

PROGRESS 2026

TAKE A LOOK BACK AND A LOOK TO WHAT IS NEXT!

INSIDE
THIS
EDITION



Messenger

Volume 48, Issue 9

February 27, 2026

50 cents

7 DAY FORECAST

Friday February 27	Saturday February 28	Sunday March 1	Monday March 2	Tuesday March 3	Wednesday March 4	Thursday March 5
High: 71 Low: 40	High: 73 Low: 40	High: 78 Low: 47	High: 73 Low: 50	High: 77 Low: 53	High: 79 Low: 56	High: 79 Low: 58

Westbrook Christian hosts Etowah County Spelling Bee



Submitted photo

From left to right: Westbrook Christian School Head of School, Rachel Neal; 3rd Place, Jude Naughton; 2nd Place, Brooklyn Kwan; Winner, Phoenix Ramsey; Exchange Bank Rep. Jonathan Couch.

By Karla McArthur
Correspondent

The Etowah County 2025-26 Spelling Bee was held Feb. 10 at Westbrook Christian School, bringing together top elementary and middle school spellers from across the county.

Rachel Neal, head of school at Westbrook Christian, and Sandra Handley, Westbrook Elementary principal, welcomed guests, administrators and sponsors to the annual competition.

Thirty schools were represented from Attalla City, Gadsden City and Etowah County school systems, along with Westbrook Christian School, St. James Catholic School and Episcopal Day School. Students in grades 3-8 competed on behalf of their respective schools, with the top three spellers earning trophies provided by Exchange Bank. Jonathan Couch represented the bank at the event.

Laura Ann Brown Newton

served as pronouncer for the countywide competition. A 2013 graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she earned a bachelor's degree in professional writing and public discourse along with University Honors in science and technology, Brown later achieved paralegal certification through Auburn University in 2017. She was the 2004 and 2005 Alabama Spelling Bee champion and remains active in helping Alabama students, particularly homeschool students, access opportunities such as the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Judges for the competition were Cindy Greer, former head of school at Westbrook Christian; Bobbie Keenum, longtime English language arts teacher for Etowah County Schools and Westbrook Christian School; and Karla McArthur, former ELA teacher and media specialist for Etowah County and WCS.

After more than 20 rounds of competition, Phoenix Ramsey, an eighth grader at Rainbow Middle School, emerged as champion. Ramsey was accompanied by Principal Allison Lee and spelling bee sponsor Staci Edmondson.

Second place honors went to Brooklyn Kwan, a seventh grader at Gadsden Middle School. Kwan was accompanied by Principal Chance Goodwin and spelling bee sponsor Amanda Wall.

Third place was awarded to Jude Naughton, an eighth grader at St. James Catholic School, under the leadership of Principal John Parker and spelling bee sponsor Leila Suarez.

The annual event highlighted the academic dedication of students across Etowah County and celebrated a shared commitment among schools, families and community partners to excellence in literacy and learning.

Life Insurance Co. of AL names area at Challenger Center

By Karla McArthur
Correspondent

Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama has proudly announced the naming of its dining area in honor of Life Insurance Company of Alabama, recognizing the company's legacy of service, leadership and investment in communities across the state.

The naming recognizes Life Insurance Company of Alabama's support of Challenger's public capital campaign, Building STEM Talent—Together!, an initiative aimed at expanding access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for students throughout northeast Alabama.

Life Insurance Company of Alabama was founded in 1952 by the late Col. Clarence W. Daugeette Jr. Daugeette entered the life insurance business as an agent in 1927 and, following service in World War II, returned to the industry, where he held leadership roles in both field and management positions. He later established the company on principles of integrity, service and long-term benefit to families and communities.

After Daugeette's death in 1988, leadership of the company continued under President Clarence W. Daugeette III, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Raymond R. Renfrow Jr. and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Rosalie Renfrow Causey.

"Our company's success has always been rooted in service to others," Daugeette said. "Supporting Challenger Learning Center is



Submitted photo

Board Members on left: Tina Gregerson, Judge Allen Millican, Dr. Martha Lavender, Mr. Tony Smith (Board Chairman), Mr. Chad Strawn, Dr. Farrah Hayes. Board members on right: Dr. Teresa Rhea, Mr. Barry Cherry, Mr. Brian Snell, LICOA: Alie Renfroe Causey, Michael Causey, and Ren Causey.

a natural extension of that mission, as it helps build opportunity and talent for the future of northeast Alabama."

Daugeette also serves as a trustee for Jacksonville State University, Challenger's university partner.

The company's connection to Challenger is also personal. Ren Causey, grandson of Renfrow, attended Space Camp as a fifth grader, an experience family members said inspired their

decision to invest in Challenger's mission of sparking interest in STEM fields among young learners.

"Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama is exactly the kind of community partner we need to move our mission forward," said Alie Causey, executive vice president and chief financial officer and a third-generation executive of the company. "Our investment honors a remarkable legacy while directly

supporting the next generation of scientists, engineers, educators and innovators right here in northeast Alabama."

The newly named dining area will serve students, educators and visitors participating in Challenger programs, providing a shared space designed to foster community and connection.

"Life Insurance Company of Alabama's investment in Challenger Learning Center is an investment

in people — our students, our educators and the future workforce of northeast Alabama," said Farrah Hayes, executive director of Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama. "We are deeply grateful to the Daugeette family and Life Insurance Company of Alabama for believing in our mission and for helping us build STEM talent together for generations to come."

Through the Building STEM Talent—Togeth-

er! campaign, Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama is inviting businesses, families and civic leaders to help strengthen the region's workforce and expand educational opportunities.

For more information about Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama or the Building STEM Talent—Together! campaign, visit www.challengeral.org.



Little Caesars

**HOT-N-
READY**
PIZZA



NEWS

Gordon represents FFA chapter in public speaking competition

By Karla McArthur
Correspondent

Gaston High School sophomore Josie Gordon is making her mark both in and out of the classroom.

Gordon, a 10th-grade student ranked in the top 10 percent of her class with a 4.1 GPA, recently competed in the FFA Public Speaking Competition, an event that challenges members to research an agricultural topic and deliver a prepared speech before a panel of judges.

Participants in the competition are evaluated on their knowledge of the subject matter, speaking ability, organization and skill in answering judges' questions. The event is designed to help students build confidence, communication skills and leadership abilities.

Gordon said she was motivated to compete because it combined her passion for agriculture with opportunities for personal growth.

"I knew the prepared public speaking competition would give me the opportunity to pursue my passion for agriculture while improving my communication and leadership skills," Gordon said.

"Public speaking helps me become more confident in expressing my ideas and advocating for issues that matter to me, especially in the agricultural industry."

She said the competition pushed her outside of her comfort zone and strengthened skills she plans to use in college and her future career, including critical thinking and responding to questions on the spot.

Gordon is an active member of her school community. She participates in Beta Club, FFA, FBLA, Key Club, FCCLA, Peer Helpers, Bigs and Littles and First Priority. She also helped found her school's youth First Priority group. In addition, she serves as her class Student Government Association representative and plays varsity basketball and volleyball.

Gordon credited her parents, Jeannie and Jason Gordon, and her boyfriend, Maddox, for their constant encouragement while she prepared her seven-minute speech.

"They let me read it to them about 70 times without ever complaining and showed nothing but belief in me and my ability," she

said.

She also expressed gratitude for her FFA adviser, Mr. Wesley Heath, whom she described as a steady mentor throughout the process.

"He reminded me that I could do this and always made sure I knew I could go to him when I needed help," Gordon said.

Beyond competition results, Gordon said the experience helped her grow in confidence, discipline and courage. She said the support of advisers, judges and fellow competitors inspired her and strengthened her commitment to agriculture and leadership.

"Being part of FFA at my school is such an exciting experience," Gordon said. "I'm truly grateful to represent my chapter and the organization, and I plan to compete every year I can."

Gordon added that her faith played an important role in the journey, giving her peace and perseverance when she faced self-doubt.

She said she looks forward to continuing to grow through FFA and using her voice to advocate for the agricultural community.



4th Annual Jars of Love peanut butter drive to support food bank

Fourth Annual
March 2nd-27th
A Peanut Butter Drive to Fight Hunger

Let's collect as much peanut butter as we can from March 2nd-27th!
Please donate peanut butter in plastic - NOT GLASS - jars.

Physical donations of jars can be dropped off in the containers located at the Cafeteria, HR offices, or Marketing office (department pick ups may also be arranged).

NEW FOR 2026: Now Accepting Monetary Donations!
Visit bit.ly/GRMCJarsOfLove2026 or scan the QR code for details

All donations will be given to the Etowah County Food Bank & distributed throughout the county.
For more information or questions, contact Gadsden Regional's Marketing Department at 256-494-4300.

Gadsden Regional Medical Center is working to fight hunger in the community by collecting peanut butter to donate to Etowah Community Food Bank. The fourth annual Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive starts on March 2nd and will continue through March 27th. Gadsden Regional Medical Center collects peanut butter because it is one of the least donated items even though it is high in nutritional value and is shelf stable.

"Every year, Gadsden Regional Medical Center makes it a priority to give back to our community, and Jars of Love is one of our favorite ways to show that we care," said Michael Hall, CEO. "In our community, an estimated

17% of adults and over 22% of children experience hunger and don't have access to enough food, which can contribute to poor health. The Etowah Community Food Bank is working to address hunger in our area and we are proud to support their efforts, one jar of peanut butter at a time."

This year, Gadsden Regional Medical Center has a goal to collect 1,500 jars of peanut butter and other nut butters for the Etowah Community Food Bank. On top of accepting physical donations of jars, individuals and businesses may now support where all funds raised are given directly to the Etowah Communi-

ty Food Bank. Visit bit.ly/GRMCJarsOfLove2026 to view details and make a donation.

Please bring physical donations of jars to Will Mackey, Marketing Director, located in the 500 Building on Gadsden Regional's campus. Donations of jars may also be dropped off in the boxes located at the Cafeteria or Human Resources. Pick ups may also be arranged for local businesses upon request. Once the drive concludes on March 27th, all donations will be picked up by the Etowah County Food Bank and distributed throughout the county.

For more information, contact Gadsden Regional's Marketing Department at 256-494-4300.

SUBMIT NEWS TIPS OR PRESS RELEASES TO
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701 W. Grand Avenue | Rainbow City AL 35906

GADSDEN WATER
QUALITY · SERVICE · COMMUNITY

Maintenance Mechanic

Gadsden Water is currently accepting applications for a Maintenance Mechanic. Benefits include Local Government Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance, State of Alabama (Tier I) Retirement, paid time off and holidays. Salary will be based on applicable experience. Must possess and maintain a valid Alabama Driver's License.

Performs various repair/maintenance work (e.g., dismantles, overhauls, repairs and reassembles engines; troubleshoots electrical problems; replaces parts; repacks pumps; re-wires electrical panels; etc.). Diagnoses, maintains, and performs mechanical and electrical repair and maintenance on water treatment plant equipment, pumps, engines, motors, generators, controls, and other machinery.

Apply at Gadsden Water, 515 Albert Rains Blvd., between the hours of 8:00-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by printing application at <http://www.gadsdenwater.org> and mailing to: Gadsden Water, Attn: Personnel Department, P.O. Box 800, Gadsden, AL 35902. Applications may also be emailed to jobs@gadsdenwater.org. Deadline to apply is **March 13, 2026.**

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT
Gadsden Water Works does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and handicapped status in employment or the provision of service.

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NEWS

GSCC Police to host advanced women's self-defense class

The Gadsden State Police and Public Safety Department will host an Advanced Women's Self-Defense Class on April 18 at the Beck Conference Center. Admission is free and open to women ages 13 and older.

The class will begin at 8 a.m., with a classroom session scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon. A firearms range session will follow from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The training event is designed to help participants build confidence, strengthen situational awareness and develop practical self-defense and firearm safety skills.

Instruction will be led by experienced professionals from the Gadsden State Police & Public Safety Department, along with instructors from partnering local law enforcement agencies. Additional instructors and special guest speakers will be announced at a later date.

Class highlights include:

- Hands-on self-defense techniques
- Legal insights on self-protection
- Firearm awareness and safety training
- A supportive and empowering learning environment
- Lunch and snacks provided

Firearms portion: Participants should bring a functioning handgun and 50 rounds of ammunition.

"This class is more than just self-defense — it's about giving women the tools to feel confident, capable and safe," said Chief Jay Freeman. "We're honored to bring this level of training to our community and sincerely thank the departments and partners who are helping make this event possible."

Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged.

To register, contact Emily Feemster at 256-549-8276 or efeemster@gadsdenstate.edu. For additional information, contact Chief Freeman at jffreeman@gadsdenstate.edu.

This event offers a unique opportunity for women in Gadsden and throughout Alabama to learn, grow and strengthen personal safety skills in a positive and engaging environment.



Submitted photo

GSCC Police Chief Jay Freeman completes advanced training

Gadsden State Community College is proud to recognize Police Chief Jay Freeman for completing 160 hours of police management training through the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police and the University Partnership of Alabama as part of the Certified Law Enforcement Ex-

ecutive Program for the state of Alabama. Gadsden State Executive Vice President Dr. Tera Simmons formally recognized Chief Freeman's achievement, presenting him with a certificate in acknowledgment of his commitment to professional development and campus safety.

Chief Freeman's accomplishment reflects the College's continued commitment to professional development, leadership and excellence in law enforcement. The Police Management program focuses on leadership development, policy advancement, risk management and strengthening the profession to better serve campuses and surrounding communities.

