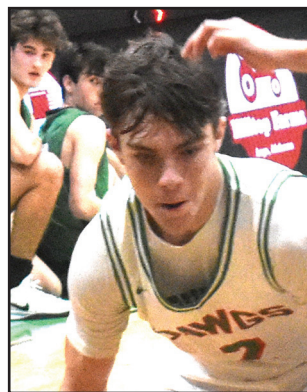


7 DAY FORECAST						
Friday Jan. 10	Saturday Jan. 11	Sunday Jan. 12	Monday Jan. 13	Tuesday Jan. 14	Wednesday Jan. 15	Thursday Jan. 16
High: 34 Low: 27	High: 36 Low: 18	High: 44 Low: 28	High: 43 Low: 24	High: 41 Low: 25	High: 44 Low: 21	High: 47 Low: 29



Page 1B

Ashville's J.B. Potter had a big game in the Bulldogs' Class 4A Area 11 win over Hokes Bluff earlier this week.

Photo by Chris McCarthy



Page 2B

Hokes Bluff junior Bryce Whitaker leads off the 2024 All-Etowah County Schools football team.

Photo by Alex Chaney



Page 1B

The Glencoe boys and Sardis girls are the top seeds in the upcoming Etowah County Schools Basketball Tournament.

Photo by Chris McCarthy

Etowah County issued a winter storm warning

By Kaitlin Hoskins
News Editor

Etowah County was issued a winter storm warning Thursday, January 9 by the National Weather Service.

The winter storm warning area begins along Interstate 20 and continues northward to Tennessee. The warning went into effect at midnight, 12 a.m., Friday morning and continues through the morning hours of Saturday.

Etowah County is also placed in a "significant impact area," which is defined as having "dangerous or impossible driving conditions." Residents are encouraged to avoid travel if possible. Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure "may occur."

The cause of these advisories is a winter storm named Cora. The storm is causing issues across the east region of the United States and beyond. Storm warnings and advisories on Thursday stretched from New Mexico across the country all the way to Virginia and the Carolinas.

Cora is forecast to bring between 1-3 inches of snow for Etowah County, as well as a threat of freezing rain.

Ahead of the storm, schools across Etowah County cancelled school for Friday, January 10.

Forecasters believe that travel impacts will diminish Saturday morning, as the sun warms surfaces and temperatures rise slightly. It is recommended that residents tune into local reliable sources of information, such as

the Gadsden-Etowah County Emergency Management Agency.

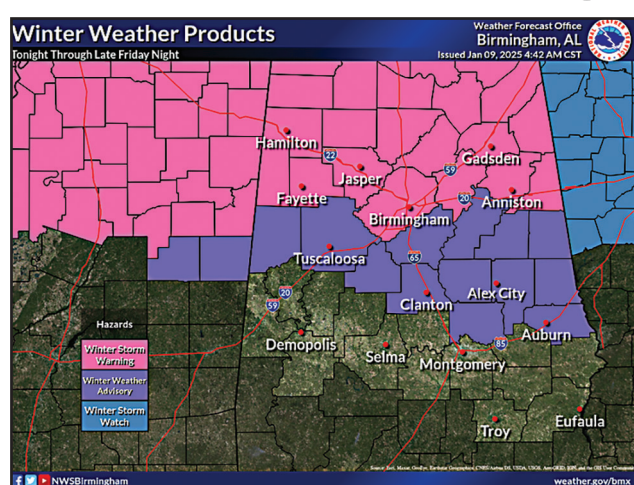
For up-to-date information on road closures, visit ALGOtraffic.com/map. The interactive map allows individuals to see real time updates on accidents, road closures and reported travel hazards.

Apart from travel impacts, the NWS also advises that some residents may be at risk for injury by exposure to unsafe temperatures.

With the possibility of wintery precipitation and cold temperatures those without adequate sheltering and safe heat sources are at risk. Those facing homelessness, those living in homes without safe and reliable heat sources, outdoor animals and pets and those who will be working outside during the cold snap are most at risk of hypothermia and other cold temperature related dangers.

The National Weather Service (NWS) recommends that those who will be outside should wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing, and a hat. They also suggest staying dry and out of the wind, covering your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold and wearing mittens that are snug at the wrist.

For water pipes, it is recommended that you allow hot and cold water taps to drip or trickle when not in use. Opening cabinet doors under a sink can also help by allowing more heat into areas with uninsulated pipes. Central heating units should be left on and set for no



Courtesy of National Weather Service

Etowah County was issued a winter storm warning Thursday, January 9 by the National Weather Service.

lower than 55 degrees. If you plan on being away from your home or business, consider shutting water off to the building or having a trusted person check on the building daily.

Winter storm warning - page 3A

Meighan Bridge could soon see improvements

By Kaitlin Hoskins
News Editor



Submitted photo

Meighan Bridge along U.S. Highway 431 could soon see improvements and expansions.

Commuters traveling to East Gadsden's retail area could enjoy a smoother ride in the future thanks to a RAISE grant for nearly \$5 million.

On Tuesday, January 7, the Gadsden City Council held a public hearing during its regularly scheduled meeting to discuss the 2025 RAISE grant project. The grant totaled \$4.6 million dollars with the city's 20 percent match equaling about \$900,000. The project would involve improving the Meighan Bridge to add additional lanes and safer sidewalks.

The city applied for the grant through the federal government, and Gadsden Mayor Craig Ford said the sidewalk improvements will allow the structure to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.

Ford said that although the Meighan Bridge has passed all Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) inspections, the bridge is outdated.

"It's a six-lane highway on both ends feeding into a four-lane bridge," Ford said. "That's a problem. It does shake and it can be scary. It is safe, but it is too small."

The next stages for the city are continued planning, more grant applications for the construction portion of the project. There is no completion date or start date for the project.

"It's just the beginning planning stages," Ford said. "We are looking ahead and trying to plan ahead for the future of Gadsden. We are growing and we need to prepare for that. We have a lot of people crossing that bridge each day."

Southside to use state grant for new program

The City of Southside recently received a \$91,850 portion of a \$400,000 grants for law enforcement training equipment and drug treatment resources in nine counties.

Southside will use the grant money for the police department's new Virtual Reality Response Training project, in which officers take part in immersive and interactive training depicting a variety of response scenarios, including traffic stops, dealing with distressed people and handling active armed offenders.

The Limestone County Commission, the City of Muscle Shoals and the RCA Foundation also received a portion of the grant.

"Our law enforcement officers work around the clock to protect and serve our communities, and these grants will fund projects that will make conditions safer for everyone involved in law enforcement encounters, including the officers themselves," Gov. Kay Ivey said.

The grants are being awarded through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program, which provides funding for a wide range of endeavors including law enforcement training, technology improvement and more.



Submitted photo

Participants set up tents at the annual chili cookoff.

DGI Chili Cookoff set for February 1

Saturday, February 1, is the date for the 17th annual Downtown Gadsden Chili Cook Off. Local teams will put their recipes to the taste test with on-site cooking with plenty of bragging rights on the line. Teams can begin cooking as early as 7 a.m. on Broad Street between 4th and 6th streets.

The public is invited to purchase taste tickets to sample the chili entries. Tickets will be available onsite for \$1 each or six for \$5. Chili will be ready for sampling at 12 p.m., and everyone is encouraged to arrive early because the chili can run out quickly!

Judges will sample each participating chili dish to select first, second and third place cash prize winners. The public can cast their votes for the crowd favorite.

Proceeds from the event will be used to support ongoing downtown projects.

Teams interested in joining can learn more by visiting downtowngadsden.com or calling the DGI office at 256-547-8696. Deadline date for entry is January 30 but teams that enter before January 17 receive two free tee shirts.



HOT-N-READY

PIZZA



OBITUARIES



Richard Charles Waldron Jr.

ATTALLA - Richard Charles Waldron Jr., age 20, of Attalla, Alabama passed away on Saturday, January 4, 2025.

A visitation for Richard will be held Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. A visitation will occur Sunday, January 12, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A chapel service will occur Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 12:00 PM.

A burial at Williams - Southside Memorial Gardens will occur Sunday, January 12, 2025.

retired with a full and happy heart. She also enjoyed baking cakes for family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her father, David Elmer Hill, mother, Ivalee Hill, brothers- James Wesley Hill, Delmer Lee Hill, Billie Hill, John Kenneth Hill, sisters- Laura Geneva McCroskey and Jeanie Loraine Snow.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Charles Gary Hamilton, children- Debra (Mark) Barnard, Duane (Donna) Hamilton, Jonathan Hamilton, grandchildren- DJ (Kandice) Hamilton, Megan Bush, Justin Barnard, Jordan Hamilton, Nicholas (Jen) Self, Riley Averett, 4 great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Becky's legacy will be carried on by the remembrance of her bundles of love and joy that she brought into the lives of those around her.

The family will receive friends at Gum Springs Missionary Baptist Church in Ashville, AL on January 14, 2025, from 10:30 AM until 12:00 PM. The funeral will follow at 12:00 PM. Bro. Chris Cornutt will officiate with Bro. Jeremy Jones and Bro. Steven Sawyer.

Serving as pallbearers will be Justin Barnard, DJ Hamilton, Jordan Hamilton, Jeremy Faulkner, Skyler Faulkner and Trent Faulkner.

Riley Averett and Joseph Dillard will serve as honorary pallbearers.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the amazing staff at Home Instead Caregiving Co. in Rainbow City and to the hospice staff at Enhabit Home Health and Hospice of Pell City.

Kathy Reavis Smithson

GADSDEN - Kathy Reavis Smithson, age 75, passed away on December 31, 2024. Collier-Butler Funeral Home and Cremation Service is managing the final arrangements, and a private memorial service will be held by her family.

Born on July 13, 1949, in Gadsden, Alabama, Kathy was a lifelong resident of the state and moved to Rainbow City upon retirement. She was a beloved mother and grandmother, known for her generous heart and enthusiasm for both giving and receiving gifts. Kathy loved a good adventure, whether it was hunting, fish-

ing, or camping with family and friends. Her early passions included NASCAR racing, coaching soccer, and serving as a Cub Scout den mom.

She was an avid Alabama football fan (and on occasion watched Auburn, in support of family members with those leanings). She had a tradition of attending the latest movie premier with family every Christmas and she cherished supporting her grandchildren at their games and performances, followed by thrift shopping and bowling to celebrate. Her legacy of love, humor, and adventure will be treasured by all who knew her.

Kathy was predeceased by her parents Clifford Seaborn Reavis and Eva Mae Norton; her Husband Bobby Louis Smithson; and her brother Clifford "Kip" Reavis Jr. She is survived by her sister Carol Eubanks (Randall); three children, Bryan Wells, Warren Wells (Tamie), and Clint Wells (Misti); her grandchildren, Collin Wells, Allison Helfort (Clayton), Dillon Wells, Baxter Wells, Reilly Wells, Josh Wells (Janine), Jason Wells, Rachel Shaw (Pate); niece and nephew Melinda Sellers (Michael), and John Eubanks; and grandnieces Audrey and Cassidy Sellers.

The family gives special thanks to the physicians, nurses, and support staff at Riverview Regional Medical Center. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alabama Kidney Foundation: www.alkidney.org; Phone: 205-900-7250; Email: info@alkidney.org

Gary C Moody, Sr.

RAINBOW CITY - Gary C Moody, Sr., age 75, of Rainbow City, AL passed away on Wednesday, January 1, 2025. A funeral service will be held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at Collier-Butler Funeral Home. Rev. Allen Ragan will officiate. Burial will follow at Forrest Hill Cemetery in Birmingham, AL. Collier-Butler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Gary was a graduate of Leeds High School. He loved to hunt and was apart of the FOP Hunting Club. He also enjoyed going fishing and building race cars. Above all, Gary loved his family. He will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him.

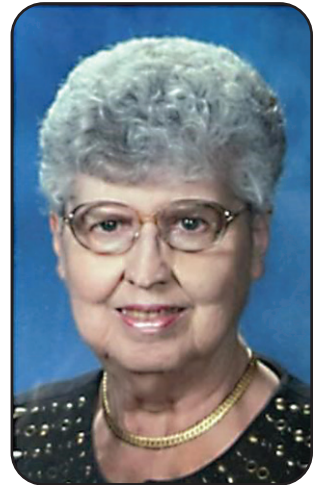
Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Walker Moody and Marga-

ret Juanita Bailey; and wife Jackie Sue Moody.

