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Messenger


Volume 48, Issue 6

February 6, 2026

50 cents


7 DAY FORECAST

Friday  
February 6




High: 63  
Low: 33

Saturday  
February 7




High: 52  
Low: 25

Sunday  
February 8




High: 60  
Low: 37

Monday  
February 9




High: 67  
Low: 45

Tuesday  
February 10




High: 71  
Low: 53

Wednesday  
February 11



High: 68  
Low: 45

Thursday  
February 12



High: 65  
Low: 41

## Attalla’s Ellington Jones crowned Miss Jax State

Submitted photo

As a student at Jacksonville State University, Ellington Jones has lived by the philosophy, “Get comfortable with being uncomfortable.” Jones credits that mantra with propelling her to being crowned Miss Jacksonville State University 2026 on Friday night.

“I am by no means good at the pageant world,” said Jones, a 21-year-old grad student majoring in business administration. “While I am no stranger to the stage, I am new to this whole new world. I have a competitor’s grit and love a challenge. Last year, going into Miss JSU week, I was nervous about each step. This year, I felt peace the entire time and just decided to have fun with the whole process, no matter the outcome.”

Jones was named First Runner Up to Miss JSU 2025 McKenzie Fuller. Though she was proud of her performance last year, Jones couldn’t deny the desire to compete again for the ultimate prize.

“It wasn’t until God closed doors in my life, and my parents really leaned into me, saying there was a greater plan for me,” said Jones, who is from Duck Springs and a graduate of Etowah High School. “Little did I know the plan would be something so great as this.”

While Jones knew most of the seven other competitors through either Greek life, the Marching Ballerinas, or the Marching Southerners, she said the experience with them was a pleasure and an honor.

“I felt truly at ease with each of them throughout the process,” Jones said. “Being surrounded by such amazing girls made the process not feel so daunting. We just hung out as girls. Each one of them is so special in their own ways, and I cannot wait to see what else they accomplish throughout their collegiate careers.”

It was a night she will never forget.

“Each person who was there to support me, win or lose,” Jones said of what she’ll

remember most about the evening. “Such a raw, unique experience, and I get to share it with the people who love me the most-what a blessing.”

Aubree Ford was named First Runner Up, and Ayanah Scott was named the Darby Angle Acts of Kindness winner. Jones also won the talent portion of the pageant for clogging. She has been dancing for about 18 years and clogging since she was four.

“Dance has always been a huge portion of my life,” Jones said. “[Clogging] is such a unique form of dance, and I wanted to be just like the older girls. Clogging is not something you see every day. While I love every other style of dance and have found a love for each of them in their own way, clogging is such an eye-catching piece. Plus, I got to combine my other favorite style of dance, hip-hop.”

As Miss JSU, Jones intends to spread joy and happiness through her community service initiative, Enlighten with Ellington.

“I also hope to lead with a servant’s heart,” she said. “Leaning into what this university lives by-‘the Friendliest Campus in the South.’ This experience is something everyone should do, not necessarily just to compete for the title, but to create memories and a sense of camaraderie.”

“This will be my biggest mission field yet. Jax State, get ready. Let’s do this.”

As Miss JSU 2026, Ellington receives official crown and sash, JSU tuition scholarship for fall 2026 and spring 2027, \$500 scholarship courtesy of AmFirst, \$1,000 Miss Alabama pre-scholarship courtesy of Sheri Harbison, official crown box and sash courtesy of JSU Panhellenic, complimentary training sessions courtesy of University Recreation, competition bouquet courtesy of the Dean of Students Office and \$100 Red Threads gift card.

Miss Jax State - page A3

## Titans’ Scholars Bowl team shines at LAMP tournament

By Karla McArthur  
Correspondent

The Gadsden City High School Scholars Bowl team claimed first place at the LAMP High School Tournament on Jan. 15, continuing a tradition of dominance for the Titans under coaches Col. Harold Davenport and Shila Miller.

The invitational tournament, which features many of Alabama’s top teams each year, saw the Titans turn in another strong showing. Chris Holder placed first individually, while Wren Gaines finished sixth.

Gadsden City also captured the 2025 LAMP title with an undefeated run, defeating Hoover, Spain Park, Hewitt-Trussville, Opelika and other programs. The Titans outscored opponents by an average of 535-157. Each match allowed a maximum combined score of 900 points.

The current Scholars Bowl roster includes seniors Gaines, Holder, Alvin Nguyen; sophomores Grey Stephens, Andrew Nguyen and Colt Enders; and freshman Mide Oguntayo.

The team’s continued success reflects the leadership of its coaching staff.

Davenport served 21 years in the U.S. Army before becoming senior Army instructor for Gadsden City’s JROTC program in 2010. He has coached the Scholars Bowl team since 2011, guiding the program to sustained success at both the state and national levels.

Under Davenport and Miller’s leadership, the Titans have won four state championships and four national championships since 2011 and have consistently finished among the top five teams in Alabama. Gadsden City has also claimed Class 6A state and national titles in each of the past two years.


Miller began teaching English at Gadsden City in December 2018 and has taught every grade except 12th. She served as the school’s color guard coach during her first four years on campus. After earning her master’s degree in December 2023, she joined the Scholars Bowl coaching staff and has worked with the team for nearly three years.

She said watching the students’ dedication has been one


Submitted photo

of the most rewarding parts of her career.


“Not only are they academically driven, but they are also wonderful teammates and show excellent sportsmanship during competitions,” Miller said.



Little Caesars



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PIZZA





# NEWS

## Gadsden State Skills Training Division receives grant

The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention joined local and state leaders to present a check in the amount of \$11.9 million to local grantee organizations in Alabama’s Fourth Congressional District, including the Skills Training Division at Gadsden State Community College. The check presentation was held on January 20 at the Alabama State House.

The Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, also known as the

Children’s Trust Fund, provides annual funding to programs across the state dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Gadsden State received \$185,000 to fund its Empowering Families through Workforce Fatherhood Initiative. The program helps participants from the community and those in area jails work toward economic stability through job training and soft skills while also providing workshops in parenting skills and relationship

skills. It is designed to equip non-custodial and custodial parents with the training and employment opportunities necessary to achieve financial stability and to support themselves and their family.

“This funding allows us to meet families where they are and provide real pathways to stability,” said Baisha Woody, Director of Gadsden State’s Skills Training Division. “Through the Empowering Families through Workforce Fatherhood Initiative, we are combining job training

with life and parenting skills so participants can strengthen their families while building a future through employment.”

In addition, the grant helps to provide scholarships for eligible parents to participate in a job training program through the Skills Training Division at Gadsden State.

For more information on the various programs offered through Gadsden State’s Skills Training Division, contact Woody at [bwoody@gadsdenstate.edu](mailto:bwoody@gadsdenstate.edu) or visit [gadsdenstate.edu/skills-training](http://gadsdenstate.edu/skills-training).

## GSCC to host college-wide Black History Month celebration

Gadsden State Community College will host a college-wide Black History Month Celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, at 1 p.m. on the Wallace Drive Campus at Meadows. The event is open to students, employees, and members of the community.

The celebration will honor the

history, culture, and contributions of Black Americans while bringing together the Gadsden State community for a shared moment of reflection and celebration. Attendees can expect a meaningful program highlighting the importance of Black history and its lasting impact on education, culture,

and society.

“This event reflects our commitment to honoring history and bringing our campus community together,” said Mr. Ricky Tillis, director of the Gadsden State HBCU Valley Street Campus. “Black History Month provides an opportunity to recognize the

achievements and contributions that continue to shape our communities.”

The program theme, “Building Futures Through Education: Celebrating Black History, Workforce Innovation, and Community Engagement,” is directly inspired by the mission of Gadsden State

Community College. It reflects the college’s commitment to education, workforce development and community impact and captures a shared vision for the college-wide Black History Month program.

For more information about campus events and activities, visit [www.gadsdenstate.edu](http://www.gadsdenstate.edu).

## Mardi Gras Parade set for Feb. 7

The Krewe of Rowdy Revelers will present a Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at 4 p.m. The parade will feature floats, beads and music along Broad Street in Gadsden.

Entry fees vary by participation type and include \$15 per horse (refuse catch bags required), \$25 for walking-only krewes or groups, \$30 per classic car group or club, \$50 for floats or float sponsors, \$75 for busi-

ness signage entries and \$150 for corporate entries.

Those interested in participating can sign up online at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKWGDsLk17qCmeEAs-t9bUlp78zO-us1WDLpe7qyl5x4ltvg/view-form>.

For more information, contact Deborah Miller at 205-359-0375 or [deborahmiller72@outlook.com](mailto:deborahmiller72@outlook.com).

## Ultimate Elvis Valentine Concert set for February 7

David Lee will bring his annual Valentine’s concert, Ultimate Elvis, to the Pitman Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026. The one-show-only performance begins at 3 p.m., with doors opening

at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices range from \$15 for general admission to \$35 for table seating, with front-row seats available for \$30 and reserved seating for \$25. The first 50 paid

reserved ticket holders will receive a Valentine gift from David Lee.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [davidlee.ticketspice.com/pitman2026](http://davidlee.ticketspice.com/pitman2026).

## Snead State Community College to host Black History concert

Snead State Community College welcomes special guests to the third annual Black History Concert, and the community is invited to attend.

Dr. Reginald Jackson, Assistant Professor and Director of the Gospel Choir at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, will be the featured guest artist during the concert scheduled for Friday, Feb.

20. The performance will begin at 7 p.m. in Fielder Auditorium, located in the Story Administration Building at 220 North Walnut Street in Boaz.

Dr. Jackson is an accomplished music educator, speaker, and performer from Madison. His dynamic delivery and broad knowledgebase have opened opportunities for him to perform

globally, including locations like Turkey, France, and Japan. He teaches gospel keyboard improvisation and gospel vocal techniques and is experienced on the soprano and alto saxophone, clarinet, flute, piano, and Hammond B-3 organ. He has proficiency in pedagogical tips for playing by ear, Gospel music pedagogy, relevant aural and oral practices, and perfor-

mance styles of sacred music.

Dr. Jackson has worked with Gospel Recording Artist Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Bishop Marvin Sapp, and the Florida State Jazz Ensemble. He has served as faculty with the University of North Alabama, Alabama A&M University, Calhoun Community College, and Oakwood University.

The Black History Concert will

also feature performances by the combined choirs from Snead State Community College and Gadsden State Community College as well as the Snead State Jazz Band.

Admission to the Black History Concert is free. For more information, contact Snead State Community College Music Program Director Dr. Kathleen Ruhleder at [kathleen.ruhleder@snead.edu](mailto:kathleen.ruhleder@snead.edu).

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# NEWS

## Tax Season Information

### Local free tax filing help available

Free tax preparation and electronic filing services are available through a partnership between the IRS and the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which serves Etowah, Cherokee and DeKalb counties. The VITA and TCE programs are designed to assist low- to moderate-income taxpayers and senior citizens who may not be able to afford professional tax preparation. Trained and IRS-certified volunteers prepare straightforward federal and state returns at no cost.

RSVP and the IRS have partnered to offer these programs since 1990 in Etowah and Cherokee County. All volunteers are trained and certified before beginning tax preparation.

