com  
Huntsville, Ala. | 2-9 p.m.

**August 17**  
“Throw Your Rope Across the Fence”  
Career Mentoring and Networking Ministry Meeting  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
3509 Blue Spring Road NW

Huntsville, Ala. | 1-3 p.m.

**August 18**  
Concert  
Goo Goo Dolls  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala. | 7:30 p.m.

**August 22**  
Concert  
Parker McCollum  
The Orion Amphitheater  
Huntsville, Ala. | 7:30 p.m.

**September 4-5**  
Shuler King

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

**September 7**  
Labor Day

**September 10**  
Bundle Dye Workshop  
1818 Farms  
(https://1818farms.com)  
24889 Lauderdale Street  
Mooresville, Ala.  
9:30-11:30 a.m.



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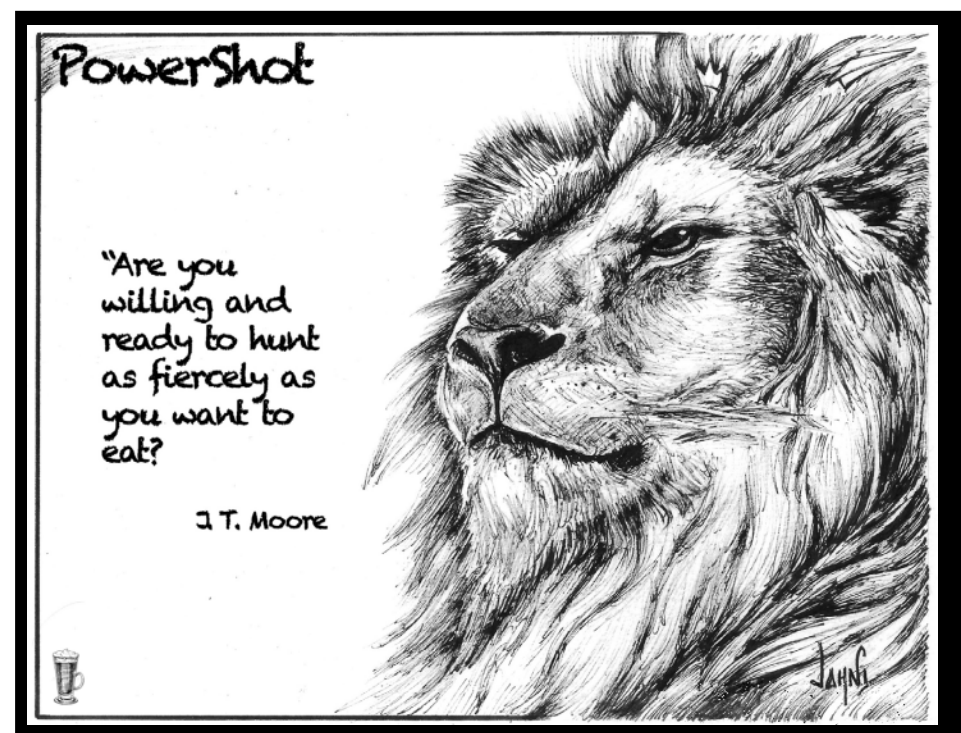
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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Mr. Eugene Dickerson

Mr. Eugene O. Dickerson is a native of Marion, Alabama. He is a military veteran with both active duty and reserve service. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Alabama A&M University in vocational education in 1959 and the Master of Education degree in trade and industrial education in 1975. He has done further study at AAMU in urban planning.

In August 1966, Dickerson began a civilian career with the U.S. government at Redstone Arsenal, serving at the U.S. Army Missile Munitions Center & School (MMCS) as an electronics training instructor. He was very patient with the students, spent extra time with them, and sought ways to improve his lesson presentations and teaching techniques to reinforce the soldiers' learning experiences and understanding of missile and radar systems operation. He possesses deep wisdom and has the God-given ability to quickly discern the inner qualities of other people after being around them for only a short while. He continues to provide wise counsel to many both socially and profes-

sionally.

