



# Messenger

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50 cents



Photo courtesy of City of Gadsden  
Gadsden Mayor Craig Ford, City Councilors, IDA Director David Hooks and Pencco leaders cut the ribbon on the new Gadsden facility on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

## Pencco holds ribbon cutting for new \$20 million Gadsden facility

Pencco, Inc., a U.S. manufacturer of water, wastewater and odor and corrosion control treatment solutions, celebrated the opening of its new Alabama manufacturing facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony earlier today.

The new facility, located at 3500 Michael Ann Avenue in Gadsden, represents a \$20 million capital project and 40 new jobs along with expansion of Pencco's manufacturing capabilities and continued commitment to water infrastructure across the Southeast.

"Every job that comes to the city of Gadsden is important," said Gadsden Mayor Craig Ford. "This is a corporate partner working to hire local contractors to get ready for this grand opening and then hiring local workers. I want to thank Pencco and all their partners for the positive impact this will have on the Gadsden and the local community."

"We value our long-standing relationships with customers throughout Alabama, and this new facility represents our continued commitment to serving

and strengthening those partnerships," said Ron Horne, President and Founder of Pencco, Inc. "We are grateful for the opportunity to invest in Alabama and to work with Mayor Craig Ford to bring back highly skilled manufacturing jobs to the region."

"I'm excited about what Pencco will bring to District 6, and I'm also excited about the future as Gadsden continues to grow," said Gadsden City Council member Dixie Minatra.

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### INSIDE THIS EDITION



Eight people, including Wes Vance, pictured above, will be inducted into the County Sports Hall of Fame on June 13.

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Jennifer McGriff has been appointed to the National League of Cities 2026 Council's YEF Council.

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## Kent Back announces reelection campaign for Council District 4



**KENT BACK**

Kent Back has officially announced his campaign for reelection to the Gadsden City Council representing District 4, pledging to continue working hard for the citizens of Gadsden and building on the progress made throughout the community.

"Serving the people of District 4 has been one of the greatest honors of my life," said Back. "Together, we have accomplished meaningful improvements throughout our city, and I believe our best days are still ahead."

During his time on the Council, Back has helped lead and support numerous projects and initiatives that have strengthened the community and improved quality of life for residents, including:

- Lead advocate for the all-inclusive

Champions Field and Gadsden Sports Park

- Lead the replacement of greens at Twin Bridges golf course
- Development projects including Coosa Harbor and Food City
- Improvements at Noccalula Falls, including the campground and new animal barn
- Construction of the Clubview Fire Station
- Drainage improvements on Dalehaven and Country Club Drive
- The new City Hall project
- Investments in public safety through new police vehicles and fire trucks
- Pay raises for city employees and first responders

**Kent Back - Page A2**



US Supreme Court overturns 2023 Alabama map ruling, allowing state to use controversial maps.

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Country music band The Frontmen will play at The Bluff Amphitheater on June 6.

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## Whorton Bend Water Authority awarded 'best tasting rural water'

The Whorton Bend Water Authority was recently recognized by the Alabama Rural Water Association for having the best tasting water among its members.

Mary Thomas, the business manager for the Whorton Bend Water Authority and former employee of the Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board, visited the Gadsden City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 2, to inform the council of the award.

Gadsden supplies its treated water from the Coosa River to many smaller communities in and around Etowah County, including Whorton Bend.

According to Thomas, the Alabama Rural Water Association held a tasting contest among its members at the March conference held in Montgomery. The association's contest allows members to bring a gallon of drinking water from their systems to enter into the statewide competition.

Thomas said Whorton Bend was competing against about 40 others. One of the guest judges for the contest was Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, former president of Alabama's Public Service Commission and current director of Rural Development in Alabama.

"Twinkle Cavanaugh pre-

ferred Whorton Bend water," Thomas said. "I believe this award is a testament to Gadsden's efforts to provide clean and great tasting water to all their neighbors."

According to Thomas, Whorton Bend's water is tested by the EPA and ADEM to ensure the authority meets all requirements for clean drinking water.

Thomas shared that a competing water authority who used to receive their water from Gadsden said he did not know how "that nasty Coosa water" could win a best tasting water contest. Thomas said it was "a matter of preference."

Whorton Bend will now

have an opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national rural water tasting contest in February 2027.

"I will go with pride and confidence representing my Whorton bend community and the City of Gadsden," Thomas said.

When asked what he thought about the best tasting water award, Gadsden Mayor Craig Ford jokingly asked his executive assistant Dawn O'Sullivan to fetch him a glass of water.

"I think it is exciting," Ford said. "That's a big deal. Our clean water helps us recruit industry and more. Thank you for sharing that with us."

