



"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."  
 — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025**

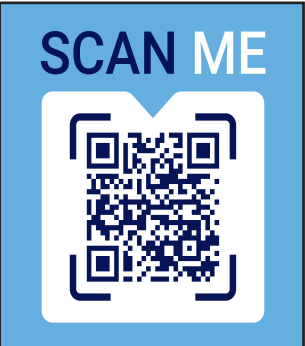


# Messenger

Volume 47, Issue 01

January 17, 2025

50 cents



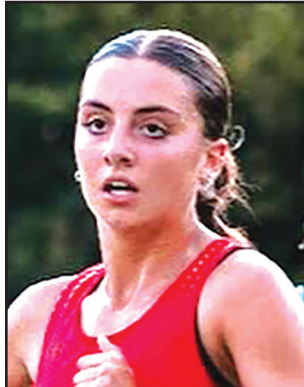
7 DAY FORECAST						
Friday Jan. 17	Saturday Jan. 18	Sunday Jan. 19	Monday Jan. 20	Tuesday Jan. 21	Wednesday Jan. 22	Thursday Jan. 23
High: 61 Low: 45	High: 58 Low: 34	High: 39 Low: 15	High: 31 Low: 16	High: 31 Low: 14	High: 39 Low: 22	High: 45 Low: 28



## Page 1B

Sardis High's Lucas Montgomery had a big game against Gaston in the Etowah County Schools Basketball Tournament earlier this week.

Photo by Alex Chaney



## Page 2B

A number of Gadsden State student-athletes recently made the All-ACCC Honor Roll.

Courtesy of Gadsden State



## Page 1B

Longtime local high school and college baseball contest official and announcer Bobby Cooper passed away earlier this week.

Photo by Chris McCarthy

# SNOW DAY

## Etowah County sees first snow of 2025

Residents across Etowah County saw the first snow day of 2025 on Friday, January 10. According to the National Weather Service, about two inches of snow fell across the county with some pockets receiving nearly three inches of snow. The frigid temperatures caused icy roadways throughout the county and caused all schools to close for the day. Many businesses and city operations were at a standstill due to the slick roads. The next snow day could come between January 20-24, though as of Thursday, January 16, meteorologists were not certain if snow will occur.



Submitted photo

Eight-year-old Kinsley Fleming is pushed on a homemade sled by her father, Brandon Fleming, while her brother John Fleming (seven years old) chases.



Broad Street, Gadsden



Rainbow City City Hall



Etowah County Sheriff's Office K-9 officer

Courtesy photos

TOP: Snow falls on a snow-covered Broad Street in downtown Gadsden on January 10, 2025. MIDDLE: Rainbow City Hall's parking lot and sidewalks were covered in snow on January 10, 2025. BOTTOM: An Etowah County Sheriff's Office K-9 officer poses for a photo in front of a sheriff's office patrol car.

## Ridgeville to get high-speed internet

Governor Kay Ivey recently awarded a \$2.9 million grant to expand high-speed internet access in Etowah County.

The grant was awarded to Spectrum Southeast in support of a project to make high-speed internet available to 352 previously unserved households, businesses and community institutions in the Ridgeville area.

"This project in Etowah County is another step toward my goal of providing high-speed internet access to rural communities throughout Alabama," Ivey said. "Expanding broadband access is leading to better outcomes and opportunities in education, health care, business and other areas

of life."

The grant money is being made available through the Capital Projects Fund program, which is supported by funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The grant will be administered by the Alabama Digital Expansion Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

"High-speed internet is a necessity in today's world, and it has been exciting to see so many unserved areas in Alabama gain access to it," ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell said. "I am honored to join Governor Ivey in carrying out a mission that continues to improve people's lives in numerous ways."

Since 2018, Ivey has awarded grants to support more than 200 broadband expansion projects across the state. Once all projects are completed, they will have the ability to provide access to more than 142,000 households, businesses and institutions like hospitals, schools and libraries.

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number CPFFN0162 awarded to the State of Alabama by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. ADECA administers a wide range of programs that support law enforcement, victim programs, economic development, water resource management, energy conservation and recreation.

## Southside lands ADEM grant for cardboard recycling

The City of Southside is the recipient of an Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) grant for over \$52,000.

The grant will allow the city to purchase a cardboard baler. According to the city, the baler will free up employee time as it will allow employees to process cardboard faster. It will also allow employees to process more cardboard each day.

Previously, the City of Southside transported the collected cardboard to Rainbow City.

According to a post on Facebook by the City of Southside's official page, the city collected around 100 tons of cardboard in 2024.





# OBITUARIES



**Stanley Earl Stroup**

**SOUTHSIDE** - Stanley Earl Stroup, age 66, of Southside, AL, passed away on Friday, January 10, 2025. A funeral service will be held at 2:30 pm on Friday, January 17, 2025, at Rainbow Church of Christ. Blake Jones will officiate. Burial will follow at Williams Southside Cemetery. Collier-Butler Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Stanley was a graduate of Southside High School class of 1976. He worked in law enforcement for over 15 years. He was Assistant Chief at Southside before joining Hokes Bluff Police Department. He later started his own construction company and became a licensed contractor. The past several years, Stanley was general manager at High Voltage Electrical. Stanley was a kind man and would give anyone in need a helping hand. He was respected by his friends and fellow employees and considered them family. He never

complained while battling his cancer, and he faced it head on. He said whatever the outcome, he would be ok. He is at peace now. He is healed and with his Lord and savior... and has been reunited with Will, the apple of his eye. Stanley was much loved and will be greatly missed.

Stanley was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Alice Stroup; and son, Will Stroup.

He is survived by close friend and mother to Will, Susan Lasseter; brothers, Jerry and Michael Stroup; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Pallbearers will be close friends.

Flowers will be accepted of donations may be made to your favorite charity in Stanley's honor.

The family wishes to express a special thanks to the Southside Police and Fire Department, Gadsden Regional ICU nurses and doctors, and close friends (Larry Naler, Joe Morgan, and others).

The family will accept friends from 1:00 pm until the hour of the service at the church on Friday.

**Inez Essex Robinson**

Inez Robinson, age 90, passed away on January 12th, 2025. Funeral services will be held at Crestwood Memorial Funeral Home on January 20th, 2025, at 1 p.m. Visitation will start

at 11 a.m. until time of the service.

Inez Robinson was born to William and Odessa Essex on April 5th, 1934. She joined Handy Chapel Ame Church at an early age. She was joined in marriage to Herbert Robinson.

She is preceded in death by her mother Odessa Essex and father William Essex, husband Herbert Robinson

Survived by siblings Bertha Smalls of Jacksonville, FL, Gert (Dennis) Devertuill of Florida, Doris (Paul) Baker of Florida, Romie Essex, William Essex, Ann Essex of Jacksonville, FL, children Dildra (Greg) Watson of Baltimore, MA, Sandrel (Julius) Love, Debra Robinson, Herbert Robinson Jr., grandchildren Greg Watson, Ian Watson, Kyndrick Robinson, Shabrala Robinson, Kadija Dailey, several great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews

Special thanks to Southern Home Beacon Care hospice.

**Charles Clayton Parham**

**GLENCOE** - Charles Clayton Parham, age 93, passed away on January 12th, 2025. Funeral service will be held on Friday, January 17th, 2025, at 11 a.m. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Crestwood Cemetery following.

Charles Parham was

raised on Sand Mtn. in and around Henagar, AL, living and working on numerous farms in and around the area. He moved to Gadsden, AL in 1950 and later moved to Glencoe, AL in 1957 where he was a lifelong resident of 67 years. He started work for the City of Gadsden in 1951 as a Heavy Equipment Operator and loved every minute of it. He worked for the city for 47 years until he retired to his residence in Glencoe. Later in life, he enjoyed going to the Gadsden Mall and "people watching" then going for lunch at the Waffle House across the street.

He is survived by his three sons Jerry (Cindy) Parham, Randy (Jill) Parham, Scott (Rachel) Parham, Daughter-in-Law Kathy Norton, Brother Louie Parham, Grandchildren Jeff Norton, Michael (Kay) Parham, Hillary (Justin) Bielefeldt, Shay (Jon) Patton, Blake (Angelina) Parham and a host of Great Grandchildren, Nieces and Nephews.

