

# MARDI GRAS PARADE

## FEB. 7 • 4 p.m.

### Downtown Gadsden

# Messenger

Volume 48, Issue 6

February 6, 2026

50 cents

| Friday<br>February 6  | Saturday<br>February 7  | Sunday<br>February 8  | Monday<br>February 9   | Tuesday<br>February 10  | Wednesday<br>February 11  | Thursday<br>February 12   |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  High: 63<br>Low: 33 |  High: 52<br>Low: 25 |  High: 60<br>Low: 37 |  High: 67<br>Low: 45 |  High: 71<br>Low: 53 |  High: 68<br>Low: 45 |  High: 65<br>Low: 41 |

#### 7 DAY FORECAST

## 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 South erners, 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 Ogunyoto.

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**

# HOT-N-READY

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/1FAIpQLSdkgWGDsLk17qCmeEAs-t9bUlp78zO-us1WDLpe7qyl5x4ltvg/viewform>.

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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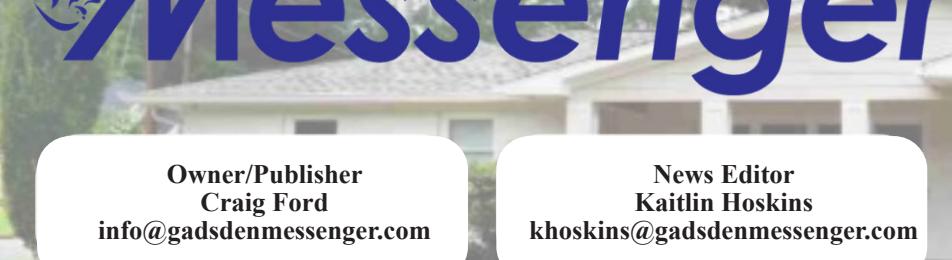
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# NEWS

## 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 Attala 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.

Derby 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

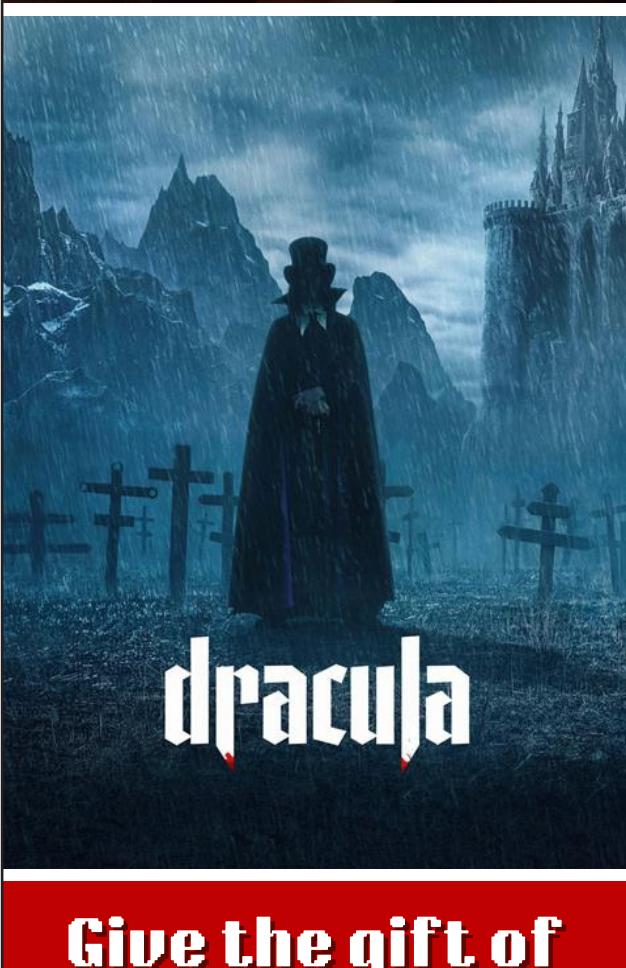
### Mayor to host Veterans Breakfast

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.



