



7 DAY FORECAST

Friday
December 12



High: 63
Low: 37

Saturday
December 13



High: 62
Low: 32

Sunday
December 14



High: 36
Low: 15

Monday
December 15



High: 41
Low: 21

Tuesday
December 16



High: 49
Low: 31

Wednesday
December 17



High: 57
Low: 45

Thursday
December 18



High: 64
Low: 44



PAGE B1

This past Tuesday evening, Hokes Bluff hosted Cherokee County in a matchup of Class 4A contenders.

Photo by Alex Chaney/
Special to the Messenger



PAGE B1

The Glencoe Yellow Jackets took their basketball programs on the road to Southside Tuesday evening.

Photo courtesy of
Average Joe's Sports Talk



PAGE B1

Check out all of the scores from local basketball games this past week.

Submitted photo

Coosa Christian brings home state title



AHSAA PHOTO | David Holtsford

Coosa Christian running back Kylen Johnson (5) races upfield as Lanett defender PJ Stiggers moves in to try and stop him.

By Josh Bean | For the AHSAA

Coosa Christian (13-2) scored two touchdowns in the final 3:20, rallying to win the school's first state championship 29-22 Friday, Dec. 5, in the AHSAA Super 7 Class 2A state finals at Protective Stadium.

Mac Long scored the game-winner on a 20-yard touchdown run with 22 seconds remaining.

"I'm happy with the way we executed at the end," Coosa Christian coach Rush Propst said.

Propst captured his sixth AHSAA state title as a head coach and eighth overall, winning five at Hoover over a seven-year stretch from 2000-06 and two more at Colquitt County (Ga.), as the Conquerors (13-2) from Gadsden end the season with a 13-game winning streak.

Even Propst said "it looked bleak" in the fourth quarter after Lanett's Nadarious Morgan scored on a 67-yard run to give the Panthers (12-3) a 22-14 lead with 5:30 to go.

Coosa Christian then drove 55 yards in six plays with Kylen Johnson scoring on a 4-yard run with 3:20 left in the final period. He then threw the 2-point pass to LJ Mostella to knot the game at 22-all. Coosa forced a punt on the ensuing drive, but Johnson suffered a leg injury and did not return.

Coosa then drove 55 yards on five plays. Long ran four straight read option plays with running back Joseph East. On the fifth play, he pulled the ball out of East's belly and raced around left end for the game-winner.

"I finally got them to bite really good, and I was able to score," Long said.

Johnson was named MVP. He was carried by two linemen to accept the award during post-game ceremonies. He finished with 64 yards on 20 carries with touchdown runs covering 2 and 4 yards. He also caught a 26-yard touchdown pass.

Coosa - page B1

Gadsden announces teachers of the year

By Karla McArthur
Correspondent

Gadsden City Schools has announced its 2025-26 Teachers of the Year, recognizing outstanding educators across the district for their dedication to students and excellence in the classroom.

Teachers of the Year are selected by votes from faculty and staff at each school. Honorees are celebrated at the district's annual Teacher of the Year luncheon.

Finalists from both elementary and secondary levels will be chosen. From those finalists, one

countywide Teacher of the Year from each level will be named.

The 2025-26 Etowah County Schools Teachers of the Year are:

Adams Elementary School: Linda Franklin, Donehoo Elementary School: Alexusona Bozeman, Eura Brown Elementary School: Katherine Barnes,

Floyd Elementary School: Kristen Phillips, Mitchell Elementary School: Shannon Morgan, Striplin Elementary School: Angela Glass, Thompson Elementary School: Elizabeth Wilson, Walnut Park Elementary School: Ginger Stephens, Emma Sansom Middle School: Jessica Nun-

nally, Gadsden Middle School: Megan McCright, Litchfield Middle School: Celestia Dawson, Gadsden City High School: Emily Day.

The district will announce its overall Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year later this school year.

Former senator kicks off gubernatorial campaign



DOUG JONES

By Anna Barrett
Alabama Reflector

Former U.S. Sen. Doug Jones officially joined the race for Alabama's governor on Monday, Nov. 24 and is now hosting his first official campaign event on Dec. 12 in Birmingham.

"Folks in Alabama deserve a governor who is going to fight for them," Jones said. "What we've heard all along is that Alabama wants their next governor to be someone who lives here, who works here, who listens to the people of this state, who understands the people of this

state."

Alabama's primaries are May 19, 2026.

Jones' entry into the race likely sets up a rematch with U.S. Sen. Tommy Tuberville, who defeated Jones in the 2020 senatorial race and has largely cleared the field in the GOP gubernatorial race. It also gives Democrats their highest-profile gubernatorial candidate since Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox and Former Alabama Supreme Court Justice Sue Bell Cobb jockeyed for the nomination in 2018.

Communications director for Tuberville's campaign Mallory Jaspers posted to social me-

dia Monday, Nov. 24, that the governor's race will yield similar results.

"This race is already over — but if Comrade Doug wants to get blown out again, be our guest," Jaspers wrote.

Jones is a former U.S. attorney who secured convictions against Thomas Edwin Blanton Jr. in 2001 and Bobby Frank Cherry in 2002 for the murder of four little girls in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in 1963. Both men were sentenced to life in prison.

Doug Jones - page A3

Firefighters contain fire at former Goodyear plant

By Kaitlin Hoskins
News Editor

In the early hours of Saturday, Dec. 6, a fire sparked up at the former Goodyear industrial site in Gadsden. Gadsden firefighters responded to the blaze at the industrial site now known as Takkion, a renewable energy logistics company, and as of 8 a.m., the fire was contained.

"We want to thank Chief Vance Brown and the Gadsden Fire Department for their quick response,

and we also want to thank all the other area fire departments who have responded and offered aid," said Gadsden Mayor Craig Ford.

The fire occurred on the back side of the plant. No injuries have been reported.

According to Michael Rodgers, Gadsden's public affairs coordinator, the fire is still under investigation, but the fire did not seem to be intentionally set. Rodgers also stated that the impacts to Takkion's operations were minimal.



Courtesy of Gadsden Fire Department Facebook



Photo by Tony Hathcock



Little Caesars



NEWS

GSCC student earns spot in 2026 All-State Choir

**By Karla McArthur
Correspondent**

Frankie Bishop, a 16-year-old freshman at Gadsden State Community College, has been selected for the Alabama Vocal Association's 2026 All-State Choir.

Bishop, who began singing in sixth grade, said he got his start with the Veritas Concert Choir in Anniston. He discovered his passion for music in 2021 when he joined choir for the first time.

"I've loved music, so when I first had the opportunity to audition for All-State, I thought, why not?" he said.

Bishop said he was surprised to learn he had earned a coveted spot in the choir. "I loved the experience much more than I expected," he said. "Hearing the All-State Choir is one thing, but being a part of it is next level."

Although he played baseball growing up, Bishop said choir has become his main focus. To prepare for the March 14 concert at Samford University in Birmingham, he plans to study the music carefully, review dynamics and notes, and sharpen his diction.

A lifelong member of the Church of Christ, Bishop said the hymns he sings each week have taken on new meaning as he's grown musically. "Music is made for the glory of God," he said.

Westbrook partners with Challenger Center

**By Karla McArthur
Correspondent**

Westbrook Christian School held a reception Monday, Dec. 1, to celebrate its newly signed partnership with the Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama.

Westbrook principal Rachel Neal said that after meeting with Challenger Learning Center Executive Director Dr. Farrah Hayes, she knew she wanted the school to be involved.

Hayes spoke at the signing event, informing Westbrook's fifth graders about the program and what they can expect when they participate. She noted that Westbrook Christian School will now have a namesake STEM lab within the facility.

The partnership between Westbrook Christian and the Challenger Learning Center will give students opportunities to expand their interests and skills beyond the classroom. Working collaboratively with faculty, Hayes and Education Director Chad Strawn will develop activities and experiences designed to enhance the curriculum and provide real-

world applications.

Hayes explained that the Challenger Learning Centers were founded by the families of the seven crew members aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger. The centers are located throughout the United States and abroad, with 33 sites in 27 states and three countries, including South Korea. The centers provide STEM education through space-themed experiences that immerse students in simulations promoting problem-solving, teamwork and critical thinking.

Participating students will take part in two experiences — a space mission and a STEM activity — spending about 90 minutes completing tasks such as flying simulated space missions and creating various STEM projects, Hayes said.

Rainbow City Mayor Joe Taylor said having the Challenger Learning Center in the area helps introduce students to potential career paths early on.

"Whether that is an engineer, an astronaut, a mathematician, we want to make sure you find your opportunities early and often," Taylor said.

The mayor added that the center will give students the immersive experiences needed to explore their futures, saying, "There's nothing a mayor could want more for a city than higher education."

Challenger Northeast Board Chairman Tony Smith thanked Westbrook Christian School for its partnership, saying, "You can never start early enough investing in our children."

Smith spoke directly to Westbrook's fifth graders, telling them he believes they will have a meaningful experience at the Challenger Learning Center. He said he and the board hope the program will spark curiosity in students and open their minds to the possibilities that are available to them.

As preparations continue, school leaders and city officials said they look forward to seeing the partnership take shape. They believe the hands-on experiences offered through the Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama will not only strengthen classroom instruction but also inspire students to imagine futures in science, engineering and other high-demand fields.

With the center set to open this spring, Westbrook's involvement marks one of the first steps in what educators hope will become a long-lasting collaboration that encourages students to dream big and reach for new possibilities.

GSCC and JSU strengthen pathways for students

Gadsden State Community College and Jacksonville State University have strengthened their long-standing partnership by signing a new agreement designed to help more Gadsden State graduates continue their education at Jax State. The signing took place in the Executive Conference Room in Angle Hall at Jacksonville State, where Gadsden State President Alan Smith and Jax State President Dr. Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., formalized the updated memorandum of understanding.

The agreement supports the Alabama Commission on Higher Education's (ACHE) Pathways to Progress Initiative, a statewide effort aimed at increasing the number of associate degree holders who go on to earn bachelor's degrees. Through the partnership, qualified Gadsden State graduates will receive guidance on transfer admissions, financial support available through the initiative, and the next steps needed to pursue a four-year degree at Jax State.

President Smith said he supported the initiative as soon as it reached his desk, noting that many students begin their academic journey at Gadsden State before advancing toward a bachelor's degree. "I was glad to sign this document," he said. "Our institutions are stronger when we're working together, and hopefully this is going to help us do that and give our students a clear pathway to continue their education. I'm intrigued by how this opportunity could benefit our students and have a positive economic impact on the communities we serve."

President Killingsworth said the partnership reflects the two institutions' shared responsibility to provide students with clear, attainable educational pathways. "We're excited about this opportunity to help more students move forward," he said. "Gadsden State has been a trusted partner for many years, and this agreement adds another meaningful component to the relationship we've built together. ACHE has invested in this work because the state needs more graduates with four-year degrees, and we're proud to be selected as part of that effort."

Under the agreement, qualified Gadsden State graduates will receive personalized communication from Jax State about transfer options, financial assistance available through Pathways to Progress, and guidance to support a smooth transition to a four-year program. Gadsden State will inform recent graduates of their eligibility and the opportunities available to them under the program.

The agreement will renew annually and reflects a shared commitment to expand opportunity, support student success, and strengthen the region's educational pipeline. Funding for Pathways to Progress is limited, so those interested in learning more about the statewide initiative can visit www.jsu.edu/academicaffairs/p2p/ad.html

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NEWS

GSCC to host commencement

Gadsden State Community College will host its Fall Commencement Ceremony at 6 p.m. Dec. 18 in the Richard Lindsey Arena at Gadsden State Cherokee. The event will recognize students who completed program requirements following the summer and fall semesters.

Featured commencement speakers are Gadsden State students Jacob Benefield, Belvajeon Collum, and Bailey Colvard.

Benefield, a native of Weaver, is receiving an associate in applied science degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. While attend-

ing Gadsden State, he has assisted in the development and prototyping of a student-led control trainer. After graduation, he plans to work as an electronics technician while pursuing a bachelor's degree at The University of Alabama.

Collum will graduate with a Certificate in Medical Coding/Billing. A Gadsden resident, she is involved in TRIO Student Support Services, the National Technical Honor Society, and the Alabama Board of Nursing. She previously earned credentials in Tailoring from Gadsden Technical Institute and completed Gadsden State's

nursing program, working as a nurse for 40 years. After graduation, she plans to take the CPC exam and continue working with 1st Care Medical, where she completed her internship.

Colvard, a Hokes Bluff native, will receive her Certificate in Salon & Spa Management. A former softball team manager, she considers her greatest accomplishment at Gadsden State to be discovering herself and gaining confidence. After graduation, Bailey plans to work in a salon for several years before continuing her education at UAB to pursue a career in the medical field.

Gadsden student wins first place in Lions peace poster contest

The North Alabama Lions Club, District 34A, is proud to announce that Gianna McNamara, a 12-year-old 7th grade student at Gadsden Middle School, has won First Place in the District 34A Peace Poster Contest with her inspiring artwork titled "Together As One."

Gianna's poster was selected from entries submitted by Lions Clubs across the northern third of Alabama, representing 16 counties participating in the annual international contest promoting peace, unity, and creativity among youth.