Free tax preparation services are offered at multiple locations across the three counties. In Etowah County, assistance is available at the Etowah County Courthouse, Room 221, located at 800 Forrest Ave. in Gadsden, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m.

to 3 p.m.; the Hokes Bluff Library at 3310 Alford Bend Road on Mondays from noon to 4 p.m.; the Jane Phillips Community Center at 115 Case Ave. in Attalla on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Rainbow City Community Center at 3702 Rainbow Drive on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; the George Wallace Senior Center in Glencoe on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and the East Gadsden Community Center at 921 Wilson St. on select Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Additional services are available at the Centre Administration Building, located at 260 Cedar Bluff Road in Centre, on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Sardis City Library on select Wednesdays from noon to 4 p.m.; the Walnut Grove Senior Center at 5151 Walnut Grove Road on select Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Ft. Payne Council on Aging at 600 Tyler Ave. SE in Ft. Payne on Thursdays

from 8 a.m. to noon by appointment; and the Moon Lake Library at 4607 Alabama Highway 117 in Mentone on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. by appointment.

Taxpayers using the free service should bring a photo ID, Social Security cards for everyone listed on the return, birth dates, a copy of last year's tax return, income documents such as W-2s and 1099s, information on any cash income received, daycare payment details if applicable, and bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit.

RSVP is a federally sponsored program through AmeriCorps and is supported locally by the Etowah County Commission. Its mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and promote civic engagement through volunteer service.

For more information, residents may contact RSVP at 256-549-8147.

## Pets of the Week



Reese

Our first featured dog is Reese, who is 2 years old and super sweet. She's ready to find a loving home.

Our second pet is Sweetie Pie, who is 1 year old and also extremely sweet. She has been very well taken care of and has even had a DNA test done. Sweetie Pie's adoption is sponsored, so her adoption fee is completely free.

Anyone interested in meeting Reese or Sweetie Pie can visit us at 12071 US HWY 278E, Piedmont, AL 36272,



Sweetie Pie

or give us a call at 256-494-5422. Our hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Our standard adoption fee is \$60, which includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchip and some free goodies to help adopters get started.

Come find your best friend!

Etowah County Animal Shelter, 12071 US HWY 278E, Piedmont, AL 36272, 256-494-5422.

## Miss Jax State

- From A1

First runner-up receives JSU tuition scholarship of \$1,550 for fall 2026, \$250 fall 2026 book scholarship sponsored by the JSU Alumni Association, and competition bouquet courtesy of the Dean of Students Office.

Talent winner receives \$1,000 grace Ann Lundy Talent Scholarship courtesy of the Lundy family, \$250 fall 2026 book scholarship sponsored by the JSU Alumni Association,

and Competition bouquet courtesy of the Dean of Students Office.

Darby Angle Acts of Kindness Scholarship recipient receives \$1,000 scholarship voted on by the candidates, and competition bouquet courtesy of the Dean of Students Office.

Jones will represent Jax State in the Miss Alabama Competition, which will be held in Birmingham, June 3-6.

## SOUTHSIDE EVENT

### Mayor to host Veterans Breakfast

Southside Mayor Joey Statum will host Veterans Breakfast with Joey, sponsored by Cook's Pest Control, on Feb. 9.

The breakfast event will be held at the Southside Community Center from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

All veterans and their spouses are welcome to attend the event. Breakfast will be provided, free of charge, thanks to Cook's Pest Control.

Statum has hosted Breakfast with Joey several times since taking office. Check Southside's Facebook page for upcoming events.

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# NEWS

## Gadsden State honors Alumni of the Year

The Gadsden State Community College Alumni Association proudly announces its 2026 Alumni of the Year award recipients, honoring distinguished graduates whose commitment to service, leadership, and community impact continues to uplift their alma mater and the region it serves.

The Alumni of the Year Awards recognize individuals who exemplify the values of excellence, civic engagement, and lifelong learning. This year's honorees were selected for their remarkable contributions to their professions, their volunteerism, and their ongoing dedication to supporting students and the mission of Gadsden State Community College.

"These outstanding alumni embody the spirit of our institution," said Julie White, president of the Gadsden State Community College Alumni Association. "Through their leadership, generosity, and dedication to service, they demonstrate how education can transform not only individual lives, but entire communities. We are incredibly proud to recognize their achievements."

The 2026 Alumni of the Year recipients include:

Distinguished Alumni of the Year – Donice Snow, Class of 1998, AAS degree in Office Administration, retired Gadsden State Athletics, Alumni Association Lifetime member

Emerging Alumni of the Year - Hannah Russell, Class of 2015 transfer scholar and former President of Phi Theta Kappa

Outstanding Faculty/Staff Alumni of the Year - Cory Chandler, Class of 2014, AAS Electrical Technology, current staff member, Maintenance Division

Outstanding Athletic Alumni of the Year - Josh Johnson, Class of 1998, AAS degree in Business Administration, member of the Gadsden State Baseball team

Each honoree has given back to the college in meaningful ways, whether through mentoring students, serving on advisory boards, supporting scholarships, or volunteering their time and expertise to advance educational access and opportunity.

"Our alumni are some of our greatest ambassadors," said Hillary Folsom, director of advancement and alumni relations. "Their continued engagement helps ensure future generations of students have the resources, encouragement, and opportunities they need to succeed."

The Alumni of the Year Awards were presented at the Gadsden State Community College homecoming festivities on February 2nd, where recipients were celebrated alongside faculty, students, community leaders, and supporters of the college. Each honoree received a commemorative brick to be placed in the quad on the Gadsden State Wallace Drive campus.

For more information about the Alumni of the Year Awards or how to get involved with the Gadsden State Community College Alumni Association, please visit [gadsdenstate.edu/alumni](http://gadsdenstate.edu/alumni) or contact the Office of Advancement at 256-549-8377.

## JSU graduates first cohort of Command College

Jacksonville State University celebrated a milestone in law enforcement leadership education today as the first cohort of the Southeastern Leadership Command College graduated during a ceremony held in the Ken and Jenny Howell Auditorium in Merrill Hall.

The nine-week, executive-level program was created to prepare experienced law enforcement professionals for the challenges of senior leadership. Coursework focuses on management principles, ethics, budgeting, conflict resolution, and strategic decision-making. Leaders from local, county, and state agencies across the region completed the intensive program, becoming the first class to graduate from the Command College.

"This first graduating class set the standard," said Kaleb Littlejohn, executive director of the Southeastern Leadership Command College, during the ceremony. "They didn't just complete a program-they helped build it. Their collaboration, feedback, and commitment directly shaped what this Command College will be for years to come."

"The Southeastern Leadership Command College reflects Jax State's commitment to serving those who serve our communities," Jax State President Dr. Don Killingsworth said. "This inaugural class represents leaders who were willing to invest in themselves, challenge their thinking, and prepare for the responsibilities that come with command. We are proud of each graduate and the impact they will have in their agencies and communities."

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall delivered the keynote address, challenging graduates to view leadership not as a title, but as a responsibility grounded in service. He emphasized that the transition to command requires courage, ethical clarity, and a willingness to make difficult decisions for the right reasons.

"You're not just completing a program," Marshall told the graduates. "You're building a tradition of excellence and leadership. Years from now, future graduates will look back at this first class and draw inspiration from the standard you set."

Marshall also encouraged the graduates to lead with integrity and humility as they return to their agencies, reminding them that every decision made at the command level shapes culture, trust, and public confidence in law enforcement.

During the ceremony, two members of the class were recognized for outstanding leadership and contributions throughout the program. Lieutenant Andrew Hunter of the Weaver Police Department received the Emergent Leadership Award, which is voted on by the class and honors an individual who goes above and beyond by taking initiative and emerging as a leader among peers. Lieutenant Dusty Ford of the Gadsden Police Department received the Executive Director Leadership Award, selected by program staff and instructors, recognizing excellence in coursework, leadership in the classroom, and dedication to the success of the program.

Graduates of the inaugural Southeastern Leadership Command College class include: Jonathan Alfred, Jonathan Butler, Jason Campbell, Matt Coupland, Matthew Emlich, David Entrekin, Jacob Entrekin, Dusty Ford, Christopher Grier, Jimmy Harrell, Cliff Heard, Corey Holcomb, Jace Holley, Steven Humber, Andrew Hunter, Clay Johnson, Lane Keener, Alan Kelly, Jimmy Lancaster, Wayne Layton, Brett Lloyd, Gerald Lyons, Chris Madrigal, William Mapp, Joshua Miller, Jerome Mitchell, Jason Patty, James Perry, Daniel Phipps, Adam Sample, Donald Simmons, Lucretia Smith, Joey Stone, Tomathon J. Tuck, Abdul Unlu, Nick Vaughn, Willis Whatley, Jarrett Williams, Kip Williams and Bradley Young.

As the first class to complete the program, the graduates establish a foundation for future cohorts of the Southeastern Leadership Command College and reinforce Jacksonville State University's role as a leader in law enforcement education and professional development.

The Southeastern Leadership Command College is one of several advanced law enforcement education programs housed at Jax State, supporting the university's role as a statewide leader in public safety training and professional development.

# SPORTS

### Local Scores & Stats

#### High School Boys Basketball

**Jan. 30**  
Gadsden City defeated Whitesburg Christian Academy 74-71.  
Pell City defeated Southside 55-43.  
Plainview defeated Sardis 72-57.  
Oneonta defeated Etowah 48-35.  
West End defeated Ragland 60-54.  
Westbrook Christian defeated Southeastern 62-46.  
Brady Carden led the Warriors with 24 points, six rebounds, seven assists and two steals.  
Case Burton added 14 points, eight rebounds and three blocks.  
Titus Jones finished with 10 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and two steals.  
Appalachian defeated Coosa Christian 47-37.  
Hokes Bluff defeated Glencoe 51-41.  
**Jan. 31**  
Westbrook Christian defeated Gaston 50-18.  
**Feb. 2**  
Fort Payne edged Etowah 75-73.  
Coosa Christian defeated Southeastern 66-46.  
New Hope edged Hokes Bluff 40-39.  
Asbury defeated West End 66-37.  
**Feb. 3**  
Appalachian defeated Gaston 64-47.  
Douglas defeated Southside 74-60.  
**High School Girls Basketball**  
**Jan. 30**  
Plainview defeated Sardis 71-44.  
Etowah defeated Oneonta 39-36.  
Jalaiah McGhee and Cali Wadley led Etowah with eight points each.  
Alyssa Rudolph and Myiricle Alexander added seven points apiece, while Ava Battles scored six.  
Glencoe edged Hokes Bluff 45-44.  
K. Montgomery led Glencoe with 25 points.  
Katy Talbot added seven points.  
Payton Gray had five, Riley Helms scored three, Zowie Morris and Mia Fairley each added two points, and Mia Talbot finished with one.  
West End defeated Ragland 51-29.  
Westbrook Christian defeated Southeastern 59-50.  
Appalachian defeated Coosa Christian 69-37.  
**Jan. 31**  
Westbrook Christian defeated Gaston 39-25.  
**Feb. 2**  
Fort Payne defeated Etowah 62-29.  
Southeastern defeated Coosa Christian 49-38.  
**Feb. 3**  
Glencoe defeated White Plains 55-20.  
Payton Gray and K. Montgomery scored 13 points each to lead the Yellow Jackets.  
Katy Talbot added 10 points, Anna Alred had nine, Riley Helms scored eight, and Evelyn Nowak finished with two.  
Hokes Bluff lost Tuesday's game 69-35.  
Saks defeated Coosa Christian 43-36.