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# NEWS

## Councilwoman McGriff appointed to national youth council

Jennifer McGriff, Councilmember of Southside, Alabama, has been appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2026 Council on Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Council).

"I am honored to be appointed to the National League of Cities' Council on Youth, Education and Families," McGriff said in a statement. "The families of Southside are at the heart of our community, and I am proud to represent them in this important role."

The council is composed of local elected officials, youth members and representatives from national organizations pertaining to children and families, according to the NLC website.

"National League of Cities' member councils design and create NLC's policies that bring together innovative ideas and solutions to the biggest challenges facing local leaders across the country," National League of Cities President Kevin Kramer said.

Councilmember McGriff was elected to a one-year term to develop and guide programs among local elected officials from similar communities. The appointment was announced by Kramer, a Louisville, Kentucky, councilmember.

"I am thrilled to have Councilmember Jennifer McGriff serve on NLC's YEF Council this year as we work together to ensure our cities, towns and villages have the resources they need to create thriving communities," Kramer said.

As a member of NLC's YEF Council, Councilmember McGriff will play a key role among a diverse group of local leaders to encourage collaboration, networking, and the development of resources and programs that benefit communities with shared demographics, size, or location and can be replicated across the country.

"Through my work as the Special Programs and Family Support Liaison for Etowah County Schools, I

see the powerful connection between family engagement, educational opportunity and student success," McGriff said. "That experience has strengthened my commitment to listening to families, responding to their needs and building partnerships that help children and communities thrive."

This year's YEF Council will be led by Chair Sonja Brown, Mayor, Glenn Heights, Texas; Vice-Chair Denise Mitchell, Councilmember, College Park, Maryland; and Vice-Chair Scott Brook, Mayor, Coral Springs, Florida. For more information on NLC's member councils, visit [nlc.org/member-councils](http://nlc.org/member-councils).

"I look forward to collaborating with leaders from across the country, bringing innovative ideas and proven strategies back to Southside, and ensuring our families have a voice in the conversations and decisions that shape the future of our children," McGriff said.



## Gadsden Regional welcomes surgery team

Gadsden Regional Medical Center has announced that Dr. Katie Novitski, a board-certified general surgeon, and Jessica Robertson, a certified registered nurse practitioner, have joined its medical staff and will begin seeing patients in August through Gadsden Physician Clinics.

Novitski brings extensive experience in bariatric and general surgery, including minimally invasive and robotic-assisted procedures. She most recently served with the University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Surgery, providing inpatient and outpatient care.

She earned both her Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees from UAB and completed her general surgery residency at Brookwood Baptist Health. Novitski also holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics from Samford University. She is board certified in general surgery and certified as a bariatric and metabolic surgeon.

Robertson earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing degrees from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She previously practiced alongside Novitski and will assist with patient care, education and surgical follow-up.

Novitski offers a wide range of services, including minimally in-



**KATIE NOVITSKI**



**JESSICA ROBERTSON**

vasive and robotic general surgery, bariatric and revisional weight-loss surgery, gastrointestinal procedures, endoscopy and abdominal wall reconstruction.

"The addition of Dr. Novitski and NP Robertson is a significant step forward for our surgical services," said Michael Hall, CEO of Gadsden Regional Medical Center. "Their expertise as a team allows us to further expand surgical procedures close to home while reinforcing our commitment to providing a compassionate and exceptional healthcare experience for our community."

Novitski and Robertson said they are excited to join the hospital and expand access to advanced surgical care in the region.

"We are so excited to join the team at Gadsden Regional to better serve patients in this community," they said in a joint statement. "We look forward to providing high-quality, patient-centered surgical care and expanding access to advanced procedures close to home."

The additions are expected to expand access to advanced surgical services for patients throughout the region.

### FROM THE EDITOR

## OBITUARY NOTICE

We have had many calls over the last couple of weeks, so we wanted to take a moment to address the lack of obituaries.

At *The Messenger*, we recognize that obituaries are more than notices; they are important tributes to loved ones and a meaningful way for families and the community to honor a life lived.

For the past two years, we have published obituaries as a free service, pulling them from various websites and editing and formatting them before publication.

Like many local newspapers, we are continuing to experience significant increases in production and operational costs. After careful consideration, we can no longer sustain the publication of obituaries for free.

Moving forward, we will continue to publish paid obits, but to ensure fairness and consistency for all families, we will no longer include unpaid ones.

This was not an easy decision. We understand the importance of obituaries to families during a difficult time, and we remain committed to handling every submission with care, dignity and respect.

For questions regarding obituary submissions or pricing, please contact our office staff at 256-547-1049 or email [info@gadsdenmessenger.com](mailto:info@gadsdenmessenger.com).

We appreciate your continued support of our mission to provide high quality good news in Etowah County.