Ongoing leadership training strengthens the department, and it enhances decision-making, improves policies, supports officer development and ensures the police force remains proactive in keeping the campuses and community safe.

Chief Freeman now joins other Alabama police chiefs who are working toward ad-

vanced certification and investing in the future of law enforcement leadership across the state.

"Leadership is not about a title; it is about service and responsibility," Freeman said. "I am thankful for the opportunity to continue learning alongside other law enforcement leaders across Alabama. The knowledge gained through this program will allow us to build stronger relationships, elevate our level of service and better serve our students, employees and communities each day."

Gadsden State Police and Public Safety is committed to developing strong leaders who help ensure safe campuses and resilient communities.



Submitted photo

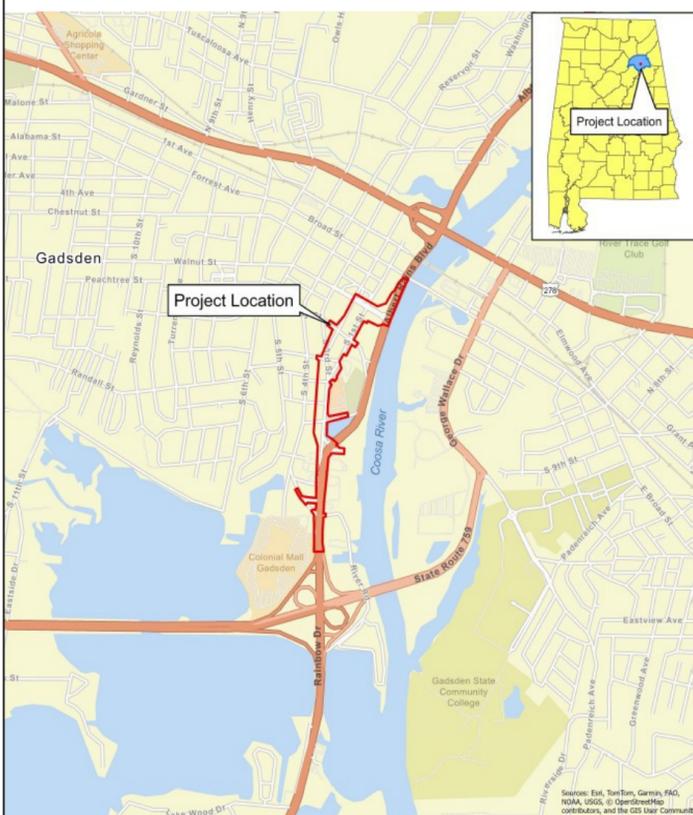
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING Relocation of US-411 (SR-25) in Gadsden

Wednesday, March 25th, 2026
The Venue at Coosa Landing
Meeting Room 3
Gadsden, Alabama 35903
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

The Public Involvement Meeting will be held from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the planning process of the proposed project. Representatives from the City of Gadsden and the Alabama Department of Transportation will be available at displays to discuss the proposed project and answer any questions. Comment sheets will also be made available for those who would like to submit written statements. Written statements must be mailed (postmarked) or e-mailed on or before April 9, 2026.

The proposed project is for the reconstruction of US-411 (SR-25) from the existing ramps on the north side of the I-759 / US-411 Interchange northward to just south of the Broad Street overpass. This includes improvements along the existing US-411, the realignment of US-411 to follow existing transportation corridors, and the realignment of US-411 on new location, in Gadsden, Alabama.

Email: US411Relocation@volkert.com
Phone: 1 (256)563-2933
Mail comments to: Volkert Inc.
ATTN: Thomas Lee
1110 Montlimar, Drive, Suit 1050, Mobile, AL. 36609



Wastewater Plant Operator

Gadsden Water Works is currently accepting applications for a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Must possess and maintain Grade III or IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification from ADEM and a valid Alabama Driver's License. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits, including Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance and State of Alabama Retirement.

Salary range is \$53,400 - \$72,900 per year.

Apply at Gadsden Water Works, 515 Albert Rains Blvd., between the hours of 8:00-4:30p.m. Monday through Friday, or by printing application at <http://www.gadsdenwater.org> and mailing to:

Gadsden Water Works, Attn: Personnel Department, P.O. Box 800, Gadsden, AL 35902. Applications may also be emailed to jobs@gadsdenwater.org. Deadline for all applications will be Friday, March 13, 2026.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Gadsden Water Works does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and handicapped status in employment or the provision of service.

NEWS

Senate committee passes bill requiring public schools to play national anthem

By Andrea Tinker
Alabama Reflector

An Alabama Senate committee on Wednesday approved a constitutional amendment that would require schools to regularly perform the national anthem.

SB 5, sponsored by Sen. Gerald Allen, R-Tuscaloosa, would require local boards of education to adopt policies to play the Star Spangled Banner in public K-12 schools once a week.

"It's a great bill to celebrate the anniversary of our country," Allen said during the Senate Education Policy Committee meeting.

This year is America's Semiquincentennial Celebration known as America250.

The bill passed the committee 6-3. All Democrats opposed the bill.

Sen. Roger Smitherman, D-Birmingham, said during the meeting he didn't think the bill should be a constitutional amendment.

I think I can support what you're trying to do here from a statutory standpoint, but I'm struggling with the fact that we're talking about the Constitution," he said.

Sen. Vivian Davis Figures, D-Mobile also said she couldn't support the



Anna Barrett/Alabama Reflector

Sen. Gerald Allen, R-Cottdale, speaking to the Senate Health Committee on Jan. 21, 2026, in the Alabama State House in Montgomery, Alabama.

bill as a part of the constitution and that she might offer an amendment when it goes to the Senate.

"I may do an amendment to put the Black National Anthem on there too, and we can play both of them and be totally diversified," she said.

Allen presented a similar bill during the 2025 Legislative Session. The bill passed the Senate but wasn't voted on in the House.

If passed the bill would be placed on the ballot for the 2026 midterm election. It goes to the Senate.

Bill to extend deadline for crime victims to apply for aid goes to Senate chamber



Brian Lyman/Alabama Reflector

Rep. Russell Bedsole, R-Alabaster, speaks to a colleague on the floor of the Alabama House of Representatives on Jan. 13, 2026. A Senate committee passed a bill he sponsored to give crime victims more time to apply for financial assistance from state.

By Ralph Chapoco
Alabama Reflector

An Alabama Senate committee approved legislation that increases the time limit that crime victims may apply to receive compensation from the state's crime victim compensation commission.

HB 255, sponsored by Rep. Russell Bedsole, R-Alabaster, extends the deadline for victims and their families to apply for claims to the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Com-

mission from one year to two years.

Sen. Lance Bell, R-Pell City, introduced the legislation in Bedsole's place at the Senate Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee.

"I think the goal, when you look at the justice system, you have to keep in mind that it partly has to do with hold offenders accountable, that is something we take very seriously in our state, but if we want the complete picture of the justice system, that is also how we serve the victims," Bed-

sole said after the meeting.

The legislation retains most of the elements already in state statute. The most significant change in the bill amends the law from one year to "two years." The bill leaves the other requirements in place for applicants to receive financial assistance.

That includes reporting the incident to law enforcement within 72 hours and that the applicants comply and cooperate with the investigation. Petitioners must also not be involved in the crime that they are seeking compensation.

Victim advocates urged lawmakers to approve the legislation because people affected by incidents of violent crime are left to navigate a slate of issues related to the trauma they experienced.

"I am very excited that the Senate thought it fit to pass the bill through the committee," said Everette Johnson, executive director of the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission, in an interview following the meeting. "This is an easy fix to helping more victims and giving them the opportunity to overcome their struggles and their challenges with being a victim."

The bill is now at the

same point in the legislative process as the one that Bedsole filed during the previous session. In 2025, the House of Representatives approved the bill, and it made it through the Senate committee, but it stalled in the Senate. Victims' rights and advocacy groups referred to the legislation at a rally on Tuesday as an initial measure that is part of a broader effort to provide additional resources to victims of violent crime and their families.

Aside from extending the deadline, speakers at the rally also urged the state to provide mental health services and therapy sessions to address post-traumatic stress disorders, along with money for lost wages and medical expenses. They also want to get money to the families for funeral and burial services for their loved ones who died.

The bill goes to the Senate.

"It is going to take our senators to see the importance of this and putting it on the calendar and getting it on the Governor's desk," Johnson said about what it will take to get the bill approved in the Legislature.

He added that it should be a "unanimous vote" to get it through.

Tax Season Information

Local free tax filing help available

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

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

Free tax preparation services are offered at multiple locations across the three counties. In Etowah County, assistance is available at the Etowah County Courthouse, Room 221, located at 800 Forrest Ave. in Gadsden, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; the Hokes Bluff Library at 3310 Alford Bend Road on Mondays from noon to 4 p.m.; the Jane Phillips Community Center at 115 Case Ave. in Attalla on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Rainbow City Community Center at 3702 Rainbow Drive on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; the George Wallace Senior Center in Glencoe on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and the East Gadsden Community Center at 921 Wilson St. on select Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Additional services are available at the Centre Administration Building, located at 260 Cedar Bluff Road in Centre, on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Sardis City Library on select Wednesdays from noon to 4 p.m.; the Walnut Grove Senior Center at 5151 Walnut Grove Road on select Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Ft. Payne Council on Aging at 600 Tyler Ave. SE in Ft. Payne on Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon by appointment; and the Moon Lake Library at 4607 Alabama Highway 117 in Mentone on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. by appointment.

Taxpayers using the free service should bring a photo ID, Social Security cards for everyone listed on the return, birth dates, a copy of last year's tax return, income documents

such as W-2s and 1099s, information on any cash income received, daycare payment details if applicable, and bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit.

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

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

Happy Birthday

To: **George Smooths**

7 ½ Dozen Years Old

Your Friend,

Susie Thomas (S.Frog)



GADSDEN PREMIERE CINEMAS

-LUX- PREMIERE

SCREEN 7

EPIC

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE 2

SCREAM 7

ELVIS PRESLEY
LIKE NEVER BEFORE

BAZ LUHRMANN'S
EPIC
ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT

ONE-WEEK EXCLUSIVE
MAX ENGAGEMENT STARTING
FEBRUARY 20TH
IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE
FEBRUARY 27TH

NEON

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE 2

Give the gift of entertainment




LIFESTYLE

Our lives are all parallel, though they look different



Tabitha Bozeman

I took a walk with our Great Danes and two of my girls the other day, enjoying the beautiful weather. The girls ran ahead of me, and it was fun to see them beside one another: different ages, different heights, but so similar in many ways. Both are living parallel lives and will grow up and compare their experiences in the same family, I'm sure. I hope they stay close, all of my children, and I hope they appreciate the beauty of their differences. As we walked, I noticed the mullein that is growing already, as well as the thistle, daffodils, and purple dead nettle. The trees are budding, and if you look closely enough, spring is already here, even if it has been a cold week. There are still so many dead leaves everywhere that it is easy to miss some of the hidden signs of the next season. Walking with the girls gave me the perfect opportunity to slow down and really pay attention.

Lent is a season of paying attention. For those who observe it strictly, it is a con-

tinual, daily practice of paying attention to what is missing and why. For those who observe it more casually, it is still an opportunity to see clearly, to pay closer attention to the aspects of our lives that we take for granted. For some, that looks like limiting diet or habit. For others, it might look like paying attention to what strangers might need, or how we interact with one another. Whatever form it takes, this is a season of observing, remembering, paying attention, and seeing clearly as we move forward with intention.

Something I have thought a lot about recently is just how parallel all our lives are. On a grand scale, we all are born, live, and pass away. On a daily level, though, some lives look vastly different than others. The human experience varies greatly. These variations can create opportunity for connection, or drive disconnect. Often, these differences are minute and if we aren't paying attention, we might miss them. Other times, the differences are so obvious it can be hard to find similarities. This week, I was looking at Gerry Yaum's photojournalism of the people who live under the freeway in Bangkok. They are living life at the same time I am, making do with next to nothing. Babies are born, raised, and do homework in makeshift homes under overpasses. Dinners and celebrations are enjoyed only yards away from railroad tracks. Beds are makeshift and piled on the

ground. A friend showed me a video from Drew Binsky who has traveled through Manila and experienced the underground tunnel beneath the freeway where at least 100 families live. She also showed me documentaries of the "coffin houses" and "cage houses" that many people in Hong Kong call home. Seeing individuals in Hong Kong living in spaces barely large enough to lie down in, in kennels stacked on top of one another, after working all day is sobering. Especially when I can stand in my home and look around trying to decide what to get rid of when I declutter. While I choose what and how to limit, others are living within limitations they have not chosen. Both limitations are real, but they are not equal. Seeing these differences and not taking my life for granted is one way I can pay attention.

I am working toward paying attention to my own limitations, to the unexpected opportunities for gratitude and connection, the smallest signs of Spring, and the quiet beauty of this seasonal shift. Going for walks, chatting with my family, noticing when a student seems down, and paying attention as we all live our parallel lives reminds me to see my life clearly.

This season is my favorite for outside walks with the girls. There is so much to look for, and changes happening right in front of us if we are paying attention. The seasons change no matter what our daily

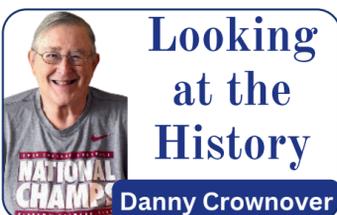
routines look like, and slowing down so we can see it happen is a gift we can give ourselves as much as paying attention is a gift to those we love.