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# LIFESTYLE

## What exactly makes humans human?



I’ve been pondering this a lot lately in my quest to honor each person’s humanity. Throughout the last year, my daily work has included a lot of challenging students to do their own thinking in this era of Chat-GPT, and it feels like many of us are willing to offload much of the processing part of our human experience. I wonder why? I believe that AI has enormous potential as a tool for good, so I am not wholly dismissive of it, although the environmental and human experience cost of it does weigh on my mind. I think about what it looked like to be “human” in the past, and what will it look like in the future. What creates the human experience? All humans are alive, but not all living things are human, so what exactly makes up our human-ness? Maybe it is the search for meaning and purpose. I decided to do some more research into how great thinkers and writers in the past and today answer this “human” question and find meaning in life.

Camus dismisses searching for life’s meaning, saying “You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life.” Joseph

Campbell said “Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning and we bring it to life. It is a waste to be asking the question when you are the answer.” Whitman echoes Campbell with his “That you are here — that life exists and identity/That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse.” Kurt Vonnegut wrote this scene about the meaning of life: “Man blinked. “What is the purpose of all this?” he asked politely. “Everything must have a purpose?” asked God. “Certainly,” said man. “Then I leave it to you to think of one for all this,” said God. And He went away.”

Goethe also had a characteristically pessimistic view on the subject stating “The human race is a monotonous affair. Most people spend the greatest part of their time working in order to live, and what little freedom remains so fills them with fear that they seek out any and every means to be rid of it.” Frankl said “If there is meaning in life at all, then there must be meaning in suffering.”

Whew. By this point in my research, I was not feeling very optimistic about being human. It is full of struggle, strife, and loss. Then, I reminded myself these were all the perspectives of dead men from long ago, so I narrowed my search to more current thinkers and writers.

More recently, Robert Brooks, a well-known psychologist and writer, lists 5 elements that create the human experience: consciousness, empathy, creativity, resilience, and the pursuit of meaning and purpose. Arthur Brooks, Robert Brooks’ son, a well-known Harvard professor and author, studies the science of human happiness,

satisfaction, and dopamine. These topics seem really “human” to me. Arthur Brooks says satisfaction, enjoyment, and meaning are the keys to happiness — and feeling that your life has direction and coherence that does not come from striving and comparison. In other words, social media is not the key to happiness. Making more money is not the key to happiness. Happiness, according to the younger Brooks, comes from investing in 4 things every day: faith (which he defines very broadly as belief in something bigger than ourselves), family, friends, and work that serves others.

Ok, now this is more like it, I thought. Agency, a voice and a choice, do good to others, focus on your relationships, be happier with less. However, I noticed that all my searches resulted in a lot of men who have written on these questions, so do women agree? Next stop in my research — what did and do the women say?

Mary Wollstonecraft argued that a fulfilled life only had meaning if women had intellectual opportunities equal to those of men. Alice Walker focused on reclaiming personal power and autonomy in much of her writing. Virginia Woolf extolled the importance of space and time to sit and think and be without demands from family and friends. Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath turned the everyday experiences of being women and mothers into poetry, and Margaret Atwood reminds us that all we end up as are the stories others tell about us.

So, in this world of AI, distraction, frenetic energy and constant demands to produce more, do more, what makes — and keeps — us human? I think all these men

and women of yesterday and today have thoughtfully laid out three main elements of what allows us to transcend being merely alive, machines, and producers.

First, that we each, in our own time and way, actively resist passive existence. That we actively work to identify and construct meaning in our daily lives without abdicating or outsourcing that work to algorithms or institutions. Second, being fully human means not being afraid to take up intellectual and emotional space. It is important work, building a rich inner life, and it does not happen by accident. Thinking, reading, listening, talking, looking at the world and ideas and other humans around us demands we be intentional in crafting our humanity. Third, being human is living relationally. Meaning in life is found in how we relate to one another — those closest to us, and those we barely know. Taking the time, expending the energy to stay in touch, to gather in person, to listen, to reach out — these are the things that remind us of not only our own humanity, but that of others. Our lives, after all, will eventually be summed up and passed on long after we are gone by the stories others tell about us and the impact we had on their own human experience. May we all remember as we move through our days that our humanity and that of those around us is tenuous, fragile, and demands careful and intentional care if we wish to truly live authentic, fulfilling, and meaningful lives.

Tabitha Bozeman is an instructor at GSSC. Email at [tabithabozeman@gmail.com](mailto:tabithabozeman@gmail.com).

## Football, family and party rolls



Growing up in the South, football wasn’t just a pastime; it was part of the rhythm of life. Friday nights meant high school lights, Saturdays belonged to college rivalries, and Sundays carried the roar of pro teams. It felt like the game was stitched into my blood, a language everyone around me spoke fluently.

I’ll admit, though, I didn’t dive into pro football until my best friend, Amanda, con-

vinced me to join her fantasy league. She could talk me into anything, and this time it stuck. Suddenly, I wasn’t just watching the game. I was strategizing, cheering, and living every play. That spark turned into a real love for the game, and now I can’t imagine a season without it.

This Sunday, I’ll be right where I belong: cheering on the Seahawks, laughing at the commercials, and dancing through the halftime show. And in our house, no Super Bowl spread is complete without party rolls. My mother-in-law passed down this recipe, and it’s become a tradition we look forward to every year.

They’re simple little sandwiches; soft rolls layered with ham and cheese, brushed with a buttery glaze of Worcestershire sauce, mustard, and poppy seeds. Baked until golden, they emerge warm, melty, and irresistible. The kind of snack that disappears faster than you can set them on the

table.

Football may be about touchdowns and rivalries, but for me, it’s also about hospitality, welcoming friends and family, sharing food, and celebrating together. These party rolls are more than a recipe. They’re a reminder that the best traditions are the ones that bring us closer, one bite at a time.

**Party Rolls**

- 12 Hawaiian Dinner Rolls
- 2 Tbsp. Mayo
- 12 slices deli ham
- 6 slices Swiss cheese
- 6 Tbsp. Butter, melted
- ½ tsp. Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- ½ tsp. Onion powder
- 1 tsp. Poppy seeds

Preheat oven to 350. Butter 9x13 baking dish. Slice 12 Hawaiian rolls in half hori-

zontally using a large bread knife. Once sliced, add the bottom section to the baking dish. Spread mayo on both sides of the rolls. Place ham and Swiss on each roll in the bottom section. Add the top roll section back to the baking dish. In a small bowl, whisk together 4-6 Tbsp. butter, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, onion powder, and poppy seeds. The more butter the gooier they will be. Pour evenly over all the rolls, let sit for 10 mins. Cover sliders with foil and bake for 10-15 minutes. Uncover and bake an additional 2 minutes to brown the tops. Best served warm.

Samantha Hill graduated from Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts with a Culinary Arts degree. Samantha was the sous chef at Gadsden Country Club for two years, but is currently an assistant bakery manager for Publix.

## A beautiful partnership at the Library



If you’ve visited the Gadsden Public Library around lunchtime, you may have noticed something special happening just beyond the bookshelves — the Beautiful Rainbow Café.

The Beautiful Rainbow Café is a remarkable partnership between the Gadsden Public Library and Gadsden City Schools. Opening its doors on Valentine’s Day in 2017, the Café has been serving more than delicious meals ever since. It

serves opportunity, confidence, and pride! Staffed by high school students with significant cognitive disabilities, the Café is a hands-on learning environment where students gain real-world job skills. Under the guidance and watchful eyes of Chef Chris Wood and Leita Conner, students learn kitchen and food preparation, customer service, teamwork, and cooking. Just as importantly, they learn how to greet customers with a smile, take pride in their work, and contribute meaningfully to our community.

The Beautiful Rainbow Café offers a vegetarian lunch menu, thoughtfully prepared by the students themselves. Lunch is served Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The two-hour window allows students time to return to the high school for their afternoon classes, balancing job training with their academic schedules.

After lunch service, the Café experi-

ence continues. Other students remain in the afternoon to serve delightful coffee and teas, along with the Café’s famous cookies and other sweet treats. It’s the perfect spot to take a break, catch up with a friend, or enjoy a quiet moment at the library.

This program is about more than meals — it’s about inclusion and empowerment. By housing the Café in the public library, students interact with a wide range of community members in a supportive, welcoming environment. Patrons, in turn, have the chance to support these students simply by stopping in for lunch or an afternoon treat and offering encouragement.

The Gadsden Public Library is proud to be part of a program that demonstrates what can happen when education, public spaces, and community partnerships come together. The Beautiful Rainbow Café reminds us that learning doesn’t only happen in classrooms and that libraries are

places where lives are enriched in many different ways.

If you haven’t visited the Beautiful Rainbow Café yet, we invite you to stop by. Enjoy a delicious vegetarian lunch, a warm cup of coffee, or one of those famous cookies — and leave knowing you’ve supported something truly special in Gadsden, Alabama.

Craig Scott is the library director of the Gadsden Public Library and a past president of the Alabama Library Association (ALLA). Visit Gadsden Public Library at 254 South College Street in downtown Gadsden next to the U.S. Post Office or Gadsden Public Library Genealogy Branch at 2700 West Meighan Boulevard in Alabama City on the corner of Meighan and Wall Street. Call the College Street branch at 256-549-4699 or call the Genealogy branch 256-549-4688. For more information visit [www.gadsdenlibrary.org](http://www.gadsdenlibrary.org).

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# DEVOTIONALS

## The carelessness of the birds



*Memoir Musings*

Sandra Bost

A sparrow came to visit the other day. I recognized her song immediately, like an old friend stopping by to ask, “Are you okay?” As I moved toward the kitchen window, my eyes filled with tears. There she was, perched sweetly on the back deck, feathers ruffling in the cold December wind. My mind immediately rehearsed the words to that old hymn ”His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me,” and then I thought of Momma.

When Momma came home on hospice, 13 days before she went to Heaven, I was able to stay with her most days. During those days, until it was physically impossible, we sat Momma outside in her favorite spot on the back porch. She loved to see the birds visit the many feeders and fuss at the squirrels for getting away with a cheek

full of seeds.

A few days before Momma made her Journey Home in October 2024, when she was no longer able to be outside, a sparrow began visiting Daddy and I underneath the awning of the porch.

Once, I noticed her perched on the window ledge near my workstation. Another time, we spied her clinging to a sunshade hanging from the rafter. As her song filled the air on each, purposeful visit, our hearts filled with Peace.

I wiped my eyes and returned to my work in the kitchen, preparing one of our favorite seasonal snacks. As the warmth of the oven and savory smells of Chex and seasoning filled the room, I picked up my hand-me-down spatula to give the toasted cereal a toss. My thoughts were captivated once more , but this time it was the aged black handle on the vintage stainless spatula in my hand that had once belonged to my husband’s momma, lovingly known as Nana. Tears stung my eyes again.