In 1980, Dickerson accepted a transfer from the missile school to the Research, Development, and Engineering Center (RDEC) on Redstone Arsenal to support Millimeter Wave Guidance Technology and Equipment Development. While in the Advanced Sensors Directorate of RDEC, he served as the assistant frequency manager and established the basis for assignments and use of RF allocations and assured MICOM's frequency management data base was current and advised on all matters of radio frequency management that prevented adjacent channel interference by other equipment being tested.

Beginning in November 1981 and continuing through January 1994, Dickerson completed numerous engineering course modules that would prove very valuable to his job assignment at MICOM and his work within RDEC. He attended these courses at Georgia Tech, George Washington University, and the joint Spectrum Management Center in Annapolis, Maryland. He received eight exceptional and superior performance ratings during the years 1982 to 1987. After a stellar Civilian Career of more than 32 years, he



retired from the government but continued to serve in the private sector as a technical specialist for 17 years.

Dickerson is also a community servant and was appointed to the Huntsville Beautification Board by the Huntsville City Council in 1999 and was reappointed to serve through 2010. He also serves as a volunteer for Huntsville Hospital Authority, providing support services for certain volunteer programs.

He is a life member of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, the Huntsville-Madison County Chapter, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. A free-lance photographer, Dickerson was married to the late Annie (Lewis) Dickerson, and they are the proud parents of two enterprising and loving children, Lisa and Pamela, both of Baltimore, Maryland. They also have two 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](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



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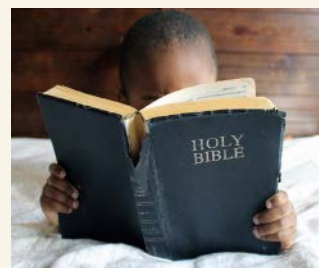
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## This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, August 2, 2026  
Tenth Sunday  
after Pentecost



(Track 2, Year A)

**First Lesson:**

Isaiah 55:1-5  
Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22

**Second Lesson:**

Romans 9:1-5

**GOSPEL:**

Matthew 14:13-21

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# AROUND TOWN

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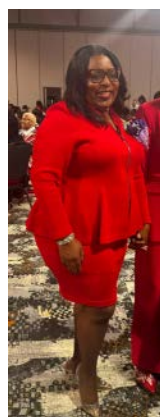


## Delta Research and Educational Foundation Social Action Luncheon

THEME: "The Time Is NOW: Hope in Action, Strength in Unity!"

Saturday, July 25, 2026 | Von Braun Center East Hall | 11 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Derrick Johnson, President/CEO, NAACP



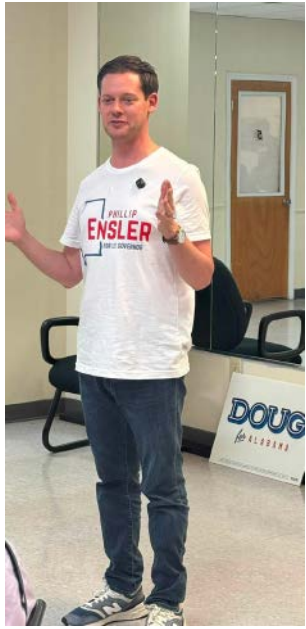


# AROUND TOWN

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## BOOTS ON THE GROUND Volunteer Field Day Show Up for the Candidates!!

Saturday, July 25, 2026 | 3-6 p.m.  
1800 Jordan Lane NW | Huntsville, Ala.





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 has begun its 5-week summer recess. This week, the Senate will vote to confirm Jay Clayton as Director of National Intelligence and will take up a Russia sanctions bill that would impose tariffs on Russian goods and provide \$8 billion in military loans to Ukraine. Senators honored the late Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) with a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday morning. Punchbowl News is reporting that the Senate may take up a stopgap appropriations measure to avoid a federal government shutdown on Oct. 1 (last week, the House approved a stopgap bill through Dec 4) ... On Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee was scheduled to vote on Todd Blanche's nomination to be Attorney General.