I hope I continue learning to truly see and to pay attention in the way the poet Mary Oliver did, treating this sacrament of seeing as sacred in her poem "Where Does the Temple Begin, Where Does It End?"

She writes: "There are things you can't reach. But, you can reach out to them, and all day long. The wind, the bird flying away. The idea of God. And it can keep you as busy as anything else, and happier. The snake slides away; the fish jumps, like a little lily, out of the water and back in; the goldfinches sing from the unreachable top of the tree. I look; morning to night I am never done with looking. Looking I mean not just standing around, but standing around as though with your arms open. And thinking; maybe something will come, some shining coil of wind, or a few leaves from any old tree — they are all in this too. And now I will tell you the truth. Everything in the world comes. At least, closer. And, cordially. Like the nibbling, tinselled fish; the unlooping snake. Like goldfinches, little dolls of goldfluttering around the corner of the sky of God, the blue air."

Tabitha Bozeman is an instructor at GSCC. Email at tabithabozean@gmail.com.

Gadsden old cemetery relocated 1879



Danny Crownover

When Gadsden was first surveyed and platted into 260 lots by W. S. Brown, the engineer who first surveyed the Tennessee & Coosa Railroad (later the N. C. & St. L.) from Guntersville to this city, provision was made for a cemetery in the middle of the block bounded by Broad, Locust, Court and Fifth Streets.

That was in the early 1840s and the block

was then in the woods, the main business section being down on the river bluff. It fronted on Broad and Locust Streets and came up almost to Fifth Street, being directly behind the present city hall.

When the town began to spread it was found that the cemetery was in the way of progress and it was decided to remove it. The only way that could be done was to have the legislature to pass an act in 1879 authorizing the removal of the graves and soon afterward the work was started.

The contract for removing the graves was awarded to John Plumkett, an Irish ditch digger who was an artist in his line.

He had small, black boxes about three feet long in which to place bodies but he found mostly a few bones and black dirt.

The graves were transferred to Forrest Cemetery and the Hughes Cemetery.

Old timers will recall that in one grave was found the body of a soldier that was fairly well preserved. In another was nothing but a coil of beautiful red hair, evidently that of a young girl that crumbled when air reached it.

Some of the graves were marked by tombstones. Some were bricked up with marble slabs on top, but most of them were marked only by wooden slabs.

Even at that time many of the buried had been forgotten. It was recalled that before the brick building occupied by the Economy Auto Stores and the Suzanne Shop, erected in 1892 it was necessary to remove 14 graves.

Judge J. M. Moragne, who owned the lot, removed the graves of his uncles, James and Frank Moragne, and that of their mother, Mrs. Mary Moragne, to the

Hughes Cemetery.

There were some graves on the north side of Locust Street and east side of Fifth Street, but that was long before the main cemetery was established.

Will I. Martin recalled that when years later the city cut a deep drainage ditch on the east side of Fifth Street from Locust to the N. C. & St. L. Railroad workmen uncovered a row of graves that were really out in the street.

They were in a row, indicating that they may have been the last resting place of soldiers. Some suggested they were graves of slaves or, perhaps, Indians. Nobody around then could recall having known anything about them.

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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

DEVOTIONALS

Pudding, playgrounds and permission to shine



I have a vivid memory from fourth grade circa 1981. I pull it out whenever I'm trying to break the ice with students or answer one of those dreaded "tell us something about yourself that nobody knows" polls during a faculty meet and greet. Once you hear it, you'll understand why my colleagues wonder if I'm okay. (The jury is still out on that one.) It's been a year since I shared it here, so I thought it was time for a retelling.

It was recess on a perfectly sunny day at Liberty School in Calhoun, Georgia. I was sliding down the big silver slide on the playground, eating chocolate pudding in a can (if you know you know), all while singing "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt" with the enthusiasm of a kid who believed—deep in her soul—that the entire playground needed this performance. As I neared the bottom, I took a bite of pudding just before belting out the word "Schmidt."

In that sacred childhood moment, I learned two very important lessons:

1- Momma was right, you should not talk—or sing—with your mouthful.

2- Chocolate pudding burns coming out of your nose in ways science still can't fully explain.

Liberty was special to me. Once a week, I went there with some of my best friends as part of our gifted program. It was my safe place—my creative refuge—my break from trying so hard to "fit" everywhere else. Inside that old rock schoolhouse, it was okay to be "too much." We were loud, curious, imaginative, and quirky—and no one minded.

In my regular classroom, fitting in was... harder. Sure I had straight As in the academic areas, but my conduct grade. Well. Let's just say it told a different story. "Sandra talks too much," "Sandra annoys others," "Sandra daydreams."

None of it was entirely untrue. But those words didn't tell the whole story. However, even though they were not the bulk of the words written in the beautiful, cursive penmanship of my teachers, they were the ones my heart focused on.

I started trying to shrink myself. I learned to quiet down. To stay in line. To not be "too much." And eventually, I absorbed a belief that—who I really am is annoying—who I really am is too much.

It was not until years later that I let a different set of red-lettered comments take root in my heart and guard my mind. The red letters of Jesus in the New Testament

began to mean more to me than report card comments—or the whispers of the enemy of my mind—telling me that I was too much.

This week, I had the opportunity to cheer on a group of seniors that I taught as 9th and 10th graders. I haven't seen them since I started teaching online in 2024. I was so excited to go to Jacksonville State to cheer them on in the Elite 8. I knew I would see the band members, cheerleaders, athletes and lots of familiar faces I once saw everyday for two years, and I couldn't wait.

Once I got to the coliseum, though, I heard the familiar whispers of the liar telling me, "Here you go again – being too much. You don't even teach there anymore. Why did you come? Tone it down."

Blah. Blah. Blah.

Honestly, at 54, so many years removed from those report card comments – so much of God's Word hidden in my heart – I could still feel the insecurity and instinct to hide. But then, Matthew 5:16 pushed through: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven" (ESV).

Jesus didn't say, "Hide your light so people won't be uncomfortable." He didn't say, "Tone it down so you don't annoy anyone." He said, "Shine."

Shine anyway. Shine on purpose. Shine when you're scared. Shine for God's glory, not people's approval.

So that is what I tried to do. I cheered. I

laughed. I walked over to the student section—smiling and afraid. And, just like that, I was greeted by precious shouts of, "Mrs. Bost!" "I miss you!" So, I smiled brighter. Cried a little. Hugged tighter. And let the Light of Jesus shine.

I don't always get this right. Sometimes I still shrink. Sometimes I still assume I'm an annoyance. Sometimes I still try to become less of who God made me. But, I'm learning to recognize the enemy's old lie—and replace it with Jesus's truth.

If you've ever believed the lie that you're "too much," or "not enough," or "out of place," listen to The Message paraphrase of Matthew 5:14-16:

"...You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this...I'm putting you on a light stand... be generous with your life. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God..."

Even if your light feels a little messy or chocolate-splattered (even snorted) at times, let it shine! The world needs the brightness God put inside of you—exactly as you are!

Shine on! (And sing with your mouthful if you must!) Jesus (and me) are cheering for you!

Connect with Bost on social media platforms by searching for "Sandra Mullins Bost."

So stop questioning whether you belong

Have you ever walked into a room and wondered if you really belonged there? Maybe you've sat in church looking around and thinking everyone else seems more qualified, more gifted, or more prepared than you. It's easy to feel like you're just taking up space while others seem to know exactly where they fit.

But here is a truth that can change the way you see yourself. Your presence is not an accident. God did not randomly place you where you are. He intentionally included you in His story.

You are not here to be a spectator. You are not here simply to fill a seat. You are here because the Creator of the universe looked at His plan and decided you were needed. Your life, your gifts, and even your experiences are part of the way

God builds His kingdom.

Scripture reminds us that the church is like a body with many parts. Every part matters. No single part can do the job alone, and none are unnecessary.

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ... Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."- 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

That means your presence matters more than you realize. Every time you show up, you are stepping into a divine appointment. God placed you exactly where you are for a reason. Your voice, your service, your encouragement, and your faith all play a role in something bigger than any one person could accomplish alone.

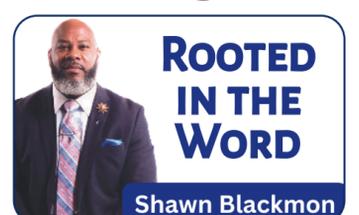
So stop questioning whether you be-

long. Instead, begin to embrace the truth that God chose you to be part of His work. When you understand that, you move from simply attending to actively participating in what God is doing.

You are not here by coincidence. You are not here just to observe or to fill a seat. God placed you here on purpose. And the real question is this: what would change in your life if you truly believed that God specifically chose you to be part of His bigger plan?

Walk in grace. Stand in truth. Live blessed.

Pastor Shawn Blackmon serves as the Lead Pastor of UNITY Church in Attala, Alabama, where his preaching is real, relevant and rooted in the un-



changing Word of God. Beyond the pulpit, he serves as CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama, leading life-changing mentoring initiatives that empower young people across five counties. His leadership bridges the gap between the Church and the community, inspiring collaboration, compassion and lasting transformation.

Your Weekly Devotionals



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OBITUARIES



Jerry McGinnis

GADSDEN - Visitation and Funeral services for Mr. Jerry Reed McGinnis, age 89, of Gadsden, Alabama, were held on Monday, February 16, 2026, at Collier Butler Funeral Home. Mr. McGinnis passed away on Thursday morning, February 12, 2026, after an extended illness. Pastor Ricky Smith and Bro. Eddie Gooch officiated. Burial followed at Crestwood Cemetery. Collier-Butler Funeral Home was in charge of services.

Mr. McGinnis graduated from Gadsden High School, Class of 1955, then attended the University of Alabama and obtained a degree in Commerce and Business Administration. He then married the love of his life, Sherre. He owned McGinnis Construction Company.

He faithfully attended services as long as he was able as a member of Hokes Bluff First Methodist Church. In retirement, he and Sherre enjoyed traveling, college football, keeping up with friends, Gold Tiger, and being a supportive "Co-Pilot" to members of Pilot International and the Alabama District.

He was preceded in death by his parents Carl and Nellie McGinnis.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sherre Arnold McGinnis, daughters Deborah (Joe) Sanders, and Amy (Antone) Courtney, Brother-in-law Walter (Linda) Arnold, niece, Mari Paige Minyard, nephew, Jay (Robyn) Arnold, God-daughters, Maggie Briscoe Brown and Kathryn Briscoe.

Honorary Pallbearers: Lifelong friend Renick Adams, Bill Briscoe, Sammye Hill, and the Jerutha Barlow Family.

Special thanks to his caregivers from Compassionate Comforters (Amanda, Christi, Christy, Clara, Courtney, Drake, Katie, Kourtney, Leah, Susan, Teresa) and the staff of Enhabit Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: Hokes Bluff First Methodist Church, 3001 Alford Bend Road, Hokes Bluff, AL 35903, Alabama District / Pilot International, c/o Kay Chandler, District Treasurer, 104 Jackson Way, Decatur, AL 35603, or your favorite charity.



Jerry Weaver

RAINBOW CITY - Jerry Weaver 94 passed away on February 20, 2026, with his family by his side at his home in Rainbow City, Alabama.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 73 years Irene Ball Weaver. Parents, J.B. & Jackie Weaver, Brother, John Weaver, Sister, Bobbie Florer, Great Grandson, Colby Vinson.

He is survived by his sons Harold (Denise) Weaver, Daryl (Tonia) Weaver, Grandchildren, Jason (Carla) Weaver, Jennifer (Brian) Graham, Maegan (Brad)

Minton, Joseph (Jennie) Weaver, Great Grandchildren, Alexis (Andrew) Willis, Derek (Faith) Graham, Lauren Weaver, Anna Scott Weaver, Jax Weaver, C.J. Weaver, Great Great Grandchildren, Presley Vinson, Anderson Rae Willis, Amelia Drue Willis, Blakely Faith Graham, Baker Allen Graham, Sister In-Laws, Vecha Weaver, Pauline McDaniel, Margie Hanson, Mattie Bill Turner and many Special Nieces and Nephews. Also his special friends Neville Smith and Clyde Phillips.

He was born on Sexton Creek in Clay County Kentucky. He graduated high school from Annville Institute in 1950 where he gained the love for the Skilled Trades. He moved to Dayton Ohio in 1951 where he was reacquainted with a back home girl Irene Ball. They were married on March 8th 1952. He was hired as a Tool & Die Apprentice by International Tool. The company moved him to Gadsden Alabama in 1958 to train people in the Tool & Die trade. This is where his passion for training really began. In 1962 they took a leap of Faith and started Dixie Tool & Die. Soon after he was joined by his brother John Weaver and Brother in-law Dave McDaniel. This small start grew into a multinational Holding Company Known as Mid-South Industries of which he always gave the credit to all the employees for its success. Jerry was very supported of the local efforts to promote Skilled Trades. He worked with the late Congressman Tom Bevell along with Gadsden State Administration in obtaining funds to build the Bevell Center. He was a past President of the Gadsden Chamber and served on various Boards. In 1980 he served as the President of the National tooling & Machining Association and traveled across the country promoting the skilled trades even in Congressional Hearings.

Jerry accomplished much in life with a strong Loving wife and family by his side. But his Greatest was in May of 2025 when he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and was Baptized in July. Therefore, Our family rejoices in knowing that Mom & Dad are in the arms of Our Lord. He was a member of White Springs Baptist Church and a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason.