## Coin Show

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Monica Mostella

Wishing my Niece Monica Mostella a Happy  
4 Dozen plus 10 Birthday on June 6th.  
Love, Auntie Susie (S. Frog)

News Editor  
Kaitlin Hoskins  
[khoskins@gadsdenmessenger.com](mailto:khoskins@gadsdenmessenger.com)

Legals Editor  
Teri Chupp  
[tchupp@gadsdenmessenger.com](mailto:tchupp@gadsdenmessenger.com)

Owner/Publisher  
Craig Ford  
[info@gadsdenmessenger.com](mailto:info@gadsdenmessenger.com)

Features Editor  
Lindsey Frazier  
[lfrazier@gadsdenmessenger.com](mailto:lfrazier@gadsdenmessenger.com)



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# NEWS

## OBITUARY



**Charles Maitland Adams**

Charles Maitland Adams, age 83, passed away on June 3, 2026. Mr. Adams death was preceded by his parents, C.M. Adams, Jr. and Mary Edith Joyner Adams and brothers, Neil McFadden Adams, and David Alfred Adams. He is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, Sadie Smith Adams and two

sons, Stephen Maitland Adams (Deanna) of Gadsden and Brian Edward Adams (Mary) of Ocean Springs, MS. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by several beloved cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Adams was a native of Gadsden, graduating from Gadsden High School in 1960. He attended Auburn University, receiving three degrees from Auburn. After completing college, Mr. Adams served more than thirty years in public education as a teacher, principal and superintendent in Alabama and Georgia. During his last years of public service, Mr. Adams worked as Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services in the Georgia Department of Education and as Executive

Director of the Northwest Georgia School Service Center.

After his retirement, Mr. Adams became active in the Democratic Party, serving as Chair of the Etowah County Democratic Executive Committee, completed three terms on the State Democratic Executive Committee and was a member of the Executive Board of the Alabama Democratic Party. Mr. Adams was also a founding member of the Alabama Democratic Reform Caucus. Mr. Adams was proud to be a supporter of civil rights for all people and an advocate of progressive policies for our state and nation.

Mr. Adams was a member of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden.

Private burial services for the family will be held

at the Adams Family Cemetery at Cedar Glen Farm near Gadsden with Rev. Sherri Reynolds officiating. Pallbearers include Michael Adams, Tanner Wade, Sam Crouch, Brian Vaughn, Mark Kalpakis, and Drew Laughlin/ Honorary pallbearers are Dr Barbara Bryant (recently deceased), Mary Camp, and Sheila Deagan Gilbert, Billy Billingsley, and Frank Dodge.

Family will receive friends from 1:00pm-2:30pm at Collier-Butler Funeral Home. A private graveside service for family will follow at 3:00pm at Adams Family Cemetery.

The family requests no flowers. Memorials may be made to the Joyner-Sims English Scholarship at Gaston High School, 4550 US Highway 411, Gadsden, AL 35901

## CLUB NEWS



### Bal d'or presentees honored

An evening tea was held recently honoring the 2026 Bal d'or presentees at the Gadsden Country Club. Pictured are Bentley Elizabeth McClendon, Allison Grace Haller, Kimberly Belle Cornelius, Madelon Brooke Machen, Margaret Miles Stacey, Ansley Somerville Wilborn, Peyton Aughtie Wade and Evelyn Brooks Millican. Presentees not pictured are Anna Klaire Ashley, Betsy Crance Howard and Lillian Weems Powers. *Submitted photo.*



Photo courtesy of City of Gadsden

**Gadsden Mayor Craig Ford speaks at Penco's Gadsden facility ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, May 28, 2026.**

### Penco

- From A1

The Gadsden facility will manufacture specialty materials used by municipal and industrial customers to treat water and wastewater, helping support safe, reliable water systems for growing communities and industries throughout the region.

The facility is expected to create 40 new manufacturing, transportation and engineering jobs in Alabama while strengthening domestic supply chains for critical infrastructure.

Founded in 1984, Penco has remained family owned and operated since its inception with a strong focus on dependable service, quality manufacturing, and long-term relationships with water utilities and industrial customers.

The Gadsden location will allow Penco to better serve customers throughout the Southeast by increasing regional production capacity and supporting more efficient product availability.

For more information about Penco, Inc. and its water and wastewater treatment solutions, visit [www.penco.com](http://www.penco.com).

### Kent Back

- From A1

Community improvements at Eura Brown School, including a new circular driveway, outdoor classroom, and playground area cleanup

In addition to city projects, Back has remained active in civic and community leadership roles, serving as President of the Council, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, and as a board member of both the Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board and the Humane Society. He is a driver for the Etowah County Food Bank delivering food to churches and groups that provide feeding programs. He also serves on the Community and Economic Development Committee for the National League of Cities and was selected as Chairman of the Human Development

Committee for the Alabama League of Municipalities. Back has earned the Basic and Advanced certification of the League's Certified Municipal Official program.