# 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 Base-

ball 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 Harrill, 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 Patry, 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 73–

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–

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.

**Feb. 2**  
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?



### Arranging the Pieces

Tabitha Bozeman

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 ChatGPT, 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 GSCC. Email at [tabithabozeman@gmail.com](mailto:tabithabozeman@gmail.com).

## Football, family and party rolls



### ECHOES FROM THE KITCHEN

Samantha Hill

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



### Welcome to the Library

Craig Scott

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 sup-portive, 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 hap-pen 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

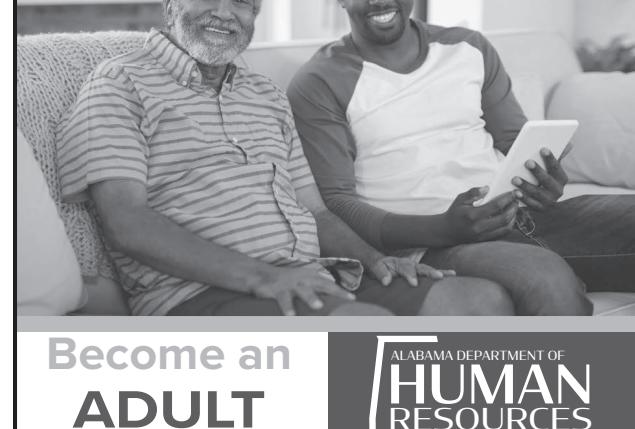
places where lives are enriched in many different ways.

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



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 capture 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



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 ancestors 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 tonif77@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 Master 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 workshops led by noted professionals.

Barbara's 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 Marinda (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 officiating 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, Jessie (Miranda) Partin, Kevin Partin, Courtney (Colton) McCurdy, Brittany (John) Matthews, Tyler (Savannah) Tinsley, Josh (Alexis) Tinsley, Leiola (Layne) Vaughn, MaKayla Tinsley, Brylee Tinsley and Rosie Tinsley, great-grandchildren, Aiden, Bowen,

Liam, and Lily, Chosen siblings, 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 active member of Aaron's 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 2:00 pm 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 LeShalle 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 Kantonka, 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, Kerriane from Freesius, and the amazing team at Legacy of Hope.

"Let brotherly love abound, be kind to strangers 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 flower and

vegetable gardens and whatever 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.

Services will be announced at a later date.

Charles Eugene Jones

**GADSDEN** - Funeral service for Charles Eugene Jones, age 95, of Gadsden was 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 is preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Jones; daughter, Carol McCarley; 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 Radelisse, and caretakers,

Jane Martin, Dawn Brown, Savannah Riddle, Brenda Watts, Sherry Aleck, 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, Riverview (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 Selvige; parents, Williams and Ellen Bradford; sons, Billy, Brad, and Chris Daniel; brothers, William Thomas "W.T." Bradford Jr. and Helton Bradford; sisters, Doris Preston, Barbara Gaskin, June Nunn, and Sherrie Freeman.

She is survived by her grandchildren, 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 Funeral Home and Crematory.

**Ethel Mae Beck**

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

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Services 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 Macon 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 heartfelt 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, facilitating 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

Services will be announced at a later date.



2 DAYS ONLY

OVER \$180  
IN SAVINGS!

FRIDAY &  
SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup>

LIMIT 1 TRANSACTION PER ITEM PER VALUCARD PER DAY.  
DISCOUNT TAKEN AS A COUPON. CUSTOMER PAYS SALES TAX.