Nana came to stay with us in March 2019, 3 years before she made her decision to let hospice ease her to Heaven. The memories of Christmases at her house in Missouri, with Tupperware bowls filled with Chex mix- without pretzels just like we liked it- flooded my mind. Then, just as suddenly, my thoughts turned to our time with her at our home. Her favorite spot was on the front porch, seated in the rocking chair, watching the birds, just like Momma.

What is it about nature that settles our hearts and calls to us as we age? Specifically birds. The Scripture is filled with imagery and lessons from creation. But the birds with their happy songs and beautiful colors tend to captivate our hearts like none other.

As an English teacher, it is easy to make connections to the symbolism of freedom, peace, and hope that often accompanies birds in literature. As a Christian, and maybe through the eyes of my two mommas, could it be the reminder in Matthew 6 to stop worrying. The Message translation says it like this, “Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God.”

I love that thought, “careless in the care of God.” I think as we age, we’re finally able to slow down enough to see the beauty in nature. We see the “careless” way birds wake to sing their songs in the dark no matter the weather or season. We observe the unfettered way they fly from branch to branch getting lost in the clouds.

We behold the simple, yet profound Truth that these creatures have no real job

description, yet they happily and dutifully forage for food and build their nests from supplies provided for them by God. This isn’t to say that the birds are spared from cold wind and rain, or the occasional predator, but they don’t waste their time worrying about it.

Perspective gained from the vantage point of old age seemed to enable Momma and Nana to rest in their worth as daughters of God. The Peace as their lives were ending resonated with the happy song of the birds, exemplifying their Faith in His faithful care and provision.

As we embrace February, may we approach it with the carelessness of the birds and of those whose porch-sitting-ways teach us to consider our feathered friends. May we slow down enough to remember that we are of far greater value to God than the birds, and yet not a single sparrow is forgotten by Him. Neither shall we be—for we are held in the same faithful care.

Lord, teach us to trust You the way the sparrows do—fully, freely, and without fear. Help us to rest in Your watchful care and sing our song in every season. Amen.

*Connect with Bost on social media platforms by searching for “Sandra Mullins Bost.”*

## From God’s Word - Nehemiah, a man of great faith



*From God's Word*

Toni Ford

I have loved reading and studying the Book of Nehemiah this month! Last week I shared how one of Nehemiah’s greatest attributes was the way he cared for his people, the Jews. He demonstrated that by asking about his people even when he was living a very comfortable life in another country. He cared by crying out to God to provide help and protection for his people, and even praying and fasting for days on their behalf.

Once Nehemiah was finally able to go to Jerusalem and see for himself how the Jews were doing with the rebuilding of the wall, he cared enough to jump in and begin volunteering to help with the rebuilding.

This week, I would love to share about another inspiring quality Nehemiah possessed, which was his faith in God. Martin Luther once said, “Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. It is so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.” Jesus told us in Matthew 17:20 that faith can move mountains, and in Mark 9:23, He says, “All things are possible to him who believes.”

As I read the second chapter of Nehemiah, not only was I inspired by his faith; I also had to stop and examine my own life by asking if I was living a daily life of faith. Here are examples of how Nehemiah demonstrated his faith.

Nehemiah had faith to wait. Four months had passed since Nehemiah had received the bad news about the Jews and their situation in Jerusalem. However, Nehemiah waited patiently on the Lord for direction, trusting that the Lord would show him at the right time what his next steps would be. Not only did Nehemiah fast, pray and cry out to God during his time of waiting; he also knew how to wait and trust. True faith in God brings a calmness to the heart that keeps us from

rushing about and trying to make things happen in our own time and in our own way. Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still and know that I am God.” I love what Warren Wiersbe says about this verse: “When you wait on the Lord in prayer, you are not wasting your time; you are investing it.” Is anyone like me, in having been waiting on God to answer a prayer that I have been praying for days, months or even years? I encourage all of us today to not give up but keep praying and keep trusting God to answer in His time and in His way, knowing that His way is always for our best! Nehemiah had faith to ask. When Nehemiah was in the presence of King Artaxerxes’ presence, the king could tell that Nehemiah was sad. So the king asked him, (Nehemiah 2:2) “Why are you looking so sad? You don’t look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled.” Nehemiah at that point could have given the king a vague answer, missing out on a great opportunity. Instead, Nehemiah takes a huge step in faith by asking the king for what might seem impossible. Nehemiah 2:5 says, “If it pleases the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ances-

tors are buried.” Is there something you need to have faith enough to ask for? It could be in your job, with your family or even with the Lord.

Nehemiah had faith enough to challenge others. In the rest of the chapter we find Nehemiah conversing with several different groups of people. At times he had to encourage some to “get moving,” and with others he had to be willing to confront and give push back all for the purpose of protecting the Jews and the mission God had given him. If it were not for the caring heart of Nehemiah, his dedication and determination that came from his faith in a great God, he might have never accepted the challenge or finished the work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem!

Thank you, Lord, for the example of faith you have given us in Nehemiah. Please strengthen our faith in You today, knowing that You are a God who is always working on our behalf and You will always win the battles!

*If you would like continued prayer, feel free to email me at tonijf77@gmail.com. I would love to pray for you!*

# Your Weekly Devotionals



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# OBITUARIES



Barbara Walker East

Funeral services for Barbara Armalie Walker East, age 86, were held at Village Chapel Funeral Home in Alabama City on Wednesday February 4. Chris King officiated. Burial followed at Antioch Church of Christ Cemetery with no graveside service.

She was a Godly lady with a love for God and His Son Jesus. Barbara was a Lady of many talents among which were Gardening which led to her being deeply involved with Etowah Master Garden Association as member of the first class and a leader in establishing and serving as officers in it. She was also instrumental in establishing the Cherokee County Association. She was a founding member and served in offices of The Alabama Mater Gardeners Association. She instructed Master Gardener classes in many Northeast Alabama Counties

Barbara was an excellent Photographer. She traveled to many states to attend Photo to workshops led by noted professionals.

Barbaras talents in sewing, knitting, quilting, yarn spinning, and many other fabric and textile crafts were things she was always willing to share with others as she ran her store “The Stitchin’ Barn” that had the materials for these crafts.

Above all these talents she was a World Class Mother and Wife.

Barbara was preceded in death By her mother Aura belle House Walker and her father John Garner Walker.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 66 years John W. East. Her Son Mercer (Deedee) and their sons William (daughter Nyla Ann), John,Cris (his family),and Troy. Her Son Marshall (Mary) and their son Liam. Her Daughter Melanie and her sons Daniel and Caleb. Her Son Mitchell (Lori) and their son Jared. Her Sister Shirley Walker Williams, Her daughter Marin-da (Doug), Her son Kevin (Karen)

Special thanks to DR.G.Patel, DR.Shah, Dr. James Robinson, Staff of Riverview Regional Hospital, Enhabit Home Health and Enhabit Hospice, staff of Gadsden Health Service Rehab.

## Amos L Tinsley

**BALL PLAY** - Funeral service for Amos L. Tinsley, age 73, of Ball Play, were held Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at Sims Chapel Baptist Church with Pastor Josh Hutt and Bro. Michael Chapman officiat-ing the services. Burial followed at Union #3 Cemetery.

Mr. Tinsley went home to be with the Lord January 30, 2026. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer L. and Tommie Tinsley and his father and mother-in-law, Fred and Nannie Lipscomb.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 54 years, Rose Mary Lipscomb Tinsley, children, Melissa (Tony) Partin, Michael (April) Tinsley, Derrick (Raven) Tinsley, and Matthew (Latisha) Tinsley, grandchildren, TR Partin, Jesse (Miranda) Partin, Kevin Partin, Cortney (Colton) McCurdy, Brit-tany (John) Matthews, Tyler (Savannah) Tinsley, Josh (Alexis) Tinsley, Leiola (Layne) Vaughn, MaKayla Tinsley, Brylee Tinsley and Rosie Tinsley, great-grand-children, Aiden, Bowen,

Liam, and Lily, Chosen sibblings, Jerry Gregory, Debbie Allen, and Kathy Brooks, a host of nieces and nephews.

Amos retired from Jones Saw Mill after 27 years, worked for McClain Dairy Farm, and then worked for Coosa Sand and Gravel until he was disabled. His only hobbies and interest were his family, reading the Bible, and going to church.

Special thanks to Davita Dialysis staff especially Angie Bonds Butler.

## Aaron Brady Bellew

Aaron was a third-generation volunteer firefighter, with his eldest son Kyle following in his footsteps as a fourth-generation firefighter. Kyle is currently an ac-tive member of Aarons fire department, Kecksburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Aaron was a proud father, a husband, a son, and a friend to all who knew him. He was a true hero even in the end, giving the gift of life through organ donation.

Visitation will be held at Morgan Funeral Chapel on Friday, February 6, 2026, from 12:00 pm to 2:00pm with a chapel service following at 2:00pm.

He is preceded in death by grandparent, Herman and Rosalie “Martha” Crate, Willie “Elbert” Bellew, uncles Pete Crate, Benny Bellew, Bob Bellew, and Cousin Eric Kaczmarek.

He is survived by his beloved trucks, his beloved dogs Flowmaster and Mack, his loving wife Rosanna Bellew, Mother Tiwana Bellew (Chuck Pluck), father Dale Crate, aunt Le-Shalle Lemons, Uncle Willie O’Theral “Theral” Bellew, Uncle Eddie Bellew, sisters Holly Severini and Christina Huss, brother Charles “Loren” Pluck, nieces Sherry Lynch and Cheyenne Katonka, children Zoe (Billy) Agan, Kyle Bellew, Joshua Bellew, Christina Bellew, special adopted son Chaz Kimbrough, grandchildren Lola and Aspen grace, special cousins Tyler Griffitt and Tiffany Lemons, cousins, and many many friends.

Honorary Pallbearers are Kyle Bellew, Josh Bellew, Eddie Bellew, Brandon Limbaugh, Daniel Rodgers, Blake Smith, and his brother firefighters.

Tremendous love and thanks to the CCU nurses and staff at Riverview Regional Medical Center, Ker-riane from Freesinius, and the amazing team at Legacy of Hope.

“Let brotherly love abounded, be kind to stranger-ers as they are angels unaware.” - Hebrews 13:1-2 (KJV)



Betty Lou Driskell Mitchell

**GADSDEN** - Betty Lou Driskell Mitchell, 94, passed away peacefully on February 3, 2026, and was reunited with her husband of 54 years, Lacy. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Darlene; her parents, Henry and Pauline Driskell; her sisters, Shirley and Paula; and her brother, Bill.

Born in Gadsden, Alabama, during the Great Depression, she learned early how to make a little go a long way. She later retired from Wellstar Cobb Hospital, where she loved her work and her coworkers who became good friends. She had a gift for making something out of nothing, especially in her kitchen. Between her flow-er and

vegetable gardens and what-ever project she was working on, staying busy was her way of life. Her pantry and freezer were always full of vegetables, jams, and jellies she had prepared to make sure her family was well-fed. For her, food wasn’t just about a meal, it was one of the ways she showed her love.