He is preceded in death by Father J. H. "Duley" Parham, Mother Vestie White Parham, Wife Dorothy Strawn Parham, second Wife Elizebeth Anne Parham, Son Donnie Parham Norton, Grandson Samuel Wade Norton, Brothers Dennis Parham, Johnny Parham, Sisters Louise Parham Varnedore, Katherine Parham Naler, Sula May Parham Webb, Ada Lee Parham Conklin, granddaughter

Kortney Blake Patton  
Pallbearers will be Larry Naler, Rickey Autwell, Barry Conklin, Kevin Conklin, Michael Parham, Blake Parham

Honorary pallbearers will be Jeff Norton, Justin Bielefeldt, Jon Patton, Jordyn Patton, Rick Naler, Eddie Dunn, Sammy McCurry, Tim Denis, Harry Parker, David Parker, Barry Parker, Rex Ellis, Kenneth Ellis, Mike Magnusson

Special thanks to doctor James Robinson and staff, the ICU Staff of the Gadsden Regional Medical Center, the Staff of Silver Lakes Assisted Living, Special Neighbors Eddie, Linda, Helen and Sammy, and the special employees and friends at Waffle House # 1265.

"Well done my Good and Faithful Servant", as she was reunited with her beloved Charles.

Betty was widowed at the age of 51. Life did not stop for her. She was devoted to her family, church and friends. Betty was the youngest of 11 siblings. She had two sons, six grand children, seven great grand grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. For many years Betty maintained the alter for worship every Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church, she was a devoted member until she physically could not attend.

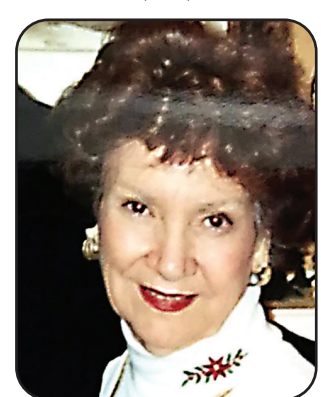
She would gladly volunteer her time to others as needed and always had a prayer or kind word.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband Charles E. Thompson and 11 siblings.

She is survived by her sons Charles (Kelley) Thompson and Mark (Debbie) Thompson; grandchildren Bart Thompson, Beth Baker, Doug (Ashley) Thompson, Charlotte Thompson, Clark (Stephanie) Thompson and Ian (Kelsey) Thompson; sand even great grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be Friday, January 17, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church. Visitation at 10:00 am, service at 11:00 am. Pastor John Reynolds officiating.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Trinity Lutheran Church in Memory of Betty.



**Betty Jo Thompson**

**GADSDEN** - Betty Jo Thompson, 93, was received into her Saviors arms January 12, 2025.

No doubt she received a



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# NEWS

## Noccalula Falls Park stocked with rainbow trout

Beginning January 13, folks will not have to travel to north Georgia or Tennessee to fly fish; they can do it in Gadsden in Black Creek at Noccalula Falls Park.

Approximately 1,000 pounds of rainbow trout were recently stocked in the creek below Noccalula Falls. The trout will take a few days to acclimate and find feeding zones and holding points. This project, which is in its sixth year, is a partnership with The City of Gadsden's Noccalula Falls Park, partners from the Rainbow Fly Fishing Club, State Rep. Craig Lipscomb and Greater Gadsden Area Tourism.

Residents and non-residents wishing to cast a line in Black Creek for trout or any other type of fish must possess a valid State of Alabama Fishing License and a trout permit. Licenses may be purchased at the Coosa Landing Boat Launch located at 200 Lake Street in Gadsden or by calling 256-549-4677. An Alabama Fishing License

must be shown when purchasing a 2025 trout permit, which can be purchased this year at the Noccalula Falls Park Office located by the Kiwanis Pavilion. The office is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or at City of Gadsden website. Trout permits are \$10 for one day and \$35 for a seasonal pass through June 30. Since trout permits must be clipped to one's clothing while fishing in Black Creek, plastic permit holders can be purchased at the same time as the permit.

Trout fishing should be done with fly rods only with a barbless hook. Only artificial bait can be used. Limit is one pole and line per angler. Fishing is allowed between dawn and dusk. No fishing is allowed in the pool below the falls. Catch-and-release is only until April 1 this year (May 1 was the deadline in the past). In harvest season during April-June, anglers may keep up to 5 trout per day. Visit <https://greatergadsden.com/fly-fishing> for more information.

## Local students named to Samford Dean's List

A number of local students recently made the Samford University Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester, including Carl Henry, Judd Malone, Jake Malone, Blake Willingham, Kimberly Cornelius, Tanyah Fisher and Garrett

Shoars of Gadsden; Joanna Rayburn, Paige Martin, Bethany Garmon and Lauren Weaver of Rainbow City; and Albert Theriot and Samuel Pence of Southside.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must have

earned a minimum 3.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 12 credit hours of coursework. The Dean's List is the highest academic recognition given by the school at the end of each semester.

## Annual MLK Jr. Day Parade scheduled for Friday, 1 p.m.

The 10th Annual Unity in the Community and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade is scheduled for Friday, January 17.

The annual parade is a joint celebration of unity and observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The parade will begin at 1 p.m. on Broad Street in Gadsden. This community event is free and open to the public to attend.

## BBBS member appointed to national youth council

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama recently celebrated the appointment of Mary Ann Rickles, to the inaugural Big Brothers Big Sisters of America National Youth Council. This dynamic council brings together a group of young leaders, ages 16 to 23, from across the country to advise, inspire, and shape the future of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS).

The council's primary mission is to ensure that youth voices are at the forefront of BBBSA's strategic decisions, programs, and initiatives. By integrating their insights, the organization will not only remain relevant but will also amplify its impact in empowering youth nationwide.

Mary Ann is a college student who aspires to make a larger impact in the field of public health and education, advocating for underprivileged children and improving their circumstances. She has been a mentor and role model to a couple of children in the BBBS program. She served as a High School Big Sister for three years, volunteering her time weekly to invest in her Littles. Her care toward them truly showed her passion toward ensuring each one knew they were loved and accepted. She has always stood out as a leader and has been instrumental in promoting inclusion and equity for those that may often get overlooked.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters has always believed in the power of mentorship to ignite potential," said Artis Stevens, President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. "Through our National Youth Council, we're giving young leaders a platform to drive meaningful change, influence strategic decisions, and help guide our organization in changing the odds for youth across the nation. This is not just an opportunity for our organization — it's an opportunity for these young voices to inspire change and growth."

The inaugural cohort will serve through December 2025.

Submitted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama

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## Southside ADEM grant

- From 1A



Photo courtesy of City of Southside

Employees of the City of Southside public works department pose with a photo of a check from ADEM. See story on Page 1A.

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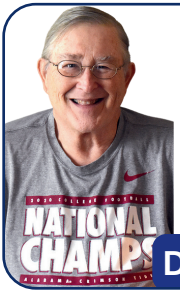
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# LIFESTYLE

## Smallpox vaccination was a hot topic in late 1800s Gadsden



**Looking at the History**

**Danny Crowover**

As the result of the death of a New Orleans man from smallpox disease while a guest of the Kittrell Hotel early in 1883, several pastors of churches in Gadsden called upon both the city and Etowah County authorities to adopt laws to enforce compulsory vaccination against the disease.

The group appointed Reverend J.F. Edens of the Gadsden First Baptist as its spokesman. Edens soon wrote an article for a local newspaper in which he said that the pastors expected quick action on the matter.

In effect, the pastors wanted to run out of town every person who refused to be vaccinated for smallpox, citing the damage that a smallpox epidemic would do to the town. In his article, the good doctor noted that the pastors of the city, "believe beyond a doubt

that vaccination is the only sovereign protection from the ravages of the pestilence and realize the fact that the prosperity of our little city will be seriously crippled and retarded, if not permanently injured."

The pastors beseeched the city and county officials to make vaccination both free and compulsory, "forcing by all means everyone to examination and submission to vaccination or leave the town at once."