Gianna will now represent District 34A at the

state level of the Lions International Peace Poster competition.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to Alaina Rambert, Monrovia Middle School; Serena Messer, Emma Sansom Middle School; and Charley Elliott, Sparkman Middle School.

"We are incredibly proud of these talented young artists," said Craig Gadow District Governor.

The Lions International Peace Poster Contest encourages students ages 11-13 to express their ideas of peace through art, fostering youth engagement and global understanding.



Submitted photo

Gianna McNamara (center), a 7th grade student at Gadsden Middle School won First Place in the District 34A Peace Poster Contest with her inspiring artwork titled "Together As One."

Doug Jones enters governor's race

- From A1

In 2017, Jones launched what at first appeared to be a longshot bid for U.S. Senate, promising to focus on "kitchen table issues" for Alabamians. In a December special election, Jones beat Republican nominee Roy Moore, a former Alabama chief justice who divided Republicans and faced accusations of sexual abuse and misconduct during the campaign.

Despite out-raising Tuberville in the 2020 election, Jones lost re-election by election results as President Donald Trump easily won Alabama and straight-ticket Republican voting pulled Tuberville ahead. After his defeat, Jones, a longtime supporter of Joe Biden, helped the Biden administration guide U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination through the U.S. Senate.

Jones had been dropping hints of a gubernatorial run throughout the year.

He endorsed and campaigned for Alex Braswell, a Democratic candidate in the House District 11 special election this summer. He hosted a town hall for Braswell, who was the first Democrat to run for the seat in nearly 20 years, in Cullman, his wife's hometown.

Jones hinted at his run for governor at a town hall hosted by U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell, D-Birmingham, in November.

Jones was also part of a discussion in October with former U.S. Attorney Bill Baxley where the pair of attorneys reflected on the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing.

"At the time, it was a hope of race here in America. But today, it's really a hope for everyone, given all that we're doing," Jones said at the event hosted by the Southern Poverty Law Center. "Even when I tried these cases years ago, immigration issues and other issues of hate will begin to bubble up. And today it's

really the hope of so many people that we can all live on this planet together, love each other a little bit more, (and) respect each other a hell of a lot more."

Jones joins Will Boyd and Chad "Chig" Martin in the Democratic primary. Tuberville and Ken McFeeters make up the Republican primary so far.

Democrats face a tough battle for statewide office in Alabama. Jones, who was the first Democrat to win election to the U.S. Senate in 25 years, is the only Democrat to win a statewide vote for a political office since 2008, when former Public Service Commission President Lucy Baxley narrowly won election to the PSC. The last Democrat to win the governor's mansion was Don Siegelman in 1998. Siegelman served a single term.

Messenger News Editor Kaitlin Hoskins contributed to this article.



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**Welcome
to the
Library**
Craig Scott

Every time I walk through the entry door of the Gadsden Public Library, I’m reminded that a library is so much more than rows of books. It’s a living, breathing community hub—a place where curiosity is fed, creativity is sparked, and every age group can find something meaningful to enjoy.

Over the past few months, GPL’s calendar has been bursting with programs for adults, teens, and children. If you haven’t visited in a while, you may be surprised by just how full and vibrant the schedule has

become.

For our youngest readers, the Children’s Department on the 1st floor, managed by Hanna Gray, continues to shine with storytimes, craft days, and hands-on learning activities that turn reading into an adventure. Whether it’s a themed story hour, a seasonal art project, or one of the library’s popular interactive programs, children are encouraged to explore, imagine, and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Teens in our community also have a space to call their own. The Teen Department on the 4th floor, managed by Hannah Stiglitz, regularly offers programs that blend creativity, technology, and fun—from gaming meetups and crafting afternoons (including food!) to book clubs and skill-building workshops. These gatherings give teens not only a welcoming place to hang out but also a chance to discover new interests and form connections with their peers.

Adults will find just as much to enjoy. LaShunda Williams, Public Services Spe-

cialist, continues to host book clubs, art and craft programs, sewing classes, author talks, and other enriching events throughout the month. Her quarterly Bingo for Adults always brings in a large crowd of enthusiastic folks hoping to win! But, whether you’re looking to improve a skill, meet new people, or simply enjoy a morning or afternoon out, I guarantee there’s a program that fits the bill.

And I can’t forget one of the most treasured resources in the GPL system: the Alabama City Branch Library, home to the library’s dedicated genealogy and family history collections. For anyone tracing family roots or exploring local history, this branch offers research materials, guidance, and workshops or sessions designed to help beginners and seasoned genealogists alike. It’s a remarkable place to uncover stories of the past and connect them to the present. Kevin Graves manages the branch along with Fred Moore and Melody Cook.

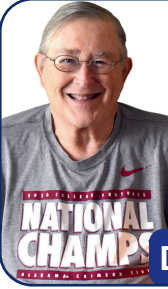
In short, the Gadsden Public Library is bustling—with ideas, energy, and opportu-

nities for everyone. If you’re looking for something new to participate in, learn, or enjoy, chances are the library already has it on the calendar.

So, stop by, pick up a schedule, or go online at www.gadsdenlibrary.org and see what’s happening. You might be surprised at what you find—and you’ll always be welcomed with a smile.

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

Hagen among first industrialists here



**Looking
at the
History**
Danny Crownover

One of Gadsden’s first industrial leaders and one of its finest citizens was William Otto Hagen, who came here in 1878 with John Flynn, a master mechanic, to establish the city’s first iron foundry and machine shop.

He was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, April 9, 1845, being the son of Carl Frederick and Elizabeth Hagen. He came to this country in 1863, landing at Quebec, Canada.

From there he went to Chicago where he followed his trade as a molder for several

years.

Soon after the Civil War ended, he came south on a prospecting tour and in 1872 he located at Rome, Ga., remaining there until he came to Gadsden.

The foundry he and Mr. Flynn built here was located on Locust Street, near Sixth Street. They were successful from the start, both being expert workmen and good businessmen. In addition to doing a general foundry and machine business they built the Cawhern Cotton Gin.

In 1883, J.E. Line, a lumber manufacturer from Chattanooga and head of the old Southern Lumber Company here, came into the firm and they organized the Gadsden Foundry & Machine Works with a capital stock of \$10,000.

was the first iron finishing concern to be started in Gadsden and its success was even greater than its promoters.

In March, 1888, Hagen & Flynn, the original firm, purchased Mr. Line’s interest and became exclusive owners.

They moved their plant to Second and

Broad Street and there they added a cast iron soil pipe department which they sold in the middle 1890’s to W.H. Weller and the plant grew into the great pipe shop of Hoffman, Billings & Weller.

In the late 1890’s Mr. Hagen formed a partnership with John R. Proctor to operate a foundry and machine shop under the firm name of Hagen & Proctor.

In addition to being an expert molder, Mr. Hagen was a fine office man and guided his factories to paying propositions without much trouble. He was a leader in almost every worthwhile civic effort in his adopted home and was rated a top flight industrialist.

In September, 1872, he married Miss Jenny Martin, of Rome. They were members of the Methodist Church and both were much loved. The family has always been prominent and is connected with some of the oldest and most important builders of the city.

Mr. And Mrs. Hagen had three children. One son, Clifton died in infancy. Fred, an-

other son, died in Philadelphia, where he had become one of the leading insurance men of the state of Pennsylvania, and was a high executive of one of the largest companies in America.

Daisy, the only daughter, married Herman Herzberg Jr., and they had two children. Mrs. Hazel Sproull, and Col. A. C. Herzberg, a real estate dealer of Montgomery and a retired U.S. Army Colonel.

Sometime after Mr. Hertzberg died his widow married Sam L. O’bannon, who became a retired chief of police after being a member of the Gadsden department for 47 years.

Mr. Hagen died August 17, 1899. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Knights of Honor.

When he and Mr. Flynn came to Gadsden they were accompanied by Robert Campbell, an expert molder who became one of the greatest foundryman in this country.

Contact The Vagabond at dkcrown@bellsouth.net.

The beauty of the cracked cookie



**ECHOES
FROM THE
KITCHEN**
Samantha Hill

This week in my graphic design class, I was introduced to the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, the art of finding beauty in imperfection and impermanence. It struck me immediately as something that doesn’t just belong in design, but in life, and especially in the kitchen.

Spiced molasses cookies are my favorite example. They emerge from the oven with fissures across their surface, like tiny maps of rivers and valleys. Those cracks

aren’t mistakes, they’re invitations. Each one holds a pocket of spice, a burst of ginger, cinnamon, and clove that makes the cookie sing.

For me, molasses carries more than flavor, it carries memory. My grandfather loved molasses. It was a taste that seemed to anchor him, simple and strong. When people rode by his house, they often saw him stretched out on his porch swing, taking a nap in the Alabama sun. He was a POW in World War II, a man of resilience with a resounding laugh and a collection of pocket knives so vast it seemed endless.

Every time I bake these cookies, I think of him. The cracks remind me of the lines etched into his face, the way life leaves its marks but also its beauty. The sweetness of molasses ties me back to his strength, his humor, and the quiet comfort of those porch swing afternoons.

This week, learning about wabi-sabi

gave me the language for something I’ve always felt that imperfection is not something to hide, but something to celebrate. These cookies, with their cracked tops and rustic charm, are wabi-sabi in edible form. They remind me that the holidays aren’t about control; they are about connection.

So, this season, I invite you to savor the wabi-sabi feast. Dust the cookies with sugar, serve them proudly, and let their imperfections remind you that the holidays are about presence, not perfection.

Spiced Molasses Cracked Cookies

- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 large egg

¼ cup molasses

½ cup granulated sugar (for rolling)

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Whisk together flour, spices, baking soda, and salt. In a separate bowl, cream butter and brown sugar until fluffy. Beat in egg and molasses. Gradually add dry ingredients until combined. Scoop tablespoon sized balls of dough, roll in granulated sugar, and place on baking sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes, until cookies puff and crack on top. Cool slightly before serving, though they are best eaten warm.

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



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DEVOTIONALS

From God’s word - Immanuel, God is with us



There are numerous Scriptures in the Bible stating, describing and explaining how, when and where God is with us. There is one particular Scripture I’d like to highlight this week.

Isaiah 7:14 says, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel, (which means ‘God is with us’).”

This Scripture is often used during the Christmas holiday season, which is one reason I wanted to highlight it. However, the main reason occurred earlier this week when

a newflash popped up on my phone regarding the death of a well-known dancer named Stephen Boss. I knew very little about him, but due to all the posts and news feeds, I read several articles about Stephen and his family.

Stephen had a beautiful family that often even participated in his dances on social media. According to the world’s standards, he was very successful with plenty of money and fame. He was nice looking, super talented and well known. Most of all, I was amazed at his gorgeous smile that was evident in every photo. However, even with all of those remarkable blessings that so many of us long for and work to attain all our lives, Stephen still struggled inwardly so much so that he decided that it was just too hard to continue living.

The following is a quote from someone I will keep anonymous who evidently relates closely with Stephen and what he could have been feeling.

“Because we never felt true hopelessness and complete despair, it is hard for some of us to believe. The night for us has never been so dark and so long. We have never been so

desperate for peace and rest. Some understand that pain can get so unbearable that all you want is for it to stop. Some know what it feels like to drown in shame and experience insecurity that makes breathing hard. I believe that only together and never alone can we fight demons. Together, and never alone, can we conquer shame, hopelessness and fear. Together, and never alone, can we live in peace and experience joy and love. This season reminds us that we are never alone. Immanuel, God is with us.”

I’m sure that we have all had someone close or perhaps even ourselves who experience this same struggle. First, I pray you never experience condemnation or shame if you or a family member has experienced depression or any other type of mental illness.

Second, I pray that you would never walk this battle alone. As the person above stated, together and never alone can we live in peace and experience joy and love. Talk to someone and let him or her help you. All of us, regardless of what our challenges are in life, should talk to at least one other person and never try and walk this life all alone.

Last and most important, there is a reason why Scripture tells us that Mary would give birth to a son and call him Immanuel, or “God is with us.” That is not only His name but His promise to us as to who He is, and that his character never changes. In that one simple name is depth that is beyond our comprehension... a mixture of majesty and intimacy that is unmatched. Our God is always with us, He loves us and wants to be there for us. Faith in God’s promises is ultimately the only way to find peace in the midst of trouble.

This Christmas, may you drink deeply of the truest gift you have ever received, which is God Himself. May we take time to pray for Stephen’s family and all those who might have lost a loved one in the same manner, or those you know who might be struggling in the same way that Stephen struggled. May you and your family know that God loves you so much that He will go to any length necessary to show you that He is Immanuel. God is with you!

If you would like continued prayer, feel free to email me at tonij77@gmail.com. I would love to pray for you!

When rejection tries to write your story

Have you ever walked into a room and felt like you didn’t even exist? Maybe your ideas were ignored. Maybe you were picked last. Maybe someone made you feel like you bring nothing to the table. Rejection hurts because God created us with a need to belong and to matter.

It isn’t always the big moments that leave the deepest marks.

Sometimes it’s the quiet daily hurts:

- A parent too distracted to notice you.
- Friends who “forgot” to invite you.
- Coworkers who benefit from your effort but overlook your value.

We learn to hide those wounds, but they follow us. They shape how we see ourselves,

how we trust, and even how we believe God sees us.