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>CUT FRESH IN-STORE</b><br/><b>FRUIT OR</b><br/><b>VEGETABLE TRAYS</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p><b>STARTING AT</b> <b>9.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>DIETITIAN'S PICK</b></p> <p><b>IN THE PRODUCE Dept.</b></p> <p><b>BUY 2 SAVE \$5</b></p>                     | <p><b>LIMIT 2</b></p> <p><b>IN THE MEAT Dept.</b></p> <p><b>BOSTON BUTT</b></p> <p>Food City Fresh, Whole-in-Bag<br/>Per Lb.</p> <p><b>1.49</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>DIETITIAN'S PICK</b></p> <p><b>IN THE MEAT Dept.</b></p> | <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES</b><br/><b>FOCACCIA BREAD</b></p> <p>Each</p> <p><b>3.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>IN THE Bakery</b></p>   | <p><b>Buy 4<br/>Save More</b></p> <p><b>LIMIT 4<br/>TOTAL ITEMS</b></p> <p><b>Selected Varieties<br/>Coca-Cola Products</b> <b>3.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p>6 Pk., 16.9 Oz. Btls.</p> <p>When you buy 4 in the same transaction. Lesser quantities are 8.99 each. Limit 1 transaction (4 total items). Discount applied as a coupon. Customer pays sales tax.</p> |
| <p><b>BASKET &amp; BUSHEL</b><br/><b>JUMBO BAKING</b><br/><b>POTATOES</b></p> <p>8 Lb.</p> <p><b>4.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>IN THE PRODUCE Dept.</b></p>   | <p><b>JUMBO PACK, PREVIOUSLY FROZEN</b><br/><b>COVINGTON FARMS</b><br/><b>CHICKEN WINGS</b></p> <p>Per Lb.</p> <p><b>1.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>IN THE MEAT Dept.</b></p>  | <p><b>SLICED, HOMETOWN ORIGINAL</b><br/><b>SMITHFIELD BACON</b></p> <p>22 Oz.</p> <p><b>6.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>Smithfield</b></p>   | <p><b>LIMIT 6 EACH</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES, NESTLÉ COOKIE DOUGH</b> (14-16 Oz.) or<br/><b>LITTLE DEBBIE BIG PACK SNACK CAKES</b></p> <p>16.4-31.78 Oz.</p> <p><b>3.29</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>Nestlé Toll House</b></p> <p><b>Oatmeal Creme Pies</b></p>  |
| <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES</b><br/><b>GORDO'S</b><br/><b>CHEESE DIP</b></p> <p>16 Oz.</p> <p><b>4.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>IN THE Deli</b></p>   | <p><b>THOMAS FARMS</b></p> <p><b>GRASS FED GROUND</b><br/><b>BEef PATTIES</b></p> <p>10 Ct.</p> <p><b>12.00</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  | <p><b>LIMIT 4</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES</b><br/><b>FOOD CLUB</b><br/><b>Sliced Cheese</b></p> <p>7-8 Oz.</p> <p><b>1.88</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  | <p><b>LIMIT 2</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES</b><br/><b>WHITE CASTLE</b><br/><b>SLIDERS</b></p> <p>16 Ct.</p> <p><b>9.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>White Castle</b></p>  |
| <p><b>LIMIT 4</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES</b><br/><b>Frito-Lay Party</b><br/><b>Size Dip</b></p> <p>23-24 Oz.</p> <p><b>4.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  | <p><b>LIMIT 4</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES,</b><br/><b>Frito-Lay Party Size Chips</b></p> <p>8.125-17 Oz.</p> <p><b>4.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>   | <p><b>LIMIT 4 EACH</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES,</b><br/><b>Hungry Jack Syrup</b> (24 Oz.) or<br/><b>Post Kids Cereal</b></p> <p>11-14.75 Oz.</p> <p><b>1.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  | <p><b>LIMIT 2</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES</b><br/><b>OLD TRAPPER</b><br/><b>Jerky</b></p> <p>8 Oz.</p> <p><b>9.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>   |