City of Gadsden and Etowah County authorities did not respond to the pastors' appeal, knowing that the municipalities could not enforce such a law. Many residents did submit to vaccination, however, and for weeks local doctors were kept busy.

Vaccination was a very crude business back then, and there were invariably some bad effects from all such precautions against a such dreadful disease. Many persons suffered sore arms and had to carry their arms in slings for weeks. Two or three unfortunates lost an arm by amputation in order to save their lives.

The city undertook to enforce compulsory vaccination in 1878 but failed to do so in the face of almost universal opposition. It was during this time that a local newspaper began agitating for a bridge across the Coosa River, noting that the people in East Gadsden needed



Courtesy of Danny Crowover

Pictured is a 1918 view of railroad bridge in Gadsden spanning the Coosa River looking west. This is the only photo known showing the car ramp coming off the railroad bridge before Memorial Bridge was built.

such a bridge. The editorials pointed out the fact that residents were being taxed to build bridges in other sections of the county and that they had few streams other than the river that needed bridges.

From that point on, the local newspaper

was instrumental in inducing the county to negotiate with the L&N Railroad for use of its new bridge as a wagon bridge. In time, an outcry for a vehicular bridge on Broad Street resulted in the construction of the present Memorial Bridge.

## Wondering who said what?

This week, I decided to up the cool quotient in my classroom. My students last semester helped hang up origami birds, and that flock is still there, but the walls are empty and grey. So, I made some posters with quotes from favorite writers, had them printed and laminated, and put them up. There are inspirational tidbits from poets like Rupi Kaur and Maya Angelou, philosophical musings from American Transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson, and even the Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami.

I was very proud of my colorful additions. Then, one of my colleagues stopped in and asked if I was sure that a particular quote was from the correct writer, and was that really the right person in the picture?

The rest of the day, all I could think about was triple-checking my posters. Thankfully, my coworker also suggested a couple of websites to use.

It turns out that, yes, the picture was of the right person, but the quote is not as easily pinned down.

I started thinking about how easy, even with all of the technology at our fingertips, it is to incorrectly attribute information and quotes.

In the past few weeks, much bigger names

have thrown up their hands at the seemingly impossible task of verifying information and sources (looking at you, Facebook and parent company Meta).

Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO and founder of Facebook and its parent company META, announced new policy on January 7 that ends its fact-checking system and instead replaces it with a community notes-driven system similar to Twitter's community note system. Zuckerberg cited the 2024 presidential election as the tipping point in the decision, in fact, calling it a "cultural tipping point towards, once again, prioritizing speech." Zuckerberg said the fact-checking program that Facebook began using in 2016 in an effort to curtail misinformation around a different presidential election made too many mistakes. This announcement spawned many outrageous memes and posts on social media to test this new policy.

A class I teach regularly requires that I provide instruction in research, and I have always enjoyed that part of the semester. One year, I had students research and verify some seemingly impossible people and situations. Another year, we focused on verifying quotes and saw how hard it can be. Yet another year, we watched videos and tried

to identify the ones that had been altered in some way. It is amazing what details the human eye can and cannot pick out.

This semester, I will be showing students how to use various applications and websites and artificial intelligence (AI), to check sources, info, images and even voice recordings. It always blows my mind how easy it can be to not notice irregularities. But, as I remind students, we usually see and hear what we are expecting to see and hear.

Our brains are incredibly good at predictions and filling in the blanks — and even unscrambling.

Surely, if AI has been trained on all that is available online it should be able to verify poster quotes for me, right? Hopefully, it has "learned" how to parse through the false info, and can keep me from hanging up anything else ridiculous.

After seeing it create false references for a classroom activity, though, I'm not 100 percent sure AI hasn't already developed a sense of humor. I guess I'll have to just go back to choosing quotes from things I've actually read so I know for sure where they come from.

I suppose I need to trust myself more and trust the machines less, and also read more



**Arranging the Pieces**

**Tabitha Bozeman**

Ralph Waldo Emerson, as he tells us: "Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string. Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind. A man should learn to detect and watch that gleam of light which flashes across his mind from within, more than the lustre of the firmament of bards and sages... In every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts: they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty..."

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 tabithabozean@gmail.com.

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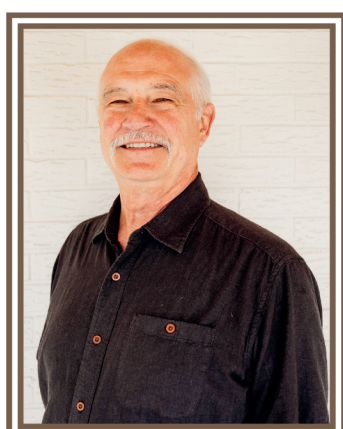
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# DEVOTIONALS

## Is my soil healthy?



The first parable mentioned in at least two of the Gospels, Matthew and Mark, is that of the farmer scattering seed. More often, it is referred to as the parable of the soils, since the emphasis of the teaching is placed primarily on the different soils in which the seed falls.

The setting for how Jesus begins this story is a large crowd of people gathered to hear Jesus speak. Due to the large crowd that followed Him to the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus gets in a boat and pushes out a short distance in the water, which allows the crowd of people to see and hear Him as He speaks. Jesus has their full attention.

Of all the things He could speak on, Jesus chooses to borrow an image from first-century Galilean agriculture regarding farmers, seeds and soil to teach a spiritual lesson. In those days, farmers scattered seed far and wide before plowing. In the story Jesus shares, the farmer represents God, the seed represents God's Word and the soil is the human heart. The emphasis centers on the various kinds of soil, or hearts, on which the seeds fall and how each heart rejects or receives Christ's message.

Let's look at the four types of soil and the four types of hearts represented.

**Hard heart.** This soil is described as soil which has fallen along the path. Matthew 13:4 says, "As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them." Such ground has been trampled down by the many feet that have passed that way over scores of years. Because the soil is hard, the seed that falls there merely lies on the path and does not sink in, and the birds soon snatch it away. What makes the human heart hard? Sin. Sin hardens the heart, and the heart that is hardened sins even more.

**Shallow heart.** This is the soil covering rocky ground. Matthew 13: 5-6 says, "Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they did not have deep roots, they died." When the seed fell, it sank only to a very shallow depth. It sprang up quickly but also faded quickly in the sun's heat because it had no root. These are people who hear the gospel and on the outside may express great enthusiasm but inwardly do not carefully consider it. When these people face pressure or bad circumstances, they quickly forget about God's word. There were great crowds who followed Jesus, but only a few were His true disciples. A true believer follows Jesus no matter what.

**Strangled heart.** This is soil that is strangled by thorns. Matthew 13:7 says, "Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants." This is the person who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word and it proves unfruitful. These people may think if they only had more money and more "things"

that they would be happy and they become worried about the problems of daily living. These wrong beliefs take up all the person's time and energy, just like the weeds steal all the nutrients from the good plants.

**Open heart.** This is the heart that receives the gospel like good soil receives seed and is described in Matthew 13 as "these seeds fell on fertile soil and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty and even a hundred times as much as had been planted." This soil produced a crop more than what was planted. This represents the people who hear God's word and believe it. They put their trust in Jesus. Their hearts receive the message of the kingdom and the seed takes root. If we are willing to open our hearts to receive God's Word, over time, the roots grow deeper and more and more growth is seen. The same is true for seed which has taken root and soon grows into a beautiful plant.

As I read this parable, I realize I have been able to relate to all four of these hearts at one time or another in my lifetime. Thankfully, over time, I have developed and desired a more open heart. My desire is to maintain an open heart, daily letting my roots grow deeper in our Lord and His Word, for I know that is where true freedom lies. If you see yourself in a heart other than the open heart, remember that the divine gardener, Jesus Christ, can break up the hard ground, uproot the rocks, remove the thorns and bring you to a place of good soil if your heart is willing. I can guarantee the results will be much more beautiful, fruitful and plentiful.

*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



**“ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. ”**

**- Romans 12:19-21 King James Version**



## Verse for Kids

**“ But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. ”**

**- Luke 6:35 King James Version**

## The call upon us

Several years ago, I took a CPR/First Aid class in preparation of becoming foster parents. As a result, I became more confident during those family moments of bandaging up cuts and binding up sprains. There was even a broken-wrist incident. When and where you can help, you must help.