But here’s the good news:

- God has never overlooked you.
- Not once.
- He sees every moment you felt pushed to the side.
- He knows the sting of rejection—because He lived it.
- When others dismiss you, the Savior who was rejected Himself reaches for you. Your identity is not tied to earthly approval, it is anchored in divine love.

Isaiah reminds us:

“He was despised and rejected by mankind... a man of suffering, familiar with

pain.” — Isaiah 53:3

Jesus understands rejection better than anyone. And He chose you anyway.

- So today, lift your head.
- You are chosen.
- You are valued.
- You are fiercely loved by the One who created you with purpose.
- Walk in grace. Stand in truth. Live blessed.

Pastor Shawn Blackmon serves as the Lead Pastor of UNITY Church in Attalla, Alabama, where his preaching is real, relevant and rooted in the unchanging Word of God. Beyond the pulpit, he serves as CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ala-



bama, 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.

Weekly Bible Verses

- “

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

”
- Isaiah 7:14 (King James Version)
- “

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

”
- John 3:16-17 (King James Version)

Your Weekly Devotionals



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The Lord is my Light & my Salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1



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OBITUARIES



David Ward Akins

GADSDEN - David Ward Akins passed away on December 3, 2025. He was born on September 15, 1955, to Grady and Mary Akins in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The youngest of four children, David endured the torture of two older brothers and a sister, and, in turn, they endured him. David was known as a little rounder. Growing up behind Noccalula Falls, David hunted in the woods with his dogs, bringing home his game for his mom to cook. He was curious and loved to learn, loved taking things apart and figuring out how they worked and spent Sunday afternoons reading the family's set of encyclopedias.

At the age of 15, David looked across the school cafeteria at Emma Sansom High School and saw the girl he knew would be the love of his life. That young lady was Linda Walley who he would be married to for 50 years. They married in 1975 in his parents' home while he was serving in the U.S. Air Force. David began working at Goodyear and, after becoming a father, worked his way through school, earning his accounting degree from Jacksonville State University. He was a retired CPA with a history of accomplishments which included his service with the Examiners of Public Accounts and his roles as the Chief Executive Officer of Etowah County and the Chief Financial Officer of the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind. David was an Auburn football-loving, golf club-wielding, one-of-a-kind guy. His gregarious personality was uplifting and always elevated the mood of any room he entered. More than anything, he loved being "Diddy" to his four children and "Paw Paw" to his seven grandchildren. He passed onto them his love for God, his passion for music, and his sense of humor.

David is preceded in death by his parents, Grady and Mary Akins, and his brother, Craig Akins.

David is survived by his wife Linda, their four children, Amanda Fant (Scott), Lori Smith (Zane), Matt Akins (Leslie), and Katie Marie Montgomery (Kevin), his seven grandchildren, Zander Smith, Victoria Fant, Anna Fant, Shepherd Smith, Nate Fant, Rowan Smith, and Finley Montgomery, his brother, Bruce Akins, his sister, Donna Hagedorn, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Amedisys Hospice.

A visitation was held at Collier-Butler Funeral Home, located at 824 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, Alabama, on Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The funeral service followed at 12:00 p.m.

In the words of his brother, Bruce, "Heaven just got to be a funnier place."

Christine Allbrook

GADSDEN - A visitation was held from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025, at Village Chapel, for Christine Allbrook, age 80, of Gadsden, who passed away Saturday, December 6, 2025. Reverend Word officiated.

Christine wore many hats during her life. She was a talented seamstress,

but most of all a wonderful caretaker for her family and many pets she adored. Mrs. Allbrook will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her children, Jean Price, Austin Allbrook; chosen daughter, Carol (Brent) Daugherty; grandchildren, Ricky Price, Crystal (Jeremy) Judd, David Allbrook and Andrew Allbrook; great nieces, Ava and Mia Daugherty.

Bertha Heard

GADSDEN - Prestige Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory sadly announces the passing of Mrs. Bertha D. Heard, age 69, of Gadsden, AL, who traded mortal for immortality on Friday, December 05, 2025. She is survived by her loving Daughter. We ask that you please keep The Heard Family and those families that may be going through the same lifted in prayer.

Services
Public Viewing: Saturday, December 13, 2025, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, Bethel Baptist Church, 1010 Hoke Street, Gadsden, AL 35903.

Celebration of Life: Saturday, December 13, 2025, 1:00 PM, Bethel Baptist Church, 1010 Hoke Street, Gadsden, AL 35903.

Interment following funeral service: Saturday, December 13, 2025, Rainbow Memorial Gardens, 1440 W Grand Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35904.

Amos Cash

GADSDEN - Amos Dewayne Cash was born on September 10, 1973, in Gadsden, Alabama, to Elsie Flowers and Amos Cash, Sr.

Amos was a proud graduate of Litchfield High School, Class of 1992. Following high school, Amos honorably served his country in the United States Navy.

Amos enjoyed life and had a deep love for sports. His kind spirit, sense of humor, and warm presence were cherished by all who knew him.

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, Amos departed this life at UAB Medical Center.

Amos leaves to cherish his memory his loving mother, Elsie Flowers Sumpter; father, Amos Louis Cash, Sr.; four brothers, Reginald (Tajwana) Flowers, Isaac (Felicia) Flowers, Owen Cash, and Amos Cash, Jr.; two uncles, Daniel Flowers, Jr. and Robert Montgomery; aunt, Rosie Montgomery; special cousins, Michael (Ester) Owens, Tracy Flowers, JoeAnn Johnson, and Donna (Earnest) Woods; and a host of cousins and friends.

His life, love, and legacy will remain forever in the hearts of those who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, December 12, 2025, 11:00 AM, at Adams-Buggs Funeral Service ~ Etowah Chapel, 401 N. 9th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901.



James "Buddy" Holderfield

GADSDEN - James William "Buddy" Holderfield, age 73, of Gadsden, Alabama, passed away on December 8, 2025. A lifelong resident of Gadsden and Hokes Bluff, Buddy was born on October 25, 1952, and attended Emma Sansom High School. He faithfully served his country for three years in the United States Marine Corps.

Buddy was an avid deer hunter who loved the outdoors, his family, and his community. For 15 years he drove Entertainer Coaches with Howard Leasing, a job he took great pride in. He cherished time spent with his family and will be remembered for his loyalty, work ethic, and the love he showed to those around him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Hollis and Hazel (Jones) Holderfield; stepmother, Willie Jo Holderfield; brothers, Aubrey, Barry, and Danny Holderfield; sisters, Shirley Barnes and Carolyn Owen; and his son, James Lee Holderfield.

Buddy is survived by his loving wife, Debra Holderfield; his children, Scott (Brianna) Holderfield, Brandi (Jason) Woodward, and Celeste (Matt) Bobo; grandchildren, Kirsten (Cyle) Butenhoff, Abby (Drake) Stewart, Gavin Holderfield, Crimson Holderfield, Lane Holderfield, Shelby (Josh) Harrington, Maggie Woodward, Jaycee (Daniel) Bolton, Leland Bobo, and Faith Bobo; and great-grandchildren, Thomas Harrington, Eden Stewart, and Scotty Bolton.

The family would like to extend a special thank-you to Cherokee County Health and Rehab, and to the nurses on the 3rd floor CCU at Riverview Regional Medical Center, for their exceptional care, compassion, and support during Buddy's final days.

Buddy will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who were blessed to know him.

Gordon David Holland

ATTALLA - Gordon David Holland, born on July 9, 1952, in Tennessee, passed away on December 5, 2025, at the age of 73. He was a resident of Attalla, Alabama.

Joanne Trowbridge

GADSDEN - Joanne Trowbridge, born on July 27, 1939, passed away on December 6, 2025, at the age of 86. Joanne was a resident of Gadsden, Alabama.

A visitation will be held at Collier-Butler Funeral Home, located at 824 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, AL 35901, on December 12, 2025, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, followed by a funeral service at 12:00 pm. She will be laid to rest at Crestwood Cemetery.

Frances Frazier Clayton

GADSDEN - A visitation was held from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, December 6, 2025, at Village Chapel Funeral Home for Frances "Nana" Frazier Clayton, 93, of Gadsden, who died Wednesday, December 3, 2025. Rev. David Carroll and Rev. Kenneth Lassetter officiated.

Frances was a graduate of Emma Sansom High School, Class of 1950, and she worked for Copeland Glass for 32 years. Mrs. Clayton was a member of Malone Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years, Ross Clayton; daughter, Doris Hughes; and parents, Bob and Addie Frazier; sister, Dorothy Lankford.

Frances is survived by her son, Roger (Joan) Clayton; 4 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; special pet, Sassy; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to caregivers, Wanda Gullledge, Becky Colley, Enhabit Home Health and Hospice, Bre Lane, Kayla Robertson, and Whitney Roberts.

Jerry Mack Foster

GADSDEN - Jerry Mack Foster, age 91, of Gadsden, passed away on December 4, 2025, and was received into the loving and eternal hands of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Decem-

ber 10, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Crestwood Funeral Home. Micah Williamson officiated the service. Burial followed at Crestwood Cemetery.

Jerry was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, affectionately known to many as "Pawpaw." He was born on March 22, 1934, in Altoona, Alabama. Jerry lived a life marked by kindness, humility, and sincere goodness toward others. He treated everyone he met with compassion and respect, quietly reflecting his faith through his actions.

Jerry proudly served his country as a veteran of the United States Army and later retired from the Good-year Tire Plant after many years of faithful and dedicated service. A true family man, Jerry dearly loved his wife, Mary Frances, as well as his children, grandchildren, and the many friends whose lives he touched. He was a devoted servant of the Lord, faithfully serving as a deacon and Sunday school teacher, and he found great joy in teaching and mentoring young boys through coaching baseball.

Jerry is survived by his children: Diane Warren McCarthy (Blane), Jerry Lamar Foster, and Tresa Foster Flanegin (Rob); grandchildren: Thomas Jerry Warren (Katie), Mary Louise McNeely (Will), Anna Laura Woods (Ishmael), Anastasia Hamann (Ben), Lada Blanchet (Ryan), Kyle Flanegin (Reese), Kevin Flanegin (Bailey), and eKaterina Selezak; great-grandchildren: Mollie, Tyson, Cameron, Macklin, Alivia, Liam, Nicolai, Michael, Willow, Barrett, and Rowan; his sister, Sharlene Ponder; sister in law JoAnn Newell, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Bellevue Baptist Church - Youth Department, 150 Noccalula Drive, Gadsden, AL, 35904.

Letha Rebecca Coffey

HOKES BLUFF - A funeral service for Letha Rebecca "Becky" Coffey, 75, of Hokes Bluff, was held 2 pm Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Glencoe Hokes Bluff Funeral Home with Steven Dial officiating. Burial followed at New Bethel Cemetery.

Mrs. Coffey passed away on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at her home.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Danny Coffey; mother, Barbara Alford; father, Zelman Alford; brother, Ronnie Alford; and sister, Nancy Webb.

Becky is survived by her daughters, Lisa Vaughn (Eugene), and Trina Coffey McCary (Brandon); grandchildren, Kendall Barron (Chase), Jake Sims (Ellie), and Abby Payne; great-grandchildren, Landon, Daniel, and Karson Barron; sister, Elizabeth Dial (Steven); brother, David Alford (Angie), and Steve Alford (Sarah); as well as many loving nieces, nephews, and friends.

Becky retired from Hokes Bluff High School after 25 years. She loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved her plants and enjoyed reading. Becky grew up in California but moved back to Hokes Bluff after graduation.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Pro Health Home Health and Hospice, Etowah County Pulmonary Associates, and the office of Dr. Yoyen Lau and staff.

Honi Taylor

GADSDEN - It is with deep sympathy we announce the passing of Honi Taylor of Gadsden, AL, who transitioned on Monday, December 1, 2025, at the age of 40. We ask that you keep her family and friends

in your thoughts and prayers during the difficult time.

Honi Ginger Taylor was born on January 28, 1985, in Gadsden, Alabama, to the union of the late Ernest Taylor and Monica Davis Taylor. She was educated in the Gadsden City School System and later earned her G.E.D. from Gadsden State Community College.

Ginger had a warm spirit and a generous heart. She loved cooking, listening to music, and spending time with her family—moments that brought her great joy and allowed her kindness and humor to shine. Her presence was a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

On December 1, 2025, Ginger peacefully went home to be with God.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ernest Taylor.

She leaves to cherish her memories her mother, Monica Taylor; brothers, Matthew Taylor, Juwan Taylor, Justice Taylor and Johnathan Taylor; aunts, Beverly Hogg and Jana Brooks; cousins, Jaime Brooks, Jiri (Brittany) Brooks, Lenita Brooks, and Jacel Brooks, and a host of loving nieces and nephews that reside in Texas and also in Washington D.C.; she also leaves behind a special friend, Akeem Quinn. Everyone will miss her warm smile, her sensitive nature and heart that was always full of love.

Funeral: Friday, December 12, 2025, 1:00 PM, Adams-Buggs Funeral Service ~ Etowah Chapel, 401 N. 9th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901.

Loretta Young

GADSDEN - Loretta Young Jordan, age 82, of Gadsden, AL, passed away peacefully while in hospice care at Riverview Regional Medical Center. Loretta was born to Virgil and Evelyn Young May 22, 1943 and spent most of her life in Gadsden.