He is survived by his wife, Angel Bennington; son, Gary C. Moody, Jr., stepson, Adam (Margie) Bennington; granddaughter, Kimberly Bennington; and brother, Robert (Lynn) Moody.

Pallbearers will be Gary Moody, Jr., Adam Bennington, Dean Isdell, and Heath Jaynes.

The family will accept friends from 12:00 pm until the hour of the service at the funeral home on Wednesday.



Virginia Thompson Rowe

GADSDEN - Please join us in celebrating the life of Virginia Thompson Rowe, our beloved wife, mother and teacher on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 2:00 pm at Collier-Butler Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Craig Carlisle will officiate. A private interment will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at Forest Hills Cemetery in Birmingham, Alabama.

Virginia was born in Gadsden, AL, on July 3, 1943, the daughter of Benjamin and Pearl (Haas) Thompson. She graduated from Gadsden High School in 1961 and earned a BA in English from Samford University in 1964. While at Samford, Virginia met her future husband, Palmer Rowe. She committed to life as a military spouse while raising three sons and pursuing a career in secondary education. During Palmer's military deployments, she taught in Department of Defense schools in Europe and at schools at various locations in the United States. When Palmer retired from military service in 1992, Virginia was glad to return home to Gadsden but was not ready to retire herself, as she loved teaching.

Virginia taught at Emma Sansom High School from 1994 until 2006. She was

beloved by her students and fellow faculty members and was also the devoted sponsor for the Emma Sansom yearbook, "The Talisman." Each November, Virginia organized a Veteran's Day program at the school that received statewide recognition for its powerful tribute to members of the military.

Virginia was a terrific homemaker and entertainer. She loved opening her home for fun and fellowship with friends and family. For many years she held annual gatherings for Christmas celebrations and retirement groups.

Virginia was also active in church life and greatly enjoyed the fellowship at 12th Street Baptist Church. She was a vital part of Taste of Hope, the church's weekly outreach program providing meals to those in need.

Virginia is survived by her loving husband of 59 years, Palmer W. Rowe, Jr, her sons Patrick (Sarah), Peter (Jan), Philip (Holley), and Ricky (Cyndi) and her grandchildren, Haley Shaw (Kade), Holden Rowe, Kathryn Rowe, Margaret Rowe, and Helen Rowe. During her lifetime, she was blessed to know her great grandchildren Rowen and Kyra Shaw.

Pallbearers will be Holden Rowe, Kade Shaw, Shaun Rowe, Tyler Jones, Mykel Storey, and Gene Shaw.

The family would like to extend special thanks to the care team at Shirley's Angels.

The family will receive friends for visitation on Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm prior to the service at the funeral home.

Laura Hawkins

GADSDEN - On Monday, January 6th, 2025 Laura Hawkins peacefully answered the call of her Heavenly Father, leaving this world from the comfort of her home.

Laura Hawkins was born on July 24, 1944 to the late Robert Dailey and Josephine White.

A proud graduate of Carver High School, Laura's commitment to education and service was evident early in life. After graduating, she pursued her dream of becoming a nurse, enrolling in nursing school in Selma, Alabama, where she honed her skills and knowledge. Her compassion and dedication to

caring for others were the cornerstones of her career, and she made a lasting impact on all those she cared for throughout her nursing journey.

Her memory will forever be treasured by her devoted and loving husband, J. Leon Hawkins Sr., and her three surviving children:

Juan (Sandra) Hawkins Sr. of Austin, Texas, La Jean Hawkins of Gadsden, Alabama, and John Leon Hawkins Jr. of Shaker Heights, Ohio. She is also lovingly remembered by her nieces and nephews: Selena (Tazan) Edwards of Gadsden, Alabama, La-Sonya White of Gadsden, Alabama, Pretzel Fitzgerald White of Seattle, Washington, and Echo Desayvo Byers of Gadsden, Alabama as well as a host of other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her beloved siblings, Ralph Ruskin Sr., Julia White Byers, and Leonard White, as well as her cherished children, Valencia Renee Hawkins and Ivan Savoy Hawkins, Sr.

A private service will be held for the family, offering a moment of quiet reflection and remembrance.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Amedisys Home Healthcare for their compassionate and dedicated care during Laura's final days, as well as to all the caregivers who provided unwavering support, love, and kindness throughout her journey.

Lisa Kathryn Meats

Lisa Kathryn Meats, passed away on January 6, 2025. Lisa will be remembered as loving, funny, and for her very fast and sharp wit. She was generous and would share anything she had with whoever needed it. She enjoyed scrap booking and being with her family and friends. She said being a mother was the greatest thing to ever happen to her. Her furbabies Jill and Isable were also loved deeply. She was loved by all and will be dearly missed.

She is preceded in death by her husband David Paul Meats Sr. and mother Kathryn Rudd. She is survived by her children Brittany, David, Kaitlyn and Nathan, and one brother Sean Rudd. Special thanks to Dr. Lee, Scotty, the staff of Gadsden Regional Cancer Center, and very special thanks to friends and family.

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NEWS

Fort named dean of GSCC Academic Programs

Dr. Chanel L. Fort has been appointed as the new dean of Academic Programs and Services. She replaces Dr. Farrah Hayes, who recently was named the director of the new Challenger Learning Center. Fort brings over two decades of diverse experience in leadership and program development to her new role at Gadsden State.

"We look forward to the positive impact Dr. Fort will make in shaping the future of our academic programs and furthering Gadsden State's mission of student success and community development," said Dr. Kathy Murphy, president of Gadsden State.

Fort holds a bachelor's degree in health sciences and health services administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham; a master's degree in Human Services and Healthcare Administration from Capella University; and a doctoral degree in Education, Global Leadership and Change from Pepperdine University.

Prior to joining Gadsden State, Fort served as the director of outcomes assessment at Jefferson State Community College, where she led the college-wide assessment and accreditation process for all four of its campuses. From 2016 to 2021, Fort was the CEO and learning strategist at Fortified Learning Solutions, an organization she founded.

Other roles Fort has held include adjunct instructor at Jefferson State, corporate dean of health sciences for Education Corporation of America and program director of Pharmacy and Office Administration Programs at Virginia College. She has also worked as a grants officer for the Alabama Department of Public Health and as a district pharmacy training coordinator and pharmacy profit-and-loss analyst for Walgreens.

In recognition of her contributions to education and her community, Fort was named to Birmingham Business Journal's "People on the Move" list in 2021 and was honored as an Education Design Lab designer in residence in 2022. As EDL designer, she was recognized as one of the 12 leaders "reimagining the role of higher education in addressing racial and economic opportunity gaps." In her role as a United Negro College Fund Institutional Change Agent for a local HBCU, Fort received \$1.1 million in funding for institutional transformation and innovation and honored as a recipient of the UNCF Change Agent Award for Academic Improvement and Transformation.

As Dean of Academic Services at Gadsden State, Fort will oversee all academic instructional programs and

services, including program development and revision, library sciences, online instruction and international programs. She will also manage the Alabama Language Institute and lead the development and implementation of strategic planning for academic programs.

"I accepted the position at Gadsden State because the institution exudes excellence in education practice, operations, people power and leadership," Fort said. "Accepting the position at Gadsden State also allows me to share my wisdom in educational leadership and steer the vision of academics, which is my career passion."

Fort brings a wealth of experience in both academic leadership and community engagement with a strong track record in programmatic accreditation, institutional partnerships, grant-funded initiatives and educational improvement.

"My career has kept me at the forefront of educational practice, policy change and academic improvement," she said. "My work in education and workforce development extends beyond the two- and four-year college systems and into city government, national accrediting organizations and national nongovernment organizations. Collectively, these experiences will catapult my work as the dean of Academic Programs and Services."

As the new leader at Gadsden State, Fort has her sights on several immediate priorities.

"My first steps will be to conduct program reviews and evaluate the outcomes for better understanding of existing program sustainability and changing needs," she said. "I will assess faculty qualifications to ensure that all courses are taught by qualified faculty members, and I will review the library catalog of sources and close any gaps in database access, missing and expiring contracts and sources quality and library use. I will also grasp the community-based initiatives offered through the Alabama Language Institute, the Teaching and Learning Center and the Fine Arts Division. It is also important that I understand the historical impact of the college's international program to develop a concise vision for recharging the college's global awareness."

Fort's approach to leadership emphasizes relationship building and collaboration.

"I plan to meet with the faculty, staff and students through focus groups to gather insights on professional development interests and morale and student perspectives on academic support systems," she said. "Additionally, I intend to establish meaningful relationships and inculcate leadership as a circle of support."



Submitted photo

Dr. Chanel L. Fort (pictured above) has been appointed as the new dean of Academic Programs and Services at Gadsden State Community College.

Fort is enthusiastic about joining Gadsden State's administration.

"Gadsden State is one of the most professional colleges I've been associated with," she said. "The professionalism has been spot-on from the interview to onboarding. It is the level of quality in educational excellence that I most appreciate. Gadsden State is also a community staple with a tremendous reputation. I have friends who've graduated from Gadsden State, and they all speak highly of the college. For this reason, I'm an immediate fan and grateful to be a Cardinal."

Main Street Alabama announces expanded team

Main Street Alabama recently announced the expansion of its development team to help serve the National Main Street Coordinating Program's implementation of the community-based 4-Point Approach to revitalize historic districts.

The statewide organization recently welcomed Mariah Montgomery as the newest member of its Main Street Program Development Team. Montgomery worked as the En-

terprise Parks and Recreation's Program Coordinator for two years, implementing events and programs for the community. In 2022, she accepted the position of executive director with Main Street Enterprise, only the second person to serve in the full-time role. During that time, Main Street Enterprise received 14 Main Street Alabama Awards of Excellence, including a \$5 million Reinvestment Award for investment into the district.

Main Street Alabama helps communities organize themselves for success, improve the design of their neighborhoods, promote their districts, and enhance their economic base. As part of the development team, Montgomery will help coordinate and provide technical services to improve revitalization outcomes for Main Street Alabama communities, including nonprofit management, organizational development, fund-

raising, strategic development, program sustainability, business assistance, historic building rehabilitation, volunteer development, marketing, and promotion, and working with designated communities to realize economic impact.

Main Street Alabama has 33 Designated Programs and 29 Network Communities and recently announced its lineup of New City Application Workshops for 2025. Main Street

Alabama is a non-profit organization which stresses public-private partnerships, broad community engagement and strategies that create jobs, spark new investment, attract visitors and spur growth in core commercial districts. Main Street Alabama builds on the authentic history, culture and attributes of specific places to bring sustainable change.

For more information, visit mainstreetalabama.org.

JSU announces new partnerships

Jacksonville State University recently announce the addition of two new partners in AmFirst and Birmingham OBGYN. These partnerships further underscore the university's commitment to fostering meaningful collaborations that enrich the university, its partners and the communities they serve.

Since the first business partnership was created in 2020, JSU's partnership program has grown to include a total of 29 organizations, a diverse group representing education, healthcare, industry, government and non-profit sectors. Together, these organizations and Jacksonville State are paving the way for greater educational access and workforce development across Alabama. The complete list of

partners can be found at www.jsu.edu/partnerships.

Through these partnerships, Jacksonville State has awarded 989 scholarships to 470 individual students, empowering students to pursue higher education while creating opportunities for professional growth and community impact.

"With the addition of AmFirst and Birmingham OBGYN, our business partnership program continues to expand its reach and influence," said JSU President Dr. Don C. Killingsworth, Jr. "These partnerships demonstrate the collective commitment to education, workforce development and community advancement that benefits us all."

Jacksonville State's partnerships provide partner organizations and

their employees with access to exclusive benefits, including scholarships, tuition scholarships and personalized educational pathways. Current partners span a variety of industries and include chambers of commerce, healthcare providers and financial institutions.

Organizations interested in partnering with Jacksonville State or wish to learn more about collaboration opportunities are encouraged to contact Kelly Martin, Director of Enrollment Initiatives, at knmartin@jsu.edu or visit www.jsu.edu/partnerships.