Several years later, my workplace required all managers to go through an advanced level of safety training, which was much more intensive and involved "real life" video scenarios. To be honest, I had to divert my eyes from a few scenes. However, I took the training very seriously.

The very next day after the training, I was the third person on the scene of an accident on the interstate. A small pickup had run off the road and rolled several times. As I pulled over at the accident site, two men who were already peering inside the vehicle jumped back with a start.

"That's not good," I thought. The roof of the truck was crushed down several inches, causing lacerations the driver's scalp and pressing his head straight down a bit. He was unconscious. Because it was a scalp cut, there was a lot of blood dripping down his face. It was indeed frightening to see. One of the other men had 911 on the phone. The dispatcher's instruction was clear: "Do not touch the driver in case of neck injury."

But my training had taught me to check for breathing, and the driver's breathing was bad, an irregularly paced snort at best. He was not getting air. I went into action. The other men reiterated that I was to stand down. "But he's not breathing!" I yelled.

I asked 911 how far they were out. The

response time would be 20 minutes. Not breathing for 20 minutes usually means one thing, so I went with my gut. With no help from other two men, I pulled the jammed door with so much force that I used my right foot pressing against the bed of the truck for leverage. In an honest moment, and because of the blood, I remember clearly thinking, "Oh God please don't make me have to do mouth to mouth."

Adrenaline eventually kicked in. I slowed down and remembered my training of, "Access the scene and make sure it's safe." I do remember that truck's radio was very loud. I turned off the ignition and turned off the radio. I remembered that I needed the driver flat on the ground in order to perform CPR. I unbuckled his seat belt, which was jammed between his head and chest and strangling him, so I loosened the seatbelt and pulled it free from around his throat.

An amazing thing then happened - the driver breathed. After a couple of good breaths, he regained consciousness. I didn't have to move him. We talked and prayed while I applied pressure to his scalp wound until help arrived.

A life was saved, not by amazing skill or courage, but because "when you can help, you must." Spiritually speaking, this is an imperative.

One of the most beloved parables of Jesus is the story of The Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. If you look at the context surrounding this parable, it is a discussion of how to achieve eternal life. The lawyer asks what he must "do" to inherit it. The Ten Commandments are then synthesized



down to two - "Love God with your everything" and "Love your neighbor as your equal." Just like the lawyer in The Good Samaritan, we quibble within ourselves trying to decide who is our neighbor. Note that Jesus answers that question demonstrating, by parable, that our neighbor is the one that needs us. And remember that "if we can help, we must."

Why? James 2:14-17 literally says that if we say we love God but do not love others by meeting their desperate and obvious needs, we are lying and demonstrating in real time that our god is us, not Jesus. Galatians 6:9-10 commands us to "do good to all, especially those of the household of faith." So, we can surely favor Christians in our doing good and meeting needs, but refusing to help can be a condemnation to hell (see Matthew 25). Titus 2:14 says, "He gave Himself up for us...to purify Himself a special people...zealous for good works."

Beloved, this is the call upon us. This is how we change the world.

*Brian Cook may be contacted at thedtc@protonmail.com or thedevotiontochrist@gmail.com.*

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# SPORTS

## Roundups & Rundowns

### Boys basketball

Kylen Johnson scored 14 points and Eli Motes posted a double-double of 10 points and 11 rebounds to help Clas 1A No. 10 Coosa Christian (12-5) edge Westbrook Christian, 57-54 on Monday, Jan. 13 in Gadsden. For Westbrook (9-6), Titus Jones finished with 18 points seven rebounds, five steals and three assists; Brady Carden contributed 11 points, seven rebounds and three steals; Gavin Slocum added eight points, six rebounds and three assists; and Bo Kilgo chipped in four points and five rebounds.

Etowah posted a 58-44 victory over Hokes Bluff on Thursday, Jan. 9 in Attalla. Jameson Scissum paced Etowah with a double-double of 20 points and 12 rebounds, while Peyton Morrison finished with 11 points, nine rebounds and five assists. Jacob Turner added 10 points, four rebounds and three assists, while Lamont Richardson contributed eight points and 13 rebounds. Baylor Morrison chipped in five points and six rebounds. Bryce Whitaker led the Eagles with 20 points, followed by Noah Johnson and Logan Carr with 11 each. Drew McCarver pulled down seven rebounds, while Carr gathered in five. Anderson Morgan distributed six assists.

Glencoe remained undefeated in Class 3A Area 12 play with a 74-47 win over Ohatchee on Thursday, Jan. 9. Wade Segrest paced the Yellow Jackets (16-5, 5-0) with 16 points, followed by Grant Smith with 13, Davis Honeycutt and Jayden Patton with 11 each and Garrett Morgan and Bryce Borntrager with eight each.

### Girls basketball

Hokes Bluff girls improved to 12-5 overall and 4-1 in Class 4A Area 12 with a 39-32 victory over Etowah on Thursday, Jan. 9 in Attalla. The Lady Eagles led 25-12 at the half and 33-21 after three quarters. Etowah pulled within three late in the fourth quarter, but Hokes Bluff made some late free throws to secure the win.

Class 5A No. 6 Sardis improved to 19-4 overall and 5-0 in Area 13 with a pair of recent victories.

The Lady Lions defeated Douglas, 62-18 on Tuesday, Jan. 7 and beat Crossville, 73-13 on Thursday, Jan. 9.

Against Douglas, Jacee Holcomb paced the Lady Lions with 15 points along with seven rebounds. Vada Willmore added 14 points, followed by Delaney Lee with 12. Lynlee Wright contributed six points and eight rebounds, while Mollie Brock scored five points.

Against Crossville, Jordyn Knight scored 19 points, while Holcomb finished with a double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds and Brock collected nine points and six assists. Lee and Mya Glass both scored points, followed by Wright and Willmore with six each.

Gadsden City fell to Class 6A Area 14 rival Fort Payne, 51-30, on Friday, Jan. 10. Destiny Whiteside and Naomi Wise both scored seven points for the Lady Titans, followed by Madison Tinker with six and Karleigh Sheffield with five. Tinker and Wise both had five rebounds, while Whiteside and Aaliyah Richard each had four.

## Sardis slides past Gaston in county quarterfinals

By Chris McCarthy  
Publisher

The Sardis boys basketball team began its defense of its Etowah County Schools Tournament title in fine fashion on Monday, Jan. 13.

Sparked by a 34-point effort from Lucas Montgomery, the fourth-seeded Lions dispatched No. 5 Gaston, 72-63 in the tournament quarterfinals in Sardis City. Sardis advanced to last Wednesday's quarterfinal round against No. 1 seed Glencoe.

Montgomery scored 24 of his points in the second half, including all 19 of his team's third quarter points when the outcome was far from decided.

"Lucas really got things going for us," said Sardis head coach Richey Lee. "He's a great player, and I enjoy coaching him."

Montgomery's basket at the 3:20 mark of the third period provided the Lions with their first double-digit lead of the game, but the Bulldogs closed out the quarter with a 14-1 run that trimmed the deficit to 46-43.

Gaston kept within striking distance during the next several minutes, eventually taking a 49-48 lead midway through the fourth frame. But the Lions regained the lead soon thereafter, and Cade Holcomb netted 15 of his 24 points over the final six minutes to help maintain the Sardis advantage.

Sardis - page 3B



Photo courtesy of Alex Chaney

Sardis' Lucas Montgomery (3) drives to the basket as Gaston's Devon Green (4) and Chapman Clay (3) defend during the Lions' 72-63 victory in the Etowah County Schools Tournament in boys basketball on Monday, Jan. 13, in Sardis City.

## Area athletes make ACCC Honor Roll

Ninety-eight Gadsden State student-athletes were recently named to the Alabama Community College Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll for the Fall 2024 Semester.

"Through the hard work and dedication of our athletes and our coaching staff, we have seen significant growth in both performance and recognition," said Gadsden State Athletic Director Blake Lewis. "This achievement is a testament to the resilience and commitment of our student-athletes, who continue to succeed both academically and athletically."