Loretta was a hard worker and had a varied work career. She worked at South Central Bell for a period and took time off to have a baby and stay home with her children. After a while she went back to work and worked alongside her husband at Hugh's Pharmacy. While there, she was offered and accepted a job with Gadsden Regional Medical Center from which she retired in 2008. Loretta was an avid reader, often times finding herself absorbed in 2-3 books simultaneously. She found joy in gardening; she could make anything grow! She was remarkable at baking, especially known for her cheesecakes and Christmas goodies. When her granddaughters came along she found room to be a good Nana and chief chauffeur.

Loretta is survived by her husband, Craig Jordan, son, Stephen Jordan (DeAnna), daughter Hunter Robinson, granddaughters Parker Robinson (Anderson) and Olivia Robinson. She is preceded in death by her parents, grandmother, Dessie Sherrill, sisters Merle Taylor and Judy Kilgore.

Visitation will be held at Crestwood Funeral Home December 12 from 1-2 pm with a graveside service immediately following.

The Jordan family wishes to express our sincere gratitude to our friends who have supported us throughout this distressing disease, to Enhabit Hospice(Bridgett, Jennifer, Bre, Chaplain Clay, Brandon, Kylie, Tammy, Karen, Whitney, Lori, Leah) for their compassionate and exceptional care, Hugh's Pharmacy (Jennifer) and to Hannah Chavers Huff for providing much needed respite care. We are eternally grateful for all of you.

Mary Copeland

Mary Copeland, age 95, passed away on December 6th, 2025. A funeral service was held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 1 p.m. Burial followed at Crest-

wood Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband Charles Copeland, children Cindy (Lee) McClain, Mike (Betty) Copeland, Karen Copeland, Kevin (Leah) Elliott, Dean (Gloria) Copeland, several grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Loretta Ann Willingham

WALNUT GROVE - Loretta Ann (Davenport) Willingham, born on June 30, 1941, passed away on December 8, 2025, at the age of 84. Loretta was a resident of Walnut Grove, Alabama.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 from 5 until 8pm. at Carnes Chapel FCM. A Funeral Service was held at 2 pm Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Carnes Chapel FMC with Bro. Matt Carnes and Bro. Deon Black officiating.

On Monday December 8, 2025 at 3:37pm Loretta Ann (Davenport) Willingham, born July 30, 1941 went home to be with the Lord. Loretta was a 1959 Etowah High School graduate. She was a faithful member of Carnes Chapel FCM Church for 66 years. Loretta's first job was at Woolworths, from there she sold Avon, Stanley products and Tupperware to local community and friends. She worked at the Wal-Mart in Boaz for 21 1/2 years, West End High School Lunchroom for 12 years. Loretta loved going to trips with her friends, Betty Gargus, Charlotte Hopper and Lynn Washburn and family. Her favorite color was pink. She loved cooking homemade meals for her family and made sure no one was left hungry. Loretta was married 62 years to the love of her life, Rayburn Willingham.

Loretta is preceded in death by her husband, Rayburn Willingham; parents, Roy and Claudia Davenport; sisters, Betty Lou Davenport, Inez Abercrombie, Rosa Lee Davis, Virginia Casey; brothers, infant son, Erskin Davenport, Troy Davenport, Ernest Davenport, Emmett Davenport; daughter in law, Laura Willingham.

Loretta is survived by her children, Phillip (Terri) Willingham, Pam (Bucky) Cole, Angela Gilliland; sister in law, Dollie Willingham and Joyce Willingham; grandchildren, Blake (Denise) Willingham, Derrick Willingham, Kristen (Jesse) Beavers, Hunter Gilliland, Brooke Gilliland, Beth Cole; great grandchildren, Landon Willingham, Jaiden Willingham, Caylee Parson, Logan Parson, and Oliva Beavers.

The family would like to say thank you for all the texts and calls during this time. A special thank you to the staff in the MICU Gadsden Regional Hospital, Amedisys Hospice and Dr. Debora Reiland for giving our mom the care.



Norma Faye Beasley

RAINBOW CITY - Norma Faye Beasley, born on

OBITUARIES

July 28, 1941, passed away on December 4, 2025, at the age of 84. She was a resident of Rainbow City, Alabama.

Norma was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was a member of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, and she worked for the United States Postal Service as a mail carrier and postmaster. Norma took great joy in working in her yard and was well-known for her wonderful cooking. Above all, she loved and cherished her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Clyde Smith; mother, Leola Smith Engle; sister, Patricia Goodman, and infant brother; Donald Smith.

Norma is survived by her husband, Gerald Beasley; daughters; Tammie Fontaine (Roger), Tracie Braswell (Alan); grandchildren, Tara Fontaine, Cody (Jamie) Fontaine, and Megan (Andrew) Mauldin; great grandchild, McKenna Fontaine; siblings, Bonnie Link, and Dencil "Buddy" Smith (Diane); a hosts of nieces and nephews; and her faithful 4-legged companion, Susie.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Norma's Hospice Nurse, Sarah Burke; CNA, Emily Jenkins; and Caregiver, Eva Rogers.



Mark Dewayne Steapleton

ATTALLA - Mark Dewayne Steapleton, born

on August 7, 1952, passed away on December 4, 2025, at the age of 73.

Funeral services were held on Monday, December 8, 2025, at Morgan Funeral Chapel, Attalla, AL. Mark grew up in Curtiston and graduated from Etowah High School in 1970. He worked retail with Woolco, Woolworth, and Walmart, then retired from Jay-Mid-south Industries. He loved his children, playing golf and Alabama football. Mark was also a beloved BoomPa.

He is preceded in death by his parents, R.E. and Ruby Steapleton; and sister, Glenda Steapleton.

Mark is survived by his loving children, Dewayne (Donna) Steapleton, and Leigh (Kevin) Hunt; grandchildren, Grayson Hunt, Emily Teems, and Abby Millican; great grandsons, Jagger, River, and Knox; and brothers, Edmond Steapleton, and Roger Steapleton.

The family would like to extend special thanks to the First Responders, River-view - ER Staff, Brookwood Medical Center - SICU Staff and Doctors.

Tammy Darlene Martin

ALTOONA - Tammy Darlene Martin, born on May 23, 1968, in Alabama, passed away on December 4, 2025, at the age of 57. She was a resident of Altoona, Alabama.

Raymond Edward Jr.

Raymond Paul Edward Jr. passed away on December 5, 2025, at the age of 75. He was born on October 18, 1950.

Travis Scott

GADSDEN - A Celebration of Life service for Travis Scott, 83, of Gadsden was held 3:30 pm Sunday, December 7, 2025 at Glen-coe Hokes Bluff Funeral

Home with Michael Burgess officiating the service.

Mr. Scott passed away Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at his home.

Mr. Scott is preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Shelby "Jean" Scott; parents, W.T. Scott and Avis Swafford; brothers, Freddie Scott and Wallace Scott; and his sister, Brenda Owens.

Left to cherish the memory of Mr. Scott are his daughters, Deana Smith and Natasha Scott (Amanda); brother, Larry Scott (Amelia); special friends that are chosen family members, Carolyn and Leon Myers; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Scott served in the United States Army in Vietnam from 1966-1968. He loved to spend time with his family. Travis was everyone's handyman and enjoyed doing what his wife and family liked. Travis loved Alabama football and he loved taking care of people; Mr. Scott will be so deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or the The Lucy Bryan Memorial Fund <https://onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth94212/-/form/give/Lucy>.



Ramona "Mona" Kay Solley Brooks

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved Ramona "Mona" Kay Solley Brooks. Though words can never

fully express the loss we feel, we take comfort in reflecting upon a life that placed her Lord and Savior first and who loved her family and friends with her whole heart. Born in Etowah County and formerly a resident of Southside, Mona relocated to Munford just over a year ago to be closer to family.

Mona was a devoted wife and mother. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, and she was never slow to speak her mind. If you spent much time around her you quickly realized that she was the center of the room. Mona did not meet a stranger, and she was always smiling and upbeat.

Mona was preceded in death by her parents-Robert Loyd Solley and Wilma Sue Solley; her brother Guy Victor Solley; her husband of sixty years, Rev. Thomas Larry Brooks; and her son Larry Wayne Brooks. She is survived by her son Robby Brooks (Missy); Daughter in Love Mishaela Brooks; Granddaughter Ariel Alford (Cody) and Grandson Newt Brooks (Kaylee).

The family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the wonderful staff at Enhabit Hospice for the love and compassion that was shown to the Brooks family as well as Ms. Vanessa Groce who was Mrs. Brooks' companion and friend. We are forever grateful for the love that you have shown our loved ones.

There will be no visitation or graveside, but a memorial service will be held to honor Mona's life. Friends and family are welcome to join us at Green Valley Baptist Church on January 18 from 2-4 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to a charity close to their heart, ensuring that Mona's spirit of giving continues.



Tia E. Rogers

GADSDEN - Ms. Tia E. Rogers, 43, Gadsden, passed away December 2, 2025.

Ms. Rogers is survived by her family.

In person condolences with the family was held Tuesday, December 9, 2025 in the Chapel of West Gadsden Funeral Home.

A celebration of life was held at 1 pm Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at Abundant Life Church, Gadsden.



Robin Elizabeth Edwards

GADSDEN - A graveside service was held 1 p.m. Monday, December 8, 2025, at Conn Cemetery, for Robin Elizabeth Edwards, age 63, of Gadsden, who passed away December 5, 2025. Reverend Billy Boatwright officiated. Burial followed at Conn Cemetery.

Mrs. Edwards was an employee of Attalla Health Care for 30 years and was a member of Gospel Temple Church. Robin was preceded in death by her parents, Larry and Leona Collins.

She is survived by her husband, Timothy Edwards; daughter, Ashleigh (Drake) Nanney; sister, Kelly Col-

lins; brother, Larry Collins; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to express a special thanks to Dr. Castillo and staff and Gentiva Hospice.



William Williams

William Williams, born on December 17, 1953, passed away on December 2, 2025, at the age of 71.

Ray was a 1975 graduate of Emma Sansom High School and began his career insulating houses shortly after. He was a local business owner of Quality Insulation with over 50 years of experience in his field. He was man of faith and enjoyed visiting local churches around Etowah County. He was a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather who spent most of his free time spending time with his family.

Ray is preceded in death by his mother, Ramona Hawkins. Sisters, Sonja Rousseau and Mary Hawkins. Brothers John Williams, Ronnie Williams, Roger Williams and Billy Hawkins.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Leatha Williams, daughter, Jamie Williams (Larry), son Ryan Williams (Cherri). Grandchildren; Emily Collins (Braxton), Alec Timmons, Jayda Williams, Mallory Williams and Tanner Dempsey. Great-Grandchildren; Kashon Dixon and Emery Collins.

In Lieu of flowers, donations may be given in his memory to the American Cancer Society at <https://www.cancer.org/donate/memorial-giving.html>.

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SPORTS

Local Schedules

- College Basketball
- Men's

Dec. 15

GSCC vs. Lurleen B. Wallace Community College at LWCC at 6 p.m.
- Women's

Dec. 13

GSCC vs. Cleveland State Community College at home at 1 p.m.

Dec. 15

GSCC vs. Lurleen B. Wallace Community College at LWCC at 4 p.m.
- High School Basketball
- Girls

Dec. 12

Gadsden City vs. Southside at Southside at 6 p.m.

Sardis vs. Boaz at Boaz at 6 p.m.

Glencoe vs. Westbrook at home at 5:30 p.m.

Hokes Bluff vs. Ashville at Ashville at 6 p.m.

Gaston vs. Sand Rock at home at 6 p.m.

Dec. 15

Gadsden City vs. Pinson Valley at home at 6 p.m.

Southside vs. Jacksonville at Jacksonville at 5:30 p.m.

Etowah vs. Piedmont at Piedmont at 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 16

Gadsden City vs. Minor (Adamsville) at home at 6 p.m.

Sardis vs. Glencoe at home at 5:30 p.m.

Hokes Bluff vs. Oneonta at home at 5:45 p.m.

Westbrook vs. Piedmont at home at 5:30 p.m.

Gaston vs. Cedar Bluff at home at 6 p.m.

Dec. 18

Hokes Bluff vs. Boaz at home at 6 p.m.

West End vs. Gaston at Gaston at 6 p.m.
- Boys

Dec. 12

Gadsden City vs. Southside at Southside at 7:30 p.m.

Sardis vs. Boaz at Boaz at 7:30 p.m.

Glencoe vs. Westbrook at home at 7:15 p.m.

Hokes Bluff vs. Ashville at Ashville at 7 p.m.

Gaston vs. Sand Rock at home at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 13

Glencoe vs. Guntersville at Guntersville at 3:20 p.m.

Coosa Christian vs. Asbury at Asbury at 11:20 a.m.

Dec. 15

Gadsden City vs. Pinson Valley at home at 7:30 p.m.

Southside vs. Jacksonville at Jacksonville at 6:30 p.m.

Etowah vs. Piedmont at Piedmont at 7 p.m.

Dec. 16

Gadsden City vs. Minor (Adamsville) at home at 7:30 p.m.

Sardis vs. Glencoe at home at 7 p.m.

Hokes Bluff vs. Oneonta at home at 7:15 p.m.

Westbrook vs. Piedmont at home at 7 p.m.

Gaston vs. Cedar Bluff at home at 7:30 p.m.

Etowah vs. Fort Payne at Fort Payne at 8 p.m.