Jacksonville State remains dedicated to expanding its partnerships, ensuring the continued growth and success of students, employees and the communities it proudly serves.

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GSCC hosts intervention training

Gadsden State Community College hosted a free training session for Behavioral Intervention Threat Assessment Teams, law enforcement professionals and school personnel on Thursday, January 9.

The four-hour course hosted at Gadsden State's Gadsden campus's science building's auditorium provided insights and strategies for enhancing safety and preparedness in schools and communities.

"We are proud to host this important training at Gadsden State Community College. The safety of our students, staff, faculty, and communities is our top priority," said Jay

Freeman, chief of the Gadsden State Police and Safety Department. "By bringing together law enforcement, school personnel, and Behavioral Intervention Teams, we collaborate and equip boots on the ground with the knowledge and tools needed to prevent potential threats. This training is essential in ensuring that we proactively safeguard our campuses and communities."

The training session covered types of violence, importance of reporting, pathways to violence, enhancers and mitigators, triggers and stressors, information gathering and privacy laws, management options and more.

Winter storm warning

- From 1A

In case a pipe does freeze and rupture, it is recommended by NWS to make sure everyone capable of doing so know how to turn off the water to the building. NWS also warns to never thaw pipes with an open flame or torch. A hair dryer is recommended.

Another danger of cold weather comes from unsafe attempts at heating surroundings. Using kerosene heaters and other natural gas heaters can release dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. If using those heating methods, it is recommended that a carbon monoxide detector is installed. Other tips include opening a window slightly, closing off rooms that do not need immediate heat.

Residents are urged to never use a gas oven as a means of heating your home, never use a generator indoors, never use gasoline to light your fireplace and never burn charcoal indoors.

Residents are encouraged to bring all pets inside, if possible, and check on neighbors who may not have reliable heat.

NWS also recommends preparing your vehicle for cold weather by checking your battery, check your fluids, check the air in your tires and ensure that they are staying aired up, placing jumper cables in your car and placing a blanket and warm back up clothes in your vehicle, in case it breaks down.

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GSCC announces 2024 graduates

Gadsden State Community College recently released the names of the Summer and Fall 2024 graduating class. The local graduates are as follows:

Katharine Beavers, William Jenkins and Anna Mayo, of Altoona; Bryli Bone, Rachel Davis, Margaret Fox-Eggleton, Erick Gonzalez, Chandler McGinnis, Ashley Storey and Hope Williams of Ashville; Rebecca Baker, Jessica Boyer, Kendra Davis, Fabree Freeman, Taylor Hood, Frank La Corte, David Lankford, Samuel Lemons, Matthew Logan, Landon Maroney, Elijah Molock, Macee New, Joshua Owen, Summer Robinson, Breanna Rodocker, Jakori Stell and Alexis Surrentt, of Attalla; Christina Alford Glass, Gregorio Antonio, Denedria Baba, McKayla Bean, David Berry, Zachary Bradshaw, Mackenzie Brown, Jessica Brumblow, Whitley Burley, Classie Collins, Lachantris Colton, Kristy Cooper, Mark Dailey, Nicole Daniels, Halle Davenport, Alexis Davis, Griffin Deck, Colton Divine, Angel Duncan, Alyssa Farley, Grace Furness, Lauren Garrett, Tay-

sia Glasby, Hannah Goosby, Keona Guyton, Elisha Hardy, Zinia Hardy, Gracie Harris, Ashley Hawk, Chelsea Hubbard, Kaitlyn Hughes, Ashley Hunter, Brittany Jackson, Montana Johnson, Dylan Johnston, Holley Jones, Takaylor Jones, Letunga Kimble, Nebrija Kyle, Andy Lawson, Davis Liggan, Nehemias Loarca Lucas, Chase Lopas, Victoria Luker, Sydney Lumpkin, Michelle Mateo, Chelsea McConnell, Clairalycia McFarlin, Jessica McGlaughn, Michael McKiven, Kyara Miliner, Jahmari Mitchell, Scotlyn Moore, Mya Mostella, Jessica Nelson, Sydney Parker, Saloni Patel, Rachel Pierce, Sarah Posey, Frances Potter, Jackson Primm, Julie Ragan, Estrella Ramierez, Kiya Ransaw, Ivy Roberts, Nicholas Roberts, Kala Robinson, Greg Sandridge, Dovitaca Satcher, MaQuita Sayles, Trina Scarber, Zaryiah Shack, Kristy Shields, Daniel Sieber, Tori Smith, Janekia Staten, Jace Stewart, Brianna Thomason, Hope Thomason, Donovan Thornhill, Hanna Tolbert, David Turner, Neanna Turner, Hannah Whiteman, Cassandra Whitmire,

Chantara Williams and Colby Yocum, of Gadsden; Jackson Barron, Matthew Bryant, Brandi Moore and Travis Smith, of Gallant; Layla Abernathy, Yi Chen, Madalin Gorham, Stephanie Green, Conner Holland, Abigail Lusk, Kaylee Schmid, Steven Teague, Karlee Thompson, Peyton Thompson and Trevor Wilson, of Glencoe; Christopher Brown, Phillip Burchfield, Savannah Griffin, Keira Johnson, Grayson Kellett, Payton Pruett, Emily Roe and Kennedy Williams, of Hokes Bluff; Salah Al-hakim, Blake Bell, Jacob Berrong, Britnee Crozier, Emma Ford, Haya Ghazal, Breunna Holt, Erika Long, Shela Mitchell, Thomas O'Neal, Camryn Powell, Breanne Thomas, Malaika Thomas, Anna Varnon, Brittany White and John Woods, of Rainbow City; Hollie Bonds, Julie Chandler, Ryan Elmore, Kelli Gaither, Angela Gaskin, Hanna Gray, Daimon Hitchcock, Lindsay Jakiel, Cason Livingston, Ethan Martin, Lacey Rich, Carley Wagers and Gerald Walker, of Southside; and Carson James, Hondra Reneman and Payton Washburn, of Steele.

Birthday Announcement

Happy Birthday!



The Messenger wishes a happy belated 9th birthday to Piper Smith. Piper turned nine years old on Tuesday, January 7. From everyone at The Messenger, including Piper's mother Lindsey Frazier, we wish you a happy 9th year!

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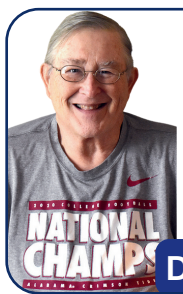
Happy 2025

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LIFESTYLE

Bob Leath was one of Gadsden's finest detectives



Looking at the History

Danny Crowover

Walter Pryor was the only person ever hanged in the old county jail in downtown Gadsden on North Third Street. The building was abandoned when the new courthouse was completed. Pryor had shot and killed Henry Quest, a man from New Jersey.

Pryor was employed by the Alabama Power Construction Company, which was building the first steam plant of the Alabama Power Company in East Gadsden in 1913. Quest was the personnel man in charge of labor.

Pryor, who lived in camp quarters on the premises, did not show up for work one morning, and Quest went to his room to wake him up. A woman was in Pryor's quarters, which was against the rules. When Quest told her leave the premises, Pryor pulled a pistol and shot him. When Pryor escaped, the employees of the construction company offered a \$300 reward for his capture.

Company officials requested that Gadsden Police Chief Bob Leath direct the man hunt for Pryor, although the crime occurred outside the city limits. Leath agreed and set about to hunt the fugitive. The chief got many leads, false and otherwise, and finally located Pryor in Calhoun County near Duke Station.

Leath solicited the aid of Gadsden policeman Morris Roper and Bill Thornton, and the trio soon laid the trap for the capture. In order to prevent premature publicity, Leath kept a local reporter informed of every step he would make.

When everything was ready, Leath, Roper and Thornton found Pryor hiding in the smokehouse of John Lawrence, a local farmer who had agreed to feed Pryor and give him a suit of clothes in exchange for the pistol that was used in the Quest killing. Pryor surrendered without any resistance. Every cent of the \$300 reward was paid to Lawrence.

On Aug. 19, 1913, after Pryor had been jailed, the employees at the power station presented Leath with a fine Hamilton watch with 21 ruby jewels and bore an engraved inscription showing that it had been presented to him as an appreciation of his fine work. Later that night Leath was the guest of honor at a dinner given by Alabama Power Construction Company employees as a further mark of their appreciation.

Pryor was given a fair trial and sentenced to hang. His case went to Alabama Supreme Court, but there were no mitigating circumstances in his favor.

Pryor never showed the least sign of regret or repentance and would not talk to anybody about the incident.

The Pryor case was only one of many successful detective jobs Leath pulled off in his many years as a peace officer in Etowah County. He served three terms as Etowah County sheriff and built a solid record in solving major crimes, including running down the notorious bank robber Tom Barnes.

As of Jan. 18, 1950, all prisoners were moved out of the old county jail and locked up in the new Etowah County Courthouse building located at Eighth Street and Forest Avenue.

Hanging was abolished as a means of capital punishment in Alabama by a bill sponsored by J.C. Inzer of Gadsden when he was a member of the state legislature. Inzer's bill called for all executions to take place in an electric chair at a state prison. Since that law went into effect, all death sentences have been carried out in Montgomery.

No yield? No problem



Memoir Musings

Sandra Bost

My maternal grandmother would have turned 100 on January 8. Memaw grew up in the deep South and had the accent to prove it. It is safe to say that she could have done a voiceover for Governor Ivey's "high stepper" advertisement and nobody would have known the difference. Memaw knew how to draw out those one-syllable words and knew exactly how to use the phrase "bless your heart!"

My birthday is also in January, along with my uncle, Memaw's son. It was customary for Memaw to make a yellow cake with homemade fudge icing for the three of us, which she would garnish with pecan (pronounced /puh-KAHN/) halves in concentric circles around the top of her two-layer delicacy. It is a tradition I have missed now for almost 19 years since she went to Gloryland. I have tried to make the cake the same way she did, but nobody makes it like Memaw did. There is just something about the memories of our grandmothers' cooking

that live on in our hearts as legend, which reminds me of a story that I have never shared publicly until now.

It happened right after my sister was married in 1993. She was a young bride all set to make her husband a delicious breakfast for dinner. She had never really cooked much, except for the occasional Kraft mac-and-cheese that college life afforded, but how hard could it be?

My sister first laid out her ingredients and started mixing the biscuits. Following the recipe on the back of the all-purpose flour package, she decided to call Memaw for support.

"Hey dahlin'," Memaw's excited voice said when she heard my sister's greeting (in proper Southern dialect, the "r" sound is not pronounced). "Whatcha doin'?"

"I am cooking breakfast for dinner tonight and I need your help," my sister replied. "The recipe calls for baking soda and baking powder, but I don't have any powder."

"Honey, just put a little extra soda. It'll be fine."

Sister opened the freezer and grabbed the opened box of baking soda that she had stored in there (you know, the one that is supposed to absorb the odor). She measured out two teaspoons and tossed it in the mix. Next, Memaw told her to cut the Crisco in with a fork before adding the buttermilk. After kneading the mixture a

few too many times, she dusted her counter with flour and rolled the dough. With no biscuit cutter, she grabbed a glass and cut her biscuits like she had seen Momma do, placed them on the pan and popped them in the oven. Easy-peasy, she thought.

Next up were the grits. With Memaw still on the phone, Sister set the water to boil and measured out the amounts Memaw told her to use while trying to follow along with the printed instructions.

Sister looked over all of the directions. Puzzled, she interrupted Memaw to ask about one more ingredient.

"Memaw, the box says 'yield: two cups.' What's yield?"

"Oh, I don't know, dahlin'. I always leave that out of mine."

With that, Sister dumped the dry grits into the boiling water and let Memaw get back to her day. "Love you," said Memaw. "Call me anytime!"

Sister turned the grits to simmer, then fried up the bacon and scrambled the eggs. By now, the biscuit timer had sounded. She opened the oven door to reveal a very oddly yellow batch of biscuits, which she placed on the counter to cool. "That's weird," she thought.

As the biscuits cooled, Sister barely got a knife through the tough exterior to slide a pat of butter inside. She was devastated.