Pallbearers will be Jason Weaver, Joseph Weaver, Brian Graham, Brad Minton, Andrew Willis, Derek Graham. Honorary Pallbearers Rick Marbut, Mark Weaver, Jeff Morgan, Dwight Allen.

The Family would like to Thank Special Friends Tonya Morgan and Brenda Hamby. Caregivers Carol Pooley and Chastity Bowden

Flowers will be accepted. Services will be at Rominger Funeral Home Manchester, Ky on Friday, March 6, 2026 at 2 PM. Rev. Mitchell Ball will be presiding. Graveside services will be conducted at the Weaver Cemetery in Sexton Creek, Kentucky. The family will receive friends and loved ones on Friday, March 6, 2026 after 1 PM at the Rominger Funeral Home Chapel.

On Sunday March 8 at 2 PM we will have a Celebration of life for both Jerry and Irene at White Springs Baptist in Rainbow City, Alabama.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Rominger Funeral Home.

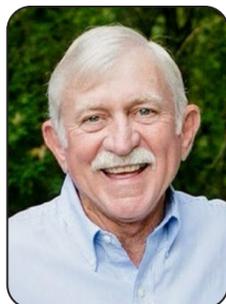
Claire Hand

SOUTHSIDE - Funeral service for Claire Hand, age 18 of Southside, was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at Williams Southside Chapel with Ray Tucker officiating.

Ms. Hand passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026,

at her residence. She was born, February 8, 2008, to Stan Hand and Angie Hand. She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Michael H Hand.

Survivors include her father, Stan Hand; mother, Angie Hand; sisters, Mary Grace and Anna-Leigh Hand; grandparents, Sally (Ken) Sterling, Don Nelms and Leesona Harvey; uncles, John Hand and Jason (Judy) Nelms; and a host of friends at Southside High School.



Kevin Charles Brown

REECE CITY - Kevin Charles Brown, 74, of Reece City passed away in his home surrounded by his loving family on February 24, 2026. He was born on September 16, 1951, to Ernest (Jack) and Elizabeth (Betty) Brown. He attended St. James Catholic School and graduated from Emma Sansom High School in 1969. He went on to earn degrees from Jacksonville State University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the University of Alabama. Kevin began his teaching career at Hokes Bluff Elementary School, where he taught P.E., then transferred to Hokes Bluff Middle School as a PE teacher and assistant principal. Finally, he retired as the principal at Whitesboro Elementary School.

Left to remember his love and kindness are his wife of 52 years, Cathy Countryman Brown; his daughters, Kasey (Bubba) Roberts and Emily (Kyle) Battles; his grandchildren, Reese Battles, Madelyn Roberts, Reed Battles, Baylee Roberts, and Jack Roberts; his sister Patricia (David) Herrod, and brother Terry (Dollie) Brown. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Jeff Brown.

Known as Paw Paw by so many, he was a loving husband, father, grandfather, friend, and teacher. His love for the Lord was evident in his actions and words. Kevin touched the lives of so many people through his giving heart and kind soul. We were all blessed to have known him.

Visitation will be held at St. James Catholic Church on Friday, March 6, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Following that will be a memorial mass at 2:00 p.m. A graveside service will be held at Crestwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Center of Concern.

Special thanks to Father Jose Chacko and our St. James Catholic Church family, Dr. Maury Minton, Dr. James Markert and team, Dr. Lewis Nabors, all the Neuro Intensive Care team at UAB, Centerwell, Gentiva, Nakita Kerksey, Renithia Cleveland, and Norva Wood.



Patricia Cornelius Brewer
GLENCOE - Mrs. Patricia Cornelius Brewer, 79,

of Glencoe, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family, on February 17, 2026. Funeral services were held Friday, February 20, 2026, at Crestwood Funeral Home, with her brother Keith Cornelius officiating the services. Burial followed at Crestwood Cemetery.

Patricia was preceded in death by her parents, Dee Cornelius and Lillian Johnson, brothers, Austin Machen, Gaylon Cornelius, and Ricky Cornelius.

Patricia was survived by her loving husband of 59 years Jack Brewer and children, Rhonda (Greg) Bryant and Susan (Scott) Shropshire, grandsons: Alex Whaley, Jonathan (Kristy) Whaley, and Ashton (Chase) Adams and many great grandchildren, brothers: Don (Judy) Cornelius and Keith (Betty) Cornelius, sister-in-laws: Sharon Cornelius and Page Cornelius and a host of nieces and nephews.

Patricia "Pat" Brewer loved deeply and generously, and her life reflected a steadfast faith in the Lord. She was a creative, multi-talented woman, always willing to help anyone in need and ready to share whatever she had. A good and loyal friend, she walked through life with open hands and an open heart, leaving behind a quiet legacy of kindness, service, and unwavering love.



Patricia Bunt Edge

HOKES BLUFF - Funeral Service for Patricia Bunt Edge, age 79 of Hokes Bluff, will be Friday, February 27, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Glencoe Hokes Bluff Funeral Home with Pastor Ricky Smith officiating the service. Burial will follow at Box Cemetery in Ragland. The family will receive friends from 1:00 PM until time of the service at the funeral home.

Patricia passed away peacefully at her home on February 24, 2026. She was preceded in death by her parents, Thynus and Beulah Bunt, her brother, Anthony Bunt and her brother-in-law, Harve Campbell.

Left to cherish the memories of Patricia are her loving husband of 57 years, John Edge; her sister, Joan Bunt Campbell; her daughter, Amy Edge; her son, Vann (Jamie) Edge; grandchildren, Jessica (Matt) Bowers, Patricia (Derek) Golden, Kasi Holl, Elizabeth & Jack Edge; great grandchildren, John Bennett & Hudson Holl and Smoke Ledbetter.

Patricia graduated from Ragland High School in 1965. She was a cheerleader and majorette. Patricia was selected as Ragland High School Homecoming Queen in 1964. After high school, she attended Gadsden State where she was a member of the first graduating class. She worked in customer service at Bell South and retired from AT&T after 31 years of service.

Patricia was a member of Hokes Bluff Methodist Church. She enjoyed working with Fill My Cup Ministry before her illness.

Her favorite activity was watching her grandchildren dance and play sports. She loved spending time with her family and special neighbors.

The family would like to offer a special thanks to Dr. Steve Sanders and Janice Robinson; Jay Beggs & the entire staff of ACG Hospice; and Cherokee County Health & Rehab Center.

Pallbearers will be family and friends.

Lillie O. (Coats) Tryon

With deepest sorrow we announce the passing of Mrs. Lillie O. (Coats) Tryon. Please remember her family in your prayers. Arrangements to be announced.



Ada Lou Stokes

Ada Lou Stokes was born on July 12, 1930, in Anniston, Alabama, to Dallas and Nannie Dutton. She passed away on February 19, 2026, in Birmingham, Alabama, at the age of 95. A graveside service will be held at Crestwood Memorial Cemetery on March 14, 2026 at 3 p.m.

Ada Lou grew up in Anniston and was the third of four sisters. She attended First Baptist Church of Anniston, where she met William Howard Stokes. They fell in love and were married on June 12, 1955. In her early married years, Ada Lou worked as a teller at a local bank. She loved being a homemaker for Howard and their two girls, Cindy and Karen. Her life reflected a love for her Lord, His Church, and her family.

Ada Lou was an active member of her local church wherever she lived—whether in Anniston, Talladega, Gadsden, or Birmingham. She was a faithful member of Meadow Brook Baptist Church in Gadsden, where she served by teaching children and participating in the Women's Missionary Union. Ada Lou loved helping with and leading Backyard Bible Clubs for many years. She also had a heart for those in local nursing homes.

In 2014, she moved to Birmingham to be closer to family and joined North Shelby Baptist Church. She found great community through this congregation.

Ada Lou loved playing games and being with people. We all knew her favorite game was dominoes, and she found people to play with her no matter where she lived. However, her greatest earthly love was her family. She could never get enough time with her girls, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

She shared her love for others by intentionally sending handwritten notes. If you knew Ada Lou, you probably received a note or two over the years.

In every season of her life, her faith remained strong. Even in her very last days, she was a light for her Savior. Psalm 116:2 says, "Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live."

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, William Howard Stokes, and her three sisters, Helen Heptinstall, Betty Cater, and Audrey Gray.

Ada Lou is survived by her daughters, Cindy Stokes Bailey (Andy) and Karen Stokes Blackburn (Vance); her grandchildren, Jennifer Mitchell (Butch), Wade Bailey, Kyle Bailey, Caroline Wallace (Jim), Will Blackburn (Sarah), and Ben Blackburn (Eden); and her great-grandchildren, Bailey Dassow, Ashley Dassow, Rylan Bailey, Reese Bailey, Luke Wallace, Mary Reynolds Wallace, Ada Wallace, Hyde Blackburn, Calum Blackburn, and Rhodes Blackburn.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Southern Baptist Convention International Mission Board at www.imb.org.

Pallbearers will be Wade Bailey, Kyle Bailey, Will Blackburn, Ben Blackburn, Jim Wallace, and Butch Mitchell.



Barbara Anne Otwell

GLENCOE - Funeral service for Barbara Anne "Aimee" Otwell, age 88, of Glencoe was held Friday, February 20, 2026 at Glencoe Hokes Bluff Funeral Home with Reverend Joseph Stafford Rowser Jr. officiating. Burial followed at Crestwood Cemetery.

Ms. Otwell passed away on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at Cherokee County Health and Rehab.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Lisa Carol Otwell; parents, Buster Walden and Lessie Pendergrass Walden; sisters, Betty Allen and Carolyn Johnson.

Barbara is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Lori McClellan; step-daughter, Terri Byer (Dan); and a host of nieces and nephews.

Aimee held a special place in her heart for her two granddaughters, McKenna Haynes (Braxton) and McKenzie McClellan, whose lives were a source of deep pride and joy.

Barbara's family finds comfort in the lasting legacy of love, kindness, and strength that she leaves with each of them.

Aimee was a member of Red Cross. She graduated from Glencoe High School in 1955 and later graduated from Gadsden State Community College in 1976 where she earned her nursing degree. She started her career at Baptist Memorial Hospital and later retired from Gadsden Regional Medical Center after 44 years of service. An avid reader who loved the outdoors, she found peace in nature and comfort in quiet moments with a good book. Her faith was central to her life; she treasured reading her Bible and could often be found sitting on the front porch, singing traditional gospel songs—a simple joy that reflects her deep spirit and love of home.

Special thanks to Cherokee County Health and Rehab memory care unit and Gentiva Hospice.



Barbara White Mobley

HOKES BLUFF - Barbara Ann White Mobley, age 77 of Hokes Bluff, passed away February 21, 2026, at Gadsden Regional Medical Center. Barbara will be laid to rest at Hebron Cemetery in Ohatchee, AL.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Millie Ruth Phillips White and Clifford Rowan White, sister, Betty Gail Loggins Morris, and brother, Tony White.

Left to cherish her memories are her son, Clay (Kathy) Vest, grandsons, David (Sarah) Vest, Christopher (Courtney) Vest, and Patrick Vest, sister, Connie White, brothers, Johnny Lee (Debbie) White and Tim (Gina) White, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Barbara was a member of College Heights Baptist Church. She was a graduate of Hokes Bluff High School and Gadsden State Community College with an Associates Degree in Nursing. She retired from Coosa Valley Health Care.

OBITUARIES



Beatrice Cleghorn Smith

HOKES BLUFF - Funeral service for Beatrice Cleghorn Smith, age 94 of Hokes Bluff, was held Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at Glencoe-Hokes Bluff Funeral Home with Rev. Rickey Smith officiating the services. Burial followed at Hokes Bluff Cemetery.

Mrs. Smith passed away February 21, 2026 at Cherokee County Health and Rehab. She was preceded in death by her husband, Cresful Smith, son, Kevin Smith, parents, Nick and Louise Cleghorn, sister, Nickie Cleghorn.

Left to cherish the memories of Beatrice are her sister, Betty Chapman, daughters, Lorrie (Dave) Vice and Wendy Hall, daughter-in-law, Paula Smith, granddaughters, Abigail Hall, and Desiree (Joey) Raper and sons, grandsons, Brian (Misty) Robbins and Micah (Carrie) Robbins and their families, nieces and nephews and their families, special dear friend, Teresa St. John.

Beatrice was born in Sylacauga. She moved to the Hokes Bluff area during her senior year of High School. It was there that she met the love of her life, Cresful Smith, to whom she was married for almost 65 years.

She was a member of the Hokes Bluff Methodist Church and the Dewey Ryan Sunday School Class. Bea assisted with the scholarships for students from the church. She also participated in Quilting Squares sewing outreach.

Her tenure at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company ended when Lorrie was born. She began her employment with the Etowah County Board of Education as a substitute teacher. She served as a Title I instructional aide at Hokes Bluff High School and retired as the office assistant and registrar at Hokes Bluff Middle School, in 1993.

She and Cresful loved traveling with family and friends. They traveled to forty-nine of the fifty states, and touched soil from all fifty states with brief journeys into Canada and Mexico. They also enjoyed life at Weiss Lake, where family and friends were treated to food, fun, and fellowship.

Gardening was special to Bea. She canned the heirloom Cleghorn green beans that she and Cresful raised. Her homemade salsa and vegetable soup were enjoyed by many lucky recipients. Rooting rose bushes and shrubs came easy to her. She was fiercely proud of her family. She offered support spiced with much advice, but blanketed with love. She will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved her.

The family request no flowers. Memorials may be made to the Hokes Bluff Methodist Church.

The family would like to offer special thanks to Cherokee County Health and Rehab Center, especially station 2 staff for their loving care. The support of Southern Care New Beacon Hospice is also appreciated.