The ACCC Commissioner's Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes who maintained at least a 3.0 GPA during the fall semester, which highlights their ability to balance academics with the demands of collegiate athletics.

"We are extremely proud of our student-athletes who have achieved this milestone," Lewis said. "Their academic achievements are proof that discipline, time management and perseverance can be applied in their studies and on the playing field."

Gadsden State students listed on the ACCC Honor Roll include:

Men's cross country: Travis Cooley and Tyler Worley of Lincoln, DeShaun Foster and Jonah Medders of Alexandria, Ryan Matthews of Ashville, Lane Self of New Hope and Conner Strawn of Glencoe.

Women's cross country: Madeline Holt of Jacksonville, McKinley Kay of Rainbow City, Alexis Renn of Prattville and Kaylee Tarpley of Altoona.

Volleyball: Allie Bryant of Pleasant Valley, Kaleigh Butler of Geraldine, Ellie Carden of Ohatchee, Makasia Crawford of Sylacauga, Emma Earl of Holly Pond, Ally Folsom of Oxford, Ella Garmany of Centre, Savannah Hall of Valley Head, Macey Johnson of Huntsville, Ryleigh Pack of Hazel Green, Lacie Roer of Centre, Ryllin St. Clair of Leesburg and Brianna Williams of Fort Payne.

Gadsden State - page 3B



Chris McCarthy/Messenger

2024 Southside High graduate and Gadsden State freshman Jacie Brooks was one of 98 Cardinal student-athletes who made the All-ACCC Honor Roll.

## Westbrook Christian eighth graders go undefeated



Submitted photo

The Westbrook Christian eighth grade boys basketball team recently completed an undefeated season at 19-0. The Warriors defeated White Plains, Sand Rock (three times), Fort Payne, Gaston (twice), Cherokee County (twice), West End, Coosa Christian (twice), Sardis, Pell City, Oneonta, Alexandria (twice), Piedmont and Ashville. Pictured, from left: coach Garret West, John Wesley Legg, Harrison Arthur, Tate Sizemore, Jackson Clough, Justus Jones, Samuel Keith, Reese Elam, Brewer Denny, James Vezertizis, Sam Legg, assistant coach Chris Williams.



# Longtime voice of Gadsden State athletics passes away

By Chris McCarthy  
Publisher

Longtime local high school and college baseball contest official Robert Nelson “Bobby” Cooper, age 75, passed away on January 11, 2025 after an extended illness.

Known as the “Voice of the Cardinals” for his 43 years as Gadsden State public address announcer, Cooper graduated from Emma Sansom High School in 1968, where he played baseball, basketball, and football for the Rebels. He went on to play basketball at Gadsden State before joining the U.S. Navy in 1969. Assigned to the U.S.S. Bordelon out of Charleston, S.C., Cooper received the Golden Shellback on March 22, 1970, and spent time in the Middle East, Cuba and South America. He later returned to Gadsden State to play baseball. Cooper continued his love for sports by working for five years as a sports columnist for a local newspaper.

Throughout his life, Cooper coached youth baseball, and umpired youth, high school, SEC, Conference USA, and Babe Ruth baseball for over 40 years.

“We offer our most sincere condolences to the family of Bobby Cooper,” said Alabama High School Athletic Association Executive Director Heath Harmon said. “We are grateful for his longtime service to our member schools. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, his friends, and his extended family of contest officials he worked with for so many years.”

A memorial graveside service will be held at 12 p.m. on Friday, January 17 at Williams Southside Memorial Park with Brian Ware officiating. Visitation will be Tuesday, January 14 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Williams Southside Funeral Home and Memorial Park.

“Gadsden State is my school, and I love it,” said in a past interview with *The Messenger*. “I feel the way about Gadsden State like Alabama and Auburn graduates feel about their schools. I want Gadsden State to be the best at everything. If we had a tidlywinks team, I’d want us to win. I didn’t go to Auburn, I didn’t go to Alabama [and] I didn’t go to Jacksonville State. Gadsden State is my school, and their sports programs are my sports programs.”

In 1978, Cooper left Gadsden State as a student to take a job at the steel plant, as he needed a full-time job to help support his wife Yvonne and their two children, Bradlie and Patrick. But Cooper still found a way to be involved in Gadsden State athletics.

“I started filling in as the announcer for Ronnie Johnson, who was a Church of Christ pastor and couldn’t call games on Wednesdays because of church services,” he said. “Before long, I took over the announcing, and Ronnie filled in for me when I needed him to.”

In addition to the basketball games, Cooper started calling Gadsden State baseball games around 1980 and moved onto announcing softball games after the baseball team disbanded in 2011.

Cooper said he rooted for all of the Gadsden State student-athletes on the court and in the classroom.

“I like to watch them play but I also like

to watch them succeed,” he said. “I want them to get their education and go on to do great things.”

Cooper enjoyed working with the coaches at Gadsden State, particularly longtime men’s basketball coaches Stan Cook, Ginn and Hal Davidson and longtime baseball coach Bill Lockridge.

“I can’t thank all of the coaches that I’ve worked with enough,” he said. “My time at Gadsden State has been great. I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

Starting with the 1980-81 men’s basketball team and picking up the school’s baseball, women’s basketball, volleyball and softball squads along the way, Cooper was an institution in and around Beck Field House.

“It keeps me in the game and helps me stir up the crowd and maybe helps to pick up the [Gadsden State] team in certain situations,” he said. “It’s a lot of fun when you can work a crowd like that.”

In between the action, Cooper was known for his shout-outs to local high school coaches and athletes who were in attendance.

“I try to embarrass the coaches a little bit and keep them on their toes,” he said with a laugh. “A lot of public address announcers at other junior colleges read off the starting lineups and then leave. I try to do a little bit more than that.”

Although he freely admits to being a ‘homer’ during Gadsden State games, Cooper pointed out that it is never at the expense of the visiting team.

“I never say derogatory things about the other teams. It’s disrespectful and there’s no place for it. Also, I’ve probably known the [visiting] coach for years.”

The only time Cooper missed working a home game in any sport was during the 2010-11 season, when he was diagnosed with stage 4 throat cancer. Amazingly, it wasn’t his vocal cords that kept Cooper away from the microphone.

“My voice really wasn’t affected; it was that I had no strength after the chemo treatments. Ralph [Muskett] had to finish the basketball season and then did the baseball season for me. But I was ready to go when volleyball started.”

The door opened at Gadsden State for Cooper in 1980, when then Gadsden State public address announcer Ronny Johnson, asked Cooper to fill in for him when the Cardinal men’s basketball team had a Wednesday game in order that Johnson could attend church service. Cooper agreed, and the following season Cooper took over as the full-time public-address announcer while Johnson helped out periodically.

Cooper kept his style simple when working a game, regardless of what sport.

“It’s more important about what not to say rather than what to say. You definitely learn by experience. Since I’ve been doing this, whenever I’m watching a game on TV, I always try to block the play-by-play man and color man out and pick up on what the public-address announcer is saying in the background. Over the years, I’ve picked up certain things and added them to my announcing.”

Cooper played football, basketball and



Courtesy of Gadsden State

On February 17, 2023, Bobby Cooper was recognized for his 43 years as the voice of Gadsden State athletics. Pictured, from left: GSCC Athletic Director/head baseball coach Blake Lewis, Cooper, Gadsden State President Dr. Kathy Murphy.

baseball at Emma Sansom. He played basketball at Gadsden State for the 1968-69 season under Riley Whitaker, who went on to serve as GSCC athletic director for more than 25 years. The pre-Beck Field House Cardinals, who qualified for the NJCAA Tournament the following year, did not win a game that season while playing their home contests at the Litchfield Middle School gym. One opposing player Cooper faced was Jeff State’s Hal Davidson, who

later became men’s basketball coach at Gadsden State.


“If I had to pick one sport to announce, and that’s hard to do, I’d pick baseball,” he said. “I just love being at the ballpark. There’s nothing like it, unless it’s 90 degrees out and the air conditioning in the Gadsden State press box is broken during a doubleheader.”