**2. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.** On Tuesday, the President spoke at Washington National

Cathedral at the funeral of the late Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC). He also met with Ukrainian President Zelensky and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, who were both in D.C. attending the funeral. Last Friday, the President issued an executive order to install placards at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History, informing visitors of the findings of a new White House report claiming that the museum's current signage has been infiltrated by "Marxist ideology." Last Wednesday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration posted a recall of 19 million eggs in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Mississippi distributed by Midwest Poultry Services due to potential Salmonella Enteritidis contamination that has to date sickened 100 people.

**3. NEW GLOBAL TARIFFS.** Last week, the White House imposed sweeping new global tariffs ranging from 10% to 12.5% on more than 80 trading partners, as well as a separate 50% tariff on a broad range of Canadian goods. The

non-Canadian tariffs took effect last Friday (July 24) and were levied under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to replace a temporary 10% global tariff floor that expired the same day ... Earlier in the week, the President signed 3 separate proclamations under Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930, imposing a 50% tariff on billions of dollars of Canadian exports, effective August 19, 2026, including wine, alcoholic beverages, hockey sticks, and cement (regardless of USMCA eligibility, although energy, potash, and critical minerals are exempt). In related news, Canadian officials held a solo ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony (without U.S. participation) last Friday to mark the completion of the \$4.5 billion Gordie Howe International Bridge connecting Detroit, MI with Windsor, Ontario, that is officially open to vehicle traffic now.

**4. OMB GRANT TERMINATIONS POLICY.** On July 17, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani, an Obama appointee, denied the administration's request to dismiss and granted summary judgment to the plaintiffs in New Jersey v. OMB, a lawsuit brought by 20 states, three governors, and the District of Columbia challenging the cancellation of billions of dollars in federal grant awards that do not align with administration priorities. The court found that federal law does not allow "terminations of awards based on

new program goals or agency priorities that an agency identifies after granting the award" ...

**5. EDUCATION.** In a July 17 announcement, the U.S. Department of Education clarified that colleges must repay Title IV funds disbursed to students later found ineligible due to fraud, even if the institution had no warning signs and the student was never flagged for verification. This follows ED's new real-time FAFSA screening system, which has already blocked over \$212 million in fraudulent aid and, combined with other measures, has prevented more than \$2 billion in improper disbursements. Institutions should note the practical guardrails in the guidance too: colleges can decline to admit flagged applicants but must work with already-enrolled or admitted students to resolve fraud flags via remote or in-person identity confirmation, and must refer credible fraud

evidence to ED's Inspector General. Financial aid offices should treat this as a prompt to strengthen their own front-end verification and documentation now, since liability applies whether or not a red flag was ever raised.

**6. SUPREME COURT.** The Supreme Court has concluded its 2025-26 term and will reconvene for the 2026-27 term on Monday, October 5 ...

**7. FEDERAL RESERVE MEETING.** The Federal Reserve is expected to keep interest rates unchanged at its upcoming meeting on Tuesday-Wednesday, leaving the federal funds target range steady at 3.50% to 3.75%, although published reports now put the chance of a rate hike at the Fed's September meeting at 82%.

**8. DNC/2028 PRIMARIES.** Last Friday, the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) Rules and Bylaws Committee

voted to place South Carolina first on the party's 2028 presidential nominating calendar, with some DNC delegates arguing that the Supreme Court's dismantling of Voting Rights Act protections for minority voters and the loss of Black congressional districts in the South as primary reasons for the South Carolina choice. The new calendar, if ratified by the full DNC next month, would be:

South Carolina: January 22  
Nevada: February 1  
New Hampshire: February 8  
New Mexico: February 15  
Michigan: February 22  
Virginia: February 29

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