She was creative in many ways, sewing everything from everyday clothes for her kids to beautiful dresses for her girls. She was also a wonderful storyteller, often sharing with her children and grandchildren memories of growing up in Alabama. Her stories were colorful, funny, full of detail, and so interesting.

Her faith was the center of everything she did. Whether she was teaching Sunday School, serving as a deacon and elder, or working with the Presbyterian Women, she lived out her devotion through action. But her faith was most apparent in her private life, and every single day she spent time in prayer, naming each of her children, grandchildren, and loved ones one by one.

She leaves behind a family who relied on her strength and a community that will miss her quiet kindness, as well as the quick wit that kept us all on our toes. While she is no longer with us, the love she gave her family will continue through her five children, ten grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT, with all family gathering at noon.

A service to honor her life will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. CT, at Collier-Butler Funeral Home in Gadsden, Alabama. A graveside service will follow at New Bethel Cemetery in Hokes Bluff, Alabama.

## Charles Eugene Jones

**GADSDEN** - Funeral service for Charles Eugene Jones, age 95, of Gadsden were held 12pm Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at Glencoe Hokes Bluff Funeral Home with Van Lockridge officiated. Burial followed at Rainbow Memorial gardens.

Charles died peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family and friends on January 31, 2026.

Mr. Jones was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean War. There he earned National Defense Service Medal, Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant GO#70 dtd, Combat Infantry badge, Korean Service Medal, 2 Bronze Service Stars, and United Nations Service Medal.

Charles in preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Jones; daughter, Carol McCrley; sons-in-law, Dennis Franks and Tom Fus; and great-grandson, Oz Lipscomb.

He is survived by his daughters, Vicki Fus and Wendy Franks, both of Gadsden; son, Steven Caraway (Holly), of Leesburg; grandchildren, Randy (Bethany) Lipscomb, Kevin (Angela) Lipscomb, Blake (Jordan) Lipscomb, Ryan (Katie) Franks, Rachel (Josh Dunn), Tammy (Joey) Hall, Dale (Jennifer) Owens, Danny Owens, Christian (Stormie) Caraway, and Brandon Caraway; 22 great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; along with other friends and family.

Special thank to Amedisys Hospice nurse, Shelly Radcliffe, and caretakers, Jane Martin, Dawn Brown, Savannah Riddlespur, Brenda Watts, Sherry Afleck, Tami Shadoan, Jana Corbin, Van and JoAnn Lockridge.

## Eloise B. Daniel

**GLENCOE** -Funeral services will be held at 12pm, Friday, February 6th, 2026, at Village Chapel Funeral Home for Eloise B. Dan-

iel, 97, Glencoe, who died Sunday, February 1st, 2026. Judge Scott Hassell will officiate. Burial will follow at Unity Baptist Church.

Eloise worked at the Dwight Cotton Mill, River-view (Holy Name of Jesus) Hospital. She retired from Gadsden Regional Hospital. Eloise was also a faithful member of Glencoe Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Roy Harmon Daniel and John Selvidge; parents, William and Ellen Bradford; sons, Billy, Brad, and Chris Daniel; brothers, William Thomas “W.T.” Bradford Jr. and Helton Bradford; sisters, Doris Preston, Barbara Gas-kin, June Nunn, and Sherrie Freeman.

She is survived by her grandchildren, Andrew Daniel, Tyler Daniel, Alicia Daniel, Traci Snow; great-grandchildren, Michael Young, Ryder Daniel; sister, Minnie Grace Elrod; and numerous nieces and nephews.

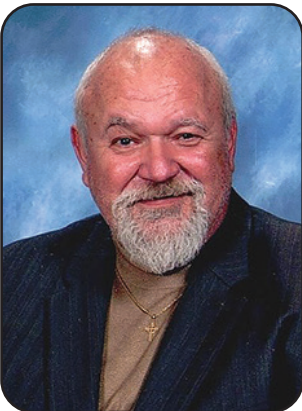
Pallbearers will be Andrew Daniel, Tyler Daniel, Barry Broadwell, Peyton Broadwell, Tony Roberson, Josh Queen.

Visitation will be from 10am until time of service Friday, February 6th, 2026, at Village Chapel Funer-al Home and Crematory.

## Ethel Mae Beck

**SOUTHSIDE** - Ethel Mae Beck, 90, of South-side, passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at her home.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.



Jackie Wayne Macon

Jackie Wayne Macon, born on November 25, 1945, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at the age of 80.

Services for Jackie were held at Morgan Funeral Chapel, Attalla, AL. on Thursday, February 5, 2026. Pastor Autry Barnhill officiated.

Jackie worked for CSX Railroad as a Yard Master until his retirement, a role that reflected his lifelong love of trains. He was ordained through the Episcopal Church of Gadsden and lived his life in service to others. Jackie had a deep affection for all animals—especially dogs, cats, and horses. Known for his kindness and willingness to help anyone in need, Jackie touched the lives of everyone he came in contact with. He will be truly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Preceded in death by his brothers, Dalton, Richard, Jimmy, Billy, Raymond, Johnny and Clark Macon; and sister, Dorothy Macon Patterson.

Jackie is survived by his chosen sons, Robert and Matthew Inman; sister, Emma Louise Ma-con McCarter; special niece, Cindy Macon-DeLuca; along with many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Robert and Matthew Inman for the care you gave to Jack.

## Henry Hardy, Sr.

**GADSDEN** - With heart-felt sympathy, we announce the earthly transition of Henry Lewis Hardy of Gadsden, who traded time for eternity on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at the age of 85.

Henry Lewis Hardy, Sr. was born on August 2, 1940 in Gold Branch, Tallapoosa

County, Alabama to the late Benny Clayton and Mary Emma Hicks Hardy.

Henry Lewis accepted Christ at a young age and was a member of Union Baptist Church, where he served as an usher.

Henry Lewis graduated with the 1961 Class of Carver High School. He then went on to serve his county in the United States Army until being honorably discharged. He was truly a “Real Army Man”.

He was no stranger to hard work as he worked until retirement at Republic Steel. His true passion was being an auto mechanic and operating his own business, Hardy’s Automotive Sales & Repair.

Silver Fox, his handle, enjoyed car racing, facilitat-ing the famous annual Black And White Ball, attending the Magic City Classic festivities and entertaining the masses with a good time.

Henry Lewis the “Silver Fox” crossed Jordan’s River to the land of “No More” on Saturday, January 24, 2026 and joined his parents, Benny Clayton Hardy, Mary Emma (Y.C.) Crozier; son, Alexandria Votobia Burton; brother, Kevin Crozier; sisters, Lynn Rose Richardson and Elaine Crozier Parker.

Those left behind include his children, Henry Lewis Hardy, Jr., Fort Lauderdale, FL, Kenton Renaldo (Lucy) Hardy, Prattville, AL, Vincent Lamar (Remonia) Oliver, Gadsden, AL, Sharon Denise Marbury Vester, Miami Gardens, FL, Raven Latoya Simpson, Hokes Bluff, AL; sisters, Pearlie M. Hardy Stallings, Helena Hoyt, both of Gadsden, AL; brothers, Y. C. (Cynthia) Crozier, Jr. Johnny Crozier, Kenneth Crozier, all of Gadsden AL, a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

“And we Know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” - Romans 8:28

## Mary Anne Brock

**GADSDEN** - Memorial service was held at 11 am Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at Village Chapel Funeral Home for Mary Anne Brock, 78, Gadsden, who died on January 28th, 2026. Rev. Gary Williams officiated.

Mary Anne Brock was the most hardworking, kind, strong, loving, and independent woman, mother, grandmother, sister, and most of all wife that you’d ever meet. She always loved going to family gatherings. Mary never let anything or anybody keep her down; she was truly the most resilient and precious woman in the world. She lit up every room she walked in with her beautiful smile.

Mrs. Brock was preceded in death by her son, Jimmy Allen Brock Jr.; parents, Carlton T. Fox and Rosemary Price Fox; and sister, Lola Carol Adams.

She is survived by her husband, Jimmy Brock; grand-daughter, Holly Brock Johns; grandson, Jeremiah Johns; great – granddaughters, Kylie Wise, Braylee Sawyers;

great – grandson, Bryson Brock Johns; brother, Bucky Fox; niece, Missy McCain; nephew, Trey Fox; aunts, Ann Komoroski and Ann Killian; cousins, John, Bill, and Kris Komoroski; friends, Teresa Elrod, Camilla and Dave Davis; Rev. Gary Williams and friends at Fairview Baptist Church.

## Roy Glenn Rogers

**GADSDEN** - Roy Glenn Rogers, age 74, of Gadsden, passed away on February 2, 2026. He was born on April 2, 1951, to Willie Bill Rogers and Margaret Ann Rogers.

Roy had a deep love for fishing, the outdoors, and especially his beloved dog, Peanut. Known for his friendly spirit, he never met a stranger and had a way of making everyone feel welcome. He was deeply loved and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Rogers; his daughter, Glenda (Scott) Abernathy; his stepson, Joey Hooks; his grandchildren, Madison and Hunter Clough, Allison Abernathy, and Kyler Hooks; and his great-grandchildren, Greyson Chappell and Rig-gans Clough.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie “Bill” Rogers and Margaret Ann Rogers, and his sister, Sandra Minton.

## Pamela Charlton

**GADSDEN** - Pamela “Brooke” Charlton, age 38, of Gadsden, Alabama, passed away on January 30, 2026.

Funeral services were held at Crestwood Funeral Home on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. The service was officiated by Bro. Jimmy Umphrey.

Brooke was born in Union City, Tennessee, on September 4, 1987, and grew up in both Gads-den and Huntsville, Alabama. She was the beloved daughter of Pam Charlton and Scott Gibson, and the late John Lewis “Butch” Charlton.

She is survived by her cherished children, Peyton Charlton, Dylan Charlton, and Harper Seaton; her sister, Ginger Charlton, and niece, Henley Birdsong; her brother, Eric Charlton; and her maternal grandmother, Ann Mayfield. Brooke also leaves behind many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, and countless friends and extended family members who were blessed to know and love her.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Jackie Mayfield, and her paternal grandparents, Bo and Daisy Forman.

Brooke was taken far too soon, leaving behind a heart-broken family and many friends who loved her deeply. She was truly a friend to everyone she met and was known for her kind nature, helpful spirit, and fun-loving personality. Above all, she will be remembered as loving, generous, and non-judgmental. She loved with open arms, offered understanding without conditions, and never judged others for their mistakes.