Jackie Brehm Edmondson contributed to this article

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## Local Sports Schedule

## Jan. 17- Jan. 23

<p><b>High School Basketball</b> <b>Friday, Jan. 17</b> Etowah County Schools Tournament at Sardis 6 p.m. - Girls championship 7:30 p.m. - Boys championship Fort Payne at Gadsden City Westbrook at Piedmont Coosa Christian at Donoho</p> <p><b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> Whitesburg Chr. at Gadsden City Oneonta at Westbrook</p> <p><b>Monday, Jan. 20</b> West End at Coosa Christian Ashville at St. Clair Co. Tournament</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan. 21</b> Etowah at Hokes Bluff West End at Westbrook</p>	<p>Pell City at Gadsden City Cedar Bluff at Gaston Southside at Fort Payne Glencoe at Piedmont Coosa Christian at Collinsville Ashville at St. Clair Co. Tournament</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan. 23</b> Coosa Christian at Sardis J.B. Pennington at West End Hokes Bluff at Sand Rock Ashville at St. Clair Co. Tournament</p> <p><b>Wrestling</b> <b>Friday, Jan. 17</b> Piedmont at Ashville AHSAA Duals at Birmingham</p> <p><b>Saturday, Jan. 18</b> West End at Chelsea Tournament Gadsden City at Saks Tournament AHSAA Duals at Birmingham</p>	<p>Etowah, West End at Susan Moore <b>Tuesday, Jan. 21</b> Mtn. Brook, Fort Payne at Southside Ashville, Gadsden City at AIDB</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan. 23</b> Coosa Christian, Etowah at Lincoln</p> <p><b>Bowling</b> <i>All home matches played at The Alley at the Gadsden Mall</i> <b>Thursday, Jan. 23</b> AHSAA North Regionals at Trussville</p> <p><b>College Basketball</b> <b>Monday, Jan. 20</b> Gadsden State at Coastal Ala. South</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan. 23</b> Shelton State at Gadsden State</p>
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Photo courtesy of Alex Chaney

West End's Kenndi Nix (2) is surrounded from left by Glencoe's Palin Cook, Kinlee Montgomery, Riley Helms and Ashlyn Stone during the Lady Yellow Jackets' 58-25 victory in the Etowah County Schools Tournament in girls basketball on Monday, Jan. 13, in Sardis City.

## Gadsden State athletes make All-ACCC - from 1B

Men's basketball: Kolby Battles of Jacksonville, Carter Johnson of Anniston, Montrevion Kellogg of Gadsde, Keshawn Morris of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Tobias Stoutermire of Montevallo and Cristian Willis of Decatur, Miss.

Women's basketball: Zoey Handy of Sand Rock, C'niya Mullens of Birmingham, Omayya Nelson of Pleasant Grove, Alayna Noble of Birmingham, Heaven O'Neal of Pell City, Jaxson Sizemore of Glencoe, Tristan Stoutermire of Birmingham, Tyla Tatum of Collinsville, Kyla Torok of Pell City and Emma Twilley of Fyffe.

Men's tennis: Bradley Bentley and Charles McIntire of Grant, John David Cunningham and Lucas Tanner of Rome, Luke Russo of Springville, Elisha Sims of Gunterville, Heath Stinson and Michael Warren of Pell City and Samuel Arnold of Cedartown, Ga.

Softball: Clancy Bright of Alexandria; Ellie Carden of Ohatchee; Karli Crocker of Reform; Emma Croy of Glencoe; Lauren Farmer of Attalla; Tennley Johnson of Oneonta; Kennadi Johnson of Pell City; Rachel McCown of Huntsville; Maribeth Parette of Wetumpka; Abby Payne of Hokes Bluff; Reagan Sanders of Oxford; Lanie Williams of Centre; Kirby Wisner of Sylvania; Jasie Brooks, Chloe Gattis and Ava Ramsey of Southside and Allysbeth Croy of Lyerly, Ga.

Baseball: Aidan Bee of Clanton; Gabriel Brito of Gadsden; Evan Dodd of Huntsville; Caleb Freeman of

Attalla; Hunter Humphries of Southside; Mason Freeman of Madison; Blake Hall of Hazel Green; Andrew Hardy of Pell City; Grayson Hays of Athens; Konrad Hoppenjans of Vestavia Hills; Justin Hunt of Ringgold, Ga.; Payton Isbell of Moody; Cooper Jarvis of Gardendale; William Johnson of Southside; Charles Jones of Oneonta; Jackson Jones of Muscle Shoals; Chris McNeill and Walker Thomas of Chelsea; Nolan Moore of Leeds; Peyton Parkinson of Birmingham; Bennett Plowden of Helena; William Roberts and Hayden Strickland of Tuscaloosa; Evan Snow of Alexandria; Jacob Steed of Bremen, Ga.; Nathaniel Stiles of Suligent; Raeden Sumner of Summerville, Ga.; Aaron Wallace of Hueytown; Mckade Watson of Wetumpka; James White of Villa Rica, Ga.; Samuel Wilson of Florence; and Colton Ziegler of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Gadsden State's eight athletic teams finished the semester with an average grade point average of 3.22. Several individual teams exceeded a 3.0 GPA, including women's cross country (3.7), volleyball (3.61), men's cross country (3.55), tennis (3.57), softball (3.31) and baseball (3.30).

"These students' success goes along with our mission of developing exceptional athletes and well-rounded individuals who excel in the classroom and grow as people," Lewis said. "It reflects Gadsden State's commitment to fostering future leaders and achieving excellence in all areas of student life."

## Sardis slides past Gaston, 72-63

- from 1B

"Cade was able to start hitting shots from the outside," said Lee. "We made better decisions in the second half, so I'm proud of all our guys for that."

Kodie Bogle's put-back with 1:36 remaining closed the gap to five points, but by that time the Lions were in the bonus free throw situation, and the Bulldogs were forced to foul to regain possession.

Sardis converted only 3 of 7 foul shots down the stretch, but Brian Chapman's three-pointer with 17 seconds left stretched the Lions' lead to eight points and effectively put the game out of reach.

"We knew it was going to be tough tonight, especially with their point guard (Mica Merriman), because he's a great player," said Lee. "We just tried to trap him and get the ball out of his hands. We had trouble doing that during the first quarter and half of the second [quarter], but I thought we did a better job in the second half."

Merriman scored 11 of his team-high 25 points in the first quarter to help stake the Bulldogs to an early 15-11 lead, but Sardis finished off the period with an 8-0 run to go up 19-15. Gaston tied the game on Devon Green's free throw with 90 seconds left in the first half.

Montgomery's layup on the Lions' next possession sent Sardis into intermission ahead 27-25.

Green added 13 points for the Bulldogs, followed by Adonis Jones with 10 and

Bogle with eight. "Give credit to Sardis; their kids played great," said Gaston head coach Michael Merriman. "We got some great looks every time we ran our stuff, but a lot of those times we couldn't make shots. That's kind of been our M.O. all year, and we've got to get that fixed. Outside of a few guys, we've been struggling all year with our shooting. We've got to get into the gym and work on that."

Lee acknowledged that the Lions would have their hands full against the Yellow Jackets on Wednesday.

"They're really athletic, and they'll be another tough test for us. They like to get up and down the court. Hopefully we can limit our

turnovers and have another close game like tonight."

In the girls' bracket, Glencoe defeated West End, 58-25. Kinlee Montgomery paced the Lady Yellow Jackets with 25 points, followed by Payton Gray with nine and Sarah Ponder with six.