Carol Keith Roberts

RAINBOW CITY - Carol Keith Roberts, age 87 of Rainbow City passed away February 16, 2026.

Funeral Service was held Monday, February 23, 2026 at Morgan Funeral Chapel with Bro. Michael Knight officiating. Burial at Rainbow Memorial Gardens.

It is with loving remembrance that we celebrate the life of Carol Keith Roberts, who was called home to be with the Lord at the age of 87. Carol was a devoted woman of faith, she loved the lord with all her heart. She never missed an opportunity to share the hope of heaven and the goodness of God with those around her. Her life was marked by service. As a nurse, Carol cared for countless patients with gentle hands and a tender spirit. Beyond her nursing career, she found great joy in caring for children. Babysitting was one of her greatest pleasures, and little ones were naturally drawn to her warmth and patience. She poured love into every child she cared for.

Above all she cherished her family. Being a mother was one of her proudest roles and she loved her children deeply. As a Grandmother she truly shined. "Granny" was a title she wore with honor. She spoiled her grandchildren and great grands with hugs, home cooked meals, and heartfelt prayers.

She taught by example, showing her family what it meant to love deeply, forgive freely, and trust in God always.

Her Family takes comfort knowing she is now resting in the arms of her savior.

"Well done, good and faithful servant"

Preceded in Death: her parents, BB and Evelyn Keith, her beloved husband Jack Roberts Sr., her siblings, Ginger Curtis and Joe Keith, and her precious children, Keith Roberts and Donna Roberts

Survived by: Jack, (Lee Ann) Roberts Jr., Cheryl Roberts, Chris Keith, Thomas Keith, Grandchildren: Jason Shafer, Rachel Russell, Brandi (Kenny) Clevenger, Kasey (Ricky) Ray, Jeremy Roberts, Brian Roberts, Tiffany (Aaron) Reddy, Paul (Kaylee) Roberts, Alireza (Atefeh) Chamanzad, several great grandchildren and her brother, Don (Pat) Keith, Thomas (MaryAnn) Keith and Chris (Chikako) Keith.

In Lieu of Flowers, Memorials may be made to Safe Harbor Church of God, Rainbow City

Special thanks given to: Magnolia Gardens Assisted Living, Thank you for loving her and taking such good care of her.



Channie Watkins

GADSDEN - Channie Denise Watkins, 70 of Gadsden, passed away on February 22, 2026, at home surrounded by family.

Channie was preceded in death by her parents, Dixon Butler and Nevelyn Gough.

Left to cherish her memories are her husband, Earl Charles "Chas" Watkins Jr., daughter, Crystal Dawn White, brother, Charles Gough, nieces, Hannah Gough and Elizabeth Gough Pines.

Mrs. Watkins was a member of Peavine Baptist Church in Ringgold, Georgia. She was a graduate of Glen Oaks High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She enjoyed fishing, going to fall festivals, and traveling.



Charles McGatha

HOKES BLUFF - Funeral Service for Charles O. McGatha of Hokes Bluff will be Saturday February 28, 2026 at 1:00 PM at Glencoe Hokes Bluff Funeral Home. Burial will follow the service at Young's Chapel Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 11:00 AM until time of the service.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Odell and Jenny McGatha, his mother-in-law, Lula Evans and his sister, Jewell Phillips.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Wanda McGatha, his children, Angie (Tim) Russell and Keith (April) McGatha, his grandchildren, Russell (Aqua) Addison, Koby (Jaylea) Addison and Kaitlyn (Trey) Otten. His one great grandson, Asher Addison, his sisters, Liz Gidley and Wynette Norris, his brothers, Cecil McGatha and Lamar McGatha and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. McGatha was a member of Young's Chapel Church where he played in the church praise band. He enjoyed working in the yard, being outdoors, and carpentry. He was an extremely hard worker and spent some time as a Grave Digger. His most favorite pastime was spending time with his children, grandchildren and great grandson. One of his favorite pastimes was playing music with his friends at the Rusty Nail.



Dale Mackey

GLENCOE - Dale Mackey, 62, of Glencoe, passed away at home on February 24, 2026, surrounded by family.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents, A.B. and Clara Mackey; brothers, Rick and Chuck Mackey; and sisters, Cindy and his twin, Denise.

Dale is survived by his wife of 38 years, Patti Mackey; sons, Dillon (Ashleigh) Mackey and Luke (Katie) Mackey, and their children, Kade and Myka; sister, Rita Bucy; sister-in-law and friend, Dana Abrams; and longtime friends, James and Peggy Beard, along with a host of nieces and nephews.

Dale was a gentle, kind, and honest man with a truly genuine heart. He loved his family and friends deeply and showed that love in steady and faithful ways. His great strength and calm presence were a comfort to those around him. He had a quiet way about him, but when he picked up his guitar, you could feel the depth of who he was.

Music was more than just a pastime for Dale; it was part of him. In every note he played, there was warmth, sincerity, and love. Those moments reflected the tenderness and depth of his spirit.

Dale will be remembered for his kindness, his integrity, and the love he gave so

freely. Dale was blessed by his church family at Gadsden Church of Christ, where he valued fellowship and community.

Funeral services will be held at Crestwood Funeral Home on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 11 a.m. Visitation will begin one hour prior at 10 a.m. Chris Gallegher and Craig Hill will be officiating. Burial will follow at Crestwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Dillon Mackey, Luke Mackey, James Beard, Drew Chumley, Bobby Allen, and Brent Lang.

Special thanks to his amazing caregivers, Tonya and Brandy, and to the nurses in his final weeks, Shelby and Taylor.



Eleanor Grace Robertson

HOKES BLUFF - A Celebration of Life for Eleanor Grace Robertson, also known as "Cookie", age 80, of Hokes Bluff was held Monday, February 23, 2026 at Glencoe Hokes Bluff Funeral Home. A Funeral Mass was held Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at St. James Catholic Church.

Cookie passed away on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at Gadsden Regional Medical Center.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Elbridge "Punk" Robertson; parents, Earnest and Anne Marie Busenlehner; brother, Earnest David Busenlehner; and sister, Helen Marie Wallace.

Left to cherish the memory of Ms. Robertson are her daughter, Theresa Benefield; sons, George David Robertson (Marcie), Daniel Robertson (Stella), and Stephen Michael Robertson (Cindy); her grandchildren, Zachary David Robertson, Andrew Grant Benefield (Emilee), Jacob Wade Robertson (Aliah), Elliot Thomas Benefield, Grace Marie Benefield, Macie Alizabeth Robertson, Addison Denise Robertson, and Parker Reese Robertson; 7 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild on the way; sister, Mary Arledge (Steve); brothers, Danny Busenlehner, George Wade Busenlehner (Pat), Michael Busenlehner (Madonna), Steven Paul Busenlehner (Susie); and a host of nieces and nephews.

Cookie was a devout member of St. James Catholic Church where she was a member of the choir and was their gardener for 40 years; she was a master gardener. Ms. Robertson graduated from John Carroll Catholic High School of Birmingham Alabama, later she graduated from Holy Name of Jesus Hospital as a nursing student. She enjoyed crocheting, reading, gardening, and keeping up with her grandkids. She was an interior painter and decorator and one of her hobbies were handling her chickens. Cookie never met a stranger and she will be so deeply missed.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to her neighbors, the Hokes Bluff community, and the Hokes Bluff Fire Department.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Ernest Frank Mello Jr.

GADSDEN - Ernest Frank Mello Jr., born on May 19, 1956, passed away on January 23, 2026, at the age of 69.

A graveside service with

military honors will be held at the Alabama National Cemetery, located at 3133 Hwy, Montevallo, AL. The service is scheduled for March 4, 2026, starting at 11:00 am.

Ernest Frank Mello Jr. was a resident of Gadsden, Alabama.



Frances Nelson

Frances Nelson, age 88, passed away peacefully in her home on Monday, February 16, 2026, surrounded by her family and loved ones.

Frances was born in 1937 in Eatonton, Georgia, to Molly and Scott Snelgrove. She was one of seven children—six girls and one boy—and carried a lifelong love of family that defined her life. She cherished her three daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren more than anything.

Frances had a deep love for camping, cruising and gambling, with keno being her favorite—she always said she was a winner. She also treasured her church friends and the special bond she shared with The Southside Jack's family, where she faithfully enjoyed breakfast seven days a week for more than ten years.

She retired after 32 years of dedicated service with the Etowah County Department of Human Resources, where she loved working with the public. Frances was actively involved with the Red Cross and participated in numerous disaster relief and volunteer efforts through DHR, always eager to help those in need.

Frances will be remembered for her warmth, generosity, strong faith, and unwavering love for her family, friends, and community.

A Celebration of Life service was held Friday February 20, 2026 at Riverview Baptist Church. Mrs. Nelson will be laid to rest by her husband at Williams Southside Cemetery at a later date.

Fannie Thrash

GADSDEN - Prestige Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory sadly announces the passing of Mrs. Fannie L.

Thrash, age 67, of Gadsden, AL, who traded mortal for immortality on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. She is survived by her loving family. We ask that you please keep The Thrash Family and those families that may be going through the same lifted in prayer. Cremation services were provided by Prestige Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory. No additional service is scheduled at this time.



Glenda Gail Tingle

Gail Tingle, age 85, passed away peacefully on February 23, 2026. She was born on March 5, 1940.

A graveside service will be held at Crestwood Funeral Home on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Gail was a devoted member of the Baptist faith. She graduated from Gadsden High School in 1958 and went on to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Alabama. She dedicated much of her life to education, teaching in Anniston, Huntsville, and Birmingham, Alabama. In addition to her work in education, she also enjoyed a career as a real estate agent.

Gail is lovingly remembered by her cousins and many dear friends whose lives she touched throughout the years.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Regency Assisted Living and Northside Hospice of Alabama for their compassionate care and support.

Gary Harp

GADSDEN - Garyon "Gary" Harp, who departed this life on February 17, 2026, at the age of 75.

In person signing of the book and viewing will be 12noon - 6pm Friday, February 27, 2026 in the chapel of West Gadsden Funeral Home.

Celebration of life will be 1pm Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Galilee Baptist Church 904 S 16th St. Gadsden, AL 35901. Burial Lincoln Hill Cemetery. Rev. Dr. Grady E. Robinson, Jr., Eulogist.

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SPORTS

Results for AHSSA basketball tournament Final Four match-ups to take place next week

At the Central Regional at Alabama State University's Dunn-Oliver Acadome, Lanett claimed the Class 2A girls title with a 50-27 win over Highland Home, while LaFayette captured the 2A boys crown, defeating Lanett 45-38. Francis Marion won the 1A girls championship 56-42 over R.C. Hatch, and R.C. Hatch took the 1A boys title with a 55-42 victory against Fran-

cis Marion. Saint James secured the 3A girls championship with a 47-32 win over Midfield, and Montgomery Academy claimed the 3A boys title, topping Midfield 49-40. In Class 5A, Briarwood Christian won the girls title 55-32 over Central of Clay County, while Sylacauga earned the boys championship with a 70-40 victory over Marbury. Montgomery

Catholic defeated Pleasant Grove 57-48 for the 4A girls title, and Fairfield claimed the 4A boys crown 69-37 over Montgomery Catholic. Auburn edged Central-Phenix City 62-60 for the 7A girls championship, while Dothan won the 7A boys title 52-46 over Enterprise. Chelsea took the 6A girls title 48-37 over Pelham, and Calera captured the 6A boys cham-

pionship with a 56-50 win against Spain Park.

At the Northwest Regional at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum, Cold Springs won the 2A girls title 45-42 over Belgreen, and Red Bay claimed the 2A boys championship 64-52 over Cold Springs. Marion County earned the 1A girls crown with a 68-51 win against Meek, and Hubbertville took the 1A

boys title 82-54 over Addison. Guntersville won the 5A girls championship 57-42 over West Point, while the 5A boys game between Guntersville and East Limestone ended tied at 68-68. Good Hope claimed the 4A girls title 58-38 over Wilson, and Deshler edged West Morgan 48-47 for the 4A boys crown. Bob Jones captured the 7A girls championship 63-49 over Hillcrest-Tuscaloosa, and Tuscaloosa County won the 7A boys title 54-47 against Thompson. Hazel Green earned the 6A girls championship 62-35 over Mortimer Jordan, Cullman took the 6A boys title 80-53 over Lee, Mars Hill Bible won the 3A girls crown 71-62 against Lauderdale County, and Lauderdale County claimed the 3A boys championship 74-43 over Mars Hill Bible.

At the South Regional at Garrett Coliseum, Clarke County won the 2A girls title 55-42 over Providence Christian, and Providence Christian claimed the 2A boys championship 67-46 against Luverne. Kinston captured the 1A girls crown 54-26 over Southern Choctaw, and Brantley won the 1A boys title 75-58 against McIntosh. Mobile Christian edged Thomasville 40-38 for the 3A girls championship, and Southside-Selma claimed the 3A boys crown 48-31 over Bay-side Academy. Charles Henderson remained unbeaten with a 67-50 win over St. Paul's Episcopal in the 5A girls final, while LeFlore took the 5A boys title 53-47 over Charles

Henderson. Jackson won the 4A girls championship in overtime, defeating Geneva 56-50, and claimed the 4A boys title 66-48 over New Brockton. Alma Bryant captured the 7A girls championship 78-75 over Fairhope, Fairhope won the 7A boys title 72-50 against Davidson, Park Crossing secured the 6A girls crown 56-39 over McGill-Toolen Catholic, and Saraland edged Murphy 47-46 for the 6A boys championship.