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**SALE DATES: FRI., FEB 6-  
SAT., FEB. 7, 2026**  
**www.foodcity.com**  
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# LEGAL

## MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Cora L. Osborne, a single woman, originally in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Finance of America Reverse LLC, on November 7, 2023, said mortgage recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, in Instrument Number 3566293; the undersigned Finance of America Reverse, 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 March 19, 2026, 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: Parcel 150 feet S x 210 feet S described as follows: Beginning 1000 feet S South NW corner of NE 1/4 TH S 225 feet S TH SWLY 455 feet S to Point of Beginning TH NWLY 210 feet S TH SWLY 150 feet S TH SELY 210 feet S TH NELY 150 feet S to Point of Beginning.. Property street address for informational purposes: 615 Whorton Bend Rd , Rainbow City, AL 35906. 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. Finance of America Reverse, LLC, ("Transferee") Tiffany & Bosco, P.A., 2501 20th Place South, Suite 300, Homewood, AL 35223 www.tblaw.com TB File Number: 25-04276-CL-AL

January 23, 30, and February 6, 2026

## MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Mary Ammons, an unmarried woman, originally in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for First Federal Bank, A FSB. its successors and assigns, on May 26, 2023, said mortgage recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, in Instrument Number 3558414; the undersigned AmeriHome Mortgage Company, 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 March 18, 2026, 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: All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in the County of Etowah, State of Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows: A tract of land described as beginning in the South line of Chestnut Street at the Northwest corner of what is known as the Old Tolson residence lot, formerly owned by C.E. Snead; said point supposed to be 147 feet West of the intersection of the South line of Chestnut Street with the West line of Ninth Street; and from thence running in a Southerly direction and along the West line of the old Tolson residence lot a distance of 153 feet, more or less, to a point which is 40 feet North of the Northeast corner of that certain lot conveyed by Alice E. Guice and husband, C.L. Guice, to W.L. Watson, dated February 17, 1926, as shown by deed recorded in Deed Record 4-P, Page 388, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, said point being 40 feet North of said Watson lot measured along the East line of the Watson lot produced in a Northerly direction; thence in a Westerly direction and parallel with the North line of said Watson lot to a point which is 36.4 feet West of the West line of the old Tolson residence lot measured along the line parallel with the South line of Chestnut Street; thence in a Northerly direction in a direct line to a point in the South line of Chestnut Street; thence in an Easterly direction and along the South line of Chestnut Street a distance of 47 feet to the point of beginning, and being a portion of the Northwest ten acres of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 12, South of Range 6, East of Huntsville Meridian, in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama. Subject to rights of parties in and to the joint driveway and garage which are located on the above described property.. Property street address for informational purposes: 942 Chestnut 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/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. AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC, ("Transferee") Tiffany & Bosco, P.A., 2501 20th Place South, Suite 300, Homewood, AL 35223 www.tblaw.com TB File Number: 25-09689-SC-AL

January 23, 30, and February 6, 2026

## NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Zandra Shirley, a single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Homecomings Financial Network, Inc., its successors and assigns, on February 18, 2005, said mortgage being recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, on March 2, 2005, as Document Number M-2005-0884. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, 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 4, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: LOT 8, AND THE SOUTHEAST 20 FEET OF LOT 9, IN BLOCK 7, OF CLUBVIEW HEIGHTS, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK E, PAGES 224, 225 AND 226, PROBATE OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.

More commonly known as: 124 Sunnysdale 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 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. 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 purchase 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 indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing ("Transferee")

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

January 23, 30, and February 6, 2026

## NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Mitchell Rodney Cameron, Jr. and Morgan Cameron, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, on March 8, 2017, said mortgage being recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah

County, Alabama, on March 16, 2017, as Document Number 3448054. Freedom Mortgage Corporation, 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, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Lots Number Two (2) and Three (3) in the First Addition to Nabors Estates, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "G", Page 393, Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama and lying and being in the City of Glencoe, Etowah County, Alabama and being subject to restrictive covenants as recorded in Miscellaneous Record "52", Page 646, Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama.

More commonly known as: 404 Lola Lane, Glencoe, AL 35905

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. 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 purchase 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 indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

Freedom Mortgage Corporation ("Transferee")

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

January 23, 30, and February 6, 2026

## MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Whereas, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Brad Scott Wilson and wife, Sylenia Belle Wilson, to River Bank & Trust on the 12th day of July, 2016, said mortgage being recorded at Instrument #: 3436841, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and the undersigned, by reason of such default, having declared the entire remaining indebtedness secured by said mortgage to be immediately due and payable, and said mortgage subject to foreclosure, and such default continuing, notice is hereby given, that acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and security agreement, and as authorized by Section 7-9A-604(a)(2) of the Code of Alabama of 1975 as amended, FIRSTBANK, as Mortgagee, will sell at public outcry, for cash to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door, in the City of Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on March 4, 2026, the following described real and personal property situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

of the Courthouse door in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on the 2nd day of March, 2026, the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

PARCEL 1: Lots 50 & 51 in Indian Hills Estates, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "I", Page 134, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.

PARCEL 2: Lot 19, River Hills Subdivision, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book "J", Page 65, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, lying and being in Southside, Etowah County, Alabama. ALSO for a point of beginning: Commence at the NW corner of Lot 19, River Hills Subdivision, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "J", Page 65, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama; thence run South along the West boundary line a distance of 140.00' to the point of beginning; thence continue South along the West boundary line a distance of 34.12' to an iron pin set and an existing wood fence; thence run Southeasterly in a direct line and along wood fence a distance of 218.25' to the SE corner of Lot 20; thence run in a Northeasterly direction and along radius line a distance of 40.00' to the NE corner of Lot 20; thence run in a Southwesterly direction along the South line of Lot 19 a distance of 214.85' to the point of beginning. Said tract embracing a portion of the SW1/4 of the NW1/4 in Section 32, Township 13 South, Range 6 East of the Huntsville Meridian, Etowah County, Alabama. Containing 0.21 acres more or less.

Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. 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. RIVER BANK & TRUST

BY: Dana L. Rice, Its Attorney Tumbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, PC P. O. Box 129 Gadsden, AL 35902

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF ETOWAH

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage and security agreement executed by CYNTHIA DAY BUCKLES and KRAIG BUCKLES, wife and husband, on the 10th day of February 2025, to FIRSTBANK, as recorded in Instrument Number 3587431 in the office of the Probate Judge of Etowah County, Alabama; FIRSTBANK, as Mortgagee, by reason of such default having declared all of the indebtedness secured by said mortgage and security agreement due and payable and such default continuing, notice is hereby given that, acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and security agreement, and as authorized by Section 7-9A-604(a)(2) of the Code of Alabama of 1975 as amended, FIRSTBANK, as Mortgagee, will sell at public outcry, for cash to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door, in the City of Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on March 4, 2026, the following described real and personal property situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

A parcel of land described as follows: To reach the point of beginning, commence at a point where the East line of Keener Road intersects the North line of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter

in Section 20, Township 10 South, Range 7 East; thence run North 87 degrees 30 minutes East along said North line 313.10 feet to a point; thence run South 42 degrees 07 minutes East a distance of 236.60 feet to a point, said point being the Point of Beginning; thence from said point of beginning, continue South 42 degrees 07 minutes East a distance of 480.00 feet to a point on the Northwest line of Tabor Road; thence run in a Southwesterly direction along the Northwest line of Tabor Road a distance of 110.00 feet to a point; thence run North 42 degrees 07 minutes West a distance of 480.00 feet to a point; thence run in a Northeasterly direction a distance of 110.00 feet to a point, said point being the point of beginning of the above-described tract of land embracing a portion of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 20, Township 10 South, Range 7 East, and lying and being in Etowah County, Alabama.

INCLUDING a security interest in one (1) 2025 Clayton 76' x 16' manufactured home, Serial No. SAD033972ALAC;

together with the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging and all fixtures now attached to and used in connection with the premises herein described.

This property will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the mortgage and those contained in the records of the office of the Judge of Probate of the county where the above-described property is situated. This property will be sold 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.

Said sale will be made subject to any existing Federal Tax Lien, if any, and/or Special Assessments, if any, which might adversely affect the title to the subject property.

Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by the above-described mortgage, and the proceeds thereof will be applied as provided by the terms of the said mortgage. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation; contact Margery Oglesby at the phone number shown below prior to attending the sale.

Kristofer D. Sodergren Attorney for FirstBank ROSEN HARWOOD, P.A. 2200 Jack Warner Pkwy Ste 200 P.O. Box 2727 Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 (205) 344-5000

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF ETOWAH

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Keith Pitman Toney, a married man and, Rita Lynn Toney to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for USAA Federal Savings Bank, its successors and assigns dated February 26, 2010; said mortgage being recorded on March 2, 2010 as Instrument No. 3328332 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to U.S. Bank National Association by assignment recorded as Instrument No. 3397536 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, U.S. Bank National Association, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on March 18, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

LOT NO. 10 OF THE FIRST ADDITION TO GREEN MOUNTAIN LAKE HOMES AS RECORDED ON PLAT BOOK "H", PAGE 117, IN THE PROBATE OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.

Said property is commonly known as 2095 Broughton Springs Road, Southside, AL 35907.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

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.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION as holder of said mortgage McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP 505 20th Street N, Suite 1775 Birmingham, AL 35203 Telephone: (205) 216-4238 FT21@mccalla.com File No. 22-02543AL www.foreclosurehotline.net

The Messenger 02/06/2026,02/13/2026,0 2/20/2026

22-02543AL

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

## FILE CLAIMS

Brandi Nicole Wood was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/15/2025 to the Estate of Hobson Eugene Wood, 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 23, 30, and February 6, 2026

## FILE CLAIMS

Kevin Wayne Copeland was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/17/2025 to the Estate of Charles Louis Copeland, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.







IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CV-2025-900531  
JOHN D. BAILEY, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: PARCEL ONE: FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT NUMBER ONE (1), CARLISLE ACRES SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THEMOP OR PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK K, PAGE 49, PROBATE OFFICE, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; THENCE RUN NORTH 85 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 06 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 39.59 FEET (PLAT), 39.81 FEET (FIELD) TO A POINT, THENCE RUN SOUTH 05 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 06 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 81.91 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN SOUTH 75 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 54 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 129.20 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN NORTH 20 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 06 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 103.96 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 77 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 54 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 183.34 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 07 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 54 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 133.75 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 56 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 368.59 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN NORTH 05 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID TRACT EMBRACING A PORTION OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4), SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST OF THE HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA, CONTAINING 1.00 ACRE, MORE OR LESS.

PARCEL TWO:

FIVE (5) ACRES IN A SQUARE IN THE NW CORNER OF THE NE ¼ OF THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST, LYING AND BEING IN ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA, TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED THEREON. LESS AND EXCEPT THOSE PORTIONS CONVEYED TO MICHAEL KEVIN NIX BY DEED RECORDED IN D-1998-0225; SAVE AND EXCEPT THOSE PORTIONS CONVEYED TO THE EXCHANGE BANK OF ALABAMA BY DEED RECORDED IN D-2001-2176; AND SAVE AND EXCEPT THOSE PORTIONS CONVEYED TO LISSA MADDOX BY DEEDS RECORDED IN D-2001-4039 AND D-2001-4040, SAID DESCRIPTIONS EMBRACING A PORTION OF THE NE ¼ OF THE SW ¼ IN SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST.

LISSA MADDOX and MAC SMITH, INCLUDING ANY HEIRS OR DEVICES OF THE SAME AND THOSE WHOSE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any person claiming any future, contingent, reversionary, remainder, or other interest therein, who may claim any interest in the above described property Defendant

The Defendant, MAC SMITH, and/or his heirs or next of kin, and any other individuals who may claim an interest in the aforementioned property, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Bill to Quiet Title filed by JOHN D. BAILEY, within thirty (30) days of the completion of the publication or thereafter a judgment of default may be rendered against you in the aforementioned case.