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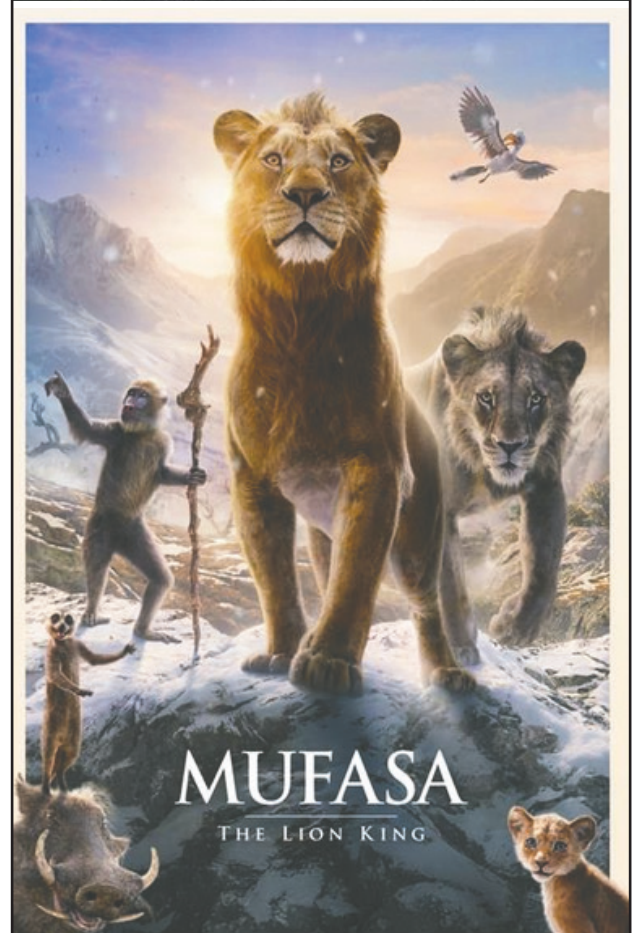
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# LEGALS

## MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Jeffrey 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 Sommerset 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.tlslaw.com TB File Number: 23-08770

January 10, 17, and 24, 2025

## NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Kelly D. Bryan, a single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for GMAC Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns, on September 15, 2008, said mortgage being recorded in the Office of the Judge

of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, on September 29, 2008 as Document Number 3301880. PHH Mortgage Corporation, successor by merger to Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC, the current holder, 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 Etowah County Courthouse, in Gadsden, Alabama, on March 19, 2025, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 384.53 FEET TO AN IRON PIN, SAID PIN BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 88 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 117.81 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 55 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 211.85 FEET TO AN IRON PIN ON THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY OF DUCK SPRINGS ROAD; THENCE NORTH 68 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 27 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID ROAD, A DISTANCE OF 126.89 FEET TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 161.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL. SAID PARCEL CONTAINS 0.50 ACRES MORE OR LESS AND IS A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 1305, PAGE 753, RECORDED IN THE JUDGE OF PROBATE OFFICE, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.

More commonly known as: 6595 Duck Springs Road, Attalla, AL 35954

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 part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expense of foreclosure. The successful bidder must tender certified funds by noon the next business day to Law Office of Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Certified funds must be in the form of a wire transfer, bank or credit union's cashier's check, or bank official check payable to Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. If sale is voided, Mortgagee/Transferee shall return the bid amount to the successful purchaser and the Mortgagee/Transferee shall not be liable to the purchaser for any damages. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the purchaser at the sale shall be only entitled to a return of the deposit and bid amount, if paid. 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.

PHH Mortgage Corporation, successor by merger to Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC ("Transferee")

Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C.  
244 Inverness Center Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
Phone: (801) 355-2886

January 17, 24, and 31, 2025

## MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Vicki Todd, unmarried, originally in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Homecomings Financial Network, Inc., on April 2, 2002, said mortgage recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, in Document Number: M-2002-1632; the undersigned Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Trustee for Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc., Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass Through Certificates, Series 2004-SL4, 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 February 26, 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 A of Finney's Rearrangement of Lots Number One (1), and Three (3), Block Number Twenty-One (21), Gadsden Land and Improvement Company, as the same appears of record in Plat Book J, Page 73, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama. Property street address for informational purposes: 808 South 11th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. 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/Trans-

feree 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.

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

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

Keith Edward Hughes was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/08/2024 to the Estate of Vivian Marie Hughes, 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

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

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

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 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

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

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Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

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Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

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Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

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Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

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Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

January 3, 10, and 17, 2025

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 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: SHIRLEY KIMBLE, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED

Case #: 2025-28

TO: Christina Green and any unknown family

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 26th day of FEBRUARY 2025 at 1:00 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 15TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025

Scott Hassell  
PROBATE JUDGE

January 17, 24, and 31, 2025

## NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: GREGORY ARMSTRONG, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED

Case #: 2025-19

TO: Any unknown family

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 18 day of FEBRUARY 2025 at 2:00 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 9TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025

Scott Hassell  
PROBATE JUDGE

January 17, 24, and 31, 2025

## NOTICE OF HEARING

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

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

January 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2025

## NOTICE OF HEARING ON FINAL SETTLEMENT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.

MARY ELIZABETH TRAMMELL V. BRENDAY, ET AL

Case No.: CV-2023-900533.00

MARY ELIZABETH "DOT" TRAMMELL has filed a Petition for Final Settlement of his/her administration cum testamentum annexo of the above styled estate and filed with his/her petition an accounting. The 18th day of February 2025 at 8:30 a.m. is hereby set as the day and time for the hearing of said Petition.

Cassandra Johnson  
Circuit Court Clerk  
Etowah County, Alabama

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 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND PETITION FOR 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



**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 March 2025. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.

mate 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 CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION**

STATE OF ALABAMA, ex rel: Gadsden Police Department Street Crime Unit,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO: CV-24-900493-SJS

PLAINTIFF VS. 1 Gambling Device \$615.00 U.S. Currency

DEFENDANTS In Re: Chirag Hasmakh Patel 105 Nicholas Avenue Rainbow City, AL. 35906

Property Sized From: 1701 South 11th Street Gadsden, AL. 35904

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY 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 property and currency. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 14th day of March 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 13th day of January, 2025.

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk Etowah County, Alabama

January 17, 24, 31, and February 7, 2025

**NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION**

STATE OF ALABAMA, ex rel: Gadsden Police Department Street Crime Unit,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO: CV-24-900422-SJS

PLAINTIFF VS. 12 Gambling Device \$10,240.00 U.S. Currency

DEFENDANTS In Re: Michael Cook 316 Goldenrod Avenue Gadsden, AL. 35901

Property Sized From: 211 S. 4th Street Gadsden, AL. 35901

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND 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 property and currency. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 14th day of March 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 9th day of January 2025.

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk Etowah County, Alabama

January 17, 24, 31, and February 7, 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 contest 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

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT**

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made: Relating to Etowah County; to provide for the sale, use, and destruction of certain abandoned, stolen, and unclaimed property by the Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit; and to specify requirements for the sale and disposition of proceeds thereof. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: Section 1. This act shall only apply to Etowah County.

Section 2. (a) The Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit shall keep and maintain a record of all abandoned and stolen personal property recovered by the drug enforcement unit. These records shall state the description of the property, the date of recovery of the property, and the serial or other identifying number of the property. If the property is a firearm, the records shall state the description of the firearm, the date of recovery of the firearm, and the serial or other identifying number, if any. The records shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times.

(b) All abandoned or stolen property recovered by the drug enforcement unit shall be stored in a suitable place to protect the property from deterioration. Section 3. (a)(1) As often as necessary, the Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit may sell at public auction, including an internet auction, to the highest bidder all abandoned or stolen personal property that have been recovered by the drug enforcement unit and have remained unclaimed by the rightful owner for a period of not less than six months.

(2) If the abandoned or stolen property is a firearm, the person holding the auction must hold a federal firearm license issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and all sales involving a firearm shall meet the firearm transfer requirements of federal law. (b) Prior to the auction, the Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit shall give notice by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County once a week for two successive weeks or by posting notice in a conspicuous place at the Etowah County Courthouse for a period of at least 20 days. The notice shall contain the place, date, and time of each auction and a general description of items of personal property to be sold at the auction.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), if the abandoned or stolen personal property is of a perishable nature and reasonable attempts to locate and identify the owner of the property are not successful, the property may be sold at once without notice. (d) The drug enforcement unit shall attempt to obtain the best possible price for the property.

Section 4. (a) Prior to the sale of abandoned or stolen property under this act, the owner of the property may claim the property at any time by submitting sufficient proof of ownership as determined by the Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit. (b) The drug enforcement unit may require the owner to pay a pro rata share of the costs, if any, of publication of notice of the sale of the property.