When her husband got home, he sensed the delicate mood of his bride who had tried

so hard to prepare him dinner. He choked down a hard-yellow biscuit (with a hint of freezer burn), extra crispy bacon and rubbery eggs. The saving grace of the meal was a perfectly buttered serving of grits.

"Thank you for dinner, Sweetie," he said tenderly. "I really liked the grits."

"I don't know why," Sister said glumly, "I didn't even have any yield, so I had to leave it out."

I don't think he ever asked a single question.

To this day that's the way we fix our grits, just like Memaw did!

No yield? No problem.

Sandra Mullins Bost, a Nationally Board Certified Teacher, has worked with Attalla City Schools, Coosa Christian, and St. Clair County Schools in her 17-year career in education. She currently teaches special education with Alabama Virtual Academy. Bost recently published her first book, "Real Sisters: A Sisters' First Story of Adoption," a heart-warming children's story that explores the concept of family through the lens of love and adoption. Sandra and her husband of 30 years, Jeff, live with their deaf dog and have two married children who have blessed them with five adorable grandchildren. When she is not teaching, Bost enjoys time with her family and sipping coffee while porch-sitting to the happy sounds of nature. Visit www.sandramullins-bost.com for more information.



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Celebrating our friends

This week, I had the opportunity to watch my daughter and nearly 50 of her fellow fourth and fifth graders participate in their school's spelling bee. Not only was I proud of her for trying something new, and for bravely getting up in front of a crowd of other students and adults, I was also surprised by how much fun it was to watch the spellers.

I made it to the school right as the last classes were coming in, and I slipped in and found a seat. We heard the rules and procedures, who students were to look at for their words, and who to look at to see if they'd spelled the word correctly. We listened as they were instructed on exactly what to do and where to go when it was time to leave the stage after a misspelling. It was a well-

organized event, and students were practicing much more than just spelling. They were practicing following instructions, jumping through proverbial hoops, stage manners, good sportsmanship, perseverance, bravery, and learning that life continues after a little embarrassment and disappointment. Only one student could win the spelling bee.

There were a few tears, frustrated sighs, and sad faces as we watched the students work their way through the spelling words. But, as each had to admit defeat and leave the stage, they gathered together. They began as a group on the stage, and they ended as a group around lunchroom tables. They all tried their best, then moved on.

After the spelling bee was over, I went over to my speller and practiced the hardest

part of parenting: watching a child experience the discomfort of emotions and experience that cannot be fixed or mitigated by the parent. I couldn't take her disappointment or sadness or embarrassment away, and I had to watch as she worked her way through those feelings. But, I was able to hug her, reassure her that I was proud of her for trying something new, and give her some advice on how to move forward after disappointment: "Go hug your friend, congratulate her, and celebrate her success. Celebrating our friends makes us feel better."

Later, I received a sweet text from a fellow mom with a picture of my girl hugging her friend and smiling. I was as proud of her response to the experience as I'd have been if she'd won the state spelling bee.



Tabitha Bozeman teaches English at Gadsden State Community College, is the editor-in-chief of the Cardinal Arts Journal and is a published writer and poet. She is also the founder of Riverside Writers, a local workshopping group for writers. The opinions expressed are her own and do not represent any organization she is a part of. She may be reached at tabithaboze@gmail.com.

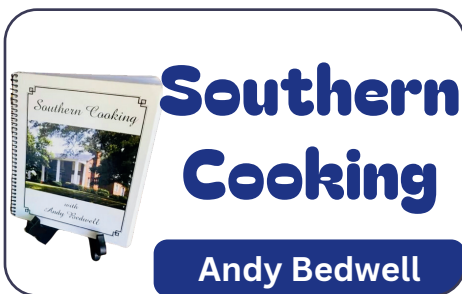


Submitted photo

Andy Bedwell stands behind her booth at a fair selling her cookbooks.

Farewell readers and cooks

Editor's note: The Messenger will greatly miss Andy Bedwell's columns. She has gifted us the use of her columns for years and she has graciously allowed us to run some of her favorite recipes until we find a new food columnist. We are searching for local writers. If you know of anyone interested in writing a food column for The Messenger, please have them call or email us. Call 256-547-1049 or email khoskins@gadsdenmessenger.com.



After lovingly writing and publishing a food column for many years, I regret to inform you that I will discontinue this column in 2025. I have always loved to read cookbooks, to try new recipes and to cook and prepare meals for my family and friends. Since my mother, grandmothers and aunts were wonderful Southern cooks, I developed a love for the kitchen, for cooking and for serving food at a young age. I have thoroughly enjoyed writing my weekly column. I have genuinely enjoyed sharing my favorite recipes and cooking tips with all The Messenger's readers. Life has seasons and I am entering a season in which I need to slow down a little and

cut back on some activities. I hope that the readers continue to enjoy looking at recipes, cooking and trying new dishes. Anything related to cooking and the kitchen has been a major source of joy for me throughout my life. I hope you readers can find joy in those things as well. I have always thought a gift of food was one of the greatest gifts one could give or receive. I want to thank the wonderful Messenger for being so kind and gracious to me through the years. They are just fabulous! Thank you for reading my column all of these years.

Happy Cooking!
Andy Bedwell

The Messenger's COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit events by email to khoskins@gadsdenmessenger.com.

- Jan. 10 - 31**
Get ready for the 2nd Annual Christmas on the Coosa ice-skating experience. The ice rink is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The ice rink near Moragne Park will close for the season on Jan. 31. For more information, call Janet Tarrance at 256-549 4658 or Valerie Galbreath at 256-549-4643.
- Jan. 11**
The Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. at Nichols Memorial Library located at the corners of Dwight and Cabot avenues in Gadsden. The speaker will be Gadsden Public Library Director Craig Scott, who will share some new and exciting things that will be coming to GPL in early 2025., including the new MakerSpace Preservation Den to be located on the second floor of the main library. Refreshments and fellowship will take place immediately following the meeting.
- Jan. 12 - 24**
Upcoming American Red Cross blood donation opportunities in Gadsden include Sunday, Jan. 12 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church located at 622 Chestnut Street in Gadsden; Friday, Jan. 17 from 1 - 6 p.m. at Gadsden Mall Premiere Cinemas located at 1001 Rainbow Drive; and Friday, Jan 24 from 1 - 6 p.m. at Gadsden Mall Premiere Cinemas located at 1001 Rainbow Drive.
- February 1**
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Etowah County will host Mardi Gras 2025 on Feb. 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at 210 on the Tracks in downtown Gadsden. Individual tickets are \$50 each. Sponsorship level are Platinum for \$1,000, Gold for \$750 and Silver for \$500. The event includes music, food and a raffle. Costumes are encouraged. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 256-546-5079.
- Ongoing**
The Veterans Oral History Project at the U.S. Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible first-hand recollections of U.S. military veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans to better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service. The Library would like to collect the personal stories and recollections of local military veterans. On October 31 and November 1, 7 and 8, RSVP of Etowah County and the Gadsden Public Library will conduct 30-minute interviews with local military veterans at the Etowah County Courthouse Probate Courtroom (Suite 102). To reserve an appointment, call 256-549-8147 by October 25.
- Zumba classes will be held Monday nights at 6 p.m. at the Southside Community Center. The cost is \$5 a class, but those buying five classes get the sixth class free.
- Nichols Memorial Library, home of the Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society, is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays for anyone interested in family history research. A history and research group meets on Thursdays at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The library contains genealogical information and family files from all areas of Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and other states. The library contains a large collection of military records and Native American research records. For more information, email neagslib@comcast.net.

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DEVOTIONALS

Noah placed his trust and faith in God



Genesis 8 is a chapter of hope, encouragement and rest after tribulation. We read about Noah and his family and the animals who have been on an ark for over a year due to a flood which destroyed the entire earth and everything living on it. These were dark times for Noah and his family, but as Warren Wiersbe said, "When the night is the darkest, the stars shine the brightest, and when the outlook is grim, the up look is encouraging." This description is exactly what we begin to see as we read this chapter in Genesis. The flood is now receding, and as a result, we see a beautiful example of God's faithfulness to restore the earth, renew the life of Noah and his family and begin a new life of hope for God's people and creation.

Here are just a few examples of God's hope and encouragement from Genesis Chapter 8.

God remembers His children. Genesis 8:1 begins by saying, "But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat." This word remember does not mean to call something to mind that may have been forgotten, because God can't forget anything. He is omniscient, which means all-knowing. Instead, this word "remember" means "to pay attention to, to fulfill a promise and act on behalf of somebody." God made a previous commitment to Noah of protecting him and his family and all the animals on the boat. God is now fulfilling that commitment! We can be assured and rest in the fact that God never forgets or forsakes His people, not only because of His promises but because of His character. God is a god of love, and that is His character. Therefore, He can never deny Himself or His Word, for He is a faithful God!

God rewards faith. Genesis 8:15-16 says, "Then God said to Noah, 'Leave the boat, all of you - you and your wife and your sons and their wives.'" Noah and his family had been confined to the ark for over a year due to the flood. Although they longed to get back on dry land, Noah understood the importance of waiting on God and trusting His plan. Noah was a man of faith, and before the flood, he exercised that faith by walking with God when the

people of the world were ignoring and disobeying God. Now that the flood was over, Noah exercised faith to wait on God before leaving the ark.

God receives worship. Genesis 8:20 says, "Then Noah built an altar to the Lord..." The very first thing Noah did when he stepped out of the ark and onto dry ground was to lead his family in worship. Noah was overwhelmed with gratitude toward the Lord, and Noah gave God his first and his best in worship, thus returning and restoring true worship of the Lord on the earth. Let's start this year by giving God our worship, praising Him for who He is!

Noah loved the Lord. This was evident by his trust in the Lord, his faith in waiting on God's timing for his life and by giving his first to the Lord in worship. As a result, we see that God remembered Noah and fulfilled His commitment and promise to him. God rewarded Noah by making his family fruitful and multiplying the earth through him. God also received Noah's worship, and as a result, He not only blessed Noah but restored worship to the earth.

Lord, thank you for your faithfulness towards me and for always remembering me!

If you would like continued prayer, feel free to email me at tonif77@gmail.com. I would love to pray for you!

Bible Verse of the Week



"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance..."

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 King James Version



Verse for Kids

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

- Revelation 21:4 King James Version

God's great gift of unspoken prayer

Many church youth programs were bursting at the seams in the 1990s. My Baptist church had a fun and exciting youth group. Because of that, we were well-supported and offered many opportunities for youth worship services, beach retreats, mountain retreats and mission trips. Occasionally, our youth minister would make us attend the Wednesday night adult prayer meeting instead of our usual youth group.

I found those adult meetings extremely boring and often depressing, what with so many prayer requests by old and sick people about old and sick people things (in other words, health issues). Occasionally there were prayer requests related to house fires, deaths car accidents, or crimes. Very rarely were there specific "spiritual need" type of prayer requests, such as a lost family member, a fallen away Christian or a struggling marriage. These prayer requests were fewer in number because these were deeply personal. If careless, these requests could be construed as gossip or become hurtful in another way. I myself became nervous at times in thinking someone might expose my sin or the struggles of my family in a public way.

However, it seemed like the most common prayer request was "unspoken." Many church members would raise their hand and simply say, "I have an unspoken prayer request," and others would nod with what looked like real understanding. In my inexperienced youth, it seemed to me that listing a million unspoken prayer requests was a waste of time. Now that I'm older, in know that the unspoken prayer is where the real battle of faith is fought. Psalm 25:7 says, "Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions."

Now that I'm Catholic, there is a different process for the same kind of "prayer meeting." Early in each Mass at St. James Catholic Church, Father Jose Chacko will

announce something to the effect of, "I am offering this Mass for the intentions of the [fill in name] family." It is sometimes it is for the intentions of the Pope or the repose of the soul of a recently deceased parish member or for safe elections and a peaceful transition of power or in honor of someone's birthday. But oftentimes Father Chacko looks at the congregation and soberly says, "I'm offering this Mass for your intentions."