Done the 9th day of January, 2026.

SONNIE J. STEEN  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

Joshua B. Sullivan  
Knowles & Sullivan, LLC  
413 Broad Street  
Gadsden, Alabama 35901  
Phone (256)547-7200  
Fax (256)467-6322

January 16, 23, 30  
February 6, 2026

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

Notice is hereby given that a Complaint has been filed in the Circuit Court of Etowah County, Alabama, by Robert Driskill, seeking to foreclose the right of redemption and to quiet title to the following described real property located in Etowah County, Alabama:

Property Address: 534 Noojin Street SW, Attalla, Alabama 35954  
Parcel No.: 16-02-09-3-000-027.000  
Legal Description: Lot 1, Block 26, Cloverdale Subdivision, Plat C-46, Etowah County, Alabama.

Case No.: CV2025-000106.00

Defendants Rachel J. Allen, Etowah County Revenue Commission, and any unknown heirs, lienholders, or persons claiming any interest in said property are required to answer or otherwise respond within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, or a default judgment may be entered against them.

Robert Driskill, Plaintiff, Pro Se

January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CV - 2026 - 900048

GRACE DARLENE WHITLOCK and JUSTIN WHITLOCK PLAINTIFFS v. BARBARA CAROL PITTS AND

THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

To reach a point of beginning for the hereinafter described parcel of land, commence at the Southeast corner of the SE 1/4 of SE 1/4; thence run South 88 degrees 00 minutes West, along the South line thereof, 30.08 feet to a point in the West line of Turner Road; thence run North 02 degrees 14 minutes East along said West line, parallel with the East line of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4, 1,150.15 feet to a point; thence run South 84 degrees 20 minutes West, 789.6 feet to a point, which is the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence from said point of beginning deflect 180 degrees left and run North 84 degrees 20 minutes East 100 feet to a point; thence deflect left and run North 02 degrees 14 minutes East 277.43 feet, more or less, to a point on the South line of Rocky Ford Road 80-foot right of way; thence Westerly along the South line of Rocky Ford Road 100 feet, more or less, to a point which is North 02 degrees 14 minutes East from the point of beginning; thence deflect left and run South 02 degrees 14 minutes West 277.43 feet, more or less, to the South property line, the point of beginning, and embracing portions of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 of SE 1/4) in Section Seven (7), Township Twelve (12) south, Range Eight (8) East of Huntsville Meridian in Etowah County, Alabama.

AND

Fictitious Defendants A-D, whose identities and whereabouts are unknown, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the lands described herein DEFENDANTS

The Defendants, whose whereabouts are unknown, and any other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the lands described below, must answer Plaintiffs' Complaint filed in the above referenced court and case number within thirty (30) days of the completion of the publication or thereafter a judgment of default may be rendered against you in the above-styled case.

The subject property is described as follows:

To reach a point of beginning for the hereinafter described parcel of land, commence at the Southeast corner of the SE 1/4 of SE 1/4; thence run South 88 degrees 00 minutes West, along the South line thereof, 30.08 feet to a point in the West line of Turner Road; thence run North 02 degrees 14 minutes East

along said West line, parallel with the East line of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4, 1,150.15 feet to a point; thence run South 84 degrees 20 minutes West, 789.6 feet to a point, which is the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence from said point of beginning deflect 180 degrees left and run North 84 degrees 20 minutes East 100 feet to a point; thence deflect left and run North 02 degrees 14 minutes East 277.43 feet, more or less, to a point on the South line of Rocky Ford Road 80-foot right of way; thence Westerly along the South line of Rocky Ford Road 100 feet, more or less, to a point which is North 02 degrees 14 minutes East from the point of beginning; thence deflect left and run South 02 degrees 14 minutes West 277.43 feet, more or less, to the South property line, the point of beginning, and embracing portions of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 of SE 1/4) in Section Seven (7), Township Twelve (12) south, Range Eight (8) East of Huntsville Meridian in Etowah County, Alabama.

The address of the subject property is 7903 Rocky Ford Road, Gadsden, AL 35903. The PIN for the subject property is 23258. A person with a right to redeem the property may do so at any time prior to the entry of final judgment in this action by filing a timely answer or motion in the court. A judgment quieting title may cause a person with an interest in or claim on the property to lose their interest or claim. Any person claiming an interest in the property may appear in this action. Any person who is entitled to redeem may request that the property be sold at public auction. IN SUMMARY, IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO LOSE ANY INTEREST OR EQUITY, OR BOTH, YOU MAY HAVE IN THE PROPERTY, YOU MUST TAKE ALL REQUIRED MEASURES TO APPEAR IN AND RESPOND TO THIS TAX LIEN FORECLOSURE ACTION.

Done the 5th day of February, 2026.

Jason Knowles, Attorney for Plaintiffs  
413 Broad Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
256-547-7200

February 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026

JOB COMPLETION

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, Bob Smith Construction, Inc. hereby give written notice of the completion of a contract with the City of Gadsden, Alabama, for the Gadsden Sports Park, Phase 4, project no. 3519, and has made request for final settlement of said Contract. This notice is to appear for four consecutive weeks beginning January 23, 2026 and ending on February 13, 2026. All persons having any claim for labor, materials or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Heath Williamson, Architect for City of Gadsden, P.O. Box 267, Gadsden, AL 35902-0267 during this period.

January 23, 30, February 6, and 13, 2026

JOB COMPLETION

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, Bob Smith Construction, Inc. hereby give written notice of the completion of a contract with the City of Gadsden, Alabama, for the Gadsden Sports Park Irrigation Pumping Project, project no. 3565, and has made request for final settlement of said Contract. This notice is to appear for four consecutive weeks beginning January 23, 2026 and ending on February 13, 2026. All persons having any claim for labor, materials or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Heath Williamson, Architect for City of Gadsden, P.O. Box 267, Gadsden, AL 35902-0267 during this period.

January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

JOB COMPLETION

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, Bob Smith Construction, Inc. hereby give written notice of the completion of a contract with the City of Gadsden, Alabama, for the Interior and Exterior Renovations to the City of Gadsden Asphalt Crew Facility located at 1699 Chestnut Street, Gadsden Bid Request No. 3598, and has made request for final settlement of said Contract. This notice is to appear for four consecutive weeks beginning January 23, 2026 and ending on February 13, 2026. All persons having any claim for labor, materials or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Thomas M. McElrath, Architect, 717 Merit Springs Road, Gadsden, AL 35901 during this period.

January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

The following storage unit will be disposed of February 20, 2026 on the business premises of Huff's Mini Storage. Huff's Mini Storage is located at 608 Gilbert Ferry Road, Attalla, AL. 35954.

Renee Marshall  
Units #1 & #9.

Huff's Mini Storage  
608 Gilbert Ferry Road  
Attalla, AL. 35954.

January 30, February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

The following storage unit will be disposed of on February 6, 2026 beginning at 9:00 A.M. on the business premises of B&J Thrift Store and Mini Storage at 1101 Hwy 77, Attalla, AL. 35954.

C. Bohannon  
Unit 41

B&J Thrift and Mini Storage  
1101 Hwy 77  
Attalla, AL. 35954  
256-485-8656

January 30 and February 6, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

The following storage units will be auctioned on February 11, 2026 beginning at 10:00 A.M. on the business premises of Southtowne Mini Warehouses, Southtowne is located at 199 Woodland Drive, off of Steele Station Road in Rainbow City, AL. 356906.

Roosevelt Johnson  
Unit 49

Candance Nance  
Unit 171

Lisa Tuck - Unit 194

Kenneth Maltbie, Jr.  
Unit 336

Janis Poleate - Unit 407

Sky Smith - Unit 451

Jerry White - Unit 502

Fatima Bibb - Unit 512

Kathryn Floyd - Unit 545

Stefenie Propst  
Unit 540, 742, 1& 5-9

Joe Gielarowski  
Unit 577

Vonetta Byers - Unit 598

Monica Smith - Unit 513

Daniele Mead - Unit 619

Elizabeth Jacobs  
Unit 697, 83-11 & 83-13

Chris Smith - Unit 715

Jacob Cornelious  
Unit 717

Chris Patterson  
Unit 775

Steve Meeks - Unit 817

Suzanne Moon - Unit 818

Bryan Charlton - Unit 827

Angela Nelson  
Unit 13-11

Southtowne Mini Warehouses  
199 Woodland Drive  
Rainbow City, AL. 35906

January 30 and February 6, 2026

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 GMC Acadia Vin #1GKKNNLS8HZ187617 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 B 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am on 3/28/2026 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.

February 6 and 13, 2026

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

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

03/20/2026 at 8:00 am.

2005 Nissan Sentra  
VIN: 3N1CB-51D65L567137

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

FEBRUARY 6 AND 13, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSED VACATION OF AN ALLEY RUNNING BETWEEN 904 & 924 EAST BROAD STREET

A declaration has been received by the City of Gadsden for the vacation of an alleyway, described as follows:

BEGIN AT A MARK IN CONCRETE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHEASTERLY R/W OF EAST BROAD STREET (50'R/W) AND THE NORTHWESTERLY R/W OF A 10' ALLEY MARKING THE SW CORNER OF LOT (6), MRS. ANNIE COLLIER FREEMAN'S REARRANGEMENT OF BLOCK 9 OF SOUTH A DEDICATION TO EAST GADSDEN, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "C", PAGE 357 IN THE PROBATE OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA, THENCE ALONG SAID R/W OF SAID 10' ALLEY N68°57'49"E 400.47' TO A 1/2" REBAR CAPPED (CA-50439-LS) AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHWESTERLY R/W OF A 10' ALLEY AND THE SOUTHWESTERLY R/W OF MCKISSACK STREET (R/W UNKNOWN), THENCE S47°27'56"E 11.17' ALONG SAID R/W OF MCKISSACK STREET (R/W UNKNOWN) TO A 1/2" REBAR CAPPED (CA-50439-LS) AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERLY R/W OF MCKISSACK STREET (R/W UNKNOWN) AND THE SOUTHEASTERLY R/W OF A 10' ALLEY, THENCE S68°57'49"W 405.27' ALONG SAID R/W OF 10' ALLEY TO A COTTON SPINDLE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERLY R/W OF A 10' ALLEY AND THE NORTHEASTERLY R/W OF EAST BROAD STREET (50' R/W), THENCE ALONG SAID R/W OF EAST BROAD STREET (50'R/W) N22°01'16"W 10.00' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.09 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

A resolution granting assent to this vacation will be considered by the City Council at its meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 90 Broad Street. Objections to the passage of the resolution will be heard at that time. A map of the proposed vacation will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Engineering Department, third floor, Room 302, City Hall.