Section 5. (a) If abandoned or stolen property is sold under this act, the proceeds of the sale shall be held in a separate account for a period of six months for the owner. (b) During the six-month period described in subsection (a), upon demand by the owner and submission of sufficient proof of ownership, the drug enforcement unit shall pay to the owner the proceeds of the sale, less any cost of recovery, storage, maintenance, and sale of the property. (c) If the proceeds are not claimed within six months, after deducting and paying all expenses incurred in the recovery, storage, maintenance, and sale of the property, the net proceeds shall be paid to the Drug Enforcement Forfeiture Account in the county treasury. The funds in the account may be expended based on vouchers submitted to the county and shall be used solely for law enforcement purposes. The receipts and expenditures of funds shall be audited by the Examiners of Public Accounts.

Section 6. If abandoned or stolen property is sold at public auction, as provided in this act, the Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit shall make a

notation in the storage record of the sale and the amount received for the property. The person making the sale may reject any and all bids if the amount bid is unreasonably low and may continue the sale, from time to time, at his or her discretion.

Section 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary, any abandoned or stolen firearm that has been obtained by the Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit and that has been unclaimed for a period of six or more months, as provided in this act, may be used by the drug enforcement unit at its discretion for law enforcement purposes or, if unlawful or not safe for use, in the discretion of the drug enforcement unit, destroyed.

Section 8. This act applies to any abandoned or stolen property held on or after the effective date of this act. Section 9. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2025.

January 17, 24, 31, and February 7, 2025

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

NOTICE OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS PUBLIC NOTICE - 201

Etowah County

Ketan Gandhi, 1734 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, Alabama is required by ADEM to implement a Corrective Action Plan for remediation of soil and/or groundwater which has resulted from a release from an underground storage tank located at Rainbow Shell Mart, 1734 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, Alabama. The site is identified as Facility I.D. Number 22752-055-003830 and Incident Number UST21-01-03. The proposed remediation methods include remediation by Dual Phase Vapor Extraction.

Copies of the Corrective Action Plan for Rainbow Shell Mart are available for public inspection electronically via http://adem.alabama.gov/newsEvents/publicNotices.cnt and at the following location Monday - Friday (except legal holidays), 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. A nominal fee for copying and/or mailing may be charged. Arrangements for copying should be made in advance.

Russell A. Kelly, Chief Permits and Services Division ADEM 1400 Coliseum Blvd. [Mailing address: PO Box 301463; Zip 36130-1463] Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2400 (334) 271-7714 permitsmail@adem.alabama.gov

Persons wishing to comment may do so, in writing, to the Department's named contact above within 15 days following the publication date of this notice. Any person wishing to provide additional information regarding the Corrective Action Plan may do so.

A written request for a public meeting may also be filed within that 15-day period and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the meeting.

Notice is hereby given this 16th day of January, 2025, by authority of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

Lance R. LeFleur, Director

Non-discrimination Statement: The Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the administration of its programs.

January 17, 2025

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) PERMIT AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE - 212

Etowah County

Bhate Environmental Associates, Inc. c/o Mr. Lenus Perkins, 1608 13th Avenue South, Suite 300, Birmingham, AL 35205, UIC Permit Number ALSI5280003 has applied for the issuance of a permit for Class V Injection Wells at Rocky Ford General Store, 11205 Rocky Ford Road & Tomcat Road, Piedmont, AL 36272 for the injection of disodium peroxydisulfate, sodium sulfate, and sodium hydroxide solution to aid in the remediation of existing contamination.

The draft permit contains requirements and limitations which are protective of groundwater quality.

Copies of the draft permit, conditions, limitations and a fact sheet as applicable describing the methodology for setting the limitations and conditions and other related documents are available for public inspection electronically via http://adem.alabama.gov/newsEvents/publicNotices.cnt, and at the following location Monday - Friday (except legal holidays), 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. A nominal fee for copying and/or mailing may be charged. Arrangements for copying should be made in advance.

Daphne Y. Lutz, Chief ADEM-Water Division 1400 Coliseum Blvd. [Mailing address: PO Box 301463; Zip 36130-1463] Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2400 (334) 271-7823 water-permits@adem.alabama.gov

Persons wishing to comment may do so, in writing, to the Department's named contact above within 30 days following the publication date of this notice. COMMENTERS SHOULD IDENTIFY THE APPROPRIATE UIC PERMIT NUMBER ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THEIR COMMENTS. In order to affect final decisions, comments must offer technically substantial information that is applicable to the draft permit.

A written request for a public hearing may also be filed within that 30-day period and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. The Director shall hold a public hearing whenever it is found, on the basis of hearing requests, that there exists a significant degree of public interest in the permit application or draft permit. The Director may also hold a hearing if he determines that it would clarify one or more issues involved in the permit decision.

After consideration of all written comments, review of any public hearing record, and consideration of the requirements of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and applicable regulations, the Department will make a final determination. The Department will develop a response to comments, which will become part of the public record. The Department will post responses to comments as well as the final permit determinations to the Department's website at http://app.adem.alabama.gov/eFile/. To find the response to comments and final permit determination, you may search by the permit number listed in this notice.

The Department maintains a list of interested individuals who are emailed legal notices regarding proposed permits. If you wish to receive such notices, please sign up at http://adem.alabama.gov by entering your email address on the left side of the page and clicking the submit button.

Notice is hereby given this 20th day of January, 2025, by authorization of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

Lance R. LeFleur, Director

Non-discrimination Statement: The Department does not dis-

criminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the administration of its programs.

January 17, 2024 **ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, from Qualified General Contractors will be received by The St. Clair County Board of Education at the board office 410 Roy Dr., Ashville, AL 35953 until 10:30am CST, Friday, February 14, 2025 for Re-roofing of Ashville High School: at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. A cashier's check or bid bond payable to St. Clair County Board of Education in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than \$10,000, must accompany the bidder's proposal. Performance and Payment Bonds and evidence of insurance required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of the Contract.

Drawings and specifications may be examined at the office of B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect, 442 Chestnut Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 and digitally upon request.

Digital construction documents are available at no cost to the general contractor. Hard copy sets may be obtained at cost of printing, reproduction, handling, and distribution. Only general contractors who have been approved to bid, pursuant to prequalification procedures, attended the mandatory pre-bid conference and have demonstrated the ability to provide 24/7/365 service, have a primary office (construction functional, not a storefront) within a 60 mile radius of the jobsite and met Div 1 specifications and criteria established by the Owner will be eligible to bid for the Project. Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof.

Prequalification packages are due at the office of the Architect by 12pm CST on Monday, February 3, 2025. Utilize AIA Document A305 and include any additional requirements in specifications. Original paper copy required. B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect, 442 Chestnut Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. It is the General Contractor's responsibility to confirm delivery.

A mandatory pre-bid conference shall be held on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 9am CST at the campus of Ashville High School in the front parking lot. 33215 US 231, Ashville, AL 35953. All bidders bidding in amounts exceeding that established by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, and must show evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by the Architect; the bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owner's judgement, the best interests of the Owner will thereby be promoted.

St. Clair County Board of Education (Awarding Authority)

B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect, 256-390-5657, craig@bclarch.com (Architect)

NOTE: For projects exceeding \$50,000, this notice must be run once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties in which the project, or any part of the project, is to be performed. If the project involves an estimated amount exceeding \$500,000, this notice must also run at least once in three newspapers of general circulation throughout



the state. Proof of publication is required.

January 17, 24, and 31, 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: 2G1WF52KX49285685

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 fol-

lowing 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#4T1BE32KX2U101919 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#1GNKRFD4HJ300490 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

**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 3, 2025.

2009 Jeep Patriot  
VIN# 1J4FF2 8B39D243246

City of Southside Police Department.  
2255 Hwy 77  
Southside, AL. 35907  
256-442-2255 ext.112

January 17 and 24, 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 2010 Chevy Malibu vin# 1G1ZC5E-B4A4114933 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am on 2/21/2025 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 17 and 24, 2025

# CLASSIFIEDS

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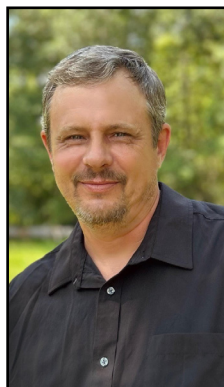
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