This prayer request hits me deeply every time I hear it, for I, like you, carry very heavy unspoken prayers. To know that Jesus Christ, who is present to us in the Eucharist and present in the room with us, will hear my prayer right here and now. Yes, the prayer that I keep silent between me, and the world will be fully exchanged between me and Jesus Christ. Yes, the One who hears the whole world cry is about to hear my own heart cry.

Father Chacko pauses for a time of silence, in order for us to begin the battle for faith in the unspoken prayer, such as "Lord, I don't know how to survive my parent's dementia," or "Lord, I feel the desperate call of my past addiction craving my soul," or "Lord, my child may be under demonic oppression, please save them," or "Lord, our finances are a shambles, help us find a way out," or "Lord, it's all my fault and I no longer want to live," or "Lord, the cancer has returned, and I'm losing hope." Yes, these heaviest and most personal of prayers are mingled within the "Prayer of the Church." These massive unspoken prayers find their place in the Mass, in Jesus' midst and before His "throne of grace" (Hebrews 4:16).

The Scriptures have always recognized and welcomed the heaviness of an imperfect life and running to the Lord in prayer. In the Old Testament in Psalm 42:7, we read that "Deep calls to deep." This is a per-



fect description and reminder for us that in the excruciating moments of life, God communes with us at the very deepest level of our soul, the place where our heart-cry that no one hears is picked up by the Spirit of God Himself.

Our Lord goes even farther in the New Testament, for when the burdens are too great for words, "the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8:26). Groanings call to groanings.

Beloved, know that Jesus is faithful to meet us in the Mass, in the Garden of Gethsemane and in the blood, sweat and tears of the unspoken prayer.

Brian Cook is a Cropwell native and a graduate of Pell City High School and Gadsden State Community College and studied music and history at Jacksonville State. He and his wife Hope have five children. A self-described "on-again, off-again bi-vocational part-time" Protestant minister for almost 20 years, Brian converted to Catholicism in April 2021. They attend Saint James Catholic Church in Gadsden. With no formal training (Acts 4:13), Brian is active in the Catechetical training of children and adults. His book "The Devotion to Christ" can be found on Amazon. He is available for speaking and teaching engagements in any parish, church, or group setting. He may be contacted at thedc@protonmail.com or thedevotiontochrist@gmail.com.

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IN THE Deli
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Little Debbie Snack Cakes
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1⁸⁸ With Card
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Selected Varieties
Gatorade
28 Oz.
4/\$5 With Card
LIMIT 4



Selected Varieties, Raisin Bran (13.6-16.1 Oz.),
Special K or Frosted Mini Wheats
11-18 Oz.
2/\$5 With Card
LIMIT 4 EACH



Selected Varieties, Pringles Party Stacks (6.84-7.16 Oz.) or Frozen
Eggo Waffles
8.4-14.8 Oz.
2/\$5 With Card
LIMIT 4 EACH



Selected Varieties, Cornbread Mix or
Martha White Muffin Mix
7-7.6 Oz.
99¢ With Card
LIMIT 6



Variety Pack
Fruit_0 Water
20 Pk., 16 Oz. Btls.
6⁹⁹ With Card
LIMIT 2



Selected Varieties, Frozen
Smart Ones Entrees
5-11.5 Oz.
5/\$10 With Card
LIMIT 10




Selected Varieties, Nature Valley Granola Bars (5-6 Ct.) or
General Mills Cereal Bars
6-8 Ct.
5/\$10 With Card
LIMIT 10 EACH




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Botticelli Pasta Sauce
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DIETITIAN'S PICK
LIMIT 4 EACH




Selected Varieties
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LIMIT 4



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Yoo-hoo
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Cheez-It Crackers
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Selected Varieties Food City Coffee
72 Ct.
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SPORTS

Roundups & Rundowns

Boys basketball

Titus Jones finished with 24 points, five rebounds and five steals to help Westbrook Christian post a 78-65 victory over Class 3A Area 12 rival Ohathee on Tuesday, Jan. 7 in Rainbow City. Also for the Warriors (9-5, 3-1), Brady Carden had 18 points, 11 rebounds and six assists; Gavin Slocum had nine points three rebounds, two steals and two blocks; Case Burton had seven points and four rebounds; and Bo Kilgo six points, four rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Coosa Christian fell to Jefferson Christian, 68-60, in Class 1A Area 11 action on Tuesday, Jan. 7 in Gadsden. Kylen Johnson scored 18 points for the Class 1A No. 9 Conquerors (10-3).

Class 4A No. 8 Hokes Bluff improved to 16-3 with a 54-37 win over Oneonta on Friday, Jan. 3. Bryce Whitaker paced the Eagles with 12 points, followed by Drew McCarver with 11, Logan Carr and Noah Johnson with nine each, Anderson Morgan with seven and Anthony Gooch with six. McCarver grabbed seven rebounds, while Morgan and Carr both had four. Morgan also distributed six assists.

Jayden Patton and Grant Smith scored 19 and 18 points, respectively, in Glencoe 74-63 win over Pell City on Friday, Jan. 3. Wade Segrest added 10 points for the Class 3A No. 9 Yellow Jackets (14-3), while Garrett Morgan and Jalen Hunter each chipped in nine.

Girls basketball

Hokes Bluff improved to 11-5 overall and 3-1 in Class 4A, Area 11 with a 45-33 win over Ashville on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at AHS. Addison Simmons paced the Lady Eagles with a double-double of 13 points and 11 rebounds. Haylen Marbut finished with 10 points and five steals, while Addie Robertson nine points and five rebounds. Pressley Wall scored six points, while Mazely Ball contributed five points, 10 rebounds, six steals, five assists and five deflections. For Ashville, Maddie Sanders had 13 points, eight rebounds and seven deflections.

Avery Snead's buzzer-beating layup gave Westbrook Christian a 46-44 victory over Class 3A Area 12 rival Ohathee on Tuesday, Jan. 7 in Rainbow City. Jordan Brooks and Kylee Wyatt each scored 10 points for the Lady Warriors (8-8), while Addi Hammontree pulled down 10 rebounds. Wyatt also had three steals.

Gadsden City improved to 9-11 with a 51-33 win over Fairview on Friday, Jan. 3 at GCHS. For the Lady Titans, Naomi Wise shot 87 percent (13-for-15) from the field on the way to a game-high 29 points. She also had six rebounds. Destiny White-side added seven points, while Madison Tinker contributed six points, four steals and three assists. Karleigh Sheffield had five deflections.

Ashville on target against Hokes Bluff

By Chris McCarthy
Publisher

Ashville's sharpshooters were zeroed in on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

In a key Class 4A Area 11 matchup against Hokes Bluff, the Bulldogs shot 73 percent from the field and 50 percent from three-point range on the way to a 94-73 victory in boys high school basketball at AHS.

The win pulled Ashville into a three-way tie with the Eagles for first place in the area at 3-1. Both teams have area games on Thursday, with the Bulldogs (11-7) visiting Oneonta and Hokes Bluff (16-4) traveling to Etowah. The Blue Devils are currently 8-8 overall and 1-1 in the area.

Against the Eagles, Ashville finished with double-digit advantages in rebounds (32 to 17), second chance points (18 to 3) and points in the paint (56 to 34).

"The big thing for us tonight is that we made some 3's, which we haven't done all year," said Ashville head coach Caleb Carpenter. "We usually shoot around 20 percent, so that was a huge lift for us. Making big shots like that really boosted our confidence."

"We also very much emphasize breaking the press. Hokes Bluff brings some good pressure, and we had some good opportunities in transition and pushed the ball ahead and were able to execute our offense."

Ashville - page 3B



Chris McCarthy/Messenger

Ashville's J.B. Potter (2) drives to the basket as Hokes Bluff's Ronan McFadden (11) and Bryce Whitaker (20) defend during Ashville's 94-73 victory in high school basketball on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at AHS.

Local volleyball players receive state recognition

Three local players recently made the 2024 al.com All-State volleyball team.

Selected to the Class 4A first team was Ashville junior Lydia Northam. Playing at both outside hitter and defensive specialist, Northam (pictured at left) finished with 515 kills, 388 digs, 74 aces, and 60 blocks as the Lady Bulldogs won 22 games, captured the area title and made it to the North Regional Tournament. Northam already has 1,381 kills for her career.

Southside junior outside hitter Rylann Shaw and Ashville sophomore setter/defensive specialist Ryleigh Cothran were named to the Class 5A and Class 4A honorable mention teams, respectively, in the Athlete category. Shaw had 209 kills, 175 digs, 28 aces and 26 assists on the season, while Cothran ended up with 716 assists, 333 digs, 67 aces.

The team consists of the top 20 players in each classification as compiled by the al.com high school sports staff with input from coaches.



Chris McCarthy/Messenger

Sardis girls, Glencoe boys top seeds for county basketball tournament

By Chris McCarthy
Publisher

Sardis High School will host the 2025 Etowah County Schools varsity basketball tournament from Monday, Jan. 13 to Friday, Jan. 17.

Defending champions are the Southside girls and Sardis boys.

This year's girls seeding has Sardis at No. 1, Hokes Bluff at No. 2, Southside at No. 3, Glencoe at No. 4, West End at No. 5 and Gaston at No. 6. Glencoe has the top seed on the boys' side, followed in descending order by Southside, Hokes Bluff, Gaston, Sardis and West End.

The schedule is as follows:

- Monday, Jan. 13**
- Girls
- 5:45 p.m. - Glencoe vs. West End
- Boys
- 7 p.m. - Gaston vs. Sardis
- Tuesday, Jan. 14**
- Girls
- 5 p.m. - Southside vs. Gaston
- Boys
- 6:15 p.m. - Hokes Bluff vs. West End
- Wednesday, Jan. 15**
- Girls
- 5:45 p.m. - Sardis vs. Glencoe/West End winner
- Boys
- 7 p.m. - Glencoe vs. Gaston/Sardis winner

Thursday, Jan. 16

- Girls
- 5:45 p.m. - Hokes Bluff vs. Gaston/Southside winner
- Boys
- 7 p.m. - Southside vs. Hokes Bluff/West End winner

Friday, Jan. 17

- 6 p.m. - girls championship
 - 7:30 p.m. - boys championship
- Individual tickets for each night are \$8 by either cash or GoFan. A full concession stand will offer assorted drinks, candy, popcorn, burgers, hot dogs, pizza, fries, nachos, barbeque sandwiches, pickle pops and pickles. Philly cheesesteak sandwiches and soups may be available on some nights.

All-Etowah County Schools cheerleading, cross country and volleyball will be recognized on Wednesday, January 15 between the boys and girls' games. All-Etowah County Schools football will be recognized on January 16 between the boys and girls' games.

Slated to receive Etowah County Local Legends awards during the tournament are Connie Clark and Mike Thompson from West End, Jim Bogle and Bobby Pruitt from Gaston, Cassie Clark and Jake Underwood from Glencoe, Mike Hayes and Kim McKnight from Hokes Bluff, Corey Head from Sardis and Joe Dismuke and Angie Reavis from Southside.



Chris McCarthy/Messenger

The Glencoe High boys basketball team is seeded first for the Etowah County Schools Tournament starting on Monday, Jan. 13 at Sardis High School.

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All-Etowah County Schools football team announced



By Chris McCarthy
Publisher

The 2024 All-Etowah County Football Schools football team was released earlier this week by the system's six head football coaches.

Selected as Overall MVP was Hokes Bluff junior quarterback Bryce Whitaker, who finished the season with 2,056 combined yards passing and rushing while scoring 24 touchdowns.

Picked for Offensive Player of the Year honors was Southside senior and Duke University signee Jamin Brown, who while playing at offensive tackle graded out at 93 percent and ended up with 71 pancake blocks.

Sardis junior linebacker Levi Martin (pictured at left with ball), the team's Defensive Player of the Year, recorded 128 tackles (including 19 for a loss), three sacks, two forced fumbles and two interceptions. Also starting at halfback, he wound up with 1,026 rushing yards and nine touchdowns.

Coach of the Year honors went to Hokes Bluff's Mike Robertson and Southside's Ben Stewart. Robertson helped the Eagles to their first winning record in five years at 8-3 and the program's second straight berth in the state playoffs.