Dec. 18

Hokes Bluff vs. Boaz at home at 7:30 p.m.

West End vs. Gaston at Gaston at 7:30 p.m.

Westbrook vs. Moody at Moody at 7 p.m.

Glencoe vs. Alexandria at home at 7:30 p.m.

Southside takes down Glencoe

By Matthew Watkins
Sports Correspondent

The Glencoe Yellow Jackets took their basketball programs on the road to Southside Tuesday evening, and it was as intense as you could have expected two Etowah County teams to be.

To start off the action, second-year head coach Will Smith led his Lady Panthers against Head Coach Blake Badgett and his Glencoe Lady Yellow Jackets. A season ago, Southside was able to best Glencoe in their only matchup by a score of 44-25.

Each team spent some time feeling one another out, with Southside jumping out to an early 11-7 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Lady Panthers were paced by center Zoey McKinney, who led Southside with 19 points. She had six of those points in the opening quarter.

Glencoe wouldn't stay down without a fight though. Kinlee Montgomery, who led all scorers with an impressive 27 points, kept the Lady Jackets afloat in the first half. The Lady Panthers took a 23-18 lead into the break.

The third quarter is where Southside made their biggest run of the night, racing out to a 41-25 lead as the game entered its final quarter.

Southside's Hannah Westcott and Allie Kate Lincoln combined for 7 points in the 3rd quarter, and helped set the tone with some crucial defensive stops.

Glencoe was never quite able to climb all the way back into it. Southside was able to close things out with a cool 54-38 victory, earning them a big county win. Glencoe's Payton Gray added 7 points to help the cause, and Southside's Westcott and Lincoln ended up contributing 8 points a piece.

On the boys' side of things, it was a defensive masterclass from both head coaches. Glencoe's Ryan Chambless and Southside's Chad Holderfield have consistently fielded teams that are fun to watch for anyone that is a fan of hard-nosed, physical play.

Glencoe was led by their stand-out center Grant Smith, who poured in 23 points and hauled in 11 rebounds. Smith, listed at 6'6" and 185 pounds, will be a difficult assignment for anyone that crosses Glencoe's path this season. Glencoe's Jalen Hunter also helped the cause by adding in 14 points and 3 rebounds of his own.

However, Holderfield's Panthers were able to stay in the game throughout, thanks to their trio of Carson McGraw (13 points, 6 rebounds), Caden Holderfield (8



points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists), and Drew Clark (7 points, 10 rebounds, 5 assists).

Southside's Drew Clark was able to hit a clutch three-pointer with 1:24 left to cut the Yellow Jacket lead down to just three. However, after getting past Southside's intense full-court press, the ball found Jalen Hunter's hands, who hit a tough layup through a foul to give Glencoe a five-point lead.

Southside then had to foul three times in order to reach the bonus and slow the game down, and after a Grant Smith free throw, went down

and immediately sank another huge three to cut the lead down to three yet again. This would be the last flare of hope for Southside though. Glencoe was able to sink their free throws, corral a Panther miss, and escape with a 47-40 victory.

With games like these, it is sure to be a great year for Etowah County basketball. Glencoe and Southside will both be hosting area opponents tonight, with Glencoe welcoming Westbrook Christian, and Southside hosting Gadsden City.

Photo courtesy of Average Joe's Sports Talk.

Hokes Bluff falls to Cherokee County

By Matthew Watkins
Sports Correspondent

This past Tuesday evening, Hokes Bluff hosted Cherokee County in a matchup of Class 4A contenders. A season ago, these teams were cross-area opponents, standing in one another's way for a berth in the Northeast Regional Tournament at Jacksonville State University.

This year, cross-areas have changed, but the implications of these matchups are still key indicators for how the Class 4A area playoff picture may eventually take shape.

Tipping-off the varsity action for the evening were the girls

teams, Cherokee County, led by fourth-year head coach Richard Barton. Barton has an overall record of 80-18 (0.816%). The Lady Eagles are coached by Evan Talbot, who is currently in his sixth season at the helm. Talbot led Hokes Bluff to an area championship last season, his first as a head coach.

The game started off with no hesitations from either side, as both teams looked to apply full-court pressure and aggressively attack the basket. The Lady Warriors found themselves in some early foul trouble, but they were able to stave this off by connecting on some early three-pointers. They carried an 18-7 lead into the

second quarter. The Lady Eagles would battle back though, cutting their deficit to just six before half-time.

The second half was characterized by missed opportunities from Hokes Bluff. The Lady Eagles missed thirteen free throws for the game, leading to an overall percentage of 43%. They also could not get anything going from beyond the arc, as they shot an abysmal 3-for-16 (18.8%). Cherokee County would end up with a relatively comfortable 53-35 win, giving the Lady Eagles just their second loss of the season (7-2). Addison Simmons led Hokes Bluff with 12 points. Mazely Ball and Mary Davenport added 9

points and 8 points, respectively.

The boys contest followed, and it was a rematch of their 2025 subregional playoff game from last season. The Eagles won that matchup to move on to the Sweet Sixteen. This year is already much different for each team in terms of their personnel, but their intensity and playing styles have not changed a great deal. The game was played fast and with a tough, physical edge. Each team mixed in full-court pressure, and each team frequently swapped between hyperactive man defense and some tactical zone setups.

Hokes Bluff - page B2

Coosa - From A1

Morgan led Lanett with 19 carries for 185 yards and TD runs of 2 and 67 yards. Fred Broughton scored on a 1-yard run and completed 10-of-21 passes for 126 yards. Jever Valbueña kicked a 23-yard field goal to make it 15-14

in the second half.

East led Coosa with 11 tackles, while TJ Brooks led Lanett with 10 stops.

Lanett felt one win shy of winning its first state title since 2019.

"It's a tough one," Lanett coach R.J. McDonald said. "The boys fought and played hard. They played resilient all year long. ... We just had to execute a little bit better."

The 30th Super 7 concludes Friday with the Class 6A championship game between Saraland (13-0) and Clay-Chalkville (14-0)

All games have been televised by the AHSAA TV Network to every home in the state over the Alabama Public Television network and is being live video streamed over the NFHS Network subscriber-based platform. WOTM TV's Vince Earley is the executive producer.

Recent Scores

High School Girls Basketball

- Dec. 5

Southside girls varsity basketball team lost Friday's home non-conference game against Jacksonville, 26-61.

Hokes Bluff girls varsity basketball team won Friday's home non-conference game against Glencoe, 45-32.

West End girls varsity basketball team lost Friday's home conference game against Susan Moore, 30-42.

Westbrook Christian girls varsity basketball team lost Friday's non-conference game against Oneonta, 39-44.

Sardis girls varsity basketball team won Friday's non-conference game against Douglas, 72-30.

Gaston girls varsity basketball team won Friday's home non-conference game against Ranburne, 43-40.

Etowah girls varsity basketball team lost Friday's home non-conference game against Piedmont, 39-47.

Dec. 6

Gadsden City girls varsity basketball team lost Saturday's home non-conference game against Hazel Green, 25-49.

For Gadsden City, Madison Tinker had 18 points; Jac'Keria Woods, Naomi Taylor and JaKayla Orr each had two points; and Amauri Bowie added one point.

Dec. 8

Sardis girls varsity basketball team won Monday's non-conference game against Ashville, 73-37.

- Dec. 9

Gadsden City girls varsity basketball team lost Tuesday's non-conference game against Plainview, 28-65.

For Gadsden City, Madison Tinker had nine points; Amauri Bowie had six; Jac'Keria Woods had five; and Naomi Taylor and Ma'Liyah Kennon each had four points.

Southside girls varsity basketball team won Tuesday's home non-conference game against Glencoe, 54-38.

West End girls varsity basketball team won Tuesday's home conference game against South-eastern, 48-39.

Etowah girls varsity basketball team won Tuesday's home non-conference game against St. Clair County, 50-26.

High School Boys Basketball

- Dec. 5

Southside boys varsity basketball team won Friday's home non-conference game against Jacksonville, 58-54.

Hokes Bluff boys varsity basketball team won Friday's home non-conference game against Glencoe, 56-53.

West End boys varsity basketball team lost Friday's home conference game against Susan Moore, 52-57.

Westbrook Christian boys varsity basketball team lost Friday's non-conference game against Oneonta, 50-57.

Etowah boys varsity basketball team won Friday's home non-conference game against Piedmont, 70-65.

Etowah stats: Kasen Lacey had 22 points; Jeremy Cole had 14; Zackery Winston had eight; Jaiden Wilson had seven; Baylor Morrison had six; Dylan Rakestraw had five; Grayson Tingle and Coleman Roden each

- had three; and Jaxon Thomason scored two.

Dec. 6

Gadsden City boys varsity basketball team won Saturday's home non-conference game against Hazel Green, 62-42.

Dec. 8

Sardis boys varsity basketball team lost Monday's non-conference game against Ashville, 62-95.

Etowah boys varsity basketball team lost Monday's non-conference game against Hayden, 57-68.

Dec. 9

West End boys varsity basketball team lost Tuesday's home conference game against South-eastern, 54-58.

Gadsden City boys varsity basketball team won Tuesday's non-conference game against Plainview, 80-46.

Gaston boys varsity basketball team lost Tuesday's game against Pleasant Valley, 29-67.

Etowah boys varsity basketball team lost Tuesday's home non-conference game against St. Clair County, 46-56.

Westbrook Christian boys varsity basketball team won Tuesday's home conference game against Ohatchee, 49-14.

Coosa Christian boys varsity basketball team lost Tuesday's non-conference game against Faith Christian, 42-61.

College Basketball Women's Team

- Dec. 4

Gadsden State women's basketball team defeated Huntingdon College on Thursday, 78-39.

For GSCC, Khaleyah Jones and Katelyn St. Clair scored 14 points each; Lilac Stanton had 12; Cesa Hernandez had 10; Kam Gaines, Jykierra Oliver and Halle Burch each had

- six; Jordyn LeGrier had four; and Alyssa Freeman and Kayley Kirk both scored three points.

Dec. 6

Gadsden State women's basketball team defeated Reid State Technical College on Saturday, 89-43.

For GSCC, Cesa Hernandez scored 21 points; Katelyn St. Clair had 17; Kam Gaines had 14; Jykierra Oliver had nine; Khaleyah Jones had eight; Lilac Stanton had seven; Alyssa Freeman and Halle Burch each had four; Kayley Kirk had three; and Jordyn LeGrier scored two points.

College Basketball Men's Team

- Dec. 4

Gadsden State men's basketball team lost to Georgia Highlands College on Thursday, 74-78.

For GSCC, KeShawn Watkins scored 22 points; Julien Barnett had 23; Marcus Towns had 11; Julius Winston, Keota Watkins and Nathan Henley Jr. each had seven; Jaedin Reyna had six; Caleb Parks had five; Kade Slaton had three; and Tobias Stou-termire and Greg Williams each had two points.

Dec. 8

Gadsden State men's basketball team defeated Wallace Community College, 75-55. (No stats were available as of Dec. 9.)

Submit scores from any and all local games by email to sports@gadsdenmessenger.com.

SPORTS



Hokes Bluff

- From B1

The game was essentially always a one or two-possession game up until the 4th quarter. The Eagles started the quarter with a 7-0 run, giving them a 51-42 lead. Cherokee County wouldn't go away though. They battled back and actually took a 56-55 lead

with just over two minutes remaining. At that point, The Eagles' senior forward Bryce Whitaker got fouled and completed a three-point-play to give Hokes Bluff an edge. The Eagles would go on to seal the deal against the Warriors with a 60-59 win.

Noah Johnson led Hokes Bluff with 18 points, with Caylor Jones trailing close behind him with 17 points of his own. Ronan McFadden also chipped in 11 points. The Eagles will travel to Ashville tonight for their first area game of the season.