At the Northeast Regional at Jacksonville State University's Pete Mathews Coliseum, Plainview won the 4A girls title 55-50 over Cherokee County, and Asheville claimed the 4A boys championship 86-78 against Madison Academy. Winterboro captured the 1A girls crown 49-42 over Ider, and Wadley won the 1A boys title 53-49 against Winterboro. North Sand Mountain edged Pisgah 68-66 for the 2A girls championship, while Section claimed the 2A boys title 72-53 over North Sand Mountain. Glencoe secured the 3A girls crown 57-48 over Sylvania, and Whitesburg Christian won the 3A boys title 58-31 against Westbrook Christian. Fort Payne took the 6A girls championship 52-37 over Mountain Brook, and Oxford won the 6A boys title 55-22 against Homewood. Hoover claimed both 7A titles, defeating Albertville 74-46 in the girls final and Sparkman 62-59 in the boys final. In Class 5A girls competition, Moody defeated Springville 80-61, and Wenonah edged Sipsey Valley 48-44 to claim regional titles.



Glencoe girls advance to the Final Four

Glencoe defeated Sylvania 57-48 in a tournament game. The Lady Yellow Jackets advance to the Final Four in Birmingham on March 3 at 12 p.m., where they will face Mobile Christian School. Photo courtesy of Glencoe High School.

Local Scores, Stats & Schedules

High School Girls Basketball HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

- Feb. 27**
Gadsden City vs. Albertville at Gadsden City, 4:30 p.m.
 - Feb. 28**
Gadsden City vs. Boaz/Gardendale at Boaz, double-header at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Southside at Pell City, 3 p.m.
 - March 2**
West End at Ragland, 4:30 p.m.
Gadsden City vs. Pinson Valley at Gadsden City, 4:30 p.m.
 - March 5**
Gadsden City at Clay-Chalkville, 5 p.m.
- #### HIGH SCHOOL GOLF
- March 3**
Gadsden City vs. Ashville/Boaz at Twin Bridges, 2:30 p.m.
- #### HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER
- March 2**
Southside vs. Pell City, 5 p.m.
 - March 3**
Gadsden City at Oxford, 5 p.m.
Southside at Fort Payne, 5 p.m.

- March 5**
Gadsden City vs. Leeds at Gadsden City, 4 p.m.
Southside vs. Priceville, 6:30 p.m.
Hokes Bluff at Etowah, 7 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

- Feb. 28**
Gadsden City vs. Clay-Chalkville (tournament) at Clay, 3:30 p.m.
- March 2**
Gadsden City at Talladega, 5 p.m.
Hokes Bluff at Ashville, 4:30 p.m.
West End at Brewer, 5 p.m.
- March 3**
Gadsden City at Gaston, 4:30 p.m.
West End vs. Sardis, 5 p.m.
- March 5**
Hokes Bluff at Piedmont, 4:30 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

- Feb. 28**
Southside at Albertville, 2:30 p.m.
- March 2**
Gadsden City vs. Cherokee County at Gadsden City, 2:30 p.m.
Sardis at Boaz.
- March 3**
Gadsden City at Fort Payne, 3:30 p.m.
- March 5**
Gadsden City at Pinson Valley, 3 p.m.
Southside at Trussville, 4 p.m.
Sardis at Etowah.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

- March 2**
Gadsden State at Shelton State Community College, 7:30 p.m.
- March 5**
Gadsden State vs. Southern Union State Community College at home, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASEBALL

- Feb. 28**
Gadsden State at East Mississippi Community College, 2 p.m.
- Gadsden State at East Mississippi Community College, 5 p.m.
- March 5**
Gadsden State at Snead State Community College, 2 p.m.
Gadsden State at Snead State Community College, 5 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

- Feb. 27**
Gadsden State at East Mississippi Community College, 2 p.m.
- Gadsden State at East Mississippi Community College, 4 p.m.
- March 3**
Gadsden State vs. Cleveland State Community College at Gadsden State, 1 p.m.
Gadsden State vs. Cleveland State Community College at Gadsden State, 3 p.m.

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closure Sale has been postponed until January 7, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment. The Messenger, December 19, 2025

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until February 11, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.

The Messenger, January 9, 2026

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until March 13, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.

The Messenger, February 27, 2026
25-06879AL

February 27, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF ETOWAH Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Jason A Duron to Compass Bank dated June 29, 2018; said mortgage being recorded on July 2, 2018 as Instrument No. 3469929 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, PNC Bank, National Association, Successor by merger to BBVA USA, formerly known as Compass Bank, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on April 1, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Lot Number Sixteen (16), in Block Number Two (2), in Sheffield Heights Addition as shown by map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "C", Page 81, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 1210 Windsor St, Gadsden, AL 35903.

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

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

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand

these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, will go into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258.

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BBVA USA, FORMERLY KNOWN AS COMPASS BANK as holder of said mortgage

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 26-08083AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

The Messenger
02/27/2026, 03/06/2026, 03/13/2026
26-08083AL

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Whereas, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Brad Scott Wilson and wife, Sylenia Belle Wilson, to River Bank & Trust on the 12th day of July, 2016, said mortgage being recorded at Instrument #: 3436841, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and the undersigned, by reason of such default, having declared the entire remaining indebtedness secured by said mortgage to be immediately due and payable, and said mortgage subject to foreclosure, and such default continuing, notice is hereby given, that acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the undersigned, Dana L. Rice, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash in front of the Courthouse door in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Lot Number Fourteen (14) of Westminster, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "I", Page 43 in the Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being in Rainbow City, Alabama. Property street address for informational purposes: 210 Wellington Place, Rainbow City, AL 35906. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED AS TO TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERE-TO. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for

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

Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process.

Said sale was postponed on the original sale date, with the sale being rescheduled to occur in front of the Courthouse door in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on the 6th day of March, 2026.

RIVER BANK & TRUST
Dana L. Rice, Its Attorney
Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, PC
P. O. Box 129
Gadsden, AL 35902

February 27, 2026

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE.

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Paul Roberts, II and Alison Roberts husband and wife, originally in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Superior Bank, its successors and assigns, on August 5, 2009, said mortgage recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, in Instrument Number 3317933; with loan modification agreement recorded December 27, 2021 in Instrument Number 3532887; the undersigned Mid-First Bank, as Mortgagee/Transferee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse at Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, on April 29, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, all of its rights, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Lot Number Fourteen (14) of Westminster, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "I", Page 43 in the Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being in Rainbow City, Alabama. Property street address for informational purposes: 210 Wellington Place, Rainbow City, AL 35906. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED AS TO TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERE-TO. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for

the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The successful bidder must tender certified funds in the amount of the winning bid made payable to Tiffany & Bosco, P.A. at the time and place of the sale. The sale will be conducted subject to: (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) final confirmation with the Mortgagee/Transferee, and if applicable, (3) collection of purchaser information needed to comply with the reporting requirements under the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's Residential Real Estate Reporting Rule (31 C.F.R. Part 1031) and reimbursement of any expenses incurred as a result of the collection of such information. The Mortgagee/Transferee and Tiffany & Bosco, P.A. shall not be liable for any damages whatsoever. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the purchaser at the sale shall be only entitled to a return of the bid amount. The Mortgagee/Transferee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation. MidFirst Bank, ("Transferee") Tiffany & Bosco, P.A., 2501 20th Place South, Suite 300, Homewood, AL 35223 www.tblaw.com TB File Number: 26-02666-MF-AL

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Kenneth D. Morgan was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/14/2026 to the Estate of Mary Elaine Boyd, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Kenneth D. Morgan was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/14/2026 to the Estate of Mary Elaine Boyd, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Fort McClellan Credit Inc was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/14/2026 to the Estate of Stanley Earl Stroup, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Dana Johnson was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/16/2026 to the Estate of Thomas Anthony Musick, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Robert Webster Curnutt was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/20/2026 to the Estate of William Parker Curnutt, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Jordan Gaskey Fugatt was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/22/2026 over the Estate of Deborah Gramling Gaskey, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Jamie Anderson was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 02/02/2026 over the Estate of Reba June Conner, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah Coun-

ty, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Leigh Hunt was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/23/2026 over the Estate of Mark DeWayne Steapleton, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Ray R. Solley was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/27/2026 to the Estate of Doris S. Chapman, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Kendall Willmore was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/27/2026 over the Estate of Mark Hanback, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Jadea Smith Chandler was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/27/2026 over the Estate of Louie Benson Walls, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Valery Keith Alford was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 01/28/2026 to the Estate of Mary D. Alford, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Bobby Barron and Lynn Barron was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 02/04/2026 to the Estate of Patricia Faye Barron, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Anna Stevens was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 04/25/2025 to the Estate of Steven Thomas Stevens, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Anna Stevens was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 04/25/2025 to the Estate of Steven Thomas Stevens, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Anna Stevens was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 04/25/2025 to the Estate of Steven Thomas Stevens, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Jamie Anderson was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 02/02/2026 over the Estate of Reba June Conner, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah Coun-

ty, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Victoria Hollar was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 02/02/2026 over the Estate of Carolyn Garbe, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Sheila Diane McCarthy was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 02/09/2026 to the Estate of Jerry M. Foster A/K/A Jerry Mack Foster, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Melton Pascal Terrell was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 02/11/2026 to the Estate of Melton G. Terrell, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Timothy Gerald McCarver and Brain Scott McCarver was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 02/12/2026 to the Estate of Thomas Gerald McCarver, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ELLA JEAN STEELE DECEASED.

Case No.: 2025-00636

TO: WILLIAM THACKER; whereabouts unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in this Court an instrument purporting to be in the Last Will and Testament of Ella Jean Steele, deceased, and a petition in writing and under oath praying for the admission to probate and record in this Court of said instrument as the true Last Will and Testament of the decedent. You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 1st day of April, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the instrument filed with said petition and purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Ella Jean Steele, deceased, should not be admitted to probate and recorded in this Court as the true Last Will and Testament of said decedent.

DONE THIS THE 25th DAY OF February, 2026

Scott W. Hassell
JUDGE OF PROBATE

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ELLA JEAN STEELE DECEASED.

Case No.: 2025-00636

TO: WILLIAM THACKER; whereabouts unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in this Court an instrument purporting to be in the Last Will and Testament of Ella Jean Steele, deceased, and a petition in writing and under oath praying for the admission to probate and record in this Court of said instrument as the true Last Will and Testament of the decedent. You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 1st day of April, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the instrument filed with said petition and purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Ella Jean Steele, deceased, should not be admitted to probate and recorded in this Court as the true Last Will and Testament of said decedent.

DONE THIS THE 25th DAY OF February, 2026

Scott W. Hassell
JUDGE OF PROBATE

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: WALTER ALLEN, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED

Case #: 2026-31

TO: Malcolm Allen and

Diretha Allen, whose whereabouts are unknown

Please take notice that a PETITION FOR LETTERS OF CONSERVATORSHIP of the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 23rd day of MARCH 2026 at 2:30 p.m. was appointed a day and time for hearing on said Petition, thereof at which time you may appear and support and/or contest the Petition, if you so choose.

DONE THIS THE 13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

Scott Hassell
Judge of Probate

February 20, 27, and March 6, 2026

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: JERRY LEE BIGGS, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED

Case #: 2026-122

TO: Any unknown family, whose whereabouts are unknown

Please take notice that a PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP of the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 31ST day of MARCH 2026 at 1:00 pm. 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 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

Scott W. Hassell
PROBATE JUDGE

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: REAGAN PIERCE, INCAPACITATED

Case #: 2025-590

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 1st day of APRIL 2026 at 1:30p.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 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

Scott W. Hassell
PROBATE JUDGE

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

NOTICE OF ESTATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BILLY W. FOX, SR., DECEASED

CASE NO: 2026-00101

A Petition for Summary Distribution of the Estate of BILLY W. FOX, SR., Deceased, having been submitted to the Honorable Scott W. Hassell, Judge of Probate, by Petitioner, Billy W. Fox, Jr. on the 5th day of February, 2026; Notice is hereby given that all persons contesting said Petition shall file a response thereto with the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, P.O. Box 187, Gadsden, AL 35902, within 30 days of the date of this publication. Done this the 5th day of February 2026.

Scott W. Hassell
JUDGE OF PROBATE

February 27, 2026

NOTICE OF ESTATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BOB-

BY LEE JONES, II, DECEASED

CASE NO: 2026-00087

A Petition for Summary Distribution of the Estate of BOBBY LEE JONES, II, Deceased, having been submitted to the Honorable Scott W. Hassell, Judge of Probate, by Petitioner, Phyllis Ann Jones on the 4th day of February, 2026; Notice is hereby given that all persons contesting said Petition shall file a response thereto with the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, P.O. Box 187, Gadsden, AL 35902, within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Done this the 17th day February 2026

Scott W. Hassell
JUDGE OF PROBATE
February 27, 2026

PUBLICATION NOTICE

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 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND PETITION FOR LETTERS OF CONSERVATORSHIP

Notice to: Any unknown family members whose whereabouts are unknown

You will take notice that a Petition for Letters of Guardianship for the person of Dale Richter and a Petition for Letters of Conservatorship over the estate of Dale Richter was filed by Gadsden Regional Medical Center on the 9TH day of FEBRUARY 2026.