In his first year as a head coach, Stewart guided the Panthers to a 6-4 regular season record following a 1-3 start and led the program to its fifth straight berth in the state playoffs. (Photo by Chris McCarthy)

All-Etowah County Football Schools first offense

Quarterback

Brian Chapman, senior, Sardis

Running back

Blaine Barron, senior, Hokes Bluff; Koal Garrett, senior, Southside; Keller Skaggs, senior, Gaston

Receiver

Anderson Morgan, senior, Hokes Bluff; Josh Peoples, junior, Southside; Alex Hudson, freshman, Glencoe

Tight end

Josh Hopper, senior, Sardis

Offensive line

Jayden Dumas, senior, West End; Preston Reaves, senior, Glencoe; Leon Chen, senior, Hokes Bluff; Conner Wellingham, junior, Hokes Bluff; Rance Brown, sophomore, Southside; Evan McDonald, senior, Southside

Athlete

Alex Carter, senior, Hokes Bluff

Kicker: Cooper Yancey, sophomore, Southside

All-Etowah County Football Schools first defense

Defensive line

Daylon Reeves, senior, Hokes Bluff; Clayton Helms, senior, Hokes Bluff; Nate Oliver, senior, Gaston; Drake McDevitt, senior, West End; McCade Wright, senior, Southside

Linebacker

Colton Shields, senior, Hokes Bluff; Cooper Gomez, Glencoe; Fysher Patterson, junior, West End; Grant Coe, junior, Sardis; Bronner McMurray, sophomore, Glencoe

Defensive back

Adrian Alberghina, junior, Southside; Drew McCarver, junior, Hokes Bluff; Jake Boggs, senior, Glencoe; Jacob Payne, junior, Sardis; Jaxon Hamby, junior, West End

Punter

Seth Cooper, senior, Sardis

Athlete

Brayden Bowers, senior, Southside

Honorable mention

Gaston: Devon Green, Trey Johnson
Glencoe: Joe Coleman, Jalen Hunter, Aiden Johnson
Hokes Bluff: Brodie Brogdon, Bray Davis, Connor Ford, Blake Green, Brayden Howard, Caden Howard, Logan Wiemann

Sardis: Jordan Garrett, Hudson McDaniel, Canyon McGee, Russell Pruett, Tony Sims, Kaden Walters, Lucas Wilson

West End: Dawson Allen, Michael Deleon, Brooks Golden, Jackson Mayo, Eli Williams

All-County volleyball, XC, cheer teams released

By Chris McCarthy
Publisher

Sardis High's Vada Willmore was selected Player of the Year for the 2024 All-Etowah County Schools volleyball team by the system's six head coaches.

A junior hitter, Willmore (pictured at right wearing No. 1) helped the Lady Lions win the county tournament for the first time in 29 years. She finished the season with 498 kills, 264 digs, 40 aces and 29 blocks.

Sardis' Leslie Gilmer was named Coach of the Year.

Joining Willmore on the team were Emersyn Greer and Jordyn Knight from Sardis; Alli Jo Amos, Kinlee Montgomery and Evelyn Nowak from Glencoe; Addi Mashburn and Chloe Mayo from West End; Rylann Shaw and Hannah Westcott from Southside; Addison Simmons from Hokes Bluff and Alexis Ponce from Gaston.

The cross country coaches for the six teams in the Etowah County Schools System recently released the all-county team for the 2024 season.

Making the girls' team were Lydia Kay, Marlee Tucker, Payton Ridley, Taylor Dortch, Lucy Valentine and Riley Hulsey from Southside and Kennli Nix, Kenzli Nix and Jada Wright from West End.

Selected for the boys were Evan Christopher, Levi Kay, Jackson Brown, Jonathan Russell, Keaton Yingling and Sharma Pranjal from Southside; Ethan Patterson from Hokes Bluff; and Dakota Ensminger and Owen Beason from Glencoe.

The cheerleading coaches for the six teams in the Etowah County Schools System recently released the all-county team for the 2024 season.

Selected to the team were seniors Kaitlin Thacker and Alexis Ponce from Gaston; seniors Cadi Rae Harper and Kailyn Aulsbrook from Glencoe; seniors Lexi Carter and Blakley Smith from Hokes Bluff; seniors Bailey Edwards and Addie Watwood from Sardis; senior Addison Claire Hassell and junior Macy Barron from Southside; and seniors Brooklyn Self and Jessica Garrard from West End.



Chris McCarthy/Messenger

COMING SOON!

PROGRESS 2025

The Messenger is excited to announce the return of its popular *Progress* magazine. In the past, *Progress* has been a special edition within the regular newspaper, but this coming year, we are holding nothing back.

The full color glossy magazine will make its debut in February. It will feature interviews, stories and photos from local municipalities, doctors, businesses, schools and more!

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Local Sports Schedule

Jan. 10 - Jan. 16

High School Basketball

Friday, Jan. 10

Glencoe at Hokes Bluff
Etowah girls at Gaston
Jacksonville boys at Gaston
Crossville at Sardis
J.B. Pennington at Westbrook
Southeastern at West End
Pisgah at Ashville
Gadsden City at Fort Payne
Coosa Christian at Ragland

Saturday, Jan. 11

Moody at Westbrook

Monday, Jan. 13

Etowah County Schools Tournament at Sardis
Girls bracket
5 p.m. - Glencoe vs. West End
Boy bracket
7 p.m. - Gaston vs. Sardis
Westbrook at Coosa Christian
Spring Garden at Gadsden City
Ashville at Piedmont

Tuesday, Jan. 14

Etowah County Schools Tournament at Sardis
Girls bracket
5 p.m. - Southside vs. Gaston
Boy bracket

6:15 p.m. - Hokes Bluff vs. West End
Westbrook at Ashville
Etowah boys at Clay-Chalkville
Coosa Christian at Appalachian
Gadsden City at Fairview

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Etowah County Schools Tournament at Sardis
Girls bracket
5:45 p.m. - Sardis vs. West End/Glencoe winner
Boy bracket
7 p.m. - Glencoe vs. Sardis/Gaston winner

Thursday, Jan. 16

Etowah County Schools Tournament at Sardis
Girls bracket
5:45 p.m. - Hokes Bluff vs. Southside/Gaston winner
Boy bracket
7 p.m. - Southside vs. Hokes Bluff/West End winner
Ashville at Etowah
VCA at Coosa Christian

Wrestling

Friday, Jan. 10

Southside, West End at Arab meet
Saturday, Jan. 11
Coosa Chr., Etowah, Gadsden City at Susan Moore duals

Southside, West End at Arab meet
Tuesday, Jan. 14
Gadsden City, Albertville at West End
Southside at Benjamin Russell
Etowah at ASB quad match No. 2
Ashville at Corner

Thursday, Jan. 16

Plea. Valley, Springville at West End
Gadsden City at Walter Wellborn
Etowah at ASB quad match No. 2
Coosa Chr. at Odenville quad match
Springville at Ashville

Bowling

All home matches played at The Alley at the Gadsden Mall

Friday, Jan. 10

Clay-Chalkville at Southside

Monday, Jan. 13

Etowah at Hewitt-Trussville

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Mortimer Jordan at Southside

College Basketball

Monday, Jan. 13

Wallace State at Gadsden State

Thursday, Jan. 16

Gadsden State at Calhoun

ASWA basketball poll

Released January 9

Girls

Class 7A

1. Hoover
2. Hillcrest-Tuscaloosa
3. Vestavia Hills
4. Bob Jones
5. Auburn
6. Foley
7. Daphne
8. Hewitt-Trussville
9. Albertville
10. Central-Phenix City

Class 6A

1. Park Crossing
2. Hazel Green
3. Hartselle
4. Mortimer Jordan
5. Mountain Brook
6. Chelsea
7. McGill-Toolen Catholic
8. Fort Payne
9. Jasper
10. Gardendale

Class 5A

1. Scottsboro
2. Ramsay
3. Moody
4. Wenonah
5. West Point
6. Sardis
7. St. Paul's Episcopal
8. Selma
9. Priceville
10. Jacksonville

Class 4A

1. Good Hope
2. Trinity
3. Deshler
4. Pleasant Grove
5. Plainview
6. Madison Academy
7. Prattville Christian
8. St. Michael Catholic
9. Geneva
10. Jackson

Class 3A

1. Lauderdale County
2. St. James
3. Mars Hill Bible
4. Midfield
5. Hale County
6. Locust Fork
7. Vinemont
8. Holly Pond
9. Wicksburg
10. T.R. Miller

Class 2A

1. Decatur Heritage
2. Cold Springs
3. Sand Rock
4. Winston County
5. Belgreen
6. Lanett
7. Abbeville
8. Lexington
9. Sulligent
10. Pisgah

Class 1A

1. Spring Garden
2. Ider
3. Winterboro
4. Kinston
5. Marion County
6. Keith
7. R.C. Hatc
8. Brilliant
9. Elba
10. McIntosh

Boys

Class 7A

1. Hoover
2. Central-Phenix City
3. Huntsville
4. Austin
5. Dothan
6. Baker
7. Hillcrest-Tuscaloosa
8. Auburn
9. James Clemens
10. Enterprise

Class 6A

1. Huffman
2. Mountain Brook
3. Cullman
4. Oxford
5. Buckhorn
6. Clay-Chalkville
7. Pinson Valley
8. Minor
9. Murphy
10. Northridge

Class 5A

1. Ramsay
2. Wenonah
3. Williamson
4. Selma
5. LeFlore
6. Guntersville
7. Leeds
8. East Limestone
9. Northside
10. Carroll-Ozark

Class 4A

1. Fairfield
2. Madison Academy
3. Plainview
4. BTW-Tuskegee
5. Good Hope
6. Alexandria
7. Jackson
8. New Hope
9. Cherokee County
10. Anniston

Class 3A

1. Midfield
2. Montgomery Academy
3. Lee-Scott
4. Mars Hill Bible
5. Hale County
6. Sumter Central
7. Southside-Selma
8. Piedmont
9. Hillcrest-Evergreen
10. Wilcox Central

Class 2A

1. Section
2. Providence Christian
3. Abbeville
4. Tuscaloosa Academy
5. Pisgah
6. Sand Rock
7. Decatur Heritage
8. North Sand Mountain
9. Red Bay
10. G.W. Long

Class 1A

1. Spring Garden
2. Oakwood
3. Georgiana
4. Skyline
5. R.C. Hatch
6. Pleasant Home
7. Florala
8. McKenzie
9. Sumiton Christian
10. Coosa Christian

Cardinals set to kick off conference play

Gadsden State's men's basketball team begins Alabama Community College Conference play this week after compiling a 13-3 record thus far.

The Cardinals are fresh off a New Year's Classic trip to Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher, Ariz., where they split a pair of games. Gadsden State defeated College 83-72 in the tournament opener before falling to host Eastern Arizona College, 81-60.

Against Yavapai on Jan. 2, five Cardinals scored in double figures. Giovanni Nannucci paced Gadsden State with 22 points while adding five rebounds and four assists. Demarreon Baldwin and Cristian Willis both scored 14 points, with Baldwin also having five rebounds and five steals. Keshawn Watkins posted a double-double of 12 points and 15 rebounds, while Mekhi Fitts contributed 10 points and four rebounds. Shannon Jones chipped in six points, four assists and three rebounds.

Against Eastern Arizona on Jan. 3, Mekhi Fitts finished with 20 points, nine rebounds and two blocks. Demarreon Baldwin scored 12 points, followed by Keshawn Watkins with 10 and Giovanni Nannucci with seven. Baldwin also grabbed four rebounds.

"This trip was more than just about basketball; it was about growth, exposure and the chance to connect with potential opportunities," said Gadsden State head coach Deddrick Tarver, whose team finished second in the ACCC North Division last season. "Our players have demonstrated remarkable dedication and teamwork this season, which is evident through our recent



Courtesy of Gadsden State

The Gadsden State men's basketball team gathers for a photo while competing in the recent New Year's Classic at Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher, Arizona

successes." Gadsden State opens ACCC action began Thursday at Lawson State in Birmingham. The Cardinals' home conference opener is Monday, Jan. 13 against Wallace State at Beck Gymnasium.