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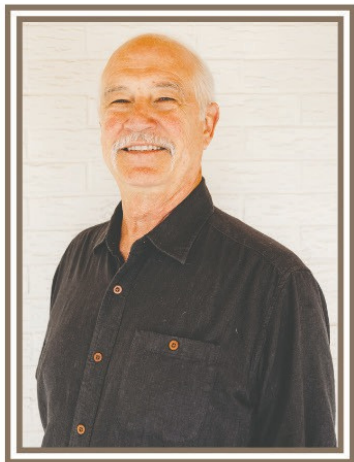
Jody Sizemore



Ponda Jones



Halee Sims



Sid Nelson



Skyler Clonts



Melissa Ortiz



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December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Garrett Gibbs was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/31/2025 over the Estate of Matthew Ray Gibbs, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Floyd Mark Carnes was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/26/2025 over the Estate of Floyd Thomas Carnes, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Rodney Clark Jennings was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/10/2025 to the Estate of Paula Kay Patton deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

David A. Culp and Rachel E. Culp (AKA Rachel Culp Moorman) was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/05/2025 to the Estate of Henry Culp, IV., deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Andre Ash was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/22/2025 over the Estate of Cassie Marilyn Ash, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

John Marc Guthrie was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/28/2025 to the Estate of John Kenneth Guthrie, Jr., deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Mitchell Bryant Kennedy, Jr. was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/20/2025 to the Estate of Gary James Kennedy, Sr., deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Jerry Wayne Dean was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/07/2025 to the Estate of Margaret Ophelia Dean, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Phillip W. Williams, Jr. was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/04/2025 to the Estate of Alfred West, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Andrea Collett was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/28/2025 to the Estate of Jerry Wayne Collett, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Jennifer Tamburello was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/22/2025 to the Estate of Avis W. Elrod, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

John Timothy Phillips and Tatina Phillips was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/19/2025 over the Estate of Jeffery Todd Phillips, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Olivia R. Walden was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/17/2025 to the Estate of B.W. Walden a/k/a Bobbie Willie Walden, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Mary Bailey was/were appointed Personal

Representative(s) on 11/17/2025 to the Estate of George D. Maddox, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

John Strickland was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/12/2025 to the Estate of Nancy Godfrey Bobo, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Linda Davis Hester was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/13/2025 to the Estate of Henry Taylor Davis, II, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILECLAIMS

Cecilia Ann Mecham was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/13/2025 over the Estate of Margaret Ann Cranford, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

David L. Holmes and Bobbie Ann Ross was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/17/2025 to the Estate of Betty Roberta Holmes, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILECLAIMS

Harry Donald Gullledge was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/19/2025 to the Estate of Eloise Smith Gullledge, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

January Millican was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/20/2025 to the Estate of William Brett Jenkins, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Kendra S. Eidson was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/1/2025 to the Estate of Boyd V. Eidson, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Wanda Adcock and Kathy Murphee was/were appointed Co-Personal Representative(s) on 11/20/2025 to the Estate of Jerrine K. Cash, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed

within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Jacob Millican, Conservator was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/21/2025 over the Estate of Apolonia Burton, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Lori Ann Stokes Burris was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/20/2025 to the Estate of Troy Lee Burris, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Carolyn Day was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/14/2025 to the Estate of Clyde Junior Day, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Marsha L. Barnes was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/24/2025 to the Estate of Elizabeth Ann Barnes, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Lynne Daniel Wood was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 11/24/2025 to the Estate of Margaret M. Daniel, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Angela Brooks was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/01/2025 to the Estate of Juanita Sims Carroll, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Mary Ann Pennington was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/01/2025 to the Estate of Richard A. Baker, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

FILE CLAIMS

Beverly Wood was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 12/01/2025 over the Estate of Jean B. Crocker, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE

COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GERALDINE O'HAIR, DECEASED.
Case No.: 2025-00314

TO: Danielle Matthews and Brynnley, 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 Geraldine O'Hair, 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. A Petition for Removal of Personal Representative has also been filed.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 3rd day of February, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., when said petitions 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 John David Jones, 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 1st DAY OF December, 2025.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

Case #: 2025-751

IN THE MATTER OF: ROBERT MOSES, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED

TO: Any unknown family, whose whereabouts are unknown

Please take notice that a PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP & CONSERVATORSHIP of the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 20th day of JANUARY 2026 at 2:00 p.m. was appointed a day and time for hearing on said Petition, thereof at which time you may appear and support and/or contest the Petition, if you so choose. DONE THIS THE 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025

Scott W. Hassell
PROBATE JUDGE

December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: MARTHA BULLOCK, INCAPACITATED

CASE # 2025-592

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 6th day of January, 2026 at 2:30 pm was appointed a day and time for hearing on said Petition, therefore at which time you may appear and support and/or contest the Petition, if you so choose. DONE THIS THE 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: WILLIAM DODD, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED
Case #: 2025-752

TO: Michael Dodd and any unknown family, whose whereabouts are unknown

Please take notice that a PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP & CONSERVATORSHIP of the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in

the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 20th day of JANUARY 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 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025

Scott W. Hassell
PROBATE JUDGE

December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

Case Number: DR-900230-CDR

David Harville, Plaintiff Vs
Tina Evette S. Harville, Defendant

NOTICE TO: TINA EVETTE S. HARVILLE, WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OR WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

You will take notice that a Complaint for Divorce has been filed in the Etowah County Circuit Court, alleging that your whereabouts or last known address are unknown.

Please be advised that should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with Gerald Maxwell, Attorney at Law, whose name and address is shown below, and with the Clerk of Circuit Court of Etowah County, Alabama, Courthouse, 801 Forest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901.

Done this 12th day of November 2025.

Cody D. Robinson
Circuit Judge

Name and Address of Attorney:
Gerald Maxwell
821 Tuscaloosa Avenue
Gadsden, AL 35901
256-393-3897
Maxwellg254@gmail.com

November 21, 28, December 5 and 12, 2025

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY ALABAMA

CV - 2025 - 900597

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 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.

Done the 4th day of December 2025

Cassandra Johnson
Circuit Clerk of Etowah County

/s/ Brynn T. Crain
Circuit Judge

/s/Jason Knowles
Jason Knowles, Attorney for Plaintiff

413 Broad Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
256-547-7200

December 12, 19, 26, 2025 and January 2, 2026

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 the 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.

Done the 4th day of December 2025

Cassandra Johnson
Circuit Clerk of Etowah County

/s/ Brynn T. Crain
Circuit Judge

/s/Jason Knowles
Jason Knowles, Attorney for Plaintiff

413 Broad Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
256-547-7200

December 12, 19, 26, 2025 and January 2, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE THE MATTER OF: K.B.C AND K.P.C. MINOR CHILDREN

TO: Harley Buice and Brandon Gipson

You are hereby given notice that a petition has been filed by the Etowah County Department of Human Resources requesting that your parental rights be terminated to K.B.C. born 04/07/2018 and K.P.C. born 05-01-2019. You are hereby given notice that you are required to file an Answer with the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Etowah County, Alabama and with the Petitioner's attorney, Sheri W. Stallings, Assistant Attorney General, STATE OF ALABAMA DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES

requested. Should the parent desire a court-appointed attorney, application should be made immediately upon receipt of notice of the action, by contacting the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Etowah County, Alabama on or before the day of 31st day of December 2025

CASSANDRA JOHNSON
Circuit Clerk Etowah County, Alabama

Sheri W. Carver Stallings
Assistant Attorney General
Etowah County Department of Human Resources
220 West Main St.
Centre, Alabama 35960

December 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2025

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: JU23-353.02

IN THE MATTER OF: L.L, A Minor

NOTICE TO: SHELANN JACKSON

You are hereby given notice that a Petition has been filed seeking to terminate your parental rights to your minor child: L.B.L., born January 23, 2022. You must file an Answer to the Petition with the Etowah County Juvenile Court Clerk within fourteen (14) days of the date of last publication of this notice, or a default judgment by may be entered. The address is: Etowah County Juvenile Court, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama, 35901. You are notified that you have the right be represented by an attorney. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, one can be appointed by the Court. This matter is set for hearing on February 5, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. before Judge Skelton at the Etowah County Judicial Building, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama, 35901.

Dated this 5th day of December 2025,

Cassandra Johnson,
DISTRICT/JUVENILE COURT CLERK

ANDREW PERKINS
Attorney for the Petitioners
Perkins Law Firm
755 Walnut Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

December 12, 19, 26, 2025 and January 2, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN RE THE MATTER OF A.J.C. AND A.G.C. MINOR CHILDREN

TO: Harley Buice and Kenyatti Coleman

You are hereby given notice that a petition has been filed by the Etowah County Department of Human Resources requesting that your parental rights be terminated to A.J.C, born 02-17-2023, A.G.C. born 02-17-2023. You are hereby given notice that you are required to file an Answer with the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Etowah County, Alabama and with the Petitioner's attorney, Sheri W. Stallings, Assistant Attorney General, STATE OF ALABAMA DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES 220 West Main St., within fourteen (14) days of the date of the last publication of this notice or a default judgment can be entered against you. A parent has the right to representation of an attorney in a dependency or a termination of parental rights trial, and, if indigent, the Court may appoint an attorney if requested. Should the parent desire a court-appointed attorney, application should be made immediately upon receipt of notice of the action, by contacting the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Etowah County, Alabama on or before the 1st day of January, 2026.

CASSANDRA JOHNSON
Circuit Clerk Etowah County, Alabama

Attorney for Petitioner: Sheri W. Stallings

Assistant Attorney General
Etowah County Department of Human Resources
220 West Main St.
Centre, Alabama 35960

December 12, 19, 26, 2025 and January 2, 2026

NOTICE TO DIANA WHEELER-MEANS OF COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CHARLES LEE MEANS, PLAINTIFF,

Case No.: DR-2025-900277

vs. DIANA WHEELER-MEANS, DEFENDANT.

Diana Wheeler-Means, who is named as the Defendant in the above-styled case and whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Plaintiff's Complaint for Divorce that has been filed in this case. You must answer the Complaint within thirty (30) days of the completion of the publication or thereafter a default judgment for divorce and other relief may be rendered against you.

Done the 10th day of December, 2025.

/s/ GEORGE C. DAY, JR.
CIRCUIT JUDGE

Knowles & Sullivan, LLC
413 Broad Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
256-547-7200

December 12, 19, 26, 2025 and January 2, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF GADSDEN, AL

CITY OF GADSDEN'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF CLOSE-OUT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CARES ACT (CDBG-CV) FUNDS FROM THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (ADE-CA) AND DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Gadsden's Community Development Department will closeout the grant award of Community Development Block Grant Cares Act (CDBG-CV) funds awarded by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). The City will hold a Public Hearing held at **10:00A.M. on Monday, December 22, 2025 at the City of Gadsden, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901.**

The City of Gadsden, Alabama on behalf of the non-entitlement municipalities and unincorporated communities located within Etowah County received an allocation of **\$400,000.00** from ADECA through their funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Grant to demolish the existing structure and reconstruct a facility to provide meals for seniors and low income youth at the Elliott Community Center located at 2829 West Meighan Blvd. Provided funds were used to provide rental assistance, utility assistance, food assistance and grant administration to prevent, prepare for and respond to the impacts of COVID19 in the City of Gadsden.

As required, the CDBG-CV Closeout Notice and supporting documentation will be available for a 30-day public comment period beginning **Friday, December 12, 2025 through Tuesday, January 13, 2026.** The Notice will be available on the City's website at: <https://www.cityofgadsden.com/160/Community-Development>. Hard copies of the document can also be reviewed from during the 30-day public comment period at the City of Gadsden's Community Development Department at 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. Those who may wish to provide comments on the CDBG-CV Closeout Notice may email the City's Community Development Department at areaves@cityofgadsden.com or send written

correspondence to the City of Gadsden's Community Development Department at the address above until Monday, January 12, 2026.

No displacement will occur as a result of the activities described herein. Should displacement occur, the City of Gadsden implements the provisions as required by CFR 570.606 (Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance). The City of Gadsden does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission of, access to, or treatment of, or employment, the programs and activities described herein. An interpreter is available upon request to assist persons with limited English proficiency. Any requests for reasonable accommodation required by an individual to fully participate in any open meetings, programs, or activities of the City of Gadsden's CDBG Office at 256-549-4532 or via email at areaves@cityofgadsden.com.

December 12, 2025

AVISO PUBLICO CIUDAD DE GADSDEN, AL

DEPARTAMENTO DE DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO DE LA CIUDAD DE GADSDEN AVISO DE CIERRE DE LOS FONDOS DE LA SUBVENCIÓN EN BLOQUE PARA EL DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO DE LA LEY CARES (CDBG-CV) DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE ASUNTOS ECONÓMICOS Y COMUNITARIOS DE ALABAMA (ADECA) Y FECHA DE LA AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Se notifica que el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Gadsden cerrará la adjudicación de los fondos de la Subvención Global para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG-CV) de la Ley CARES (CDBG-CV) otorgados por el Departamento de Asuntos Económicos y Comunitarios de Alabama (ADECA). La Ciudad celebrará una Audiencia Pública a las 10:00 a. m. del lunes 22 de diciembre de 2025 en la Ciudad de Gadsden, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901.

La ciudad de Gadsden, Alabama, en nombre de los municipios sin derecho y las comunidades no incorporadas ubicadas dentro del condado de Etowah, recibió una asignación de \$400,000.00 de ADECA a través de su financiación del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EE. UU. Subvención en bloque para el desarrollo comunitario de la Ley CARES para demoler la estructura existente y reconstruir una instalación para proporcionar comidas a personas mayores y jóvenes de bajos ingresos en el Centro Comunitario Elliott ubicado en 2829 West Meighan Blvd. Los fondos proporcionados se utilizaron para proporcionar asistencia para el alquiler, asistencia con los servicios públicos, asistencia alimentaria y administración de subvenciones para prevenir, prepararse y responder a los impactos de COVID19 en la ciudad de Gadsden.

Según lo requerido, el Aviso de Cierre del CDBG-CV y la documentación de respaldo estarán disponibles durante un período de 30 días para comentarios públicos, desde el Viernes 12 de diciembre de 2025 hasta el martes 13 de enero de 2026. El Aviso estará disponible en el sitio web de la Ciudad: <https://www.cityofgadsden.com/160/Community-Development>. También se pueden consultar copias impresas del documento durante el período de 30 días para comentarios públicos en el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Gadsden, ubicado en 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. Quienes deseen hacer comentarios sobre el Aviso de Cierre del CDBG-CV pueden enviar un correo electrónico al Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Gadsden a areaves@cityofgadsden.com o enviar correspondencia por escrito al Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Gadsden a la dirección antes mencionada hasta el lunes 12 de enero de 2026. No se producirá desplazamiento alguno como

resultado de las actividades descritas en este documento. En caso de desplazamiento, la Ciudad de Gadsden implementará las disposiciones del CFR 570.606 (Asistencia Residencial Antidesplazamiento y Reubicación). La Ciudad de Gadsden no discrimina por motivos de discapacidad en la admisión, el acceso, el tratamiento ni el empleo en los programas y actividades descritos en este documento. Hay un intérprete disponible, previa solicitud, para ayudar a las personas con dominio limitado del inglés. Cualquier solicitud de adaptación razonable que necesite una persona para participar plenamente en las reuniones, programas o actividades abiertas de la Oficina del CDBG de la Ciudad de Gadsden, puede comunicarse al 256-549-4532 o por correo electrónico a areaves@cityofgadsden.com.