A hearing on the Petition for Letters of Guardianship and Petition for Letters of Conservatorship is set on the 17TH day of MARCH 2026, at 1:30 p.m., in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

February 13, 20, and 27, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND PETITION FOR LETTERS OF CONSERVATORSHIP

Notice to: Sheena Jones, whose whereabouts are unknown
Haley Jones, whose whereabouts are unknown

You will take notice that a Petition for Letters of Guardianship for the person of Phyllis L. Jones and a Petition for Letters of Conservatorship over the estate of Phyllis L. Jones was filed by Gadsden Regional Medical Center on the 25th day of FEBRUARY 2026.

A hearing on the Petition for Letters of Guardianship and Petition for Letters of Conservatorship is set on the 1st day of APRIL 2026, at 2:30 p.m., in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

February 27, March 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 herein-after described parcel of land, commence at the Southeast corner of the SE 1/4 of SE 1/4; thence run South 88 degrees 00 minutes West, along the South line thereof, 30.08 feet to a point in the West line of Turner Road; thence run North 02 degrees 14 minutes East along said West line, parallel with the East line of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4, 1,150.15 feet to a point; thence run South 84 degrees 20 minutes West, 789.6 feet to a point, which is the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence from said point of beginning deflect 180 degrees left and run North 84 degrees 20 minutes East 100 feet to a point; thence deflect left and run North 02 degrees 14 minutes East 277.43 feet, more or less, to a point on the South line of Rocky Ford Road 80-foot right of way; thence Westerly along the South line of Rocky Ford Road 100 feet, more or less, to a point which is North 02 degrees 14 minutes East from the point of beginning; thence deflect left and run South 02 degrees 14 minutes West 277.43 feet, more or less, to the South property line, the point of beginning, and embracing portions of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 of SE 1/4) in Section Seven (7), Township Twelve (12) south, Range Eight (8) East of Huntsville Meridian in Etowah County, Alabama.

AND

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

DEFENDANTS

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

To reach a point of beginning for the herein-after described parcel of land, commence at the Southeast corner of the SE 1/4 of SE 1/4; thence run South 88 degrees 00 minutes West, along the South line thereof, 30.08 feet to a point in the West line of Turner Road; thence run North 02 degrees 14 minutes East along said West line, parallel with the East line of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4, 1,150.15 feet to a point; thence run South 84 degrees 20 minutes West, 789.6 feet to a point, which is the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence from said point of beginning deflect 180 degrees left and run North 84 degrees 20 minutes East 100 feet to a point; thence deflect left and run North 02 degrees 14 minutes East 277.43 feet, more or less, to a point on the South line of Rocky Ford Road 80-foot right of way; thence Westerly along the South line of Rocky Ford Road 100 feet, more or less, to a point which is North 02 degrees 14 minutes East from the point of beginning; thence deflect left and run South 02 degrees 14 minutes West 277.43 feet, more or less, to the South property line, the point of beginning, and embracing portions of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 of SE 1/4) in Section Seven (7), Township Twelve (12) south, Range Eight (8) East of Huntsville Meridian in Etowah County, Alabama. The address of the subject property is 7903 Rocky Ford Road,

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

Done the 5th day of February, 2026.

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

February 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL: GADSDEN STREET CRIMES/NARCOTICS UNIT,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO: CV-2025-900614-SJS
PLAINTIFF VS.

\$1,976.00 U.S. Currency
Cobra Handgun
SN: CT020531
Hipoint 999 Carbine
SN: F21605
Smith & Wesson SD-9
SN: FZX74191
DJI Mini 2SE Drone
Model# MT2SD
DJI Mini 4 Pro Drone
Model# MWX162-3850-7.38
VRI Drone
Model# DRCLS16-NOC

DEFENDANTS
In Re: Brandon Shane Jackson

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

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described property. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 17th day of April 2026. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said property. DONE this the 18th day of February, 2026

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

February 27, March 6, 13, and 20, 2026

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL: ATTALLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO:
CV-25-900529-BTC

PLAINTIFF VS.
2017 Black Dodge Charger
VIN: 2C3CDXK-T5HH533846
Emergency Lights, Controllers, Sirens, Microphones, radios, Computers, Cameras, Mounting hardware, Wiring Kits, Etc.
Glock 43X 933
SN# CCTW004

DEFENDANTS
In Re: Nathan Michael Novotny

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

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described property. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 17th day of April 2026. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said property. DONE this the 18th day of February, 2026

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

February 27, March 6, 13, and 20, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, from Qualified General Contractors will be received by The Etowah County Board of Education at the board office 401 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 until 2:00pm CST, Monday, March 2, 2026 for Football Stadium Lighting Renovations at Southside High School and Hokes Bluff High School: at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. A cashier's check or bid bond payable to Etowah County Board of Education in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than \$10,000, must accompany the bidder's proposal. Performance and Payment Bonds and evidence of insurance required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of the Contract. Digital documents are available from the Architect at no cost. Request via email.

Only general contractors who have been approved to bid pursuant to prequalification procedures will be eligible to bid for the Project. Submit prequalification request on a form AIA A305, Contractor's Qualification Statement. Prequalification packages are due at the office of the Architect by 12pm CST on Monday, February 23, 2023. All bidders bidding in amounts exceeding that established by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, and must show evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by the Architect; the bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owner's judgement, the best interests of the Owner will thereby be promoted.

Etowah County Board of Education (Awarding Authority)
B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect, 256-390-5657, craig@bclarch.com (Architect)

February 13, 20, and 27, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, from Qualified General Contractors will be received by The Etowah County Board of Education at the board office 401 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 until 2:15pm CST, Monday, March 2, 2026 for Football Stadium Lighting Renovations at Gaston High School and Glencoe High School: at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. A cashier's check or bid bond payable to Etowah County Board of Education in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than \$10,000, must accompany the bidder's proposal. Performance and Payment Bonds and evidence of insurance required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of the Contract. Digital documents are available from the Architect at no cost. Request via email.

February 13, 20, and 27, 2026

Submit prequalification request on a form AIA A305, Contractor's Qualification Statement. Prequalification packages are due at the office of the Architect by 12pm CST on Monday, February 23, 2023.

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Etowah County Board of Education (Awarding Authority)
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February 13, 20, and 27, 2026

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Etowah County Board of Education (Awarding Authority)
B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect, 256-390-5657, craig@bclarch.com (Architect)

February 13, 20, and 27, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR NOTICE OF COMPLETION

FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPLETION LEGAL NOTICE In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given that Alabama Grading & Excavation, LLC, has completed the Micro-Milling and Resurfacing on SR-291, Project No: STPAA-0291 (501) Etowah County located at SR-291, AL for the Alabama Department of Transportation, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise

February 13, 20, and 27, 2026

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FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPLETION LEGAL NOTICE In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given that Alabama Grading & Excavation, LLC, has completed the Micro-Milling and Resurfacing on SR-291, Project No: STPAA-0291 (501) Etowah County located at SR-291, AL for the Alabama Department of Transportation, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise

in connection with this project should immediately notify Alabama Department of Transportation, North Region - Guntersville Area, PO Box 550, Guntersville, AL 35976.

February 27, March 6, 13, and 20, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

The following storage units will be auctioned on March 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.

Marcia Hardney
Unit 24C & 170

Tammy Delia
Unit 165

Jacqueline Looney
Unit 326

Kenneth Maltbie, Jr.
Unit 336

Sonya Atchison
Unit 361

Janis Poleate
Unit 407

Brian Labar
Unit 720

Nicholas Branson
Unit 734

Chris Patterson
Unit 775

Steve Powell
Unit 788

Frankie Pollard
Unit 792

Justin Self
Unit 805

Suzanne Moon
Unit 818

Btyan Charlton
Unit 830

Lauri Price
Unit 28-1B

Ligaya Ferguson
Unit 34-1A

Sherrie Rector
Unit 48-7

Lisa Rydel
Unit 5A-8,9

Clyde Williams
Unit 80-1

Latona Garrett
Unit 15-10

Suzanna Rager
Unit 48-16

Alonna Baswell
Unit 53-11

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

February 27 and March 6, 2026

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on March 27, 2026.

2011 Honda Fit
VIN: JHMGE8H-69BC004636

UNI AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, LLC
2501 3rd Street SW
Attalla AL. 35954
256-538-6600

February 20 and 27, 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 2001 Lexus GS Vin #JT8BD69S310137728 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 B 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am on 3/31/2026

The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

February 20 and 27, 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 2020 Nissan Sentra. Vin #3N1AB-8CV1LY254124 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing

927 B 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am on 3/31/2026

The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

February 20 and 27, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Please take NOTICE that Thacker Towing will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicle 2017 Honda CRV Vin #5J6RW2H-85HL046388 The public auction will be held at Thacker Towing 927 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am on 3/27/2026

The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

February 20 and 27, 2026

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on April 6, 2026.

2013 HONDA CIVIC
VIN: 19XFB2F-86DE224710

UNI AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, LLC
2501 3rd Street SW
Attalla AL. 35954
256-538-6600

February 20 and 27, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Please take NOTICE that Tommy Tows will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicle 2000 Yamaha Motorcycle XVS11AM B VIN # JYAVP11E8YA007796. The public auction will be held at Tommy Tows, located at 3403 Forrest Avenue Gadsden, AL. 35904 at 8:00am on 3/28/2026

The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

February 20 and 27, 2026

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on April 3, 2026

2011 Ford Ranger White
VIN: 1FTKR4EE9B9A30991

2007 Cadillac DTS
White
VIN: 1G6KD57Y97U232544

1999 Lincoln Town Car
Black
VIN: 1LNHM81W6XY659796

2018 Chevrolet Equinox
Orange
VIN: 2GNAXJEV9J6185854

2013 Nissan Pathfinder
Black
VIN: 5N1ARZM7DC6Z9878

2008 Kia Sportage Red
VIN: KNDJF724187526877

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

February 27 and March 6, 2026

CITY OF GLENCOE, ALABAMA NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION AT PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that on March 10, 2026 at 6:00 P.M., Central Time, at City Hall at 201 Chastain Boulevard West, Glencoe, AL 35905, the City Council of the City of Glencoe, Alabama (the "City") will hold a meeting, which will constitute a public meeting at which a public hearing will be held, to consider, discuss, vote upon, and take other action authorizing and approving a Commercial Development Proposal between the City and Fisher Investment Group, LLC

and Redfield Group Auctions, Inc., (collectively known as "Developers") under which the Developers will acquire property, construct and operate an auction business within the corporate limits of the City and the City will assist in the form of an incentive agreement. The City proposes to convey title to city-owned property, located at 605 Main Street West in Glencoe, to the Developers for the purpose of the construction of a new building and the relocation of an existing auction business from outside the City. The parties agree that the value of said property is Four Hundred Twenty Five Thousand (\$425,000.00) Dollars. The City shall have reversion rights that shall remain in full force and effect until the Developers have paid the City the total sum of Four Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand (\$445,000.00) Dollars. This payment is to be calculated using all tax payments made to the City by the Developers (i.e., sales tax and occupational tax). As additional incentive, the City shall reimburse the Developers one-half of the sales tax paid for the Developer's first year in operation as well as 400 double-axle truckloads of fill dirt, or chert, for use in the proposed construction. The value of the chert provided will be deemed to be Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) Dollars for purposes of the Developers' debt to the City. The City proposes to enter into this agreement for the purpose of promoting the development of commercial property within the City Limits of Glencoe which is projected to create a number of jobs as well as substantial tax income. The City believes that the proposed development will have at least the following public benefits: promote and continue economic and industrial development within the City, increase the City's tax revenue, provide additional employment opportunities for the City's citizens and otherwise promote the health, welfare, and prosperity of the citizens of the City. Further, the City will seek to determine at this public meeting whether the expenditure of public funds as described in this notice serves a valid and sufficient public purpose, notwithstanding any incidental benefit accruing to any private entity or entities. Notice of this public meeting is being published pursuant to the requirements of Section 94.01 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901 (also known as Amendment 772 to the Alabama Constitution of 1901), as amended, and all other applicable laws, to the extent applicable.

THE CITY COUN-

CIL OF THE CITY OF GLENCOE, ALABAMA

February 27, 2026

OFFICIAL LIST OF POLLWORKERS FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION COMMISSION DISTRICT #1 MARCH 10, 2026

ABSENTEE

Chief Inspector - Jennifer Cain

Inspector - Tina Sewell

Chief Clerk - Carol Hill

Clerk - Denise Sanchez

BEAT 1 BOX 11; EAST GADSDEN RECREATION CENTER; MACHINE 1

Chief Inspector - Patricia Welch

Inspector - Joseph Farmer

Chief Clerk - John D. Bradford

Clerk - Lesia Finister

Clerk - Robin Weston

BEAT 2; SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER; MACHINE 1

Chief Inspector - Joyce Ponder

Inspector - Larry Unger

Chief Clerk - Peggy Samples

Clerk - David Barnett

Clerk - Beth Lee

Clerk - Cheryl McElwee

BEAT 2; SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER; MACHINE 2

Inspector - Deborah Standridge

Chief Clerk - Connie Unger

Clerk - Johnny Brothers

Clerk - Jillian Walker

Clerk - Beverly Leboeuf

BEAT 2; SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER; MACHINE 3

Inspector - Toni Sharpton

Chief Clerk - William J. Steinka

Clerk - Pam Weeks

Clerk - Amanda Doss

Clerk - Teresa Brothers

BEAT 4; GEORGE WALLACE SR CITIZENS CENTER; MACHINE 1

Chief Inspector - Dell Mackey

Inspector - Dot Godfrey

Chief Clerk - Karen Drenner

Clerk - Judy Buchanan

Clerk - Flora Naler

BEAT 4; GEORGE WALLACE SR CITIZENS CENTER; MACHINE 2

Inspector - Sammee Dabbs

Chief Clerk - Gwinette Watson

Clerk - Thelma Hodge

Clerk - Veronica Fish

Clerk - Lori Allen

BEAT 5 BOX 1; HOKES BLUFF COMMUNITY CENTER; MACHINE 1

Chief Inspector - Towana Fuqua

Inspector - Rod Rylander

Chief Clerk - Linda Johnson

Clerk - Dale Jakiel

Clerk - Patricia Nanc

Clerk - Kenneth Means

Clerk - Melody Strozier

Publication Date: February 27, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

STATE OF ALABAMA, COUNTY OF ETOWAH

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 45-28-243, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§45-28-243

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

STATE OF ALABAMA, COUNTY OF ETOWAH

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 45-28-91.02, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§45-28-91.02

(1) Beginning October 1, 2016, the first four hundred ninety-one thousand dollars (\$491,000) of the annual proceeds of any lodging tax due Etowah County pursuant to Section 45-28-243, Section 45-28-243.01, or any other lodging tax payable to the county shall be paid into the county treasury to be distributed to the Etowah County Tourism Board established by this part to be used to carry out the purposes of this part. The remaining portion of the proceeds shall be distributed to the Etowah County Mega Sports Complex Authority

(2) Notwithstanding

any provision of Section 45-28-243 or Section 45-28-243.01, the lodging taxes levied by Section 45-28-243 and Section 45-28-243.01 shall not apply to rooms, lodgings, or accommodations supplied for a period of 30180 continuous days or more in any place."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2026.