Gadsden State is among the best offensive teams in ACCC Division I, averaging 85.7 points per game for second in conference while shooting a league-best 49 percent from the

field. Gadsden State is also the top rebounding team in Division I. GSCC sophomore Mekhi Fitts leads the ACCC in rebounds per game at 9.3 while averaging 14.3 points per game, good for sixth in the league. Freshman Keshawn Watkins averages 13.9 points and 7.9 re-bounds per game.

Three other Cardinals are averaging double figures in sophomore Demarreon Baldwin (13.5) sophomore

Cristian Willis (11.3) and freshman Giovanni Nannucci (10.4).

The GSCC women enter conference play with an 8-5 record, winning three of their last four games. Freshman Tyla Tatum is scoring a team-best 10.8 points per game, Freshman Kamoriah Gaines averages 9.3 points and 6.6 rebounds and sophomore Kyla Torok contributes 8.5 points and a team-high 6.9 rebounds per game.

Gadsden State to host father/son baseball camp

Gadsden State Community College is bringing back its Annual Father-Son Baseball Camp, an interactive and free event aimed at strengthening bonds through America's favorite pastime.

The camp is set for January 26-28 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gadsden Sports Park located behind the college.

Participants are asked to bring their own gloves, bats,

and drinks (water or Gatorade).

The camp is open to boys ages 6-14 and their fathers or father figures. With only 80 spots available for children, early registration is encouraged. Registration closes Jan. 14.

To register or for more information, contact Blake Lewis at blewis@gadsdenstate.edu.



Courtesy of Alex Chaney

Hokes Bluff's Haylen Marbut (left) protects the ball from Ashville's Maddie Sanders during Hokes Bluff's 45-33 victory in girls basketball on Jan. 7 at AHS.

Ashville sharpshooters on target - from 1B

Carpenter pointed to his team's depth as a major factor.

"We had a lot of guys who came off the bench tonight and stepped up for us. We're limited in numbers, so everybody has to be ready to play when called upon. We have faith that every guy who steps out on the court will do what we ask him to do."

The Bulldogs' balanced scoring attack included 19 points from Parker Smith, 18 from J.B. Potter, 16 from Dalton Rice-Thompson, 12 from Jrey Colley 11 from Nate Huckbay and nine from Dylan Palmer. Potter grabbed 11 rebounds, followed by Smith with six and Huckbay with four. Thompson distributed 12 assists, while Potter dished out eight.

Hokes Bluff came out of a back-and-forth first quarter with a 20-17 lead. With Potter relegated to the bench with foul trouble, five straight points from Ronan McFadden put the Eagles ahead 30-28 midway through the second period.

But Hokes Bluff went scoreless over the final 1:50 of the first half, and seven consecutive points from Huckbay during that same span provided Ashville with a 35-30 advantage at the break.

"We're a team that really doesn't rely on one person, so when one guy comes out, another one comes in with the same energy and the same intensity," said Potter. "We probably put in more work than any other team, and all that [work] is starting to pay off."

Helped by eight points from Bryce Whitaker, Hokes Bluff kept within single digits for much of the third quarter. His basket with two minutes to go cut the Bulldog lead to five points, but that proved to be the high-water mark for the Eagles. Ashville closed out the period on a 15-6 run, and despite three 3-point baskets by Logan Carr during the final eight minutes, Hokes Bluff failed to get back within striking distance.

A pair of free throws from Dylan Palmer down the stretch made it a 20-point advantage for the Bulldogs and effectively ended any chance of an Eagle rally.

Whitaker paced Hokes Bluff with 24 points along with four rebounds. Carr shot 71 percent (5-for-7) from the three-point line on the way to 21 points. He also had six assists. Ronan McFadden scored 13 points, while Anderson Morgan added seven points and 14 assists.

"Coach Carpenter did a very good job of preparing his team for this basketball game," said Hokes Bluff head coach Ryan Smith. "He put his kids in the right situations to make plays, and our kids didn't make enough plays. Basketball is a game of runs, and [Ashville's] runs were longer than ours, which is a tribute to [Carpenter]. My hats off to [Ashville]. They're a very good basketball team that has a lot of guys with a lot of athleticism. When they get going, they're like a freight train, and we had a hard tonight of slowing that train down tonight."

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BACK IN THE GAME

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LEGALIS

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Jeffery Wayne Wilson, an unmarried man, originally in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Primemax Mortgage Company, LLC, on November 20, 2020, said mortgage recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, in Instrument Number 3512000; the undersigned Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, as Mortgagee/Transferee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse at Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, on January 30, 2025, during the legal hours of sale, all of its rights, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Lot Two (2) of Somerset Estates recorded in Plat Book "L", Page 78, in the Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama. Property street address for informational purposes: 1531 Sun Rise Pl., Southside, AL 35907. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED AS TO TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERETO. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The successful bidder must tender a non-refundable deposit of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) in certified funds made payable to Tiffany & Bosco, P.A. at the time and place of the sale. The balance of the purchase price plus any deed recording costs and transfer taxes must be paid in certified funds by noon the next business day at the Law Office of Tiffany & Bosco, P.A. at the address indicated below. Tiffany & Bosco, P.A. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. The Mortgagee/Transferee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, ("Transferee") Tiffany & Bosco, P.A., 2501 20th Place South, Suite 300, Homewood, AL 35223 www.tblaw.com TB File Number: 23-08770

January 10, 17, and 24, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Christopher Myron Palmer was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/03/2024 to the Estate of Myron Loyal Palmer, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Amanda H. Schafner was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/05/2024 over the Estate of David Lynn Mazingo, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Patricia Perry was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/05/2024 over the Estate of Jerry Wilbur Perry, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Steven McClendon was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/05/2024 over the Estate of Donald McClendon, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Tanya Kay Davis and Laurel Richie Tucker was/were appointed Co-Personal Representative(s) on 10/22/2024 to the Estate of Carolyn Cochran McLester, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Brianna Day was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/28/2024 over the Estate of Christopher Dwayne Day, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Jacqueline Snell was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/28/2024 over the Estate of Randall Wayne Snell, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Bethlynn Louise Stoddard and Melissa Stoddard Finch was/were appointed Co-Personal Representative(s) on 10/28/2024 to the Estate of Joan D. Stoddard, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Maria Powell was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/28/2024 to the Estate of Elizabeth Murdock, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

W.J. Crane was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/19/2024 to the Estate of William P. Stofko, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Kyle Pierce was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/25/2024 to the Estate of Willie Pollock, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Dennis Earl Young, Jr. was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/26/2024 to the Estate of Dennis Earl Young, Sr., deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Lance Patrick Watkins was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/02/2024 to the Estate of Rebecca I. Watkins, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024,

January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Timothy Shane Davis was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/08/2024 over the Estate of Fiona Nelson, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Y'Mari Sturkie was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/12/2024 over the Estate of Lasheta McGruder, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Teryl Lynette Lancaster was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/14/2024 over the Estate of Joan Hope Stewart, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Sharon J. Garmany was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/15/2024 to the Estate of Stanley W. Jenkins, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Keith Edward Hughes was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/08/2024 to the Estate of Wilma Jo Baker, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Sue M. Coleman was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/15/2024 to the Estate of Harvey E. Coleman, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Asa Jay Gage was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/19/2024 to the Estate of Cindy C. Grier, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Steve Stafford was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/12/2024 over the Estate of Banji Akintola Stafford, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Joseph Allen Phillips, Jr. was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/20/2024 to the Estate of Joseph Allen Phillips, Sr., deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

James Cunningham was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/09/2024 over the Estate of Barbara Lee Campbell, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Brittney Free was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/10/2024 to the Estate of Pearl M. Lindsey, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

David Glidden was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/11/2024 over the Estate of William Robert Downs, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Mary Ann Pennington was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/05/2024 to the Estate of Wilma Jo Baker, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Natalie Hayes was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/02/2024 to the Estate of Glenda Woodyard, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Joseph Todd Bachelor was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/17/2024 to the Estate of Mary Lou Ann Bachelor, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Steve Stafford was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/12/2024 over the Estate of Banji Akintola Stafford, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Tabitha Helton was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/18/2024 to the Estate of Jimmy Powell, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Joseph Allen Phillips, Jr. was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/20/2024 to the Estate of Joseph Allen Phillips, Sr., deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

December 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Joseph Allen Phillips, Jr. was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/20/2024 to the Estate of Susan Belinda Phillips, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Traci Taliaferro was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/21/2024 over the Estate of Betty Jo Guyton, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

John A. Harvey was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/21/2024 to the Estate of Opal M. Harvey, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 10, 17, and 24, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Natalie Hayes was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/02/2024 to the Estate of Glenda Woodyard, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Kayla Jo McRay Martin was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/10/2024 to the Estate of Willie Faye Campbell, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Andrew Weathington, Judge of Probate

Blair and Parsons, P.C. 1711 Cogswell Avenue Pell City, AL 35125 205-884-3440

January 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2025

NOTIFICATION OF PROBATE TO HEIRS

The estate of Johnny Lee Hood of 2138 Kennesaw Way SE, Smyrna GA 30080

Notice to Heirs that a petition to probate will in solemn form has been filed on November 19th 2024. In the Probate Court of Cobb County, Georgia, for the probate of Last Will and Testament of Johnny Lee Hood. Who passed away on March 28th, 2024. Probate Case Number 24-p-2164

Heirs please contact: Josh Hood, Executor of Estate JHHood124@yahoo.com, 404-707-1698

Probate Court info: Cobb County State of

Georgia 32 Waddell St SE, Marietta GA 30090

December 20, 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF ESTATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DENNIS RAY BOWEN, DECEASED

CASE NO: 2025-00003

A Petition for Summary Distribution of the Estate of DENNIS RAY BOWEN, Deceased, having been submitted to the Honorable Scott W. Hassell, Judge of Probate, by Petitioners, Tammy Smith, Peggy Whitten, and Gladys Bowen Kelle, on the 20th day of December, 2024; Notice is hereby given that all persons contesting said Petition shall file a response thereto with the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Done this the 7th day of January 2025

Scott W. Hassell JUDGE OF PROBATE

January 10, 2025

ESTATE OF DORA AILEEN BATTLES, deceased

CASE NO.: 2023-00334

NOTICE TO: James Clint Frasier and John Frasier, devisees and beneficiaries under the Last Will and Testament of Dora Aileen Battles, deceased, heirs-at-law and next of kin of Dora Aileen Battles.

The Personal Representative's Petition For Order of Final Settlement and Decree Discharging Personal Representative shall be heard by undersigned at the Etowah County Courthouse, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901, on 26th day of February 2025, at 10.00A.M.

SCOTT W. HASSELL JUDGE OF PROBATE

January 10, 17, and 24, 2025

NOTICE OF DAY SET FOR HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR ST. CLAIR COUNTY, ALABAMA

SOUTHERN JUDICIAL DIVISION AT PELL CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BARRY DELANO BRADFORD, SR., deceased

CASE NO. S-2024-452

TO: BEVERLY LISA BRADFORD RANDLE 105 PENN DRIVE GADSDEN, AL 35903

Please take notice that a Petition for Probate of Will in the Estate of BARRY DELANO BRADFORD, SR. was filed in my office by Barry Delano Bradford, Jr. And, the 18th day of February, 2025 at 9:30 am has been set as the date and time for a hearing, at which time you may appear and consent to the same, or contest said Petition.

Done this the 7th day of January, 2025.

Andrew Weathington, Judge of Probate

Lot Twenty-six (26) in Block Number Two (2) of the Glenn Addition to the City of Attalla, in Etowah County, Alabama, together with all improvements located thereon, and recorded in Book 1227 Page 855, Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama.

You are named as a defendant. You are hereby commanded and directed to file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court an answer to the complaint within 30 days after the last publication of this notice, or a default judgment may be entered against you.

This the 13th day of December 2024.

Cassandra Johnson Circuit Clerk

John D. Floyd, Esquire Floyd Law Firm, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 808 Chestnut Street Gadsden, AL 35901 (256)547-6328

December 20, 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Suit to Quiet Title owned by Diane Graves has been filed in the Circuit Court, Etowah County Case No.: CV-2022-900271 styled Diane Graves VS Lot 26 in Block Number 2 of the Glenn Addition of the City of Attalla, in Etowah County, AL; Tani Cooper, Julia Tolbert, & Margaret Ragland; the unknown heirs and next of kin of Ada Randle, deceased and any other unknown individuals and/or entities who claim any interest in the following real property.