| <p><b>LIMIT 4</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES</b><br/><b>Nathan's Beef</b><br/><b>Franks</b></p> <p>14 Oz.</p> <p><b>3.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>   | <p><b>LIMIT 4</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES</b><br/><b>Johnsonville</b><br/><b>Brats</b></p> <p>12-14 Oz.</p> <p><b>3.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  | <p><b>LIMIT 4 EACH</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES, Blue Bonnet</b> (16 Oz.),<br/><b>Duncan Hines Frosting</b> (16 Oz.),<br/><b>Duncan Hines Brownie Mix</b> (18-18.3 Oz.) or<br/><b>DUNCAN HINES</b><br/><b>CAKE MIX</b></p> <p>15.25 Oz.</p> <p><b>4/\$5</b> <small>With Card</small></p>                       | <p><b>LIMIT 4 EACH</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES, Terry's Best Peanuts</b> (9.5 Oz.), <b>Lindt Excellence Bars</b> (3.5 Oz.) or<br/><b>M&amp;M's Sharing Size Candy</b></p> <p>7.4-10.05 Oz.</p> <p><b>3.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>Lindt Excellence</b></p>  |
| <p><b>LIMIT 12</b></p> <p><b>SELECTED VARIETIES, Food Club Diced</b><br/><b>Tomatoes with Chiles</b> (10 Oz.),<br/><b>Food Club</b><br/><b>Tomatoes or Beans</b></p> <p>14.5-15.5 Oz.</p> <p><b>69¢</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p><b>DIETITIAN'S PICK</b></p>           | <p><b>LIMIT 4 EACH</b></p> <p><b>Frozen, Selected Varieties,</b><br/><b>Texas Roadhouse</b><br/><b>Mini Rolls</b></p> <p>13-22 Oz.</p> <p><b>4.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  | <p><b>LIMIT 4 EACH</b></p> <p><b>Frozen, Selected Varieties,</b><br/><b>Banquet</b><br/><b>Mega Bowls</b></p> <p>11.5-16.95 Oz., <b>Dolly Parton</b><br/><b>Entrees</b> (11-12 Oz.),<br/><b>Healthy Choice</b><br/><b>Plates</b> or <b>Power Bowls</b> (9-11 Oz.)</p> <p><b>2/\$5</b> <small>With Card</small></p> | <p><b>LIMIT 4 EACH</b></p> <p><b>Selected Varieties, Act II</b> Popcorn (6 Ct.),<br/><b>Crav'n Flavor</b> Creme Cookies (19.1-20 Oz.) or<br/><b>MUNCHIES</b><br/><b>Sandwich Crackers</b></p> <p>8 Ct.</p> <p><b>2.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  |
| <p><b>LIMIT 4</b></p> <p><b>Frozen, Selected Varieties, Chicken Strips or</b><br/><b>Tyson</b><br/><b>Chicken Wings</b></p> <p>16-25 Oz.</p> <p><b>5.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  | <p><b>LIMIT 4</b></p> <p><b>Selected Varieties</b><br/><b>Coffee mate</b> <b>Cold Foam</b> or <b>Creamer</b></p> <p>14 Oz. or 32 Oz.</p> <p><b>2.99</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  | <p><b>LIMIT 4 EACH</b></p> <p><b>Selected Varieties, Rico's</b> Nacho Cheese<br/>(15 Oz.), <b>Wesson</b> Oil (40 Oz.) or <b>Food Club</b><br/><b>Pasta or Garlic Bread</b></p> <p>13-18 Oz. or 10.5-14 Oz.</p> <p><b>2/\$5</b> <small>With Card</small></p>  | <p><b>Buy 10<br/>Save More</b></p> <p><b>LIMIT 10<br/>TOTAL ITEMS</b></p> <p><b>Selected Varieties</b><br/><b>POWERADE</b></p> <p>28 Oz.</p> <p><b>10/\$10</b> <small>With Card</small></p> <p>When you buy 10 in the same transaction. Lesser quantities are 2.53 each. Limit 1 transaction (10 total items). Discount applied as a coupon. Customer pays sales tax.</p>     |
| <p><b>COUPON<br/>EFFECTIVE<br/>FEB. 6-<br/>FEB. 7</b></p> <p><b>INSTANT DIGITAL COUPON SAVINGS</b></p> <p>LOAD TO YOUR VALUCARD AT <a href="http://FOODCITY.COM">FOODCITY.COM</a> OR ON THE FOOD CITY MOBILE APP.<br/>CLIP ONCE AND USE UP TO 1X EACH IN ONE TRANSACTION.</p> |   | <p><b>COUPON<br/>EFFECTIVE<br/>FEB. 6-<br/>FEB. 7</b></p> <p><b>INSTANT DIGITAL COUPON SAVINGS</b></p> <p>LOAD TO YOUR VALUCARD AT <a href="http://FOODCITY.COM">FOODCITY.COM</a> OR ON THE FOOD CITY MOBILE APP.<br/>CLIP ONCE AND USE UP TO 2X EACH IN ONE TRANSACTION.</p>                                      |   |
| <p><b>Snow Crab Legs</b></p> <p>Previously Frozen<br/>Per Lb.</p> <p>ValuCard Price.....9.99<br/>Digital Coupon.....-2.00<br/>Final Price with Coupon<br/>7.99<br/>With Card</p>  |   | <p><b>Pillsbury</b><br/><b>Cookie Dough</b></p> <p>Selected Varieties, 16 Oz.</p> <p><b>Totino's</b><br/><b>Pizza Rolls</b></p> <p>50 Ct.</p>  |   |