February 27, March 6 and 13, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

STATE OF ALABAMA, COUNTY OF ETOWAH

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Relating to Etowah County; to amend Section 45-28-243, Code of Alabama 1975; to increase the amount of time necessary for accommodations supplied to be exempt from privilege and license tax in the county.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 45-28-243 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§45-28-243

(a) In Etowah County, there is hereby levied and imposed, in addition to all other taxes of every kind now imposed by law, a privilege or license tax upon every person, firm, or corporation engaging in the business of renting or furnishing any room or rooms, lodging, or accommodations to transients in any hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, tourist cabin, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished to transients for a consideration, in an amount of two percent of the charge for such room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in such the room. There is exempted from this section any taxes on rentals or services under Division 1, commencing with Section 40-23-1, of Article 1, Chapter 23, Title 40. The tax shall not apply to rooms, lodgings, or accommodations supplied for a period of 30 180 continuous days or more in any place.

(b) Municipal privilege license taxes which are levied and collected by the application of a flat percentage rate on gross sales or gross receipts from sales, and which are passed on directly by the licensee-seller to the purchaser-consumer or user shall be excluded from gross sales or gross receipts, as the case may be, in the computation of the tax herein levied in this section.

(c) The tax herein levied in this section shall be collected in the same manner as the state lodgings tax as provided in Chapter 26, Title 40; and shall be additional thereto; and the net proceeds thereof of the tax shall be payable to the county general fund for the purposes of promoting tourism and beautification. Such The funds shall be used as follows: Fifty percent for the support and promotion of tourism and fifty 50 percent for the support and promotion of beautification and ecology as determined by the resolutions of the Clean and Beautiful Community Commission and the Gadsden-Etowah County Tourism Board. The State Department of Revenue shall promulgate such adopt rules and regulations and provide such forms and instructions as are necessary to implement this section."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2026.

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

STATE OF ALABAMA, COUNTY OF ETOWAH

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

Relating to Etowah County; to amend Section 45-28-121, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide further for the membership of the personnel board.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 45-28-121 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§45-28-121

(a) In Etowah County, there is hereby created and established a personnel department for the government and control of all employees and appointees holding positions in the classified service, as defined in Section 45-28-121.03.

(b)(1) The personnel department shall consist of a personnel board and a personnel director. The personnel board shall consist of five members. Three members shall be

appointed for a term of six years each as follows: One to be appointed by

a. Upon the term of the member who is a joint appointee of the judge of probate judge and the sheriff of the county; one to be expiring on September 30, 2028, one member appointed by the judge of probate.

b. Upon the term of the member appointed by the county commission; and one to be appointed as expiring on September 30, 2030, one member appointed by the county commission upon the recommendation of the county engineer.

c. Upon the term of the member who is a joint appointee of the county tax assessor and the county tax collector; however, the terms for the above three named initial appointees shall be staggered. For the first appointments the joint appointee of the probate judge and the sheriff of the county shall be for two years; the first appointee by the county commission shall be for a term of four years; and the first joint appointee by the county tax assessor and county tax collector shall be for six years. The other two members of the board shall be appointed for one-year terms. One of the additional members shall be appointed annually expiring on September 30, 2026, one member appointed by the revenue commissioner.

d. Upon the term of the member appointed by the President of the Etowah County Chamber of Commerce; and one member shall be appointed annually expiring on September 30, 2026, one member appointed by the county commission upon the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.

e. Upon the term of the member appointed by the President of the Etowah County Labor Council expiring on September 30, 2026, one member appointed by the President of the Northeast Alabama Labor Council.

(2) Subsequent terms on the board shall be for four years and shall begin on October 1.

(c) The members of the board shall be qualified electors of the county. No person shall be appointed to the board who holds any salaried public office or employment with the county, nor shall any member, while a member of the board or for a period of one year after he or she has ceased to be a member, be eligible for appointment to any salaried office or employment in the service of the county or any county elective office.

(d) For regular meetings

of the board or special hearings or meetings of the board relating to a pending disciplinary action, each member shall receive sixty dollars (\$60) per diem, not to exceed one hundred eighty dollars (\$180) per month paid from the county treasury, and the chair shall receive seventy-five dollars (\$75) per diem, not to exceed two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225) per month paid from the county treasury." Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

February 27, March 6, and 13, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

STATE OF ALABAMA, COUNTY OF ETOWAH

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

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STATE OF ALABAMA, COUNTY OF ETOWAH

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

STATE OF ALABAMA, COUNTY OF ETOWAH

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

GOOD MONEY! WEEKLY! Processing Mail From Home! Other Home Projects. Experience Unnecessary. Information: Rush Stamped Addressed Envelope: MCG 1048 Welsh Rd. Ambler, PA 19002-2319

SERVICES

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

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

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

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. One 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

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage

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HEALTH/BEAUTY

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-650-7885

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-833-641-6606

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AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET. If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-833-641-6672

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on

Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6667

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is the most advanced gutter protection for your home, backed by a no-code guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-833-683-2005 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 20% off! Seniors and military save an additional 10%. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details

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.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE

Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-877-817-4697 www.dental50plus.com/alabama #6258

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaran

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GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE

teed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-833-955-3163

IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-426-0193

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! 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.

DEALS ~ For ~ DAYS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 27-28

OVER \$196
IN SAVINGS



Limit 1 transaction per item per ValuCard per day.
Discount taken as a coupon. Customer pays sales tax.

WHILE
SUPPLIES
LAST.

est. 1918

<p>DIETITIAN'S PICK</p> <p>Fresh Made In-Store Snack Cups Each</p> <p>When you buy 3 in the same transaction. Lesser quantities are 2.99 each. Discount applied as a coupon. Customer pays sales tax.</p> <p>3/\$5 With Card</p>	<p>IN THE MEAT Dept.</p> <p>Previously Frozen Baby Back Pork Ribs Per Lb.</p> <p>2.99 With Card</p>	<p>IN THE Deli</p> <p>Selected Varieties, Pre-Sliced Dietz & Watson Meat or Cheese 3-8 Oz.</p> <p>4.99 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 2</p> <p>Selected Varieties Pepsi Products 24 Pk., 12 Oz. Cans</p> <p>10.99 With Card</p>
<p>DIETITIAN'S PICK</p> <p>IN THE PRODUCE Dept.</p> <p>Sweet Opal Apples 2 Lb.</p> <p>2/\$4 With Card</p>	<p>Mild Swaggerty's Sausage Patties 30 Ct.</p> <p>7.99 With Card</p>	<p>Selected Varieties, Links Eckrich Smoked Sausage 13-14 Oz.</p> <p>2/\$5 With Card</p>	<p>Selected Varieties Jimmy Dean Bacon 12 Oz.</p> <p>3.99 With Card</p>
<p>Selected Varieties, Crescents, Cinnamon Rolls or Pillsbury Grands! Biscuits 8 Ct.</p> <p>When you buy 3 in the same transaction. Lesser quantities are 2.99 each. Limit 1 transaction (3 total items). Discount applied as a coupon. Customer pays sales tax.</p> <p>LIMIT 3 TOTAL ITEMS</p> <p>1.99 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 2 EACH</p> <p>Selected Varieties, Dot's Pretzels (14-16 Oz.) or Misty Mountain Spring Water 24 Pk., 16.9 Oz. Btls.</p> <p>4.99 With Card</p>	<p>Selected Varieties BodyArmor 16 Oz.</p> <p>When you buy 10 in the same transaction. Lesser quantities are 3/\$5 each. Limit 1 transaction (10 total items). Discount applied as a coupon. Customer pays sales tax.</p> <p>LIMIT 10 TOTAL ITEMS</p> <p>10/\$10 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 4</p> <p>DIETITIAN'S PICK</p> <p>Selected Varieties Allens Green Beans 28 Oz.</p> <p>1.99 With Card</p>
<p>LIMIT 2 EACH</p> <p>Little Hugs (20 Ct.) or Country Crock 45 Oz.</p> <p>3.99 With Card</p>	<p>IN THE Deli</p> <p>In the Deli, Mustard Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad or Cole Slaw Per Lb.</p> <p>2.99 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 10</p> <p>Selected Varieties Food Club Soft Drinks 2 Liter</p> <p>10/\$10 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 6</p> <p>Selected Varieties, Big Pack Little Debbie Snack Cakes 16.4-31.7 Oz.</p> <p>3.29 With Card</p>
<p>LIMIT 6</p> <p>Selected Varieties Progresso Soup 18.5-19 Oz.</p> <p>3/\$5 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 4 EACH</p> <p>Frozen, Selected Varieties, SeaPak Family Size (16-22 Oz.) or Stouffer's Family Size Meals 28-40 Oz.</p> <p>7.99 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 6</p> <p>In Water Bumble Bee Chunk Light Tuna 5 Oz.</p> <p>88¢ With Card</p>	<p>DIETITIAN'S PICK</p> <p>LIMIT 10</p> <p>Frozen, Selected Varieties Smart Ones Entrees 6.49-11.5 Oz.</p> <p>5/\$10 With Card</p>
<p>LIMIT 4 EACH</p> <p>Selected Varieties, Nature Valley Granola (11-16 Oz.), Nature Valley Protein Granola Bars or Fiber One Bars (5-6 Ct.) or Large Size General Mills Cheerios 12-18.2 Oz.</p> <p>2.99 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 4</p> <p>Selected Varieties Tillamook Ice Cream 1.5 Qt.</p> <p>2.99 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 4 EACH</p> <p>Frozen, Selected Varieties, Marie Callender's Dinners or Pot Pie (10.5-15 Oz.) or CraV'n Flavor Pizza Bites 20 Oz.</p> <p>2/\$5 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 4 EACH</p> <p>Selected Varieties, Mars Fun Size Candy Bars (2.31-3.40 Oz.), Frito-Lay Minis (1.25-1.95 Oz.) or Food City Pork Rinds 3 Oz.</p> <p>4/\$5 With Card</p>
<p>LIMIT 4 EACH</p> <p>Selected Varieties, CraV'n Flavor Snack Crackers (12.5-13.7 Oz.), Keebler Sandwich Crackers (8 Ct.) or Zesta Saltine Crackers 16 Oz.</p> <p>2/\$5 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 4 EACH</p> <p>Selected Varieties, Pop-Tarts, Rice Krispies Treats, Nutri-Grain Bars or Special K Pastry Crisps 5-8 Ct.</p> <p>2/\$5 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 2</p> <p>Selected Varieties Frito Lay Multipacks 18 Ct.</p> <p>8.99 With Card</p>	<p>LIMIT 4 EACH</p> <p>Selected Varieties, Arm & Hammer Cat Litter (14-20 Lb.), Simply Done Paper Towels (6 Double Rolls) or Simply Done Bath Tissue 12 Mega Rolls</p> <p>7.99 With Card</p>

COUPON EFFECTIVE FEB. 27-FEB. 28

INSTANT DIGITAL COUPON SAVINGS
LOAD TO YOUR VALUCARD AT FOODCITY.COM OR ON THE FOOD CITY MOBILE APP.

LIMIT 10 LBS.

DIETITIAN'S PICK

Red or White Seedless Grapes
Per Lb.

ValuCard Price.....3.69
Digital Coupon.....-2.00

FINAL PRICE WITH COUPON 1.69
With Card

*MUST PURCHASE MINIMUM ONE POUND

COUPON EFFECTIVE FEB. 27-FEB. 28

INSTANT DIGITAL COUPON SAVINGS
LOAD TO YOUR VALUCARD AT FOODCITY.COM OR ON THE FOOD CITY MOBILE APP.
CLIP ONCE AND USE UP TO 2X IN ONE TRANSACTION.

USE 2X

McCain Potatoes
Frozen, Selected Varieties
14-32 Oz.

ValuCard Price.....2.99
Digital Coupon.....-1.00

FINAL PRICE WITH COUPON 1.99
With Card

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SALE DATES: FRI., FEB 27 - SAT., FEB. 28, 2026
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