December 12, 2025

LEGAL ZONING NOTICE

At a regular meeting of the City Council of Gadsden to be held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, First Floor, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, commencing at 10:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held to consider the adoption of an ordinance substantially as follows: The Gadsden City Council will consider several amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinances to revise and update specific provisions of the current Zoning Ordinances " Chapter 130 Zoning" including: Zoning Districts and Dimensional Standards Land Uses General Provisions Measurements and Word Uses Maps Chart of Permitted Uses. For more specific details regarding the proposed changes, please contact Traci Cordell, Zoning Administrator at tcordell@cityofgadsden.com or Call 256--549-4525. A draft of the Maps and the Ordinance can be found at www.Cityofgadsden.com/zoning.

Iva Nelson
City Clerk

November 28, December 5, and 12, 2025

NOTIFICATION OF BID FOR THE CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER OF NORTHEAST ALABAMA

Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama is soliciting sealed competitive bids for the landscape/irrigation installation project at the Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama, 1986 Challenger Way, Rainbow City, AL 35906.

All sealed bids must be received by City Clerk of Rainbow City, no later than 10:00 a.m. on January 12, 2026. Bids received after this time will not be considered.

BIDS will be awarded separately or as a whole for:

- 1) landscape installation of cultivated area (Zone A),
- 2) Irrigation system for cultivated area (Zone A), with options for
- 3) rock wall at the building front elevation and planting bed at outer edge of the portico; color and design to match the building exterior,
- 4) Mowed Turf/Naturalized Meadow, 5) Outdoor lighting for aesthetics and safety.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on December 10, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Rainbow City Hall, 3700 Rainbow Drive, Rainbow City, Alabama. The landscape design and selection of planting materials will be discussed at the pre-bid meeting. Interested contractors are encouraged to attend to review project scope, ask questions, and tour the construction site.

Bid packets, specifications, and additional information may be obtained from Dr. Farrah Hayes, fhayes@challengeral.org.

The Challenger Learning Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding process.

December 5, 12, and 19, 2025

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 10:00am CST, Thursday, January 8, 2026 for A Modular Office Building: 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. Bid Documents may be examined at the office of B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect, 442 Chestnut Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 and obtained from the Architect at cost of printing. Digital documents are available from the Architect at no cost.

A mandatory pre-bid conference shall be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 10am CST at Etowah County Transportation, 701 Gaines St. SW, Attalla, AL 35954.

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)

December 12, 19, and 26, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. O-30-25

Amending City Code Chapter 42 – EMERGENCY SERVICES ARTICLE II. – ALARM SYSTEMS

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

Section 1. Chapter 42 Article II of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Gadsden is amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE II. BURGGLARY ALARM SYSTEMS

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 42-31. Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Burglary alarm system means an electronic system designed to detect and alert of an unauthorized entry or intrusion requiring urgent attention. These systems may also be known as Robbery Alarms, Intrusion Alarms, Security Alarms, and/or Motion Alarms.

Alarm user means the person who owns, leases or controls any building, structure, or facility wherein an alarm is installed and maintained.

Audible alarm means any alarm which, when activated, generates a sound in a place open to the public or which is audible beyond the premises in which it is installed.

Communications center means the facility used by the city to receive emergency and general information from the public to be dispatched to the respective emergency units and other departments utilizing the city's communications system.

False alarm means any activation of an alarm

system reasonably designed to require a response by emergency units of the city, except an alarm resulting from one of the following causes:

- (1) Criminal activity or unauthorized entry.
- (2) Fire.
- (3) Earthquake causing structural damage.
- (4) High winds causing structural damage.
- (5) Flooding of protected premises.
- (6) Lightning causing physical damage to the protected premises.
- (7) Maintenance of alarm devices, provided that the city communications center is first notified before any testing or maintenance work.
- (8) Unforeseen power failure, which is part of a widespread power outage.

Sec. 42-32. Notice of alarm regulations. A current copy of the alarm regulations established in this article will be provided to the alarm user each time an alarm permit is issued. The alarm user must sign for the copy of the regulations. Every alarm installation or monitoring company that is licensed to do business in the city will be sent a copy of the regulations, by personal delivery, email, or by first class mail, whenever this article is amended. A current copy of the regulations will be posted on the police department's Internet website.

Sec. 42-33. Service charge and revocation of permit for repeated false alarms.

(a) Service charge. If an alarm generates repeated false alarms, the alarm user shall pay to the city a service charge of \$100.00 for the sixth false alarm in a 12-month period and \$25.00 for each false alarm thereafter during the same 12-month period. False alarms occurring during the first 30 days after an alarm is installed shall not be counted for the purposes of this section. The service charge shall be due by the tenth day of the month following written notice of the assessment. All service charges will be doubled after the 12th false alarm received in a 12-month period.

(b) Revocation of permit.

(1) If an alarm generates more than 12 false alarms within a 12-month period, not counting those occurring within 30 days of its installation, or if the police department is unable to obtain assistance in securing the premises following a response to the alarm, or if there is any other violation of this article, then the chief of the police department may revoke the permit for that system.

(2) Any alarm system that generates 24 false alarms within a three-year period will have its permit revoked. If the permit is revoked on this basis, the alarm system must be disabled from activation (including audible alarms) or notifying any outside company or the police department. Any alarm user whose permit is revoked under this provision may not apply for another alarm permit or install an alarm system for a period of one year.

(3) If a permit is revoked, for any reason, the following must occur before the revocation will be lifted:

a. Every person that occupies or uses the premises and may have occasion to use the alarm system must be instructed and trained by the company that installed the alarm system regarding its proper use and operation and the penalties for noncompliance. The alarm installer must certify in writing to the alarm user and the police department that this training has been provided to the named individuals.

b. Any new employee of an alarm installer must be certified as being licensed by the state electronic security board of licensure and as having received at least four hours of in-house training in the proper use and operation of the system and the penalties for noncompliance before being allowed to work. The alarm installer will provide a copy of this certification to the police department within five days of completion.

(c) Written notice of assessment or revocation. The chief of the police department,

or his designee, shall send written notice of an assessment or permit revocation under this section by certified mail or email to the alarm user and the alarm company, if any, responsible for monitoring the alarm system. The notice shall set out the consequences of the assessment or revocation and the method of appealing it.

(d) Effect of revocation of permit. If a permit for an interconnected alarm system is revoked, the system's connection to the communications center shall be terminated. If the permit for a reported alarm system is revoked, then the alarm user shall promptly disconnect or disable the system. No emergency service shall be provided by the city solely in response to activation of the alarm system, though emergency service will be provided to the premises on the same basis as it is provided to other locations without alarm systems.

(e) Hospitals, nursing homes, senior citizen facilities and schools. Notwithstanding any provisions of this article, no hospital, nursing home, multiunit senior citizen housing facility, jail, school (both primary and secondary) or child care facility licensed by the state department of human resources and caring for more than five children shall be subject to permit revocation or termination of alarm response service. No service charges will be applied until the sixth false alarm in a 12-month period, and then charges shall be at the rate of \$25.00 per occurrence. However, the chief of the department affected by repeated false alarms from such a facility may order that the service charge be doubled for false alarms after the tenth false alarm in a 12-month period, not including those during the first 30 days after installation of the alarm. This section does not apply to postsecondary educational facilities, both publicly and privately owned and/or funded.

(f)Appeal of assessment or revocation.

(1) Appeal to chief of police department. Within 14 days of the receipt of written notice of an assessment or permit revocation under this section, the alarm user may apply in writing to the police chief for reconsideration of the assessment or revocation. The chief, for good cause shown, may determine that the assessment or revocation was made in error or may postpone or waive the assessment or revocation, and may condition such postponement or waiver on compliance with reasonable conditions. The chief shall respond to the request for reconsideration within seven days after receiving it. If no timely response is received from the chief, then the request shall be deemed denied.

(2) Appeal to city council. Within 14 days after receiving the police chief's decision or after the time for his ruling has expired, the alarm user may appeal the decision to the city council by notifying the city clerk in writing of such appeal. The city council shall conduct a hearing on the appeal within 28 days and shall hear evidence presented by the appellant and by the police chief or his representative. The council may affirm the decision of the chief or may enter any other decision which could have been entered by the chief.

Sec. 42-34. Failure to pay service charge. It shall be unlawful for an alarm user to fail to pay any service charge assessed in accordance with the provisions of this article.

Sec. 42-35. Alarm to be disabled after permit revoked. If a permit to operate an alarm system is revoked, it shall be unlawful for the alarm user to fail to disable the alarm or in some manner to assure that the activation of the alarm will not cause a sound audible to the public or generate a signal which will be received by or reported to the communication center.

Sec. 42-36. Automatic dialing of city telephone numbers. It shall be unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to dial any telephone number issued



to the city or to use or maintain a device programmed for the purpose of reporting an alarm. It shall be unlawful for an alarm user to fail to disconnect or reprogram an automatic dialing device which is so programmed within 12 hours after receipt of written notice from the city that the device is so programmed. This section shall not apply to interconnected fire alarms permitted by this article.

Sec. 42-37. Audible alarms. No person shall use or install an audible alarm system that is not automatically silenced within ten minutes after being activated unless a new act or circumstance triggers the sensor to activate.

Secs. 42-38—42-60. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. PERMIT

Sec. 42-61. Required. (a) No person shall install, maintain, or use an alarm system without first applying for and receiving an alarm system permit in accordance with the provisions of this article. (b) No person shall install an alarm system in any structure unless a current alarm permit is visible at the installation location and the customer has an installation consent form signed and dated by the police department. The consent form is valid for 90 days. When that period expires, another consent form must be obtained before an alarm system can be installed. (1) Failure to comply with this section will result in a \$100.00 service charge per occurrence to the alarm installer. (2) Three violations of this section in a 12-month period is ground for the police chief to suspend the installer from installing any new alarm system in the city for a period of up to 30 days. The 12-month period will be calculated from January 1, if no previous violation has been recorded, or from the date of the oldest violation that has been recorded. (c) The alarm system installer will notify the police department, in writing, of the date that the system is installed and the installation consent form number, and verify that the system is in good working order.

Sec. 42-62. Types of permits. Alarm permits shall be issued only for reported alarm systems. A reported alarm system is activated by report to the communications center from an individual or a alarm monitoring company. No new permit will be issued for an interconnected alarm system after January 1, 2003. An interconnected alarm system is activated by a direct line to the communications center.

Sec. 42-63. Application. Application for a permit to install or use an alarm is made upon forms prepared and made available by the police chief. The application is filed in the police department records office. The application includes: (1) The full name, home address and telephone number, business address (if the alarm is being installed in a place of business) and telephone number of the alarm user. (2) The address of the location at which the alarm is to be used. (3) A description of the type of premises to be protected by the alarm. (4) The type of alarm to be used, the type of signal or impulse emitted when actuated, the manufacturer of the device, and other identifying information as appropriate. (5) The name, address, and telephone number of the alarm installer and, if different, of the company which will service or maintain the alarm. (6) The name, residence address and telephone number, and business address and telephone number, of at least two responsible adults who may be contacted by either the police department or the alarm company if the alarm is actuated and the alarm user cannot be located. These individuals must be able within 15 minutes after being contacted, day or night, to contact the alarm user, or, in the absence of the alarm user, secure the premises after the

police investigation or other city response to an emergency is completed. At least one of these individuals must live in the city. If the alarm is monitored by an alarm company which has authority to and has contracted to secure the premises at any time that it becomes necessary, then contact information for that company will be sufficient in lieu of information on two individuals. (7) Such other relevant information as the police chief may reasonably require. (8) The signature of the alarm user and the signature of the individual or agent of the company, if any, installing the alarm.

Sec. 42-64. Conditions. (a) Premises included. Each permit shall apply to no more than one closed circuit system serving no more than a single business (located at the same address) or property address. A duplex must have a separate alarm system for each side. (b) Transfer. Alarm permits are not transferable. Each applies only to the premises for which it is granted and only so long as the person to whom it is granted remains in possession of the premises. (c) Reduction or refund of fees. No fee shall be abated or reduced for a period of service interruption. No fees shall be refunded in the event of termination or disconnection of any alarm system for any reason. (d) Term. An alarm permit is valid for three years, being issued on a calendar year basis, beginning in January 1 of the year of issuance.

(e) Renewal. Application for a renewal permit is made in the same manner as application for the initial permit. Upon payment of the permit fee and receipt of the application form, the police department shall issue renewal permits to all whose prior permits have not been revoked or suspended. (f) Notification of change in information. The alarm user shall notify the police department within three days, in writing, of any change in the information contained in the application form on record. Failure to notify the police department may result in suspension of the permit.