Iva Nelson  
City Clerk

January 30, February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Prequalification Proposals from General Contractors shall be submitted and will be received on behalf of the Owner by Robins & Morton; submit electronically Attn: William Byrd at williamsb@robinsmorton.com or delivery to 400 Shades Creek Pkwy. Birmingham, AL 35209; UNTIL 5:00PM LOCAL TIME; ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026, for:

GADSDEN ATHLETIC CENTER PROJECT – MULTI-PRIME PACKAGES (SITEWORK 3622, ATHLETIC FIELDS 3623, POOL 3624, MECHANICAL 3625, ELECTRICAL 3626, AND GENERAL WORKS 3627) CITY OF GADSDEN GADSDEN, ALABAMA

Prequalification proposal requirements may be obtained from Robins & Morton, by written request via email or mailed on the Contractor's company letterhead.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all prequalification and/or proposals, waive technical errors, and/or abandon this process if, in their judgment, the Owner's best interests will be promoted.

Sealed proposals for each respective bid package will be received by the City Clerk, City of Gadsden, Alabama, at the City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Room 411, Gadsden, Alabama, until 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 3, 2026, for the Gadsden

Athletic Center Project. Bid Request Numbers 3622, 3623, 3624, 3625, 3626, 3627 located in the City of Gadsden, Alabama.

Bids submitted prior to the bid opening by mail shall be directed to "City Clerk, P.O. Box 267, Gadsden, Alabama 35902-0267" or in person delivered to the office of the City Clerk, Room 401, City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the above time and place. Specifications and contract documents are open to the public for inspection at the City Hall. Electronic (pdf) specifications and contract documents can be distributed at no cost through Robins & Morton's Building Connected Platform by requesting the invitation by email at williamsb@robinsmorton.com. All bidders must be prequalified with Robins & Morton in order to submit a bid. Bids received from non-Qualified bidders will be rejected.

The bidder shall file with his bid either a cashier's check drawn on an Alabama bank, payable to the City of Gadsden, Alabama, or a bid bond executed by a surety company duly authorized and qualified to make such bonds in Alabama, in an amount equal to the lesser of five percent (5%) of the bid or ten thousand (\$10,000).

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any and all bids.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for the satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond or Bond in the amount required by Section 39-1-1(a), Code of Alabama 1975, and evidence of insurance as required by the bid documents within ten (10) days after being notified that he has been awarded the contract. No bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The bidder must comply with all requirements of the public works bid law Section 39-2-1 et seq., Code of Alabama 1975.

Any bidder, whether a resident or non-resident of the State of Alabama, must comply with all applicable provisions of Section 34-8-1, et. seq., Code of Alabama, 1975, including requirements for licensing as a general contractor and the necessity to show evidence of license before the bid will be considered by the awarding authority. A current license number must be included on the bid. PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at 1500 West Meighan Boulevard, Gadsden, AL 35901; Time & Date 2/17/26 @ 10:00 AM, to review the project and answer Bidder's questions. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference IS NOT REQUIRED but highly recommended FOR ALL PRIME CONTRACTOR BIDDERS (and any subcontractors) intending to submit a proposal. This is a tax-exempt contract. By signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of the agreement, that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the state of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom. Bidders must certify that they do not and will not maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated on a basis of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Bidders must also certify they will make facilities handicap accessible to the extent required by law.

THE CITY GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
Craig Ford, Mayor  
Iva Nelson, City Clerk

January 30, February 6, and 13, 2026

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.1M-1059(454) DEKALB AND ETOWAH COUNTIES, ALABAMA**

Sealed bids will be received by the Director of Transportation at the office of the Alabama Department of Transportation, Montgomery, Alabama until 10:00 AM on

February 27, 2026 and at that time publicly opened for constructing the Roadway Safety Improvements (Traffic Sign Replacement) on I-59 from the SR-77 Interchange (Exit 181) to the Georgia State Line.

The total amount of uncompleted work under contract to a contractor must not exceed the amount of his or her qualification certificate.

The Entire Project Shall Be Completed in Fifty (50) Working Days.

A Bidding Proposal may be purchased for \$5.00. Plans may be purchased for \$29.00 per set. Plans and Proposals are available at the Alabama Department of Transportation, 1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Room E-108, Montgomery, AL 36110. Checks should be made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation. Plans and Proposals will be mailed only upon receipt of remittance. No refunds will be made.

Minimum wage rates for this project have been pre-determined by the Secretary of Labor and are set forth in the advertised specifications. This project is subject to the contract work hours and Safety Standards Act and its implementing regulations.

Cashier's check or bid bond for 5% of bid (maximum - \$50,000.00) made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation must accompany each bid as evidence of good faith.

The bracket range is shown only to provide general financial information to contractors and bonding companies concerning the project's complexity and size. This Bracket should not be used in preparing a bid, nor will this bracket have any bearing on the decision to award this contract. The Bracket Estimate On This Project Is From \$647,537 To \$791,434.

The proposed work shall be performed in conformity with the rules and regulations for carrying out the Federal Highway Act. Plans and Specifications are on file in Room E-108 of the Alabama Department of Transportation at Montgomery, Alabama 36110.

In accordance with the rules and regulations of The Alabama Department of Transportation, proposals will be issued only to prequalified contractors or their authorized representatives, upon requests that are received before 10 AM., on the day previous to the day of opening of bids.

The bidder's proposal must be submitted on the complete original proposal furnished him or her by the Alabama Department of Transportation.

The Alabama Department of Transportation, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000D To 2000D-4 and Title 49 code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of The Secretary, Part 21, nondiscrimination in federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The right to reject any or all bids is reserved.

JOHN R. COOPER  
Transportation Director

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDS

A NEW FIRE STATION NO. 8 located at RAINBOW DRIVE for the City of Gadsden, Alabama Gadsden Bid Request No. 3628

Sealed proposals will be received by the City Clerk, City of Gadsden, Alabama, at the City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Room 411, Gadsden, Alabama until 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, for a New Fire Station No. 8 located at Rainbow Drive, Bid Request No. 3628, located in the City of Gadsden, Alabama.

Bids submitted prior to the bid opening by mail shall be directed to "City Clerk, P.O. Box 267, Gadsden,



Alabama 35902-0267 or in person delivered to the office of the City Clerk, Room 401, City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the above time and place.

The bidder shall file with his bid either a cashier's check drawn on an Alabama bank, payable to the City of Gadsden, Alabama, or a bid bond executed by a surety company duly authorized and qualified to make such bonds in Alabama, in an amount equal to the lesser of five percent (5%) of the bid or ten thousand (\$10,000).

Bid Documents are open to the public for inspection at the City Hall, Room 301, City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama, Alabama AGC / ISQFT Plan Room; Dodge Project Data; and Construct Connect. Electronic copies of Bid Documents may be obtained from the Architect through email request only. The same process is applicable to sub-contractors and vendors. No printed hard copies of bid

documents will be issued. Requests for Bid Documents should be submitted to tom@tmm-architect.com. In order to submit a bid, all General Contractor bidders must use the procedures above to procure Bid Documents and having done so, will be placed on the Architect's Official Bidders List. Bids received from bidders who obtained Bid Documents through any other method and are not on the Architect's Official Bid List will be rejected.

General Contractors who obtain bid documents and wish to withdraw from the Official Bidders List must do so in writing to the Architect prior to the bid date. Bids received from General Contractors who are not on the Official Bidders List will not be accepted or opened. Thomas M. McElrath, Architect, makes no guarantee of bid documents obtained by Contractors and Vendors from sources other than the issued documents provided by the Architect. Contractors and Vendors who base their pricing from bid documents obtained otherwise,

either in part or whole, do so at their own risk.

A Non-Mandatory Attendance Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 23rd, 2026 at the office of the Director of Engineering, located at the City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Room 302, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. All General Contractor Bidders expecting to submit a bid shall have a knowledgeable representative present at this meeting. This meeting will convene at the office of the Director of Engineering. If deemed necessary, it will be adjourned and will reconvene at the project site.

Scope of Work includes, but is not limited to, construction of a new two-story, load-bearing exterior masonry wall structure consisting of, concrete block, cast stone, brick veneer, light-gauge metal roof trusses, composition shingle roofing, standing-seam metal roofing, pre-finished metal gutters, fascia and downspouts, sectional overhead doors, aluminum storefront entrances and windows, site

improvements and utilities. The new facility will house Fire Department facilities consisting of: two Apparatus Bays, FEMA Storm Shelter, Restroom and Shower Areas, Kitchen, Dayroom/Dining Room, Bunk Rooms, Laundry/Decontamination Room, Office and Mechanical/Electrical Room and Police Department Precinct facilities consisting of: Staff/Public area, Staff Toilet, Storage and Mech./Elect. Room. Interior construction will primarily be metal stud framing, gyp. board, exposed painted CMU, lay-in ceilings, LVT and porcelain tile flooring and casework cabinetry. Electrical work will consist of IT cabling, power and suspended and lay-in LED fixtures. HVAC systems will include gas-fired infrared heaters, fresh air ventilation and Split-system HVAC with gas-fired heat and electric cooling.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any and all bids. The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for the satisfactory Performance and

Payment Bond or Bond in the amount required by Section 39-1-1(a), Code of Alabama 1975, and evidence of insurance as required by the bid documents within ten (10) days after being notified that he has been awarded the contract.

Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof No bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The bidder must comply with all requirements of the public works bid law Section 39-2-1 et seq., Code of Alabama 1975. Any bidder, whether a resident or non-resident of the State of Alabama, must comply with all applicable provisions of Section 34-8-1, et seq., Code of Alabama, 1975, including requirements for licensing as a general contractor and the necessity to show evidence of license, before the bid will be considered by the awarding authority. A current license number must be included on the bid.

THIS IS A TAX-EXEMPT CONTRACT.

By signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of the agreement, that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the state of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.

Bidders must certify that they do not and will not maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated on a basis of race creed, color, sex, or national origin. Bidders must also certify they will make facilities handicap accessible to the extent required by law.

THE CITY GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
Craig Ford, Mayor

THOMAS M. McELRATH, ARCHITECT

Thomas M. McElrath, Principal  
Iva Nelson, City Clerk

February 6, 2026

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
CITY OF ATTALLA**

The City of Attalla will hold Public Hearings to discuss the remedies for Nuisance/Abatement cases that will come before the Attalla City Council on Monday, March 16, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Public Hearings will be held at 612 4th Street NW, Attalla, Alabama. The following addresses will be discussed.

413 Rothrock Avenue, SW, Attalla, al 35954  
629 Hammond Avenue, Attalla, al. 35954  
516 Noojin Street, SW, Attalla, al 35954

Mandy Cash  
City Clerk

February 6 and 13, 2026

# CLASSIFIEDS

## SERVICES

**APPLIANCE REPAIR:** Prompt local service available for appliance repair. Washer/Dryer, Dishwasher, Refrigerator, Stove/Oven and all major appliances. Certified, Insured techs. Satisfaction guaranteed. Call to schedule your appointment now! 1-877-441-0132

**SELLING a RV, Tractor or Golf Cart? ADVERTISE STATEWIDE** or by region in over 100 Newspapers, reaching over 1 million readers each week! Run your ad in our Classified Network for just \$210 per week! Make one call to this newspaper (participating Ala-SCAN newspaper) or call 1-800-264-7043 to find out how easy it is to advertise statewide!

**BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems

at **AFFORDABLE PRICES!** Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 1-833-770-0326

**WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION:** A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1371 Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

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