Items and prices are specifically intended to apply locally where issue originates. BOGOs are sold at 1/2 price if single item is purchased and reserve the right to limit quantities and to correct printed errors. No sales to dealers or competitors. Quantity rights reserved. 2026 K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc. Food City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

951 Rainbow Drive Gadsden, AL 35901

SALE DATES: FRI., FEB 6-

SAT., FEB. 7, 2026

[www.foodcity.com](http://www.foodcity.com)



Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate  
January 23, 30, and February 6, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Leslie Hicks Ware was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/18/2025 over the Estate of Michael Lee Hicks, 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**

Hedy Cohen was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/23/2025 to the Estate of Charles J. Grima, 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**

Randall Green was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/05/2026 to the Estate of Larry Edwin Jones, 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**

Bryan Scott Lumpkin was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/06/2026 over the Estate of Carol C. Lumpkin, 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**

Joan Holiday Clayton was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/07/2026 to the Estate of Frances Frazier Clayton, 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**

Lisa Patterson Sims was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/07/2026 over the Estate of David Keith Mitchell, Jr., 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**

Michelle Helm was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/08/2026 over the Estate of Tiara Danielle Helm, 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**

Jerry Haney was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/15/2025 to the Estate of Martha Faye Haney, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Cassandra Elizabeth Smith Hall was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/13/2026 to the Estate of Reginald Kirkland Smith, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Harold Weaver and Darrell Weaver was/were appointed Co-Personal Representative(s) on 01/13/2026 to the Estate of Irene Ball Weaver, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Collin Wells was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/14/2026 over the Estate of William Bryan Wells, III 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

David L. Clokey, Jr., and Carol Clokey Calahan was/were appointed Co-Personal Representative(s) on 01/14/2026 to the Estate of Billie G. Clokey, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Ellen G. Hawkins was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/14/2026 to the Estate of Joseph Allen Hawkins, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Christopher Brian Freeman was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/14/2026 to the Estate of Larry Wayne Freeman, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Sheryl Parker was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/14/2026 to the Estate of Harry Parker aka Harry L. Parker, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Jennifer Long was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/15/2026 over the Estate of Hursteen E. Williams, 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**

Michel Hayward Chandler was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/15/2026 to the Estate of Margie Fay Chandler, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Cassandra Elizabeth Smith Hall was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/13/2026 to the Estate of Reginald Kirkland Smith, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies

Jennifer Long was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/15/2026 over the Estate of Lorette Williams, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

George D. King, III aka George Dodgen King, III was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/15/2026 to the Estate of Lynn Hawkins King, 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

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

John D. Floyd was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/18/2025 to the Estate of Johnny Eugene Haggard, Sr., deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

John D. Floyd was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/18/2025 to the Estate of Jeremy Goble, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED, Case #: 2026-00057

Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

January 30, February 6, and 13, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: KIM DEMETRIUS JACKSON, DECEASED. CASE NO: 2026-00049

Notice is hereby given that on February 10, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. a hearing is set to be heard in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama on the disposition of the remains of Kim Demetrius Jackson, date of birth: January 21, 1959, date of death: December 27, 2025.

This the 3RD day of February, 2026

Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: CATHY HICKS, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED

Case #: 2025-680

TO: Toni Harrell, Jennifer Rowland and any unknown family, whose whereabouts are unknown

Please take notice that a PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP & CONSERVATORSHIP of the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the day 17th of March 2026 at 2:30pm, was appointed a day and time for hearing on said Petition, thereof at which time you may appear and support and/or contest the Petition, if you so choose.

DONE THIS THE 30th DAY OF January 2026

Scott W. Hassell  
PROBATE JUDGE

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: THE PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF MINOR CHILD

NOTICE TO: Unknown Father ADDRESS: unknown

You will take notice that a Petition to Change Name of Minor Child born to Courtney Smith (Douglas), was filed on the 16th day of December, 2025, Minor Child's birth date is 02/16/2020.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be and appear before this Court on the 31st day of March, 2026, at 2:00 o'clock p.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the Petition should not be granted to Courtney Smith.

This the 2nd day of February 2026.

Scott W. Hassell  
PROBATE JUDGE

February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: ODIS L. MCGUIRE, INCAPACITATED Case #: 2025-639

TO: Any interested party

Please take notice that a PETITION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY belonging to the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the day of MARCH 2026 at 2:30p.m. was appointed a day and time for hearing on said Petition, thereof at which time you may appear and support and/or contest the Petition, if you so choose.

DONE THIS THE 29TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

Scott W. Hassell  
PROBATE JUDGE

February 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: GULF STATES STEEL ACQUISITION CORP., An Alabama Corporation

TO: GULF STATES STEEL INC., an Alabama Corporation

NOTICE TO: GULF STATES STEEL INC., an Alabama Corporation

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NOTICE TO: GULF STATES STEEL INC., an Alabama Corporation

## 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 THE MAP 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 00 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 103.96 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 77 DEGREES 30 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 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 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 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 IN SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST.

LISSA MADDOX and MAC SMITH, INCLUDING ANY HEIRS OR DEVISEES 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.: CV2025-000106.000

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 277.43 feet, more or less, 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 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

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.

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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, 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 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 no-

tiice 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

**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 unit 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

Candace 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

Danielle Mead - Unit 619

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

Chris Smith - Unit 715

Jacob Cornelius  
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 #1GKNNL88HZ187617 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 B 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00 am 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.

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 no-

tiice 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.

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 BROAD STREET**

The following storage unit will be disposed of on 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.

January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The following storage unit will be disposed of on 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.

January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**

The following storage unit will be disposed of on 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.

January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**

The following storage unit will be disposed of on 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.

January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**

The following storage unit will be disposed of on 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.

January 23, 30, February 6 and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**

The following storage unit will be disposed of on 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.

January 23,

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, 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, gypsum 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.

Thomas M. McElrath, Architect

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, Principal  
Iva Nelson, City Clerk

February 6, 2026

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
CITY OF ATTALA**

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

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

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We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-385-7131

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Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase\* Call 1-877-323-5516 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-724-3049 today!

## SURPLUS ITEMS

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



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