Sec. 42-65. Fees. (a) Interconnected alarms. (1) Connection fee. No new alarm may be directly connected to the communications center. Any alarm that is presently connected to the center may continue to do so until the connection is terminated. (2) Annual fee. For each interconnected alarm system the annual fee is \$120.00. The fee is due on or before January 1 of each year. A notice that payment is due shall be sent by the police department each year. (b) Reported alarms. For each reported alarm system the fee is \$15.00 for each three-year period. The fee shall not be prorated if the permit is issued at a time other than January 1. The permit shall be issued to the alarm user, even if the alarm is monitored by an alarm company.

Sec. 42-66. Existing alarm systems. Within 15 days of acquiring premises protected by an existing alarm system, the new alarm user must obtain a permit. Failure to obtain the required permit within this period will result in a \$25.00 service charge penalty in addition to the permit fee.

Secs. 42-67—42-90. Reserved. Section 2. The section, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a valid judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect the validity of any other section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this ordinance. The city council declares that it is its intent that it would have enacted this ordinance without such invalid or unconstitutional provisions. Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance repeal any prior

ordinance or provision of the Gadsden City Code to the extent of any conflict. Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

Adopted by the City Council of Gadsden on December 2, 2025.

Iva Nelson,
City Clerk

December 12, 2025

**ORDINANCE
NO. O-31-25**

Amending City Code Chapter 50 – FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

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

Section 1. Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Gadsden is amended by adding the following Article IV: ARTICLE IV. – FIRE ALARM ORDINANCE Sec. 50-65. - Purposes. (a) The main purpose of this article is to reduce or eliminate the incidents of false fire alarms in the City of Gadsden, Alabama. While alarm systems provide a vital service to residents, businesses and the entire City of Gadsden, false fire alarms pose a safety hazard. They divert municipal employees from useful duties, causing a waste of municipal manpower and services. (b) The purpose of this article is to encourage alarm users and alarm businesses (sales, installation, customer service and/or monitoring) to properly maintain and operate alarm systems within the city by limiting unnecessary municipal department responses to false fire alarms. (c) This article governs local alarm systems by providing for penalties for violation of this article along with enforcement procedures.

Sec. 50-66. – Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Calendar year means from January 1 to December 31 of the existing calendar year.

Contact person means that individual or individuals that will be utilized as being responsible for contact to be made by the fire department when the need arises.

False alarm means any activation of an alarm system reasonably designed to require a response by emergency units of the city, except an alarm resulting from one of the following causes:

- (1) Fire.
- (2) Earthquake causing structural damage.
- (3) High winds causing structural damage.
- (4) Flooding of protected premises.
- (5) Lightning causing physical damage to the protected premises.
- (6) Maintenance of alarm devices, provided that the city communications center is first notified before any testing or maintenance work.
- (7) Unforeseen power failure, which is part of a widespread power outage.

Fire Alarm System means any mechanical, electrical or radiocontrolled device which is arranged, designed, or used to signal the occurrence in the City of Gadsden of a fire requiring urgent attention, and to which fire personnel are expected to respond. Fire alarm systems include those through which public safety personnel are notified directly of such signals through central monitoring stations or are notified indirectly by way of third persons who monitor the alarm systems and who report such signals to the fire department. Fire alarm systems also include those designed to register a signal which is so audible, visible, or in other ways perceptible outside of a protected building, structure or facility as to notify persons in the neighborhood beyond the zoning lot where the signal is located who in turn may notify the fire department

of the signal. The term does not include smoke detectors connected to an alarm system that is a part of a single-family or two-family structure.

Fire Alarm User means the individual, including but not limited to, any person, firm, corporation, partnership or any other entity who purchases, leases, contracts for, or obtains a fire alarm system.

Fire Department means the Fire Department of the City of Gadsden, Alabama.

Fire Official means the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, or any other employee of the fire department designated to enforce the provisions of this article.

Premises means any building or structure or portion thereof protected by a fire alarm system. In the case of two (2) or more buildings or structures or portions thereof on the same property under the same ownership protected by fire alarm systems that are not connected to a single control system, each building or structure or portion thereof shall be deemed to be separate and distinct premises.

Required Fire Alarm System means any fire alarm system, which is required as a condition for occupancy: (1) As required in the latest adopted edition of the International Fire Code, or

(2) Any condition specified by the authority having jurisdiction, which is considered an alternative to provide a satisfactory level of life safety to a pre-existing nonconforming Life Safety Code issue. State of Alabama Fire Marshal's Permit means the form issued by the State of Alabama Fire Marshal to a fire alarm contractor upon application being approved and fee paid. The permit shall be issued in the name of the fire alarm contractor, with the name of the certificate holder noted thereon.

Sec. 50-67. – Liability of City

The city and any of its agents and employees shall have no liability or responsibility for the operation or effectiveness of any fire alarm system and shall not be subject to any claims, demands or actions which may arise out of or in connection with the failure to respond to any alarm.

Sec. 50-68. – Notice of Alarm Regulations.

A current copy of the alarm regulations established in this article will be provided to the fire alarm user upon completion of installation. Every alarm installation company that is licensed to do business in the city will be sent a copy of the regulations, by personal delivery, by first class mail, or email, whenever this article is amended. A current copy of the regulations will be available on the City of Gadsden's website.

Sec. 50-69. – Prohibitions.

(a) False fire alarms are expressly prohibited in the City of Gadsden, Alabama, pursuant to the terms of this article. (b) No person shall install or operate an audible fire alarm system which emits a sound which is similar to that of an emergency siren or civil defense warning system (c) Upon activation of a fire alarm system and a request for assistance by the fire department, no fire alarm user or other person listed with the fire department shall fail or refuse to respond to the premises where the alarm occurred after being requested to do so by the City of Gadsden Dispatch or Fire Department. Any failure to respond to the premises within thirty (30) minutes after requested to do so shall be deemed a failure to respond. Failure to respond shall be in violation of this article and shall subject the individual(s) responsible for responding to a fine in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00). (d) It shall be unlawful to install or maintain a fire alarm system that does not have an auxiliary power supply that activates in the event of a power failure or electrical outage.

Sec. 50-70. – Permit/Registration Required; Expiration; Fees.

(a) Every fire alarm installation company shall: (1) Obtain an installation permit from the fire department for all fire alarm systems required by the Fire Code of the City of Gadsden. (2) Supply the fire department with evidence of a City of Gadsden business license. (3) Supply the fire department with evidence of insurance in the comprehensive amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) per occurrence. (4) Every required alarm system must have installation plans approved by the fire department per the requirements of the adopted Fire Code of the City of Gadsden. (5) Supply the fire department with evidence of a State of Alabama Fire Marshal's Permit. Sec. 50-71. – Enforcement.

a) Whereas after the adoption of this ordinance by the City Council of the City of Gadsden, the number of false alarms allowed at a fire alarms users location will be enforced by the Gadsden Fire Department. (b) Any alarms that are ruled as false alarms at any fire alarm user's location in excess of five (5) within a calendar year will be in violation of this article. there have been five false alarms at their location and in the event that another false alarm occurs, punishment by non-criminal penalty will be as follows:

First Offense	\$100.00
Second Offense	\$200.00
Third Offense	\$300.00
Fourth Offense	\$400.00
Fifth Offense	\$500.00
Each Offense Thereafter	\$500.00

Sec. 50-72. – Grace Period – New Installations.

The provisions of this article shall not apply to any new installation or modification of alarm systems for the first 30 days following completion of the installation or system modification. Users installing a new system or making substantial modifications to an existing system shall be entitled to a grace period during which false alarms generated by such system shall be deemed nonfalse alarms. The grace period shall cease 30 days after installation or modification of an alarm system. Written notice of installation or modification must be mailed or emailed to the Gadsden Fire Department, addressed to the Fire Marshal, concerning the date of installation and modification.

Sec. 50-73. – Appeal of Assessment.

(1) Appeal to the Fire Official. Within 14 days of the receipt of written notice of an assessment under this section, the fire alarm user may apply in writing to the fire official for reconsideration of the assessment. The fire official, for good cause shown, may determine that the assessment was made in error or may postpone or waive the assessment, and may condition such postponement or waiver on compliance with reasonable conditions. The fire official shall respond to the request for reconsideration within seven days after receiving it. If no timely response is received from the fire official, then the request shall be deemed denied. (2) Appeal to city council.

Within 14 days after receiving the fire official's decision or after the time for his/her ruling has expired, the fire alarm user may appeal the decision to the city council by notifying the city clerk in writing of such appeal. The city council shall conduct a hearing on the appeal within 28 days and shall hear evidence presented by the appellant and by the appropriate fire official. The council may affirm the decision of the fire official or may enter any other decision which could have been entered by the fire official.

Sec. 50-74. – Automate

ic Dialing of City Telephone Numbers.

It shall be unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to dial any telephone number issued to the city or to use or maintain a device programmed for the purpose of reporting an alarm. It shall be unlawful for an alarm user to fail to disconnect or reprogram an automatic dialing device which is so programmed within 12 hours after receipt of written notice from the city that the device is so programmed. Sec. 50-75. – Conditions. (a) Premises included. Each potential violation will be based on fire alarm systems connected to a single control system. If a property has multiple control systems, violations will be based on the individual control systems. (b) All fire alarm systems are to be installed, tested, maintained and inspected in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association standards currently adopted and the manufacturers recommended instructions. (c) The fire alarm user will ensure that any employee or agent that will be given the responsibility of the operation of activating or deactivating their alarm system is properly trained to do so. (d) The fire alarm user will provide a list of at least three people that can serve as contact people. The contact person will be responsible for responding to the alarm location if the need arises. However, businesses which employ less than three persons are only required to provide contact numbers for the actual number of employees. (e) The fire department will maintain a record of all fire alarms and the nature of the alarms.

Sec. 50-76. – Existing Fire Alarm Systems. (a) Any existing fire alarm system which requires updating or modification following the date of the passage of this article, shall be required to: (1) Be installed in accordance with the standards currently adopted as the Fire Code of the City of Gadsden. (b) Any alarm system with a zone display panel must have a diagram posted near alarm panel describing location of zones. (c) Any existing fire alarm system. (1) The fire alarm user, within 90 days of passage of this ordinance, shall install on the outside of the premises a lock box which has been approved by the fire official. This box must contain the keys to the premises and the alarm system. If the fire department responds to an alarm; then the fire department will notify the contact person and advise him/her of entry and require a response by that contact person to the premises. Section 2. The section, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a valid judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect the validity of any other section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this ordinance. The city council declares that it is its intent that it would have enacted this ordinance without such invalid or unconstitutional provisions.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance repeal any prior ordinance or provision of the Gadsden City Code to the extent of any conflict.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

Adopted by the City Council of Gadsden on December 2, 2025.

Iva Nelson,
City Clerk

December 12, 2025

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC AUCTION
OF
ABANDONED
VEHICLES**

Please take NOTICE that the Kelton Wrecker LLC will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicles:

2008 NISSAN XTERRA X
VIN: 5N1AN08U28C524267

2002 BUICK LESABRE
VIN: 1G4HP54K32U214527

2011 FORD FUSION SE
VIN: 3FAHP0HA9BR180082

The public auction will be held at Kelton Wrecker LLC located at 1625 Forrest Ave Gadsden AL 35901 at 8:00 AM on 01/24/2026. The seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low and may postpone the public auction until another time and place. In addition, the seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

December 12 and 19, 2025

Please take NOTICE that the Kelton Wrecker LLC will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicles:

2008 NISSAN XTERRA X
VIN: 5N1AN08U28C524267

2002 BUICK LESABRE
VIN: 1G4HP54K32U214527

2011 FORD FUSION SE
VIN: 3FAHP0HA9BR180082

The public auction will be held at Kelton Wrecker LLC located at 1625 Forrest Ave Gadsden AL 35901 at 8:00 AM on 01/24/2026. The seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low and may postpone the public auction until another time and place. In addition, the seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

December 12 and 19, 2025

**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC AUCTION
OF
ABANDONED
VEHICLES**

Please take NOTICE that Matt's Towing will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicle 2014 Ford Fusion Vin # 3FA6P0HD7ER301987 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 B 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am on 1/19/2026. 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.

December 12 and 19, 2025

**NOTICE OF VEHICLE
POSSESSION**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on 2/02/2026 at 8:00 am

2002 Yama Motorcycle
VIN: JYAVM01E32A038738

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

December 12 and 19, 2025

**NOTICE OF VEHICLE
POSSESSION**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on 2/06/2026.

2018 Subaru Crosstrek
VIN: JFZGTADC2JH252627

2003 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM56303A051627

1981 Honda 900CC
VIN: JH2SC0400BC101798

2020 Ford Fusion
VIN: 3FA6P0CD1LR130111

2007 Infiniti G35
VIN: JNKBV61E77M712059

2000 Dodge Dakota
VIN: 1B7GL22X2YS798769

2002 Pontiac Grand Prix
VIN: 1G2WP52K22F118993

2003 Buick Lesabre
VIN: 1G4HP52KX3U174757

2002 Chevrolet Tahoe
VIN: 1GNEK13Z4R236902

2008 Chevrolet Colorado
VIN: 1GCDT249088193843

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

December 12 and 19, 2025

CLASSIFIEDS

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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.

Merry Christmas

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