Attorney for the Plaintiff Lloyd Scott Christopher 819 West Main Street, Suite C, Centre, Alabama 35960 256-266-1416 contact@lloydlegalllc.com

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: MINOR NAME CHANGE
CASE NO.: 2024-00358

To: UNKNOWN FATHER WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

You are hereby notified that a Petition for Name Change of a minor child born to SEQUOYA MOSTELLA on AUGUST 16, 2019, was filed on JUNE 12, 2024. Please be advised that if you intend to contest the same you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication with the Attorney for Petitioners whose name and address is listed below and with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama P.O. Box 187, Gadsden, AL 35902.

Done this the 11th day of December 2024.

Attorney for Petitioner(s): (name and address)
John Floyd, Esq.
808 Chestnut Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

December 20, 27, 2024, January 3, and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: DEBRA J. KING, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED TO: Any unknown family

Case #: 2024-820

Please take notice that a PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP & CONSERVATORSHIP of the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 10TH day of FEBRUARY 2025 at 2:30 p.m. was appointed a day and time for hearing on said Petition, thereof at which time you may appear and support and/or contest the Petition, if you so choose.

DONE THIS THE 26TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2024

Scott Hassell
PROBATE JUDGE

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP AND LETTERS OF CONSERVATORSHIP

Notice to: Unknown family members, whose whereabouts are unknown

You will take notice that a Petition for Letters of Guardianship for the person of Robert M. Dabney, Jr., and a Petition for Letters of Conservatorship over the estate of Robert M. Dabney, Jr., was filed by Gadsden Regional Medical Center on the 6th day of JANUARY 2025.

A hearing on the Petition for Letters of Guardianship and Petition for Letters of Conservatorship is set on the 11th day of FEBRUARY 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

January 10, 17, and 24, 2025

NOTICE TO KASSI GROSS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JESSICA DOWNES GROSS, Deceased
CASE NO. 2023-00516

You will take notice that a petition in the above styled action for final discharge was filed against you in the Etowah County Probate Court on October 23, 2024, Case No. 2023-00516 and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by this Court on November 18, 2024.

Please be advised that should you intend to contest this petition, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the

last publication herein with EMILY HAWK MILLS, whose name and address is shown below, and with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, Post Office Box 187, Gadsden, AL 35902.

A hearing has been set for January 15, 2025 at 10:00 AM. before the Honorable Scott W. Hassell in the Probate Court of Etowah County in Gadsden, Alabama.

Emily Hawk Mills
Cusimano, Roberts, Mills & Knowlton, LLC
153 S. 9th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

DONE this the 18th day of November 2024

SCOTT W. HASSELL
JUDGE OF PROBATE

December 20, 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMIT WILL TO PROBATE AND PETITION FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

In Re: IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
The Estate Of NANCY MOUNT BRYANT, Deceased.
Case No.: 2024-00789

Notice to: Christina Leighann Moss, whose whereabouts are unknown

You will take notice that a Petition to Admit Will to Probate and Petition for Letters Testamentary has been filed by Keith Duane Bryant in the matter of the Estate of Nancy Mount Bryant. This matter is set to be heard on the 18th day of February 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., before the Honorable Scott W. Hassell, Judge of Probate.

Please be advised that should you intend to object to the Last Will and Testament being admitted and Letters of Testamentary being issued to Keith Duane Bryant, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with Justin D. Hayes, 406 South 3rd Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901, and with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901.

December 20, 27, 2024, January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, ex rel: Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO: CV-24-117-CDR

PLAINTIFF
VS.
\$928.00 U.S. Currency

DEFENDANTS
In Re: Tracie Lynn Wiggs

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED CURRENCY:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described currency. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 14th day of February 2025. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.

DONE this the 19th day of December, 2024.

Cassandra Johnson,
Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

January 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2025

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, ex rel: Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO: CV-24-

900464-SJS

PLAINTIFF

VS.

\$4,350.00 U.S.

Currency

DEFENDANTS

In Re: Wade L Riley

Benefield

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED CURRENCY:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described currency. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 14th day of February 2025. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.

DONE this the 19th day of December, 2024.

Cassandra Johnson,
Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

January 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2025

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, ex rel: Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO: CV-24-107-SJS

PLAINTIFF

VS.

\$1,178.00 U.S.

Currency

DEFENDANTS

In Re: Tarance Adolph Smothers

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED CURRENCY:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described currency. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 14th day of February 2025. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.

DONE this the 19th day of December, 2024.

Cassandra Johnson,
Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

January 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

In The Matter of the Adoption Petition of BRANDON SCOTT WILDER
CASE NO.: 202-00001

TO: Bradley Watts
Address Unknown

Please take notice that a petition for adoption of a child born to Brooke Ellen Perry, a.k.a Brooke Perry Wilder, has been filed in said Court by the Petitioner(s) named above. The minor child's date of birth is March 30, 2011. As a notified party, you may appear in the adoption proceeding to contest or support the attached petition. Please be advised that if you intend to con-test this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of service of this notice with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below and with the Clerk of the Probate Court at the following address: P.O. Box 187, Gadsden, AL 35902. If you fail to respond within thirty (30) days and appear at the hearing, the Court may construe that failure as an implied consent to the adoption and waiver of a right to appear and of further notice of the adoption proceedings. If the adoption is approved, your parental rights, if any, will be considered terminated.

Attorney for Petitioner:
Shannon L. Millican

255 South 8th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

Given under my hand this the 2nd day of January 2025.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

January 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2025

EFSP PUBLIC NOTICE

ETOWAH COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)/FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM.

Etowah County has been awarded \$23,701 (considered Phase 42) to supplement existing emergency food and shelter programs in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide. The Local EFSP Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country and will determine how these funds are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must:

- 1) be private, voluntary nonprofits or units of government,
- 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds,
- 3) have an accounting system,
- 4) practice nondiscrimination,
- 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and
- 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, having a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Please contact (256)547-2581 or call-help@uwoec.org to receive an organizational application for this phase of funding.

January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Content of the following storage buildings will be SOLD by Off Campus Storage on January 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at 474 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden, AL. 35903

Angela Johnson
Unit 26

Off Campus Storage
474 George Wallace Drive
Gadsden, AL. 35903

January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on February 14, 2025

1998 Buick Lesabre
VIN: 1G4HP52K-7WH407099

2006 Utility Trailer Semi Flatbed
VIN: 1UYFS24816A702123

Thacker Towing & Recovery
927 5th Avenue NE
Attalla, AL 35954
(256) 546-9994

January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on February 21, 2025

2010 Ford F-150
VIN: 1FTFW-1CV9AFC36215

Thacker Towing & Recovery
927 5th Avenue NE

Attalla, AL 35954
(256) 546-9994

January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

In accordance with the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Alabama Code Sections 32-13-1 through 32-13-8 notice is hereby given to the owners, lienholders, and other interested parties. The following motor vehicles will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 9:00 am, January 13, 2025 at Team One Chevrolet of Gadsden, Gadsden, Alabama. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and the right to bid.

2006 CADILLAC DTS
VIN: 1GEEH96Y56U550741

Stephanie Gillilan
Attorney at Law
834 Chestnut Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
(256) 458-6515

January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on 02/14/2025

2001 Chev Silverado 1500
VIN: 1GCEK19T21E188463

2001 Ford F-150 XL
VIN: 1FTRX17L71NA06309

Tommy Tows
1912 3rd Street
Attalla, AL. 35954
(256) 490-3715

January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on February 7, 2025.

1996 Dodge Ram 1500 Black
VIN: 1B7HC16XZTJ116620

1993 Toyota Camry White
VIN: 4T1SK12W7PU276393

6x12 Enclosed Trailer White

1992 Chevrolet Motrhme Chassis Gray
VIN: 1GBKP37N2N320194

2011 Mini Cooper Countryman Blue
VIN: WMWZC5C50B-WM11110

2001 Chevrolet Malibu White
VIN: 1G1NE52J116130516

2004 Buick Century Gray
VIN: 2G4WS52J441300055

2012 Subaru Outback Black
VIN: 4S4BRCKC7C3244007

2003 Volkswagen New Beetle Red
VIN: 3VWCD-21C93M442554

2007 Chevrolet HHR Blue
VIN: 3GNDA33P77S591544

1995 Buck Park Avenue Tan
VIN: 1G4C-W52KXSH622645

2013 Nissan Rogue Burgundy
VIN: JN8AS5MT1DW529514

2019 Chevrolet Colorado White
VIN: 1GCHSBEA9K1259254

2020 Chevrolet Trax Black
VIN: 3GNCJKSB9LL189542

ER Towing
1733 Forrest Ave
Gadsden, AL 35901
(256)547-1549

January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on 02/14/2025

2017 Ford Focus SE
VIN: 1FADP3F-27HL327034

Tommy Tows
3403 Forrest Ave
Gadsden, AL 35904
(256) 490-3715

January 3 and 10, 2025

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on February 17, 2025

2004 Chevrolet Impala (White)
VIN: 2G1WF52KX4 9285685

UNI AUTOMOTIVE GROUP LLC
2075 HIGHWAY 77
ATTALLA AL 35954
256-538-6600

January 10 and 17, 2025

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on February 18, 2025

2006 Buick Rendezvous (WHITE)
VIN: 3G5DA03L36S537779

UNI AUTOMOTIVE GROUP LLC
2075 HIGHWAY 77
ATTALLA AL 35954
256-538-6600

January 10 and 17, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Please take NOTICE that Matt's Towing will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicle 2002 Toyota Tacoma vin# 5TEPM62N12Z069068 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am on 2/22/2025 The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

January 10 and 17, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Please take NOTICE that Matt's Towing will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicle 2002 Toyota Camry VIN#4T1BE32K X2U101919 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am on 2/22/2025 The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

January 10 and 17, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Please take NOTICE that Matt's Towing will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicle 2017 Chevrolet traverse VIN#1GNKRFED 4HJ300490 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am on 2/19/2025 The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

January 10 and 17, 2024

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on March 14, 2025.

2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer
VIN: 1GNDS13S422476992

2012 Honda Civic
VIN: 19XFB2F8XCE088645

2002 Pontiac Sunfire
VIN: 1G2JB124927440768

Thacker Towing
927 5th Avenue NE
Attalla, AL 35954
(256) 504-1605

January 10 and 17, 2025

NOTICE OF POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned

will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned item(s) on January 22, 2025

Load of lumber, Georgia Pacific Wood Products LLC, product # 720227, 11 bundles of 2x4's, 208 pieces per bundle, 2,288 pieces total

Thacker Towing
927 5th Avenue NE
Attalla, AL 35954
(256) 504-1605

January 10 and 17, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. O-58-24

Amending City Code Section 74-1(3) Regarding Miscellaneous Fees and Charges

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, as follows:

Section 1. Section 74-1(3) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Gadsden is amended to read as follows:

(3) A fee of \$10.00 shall be charged to any person requesting any identification pictures, accident reports, report copies, accident photographs and fingerprints requested from the police department by any person other than another law enforcement agency for use in law enforcement.

Section 3. The section, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a valid judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect the validity of any other section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this ordinance. The city council declares that it is its intent that it would

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SURPLUS ITEMS

Gadsden State Community College will now be selling all Surplus items on Govdeals.com. Anyone interested in purchasing can go to Govdeals.com, register as a bidder, type in Gadsden State Community College in the search engine and view all the items we have for sale. All items are sold As is.



Randall Battles
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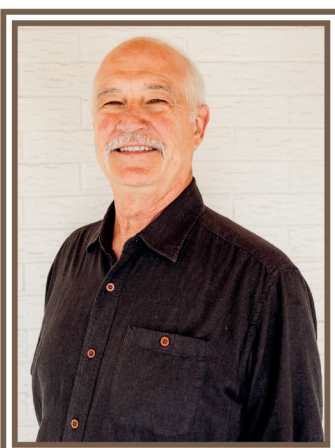
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