Back is also proud to have co-founded a weekend food program that helps support elementary school students with food insecurity throughout the community for the past decade.

"My focus has always been on serving people, improving neighborhoods, supporting public safety, and making Gadsden a place that families are proud to call home," Back said. "I am grateful for the trust and support the citizens of District 4 have given me, and I humbly ask for their continued support and vote."

The election for Gadsden City Council will be held on August 25, 2026.

*Submitted by Kent Back Campaign.*

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# EDUCATION

## JSU announces partnership with Cumberland Law

Jacksonville State University has signed a new 3+3 partnership agreement with Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, creating an accelerated pathway for qualified students to earn both their undergraduate and law degrees in just six years.

The agreement creates a clear pathway from Jax State to Cumberland, allowing students to begin law school early while reducing both the time and cost required to earn a law degree. Through the program, qualified students may complete their first year of law school coursework during their senior year, with those credits counting toward their undergraduate degree.

"This is about creating more opportunity for our students," said Jax State President Dr. Don C. Killingsworth, Jr. "For those who know they want to pursue law, this gives them

a clear path to a highly respected program like Cumberland while saving time and cost along the way. We're proud to open that door and help connect our students to that next step."

The partnership was formally recognized during a signing ceremony on campus, where university leaders from both institutions emphasized the program's impact on student success and affordability.

Cumberland School of Law Dean Blake Hudson noted the growing importance of accelerated programs in today's higher education landscape.

"In today's resource-constrained world, students are coming out with a lot of debt," Hudson said. "If you can make it a year shorter, it makes a big difference in their debt levels. Students are also deciding what they want to do earlier, and if you can get them on that path

and make it clear, I think it's a great opportunity."

Dr. Lori Owens, Professor of Political Science and Dean of the Honors College and Special Programs at Jax State, said interest in law school continues to grow across a wide range of academic disciplines.

"We have a growing number of students across majors who are considering law school," Owens said. "The variety is very wide now. It's not your standard major anymore. Cumberland has been a great partner with us for many years, and we hope to send even more students now that we have this opportunity."

The agreement builds on a longstanding relationship between Jax State and Cumberland School of Law, strengthening a pipeline that helps prepare students for success in law

school and beyond.

Under the agreement, students in approved majors may apply for the 3+3 program after completing required coursework. Those admitted to Cumberland will begin law school during their senior year at Jax State, with their first-year law courses counting as elective credit toward their undergraduate degree.

To be eligible, students must complete all requirements of their undergraduate major, apply and be admitted to Cumberland School of Law and follow an approved 3+3 course plan of study.

Students interested in the program are encouraged to contact Dr. Lori Owens in the Pre-Law Advisement Office in the Honors College at prelawadvisor@jsu.edu or at 256 782-8269 or visit the office in 217 Mason East.

## GSCC students medal at state SkillsUSA competition

Gadsden State Community College students earned two gold medals, five silver medals and eight bronze medals during the recent Alabama SkillsUSA Leadership Conference and SkillsUSA Championships in Birmingham. The SkillsUSA theme for this year was "Champion Your Future".

Technical students from Gadsden State's Ayers, East Broad and Valley Street campuses competed with students in over 85 different categories including industrial motor control, HVACR, automotive refinishing, robotics and automation technology, extemporaneous speaking, electrical construction wiring, nail care and carpentry.

The SkillsUSA competition is an annual event, providing high school and college students an opportunity to showcase their technical skills training, leadership development and hands-on experiences in a series of competitive tasks.

"Gadsden State is proud to partner with SkillsUSA in helping meet Alabama's growing workforce needs by preparing and placing highly skilled Alabamians into meaningful careers," said Andy Robertson, dean of Workforce Development at Gadsden State. "By combining technical skills training, leadership development, employability preparation and hands-on learning experiences rooted in citizenship and service, SkillsUSA and Gadsden State's career technical education programs equip students with the tools they need to become world-class employees, leaders and active contributors within their communities."

Students finishing in first place and earning gold medals are Dalton Chandler in Electrical Construction Wiring and Lucas Wilson in Industrial Motor Controls.

Students earning silver medals and finishing in second place include Philip Carter in Technical Drafting; John Allen Mooneyham in HVACR; Tristan Page in Extemporaneous Speaking; the team

of Cayson Hardy and Bryce Anderson in Robotics and Automation Technology; and the team of Alejandra Franco and Jordan Mathenev in Additive Manufacturing Technology.

Bronze medals for finishing third place were awarded to Kyle Chandler in Electrical Construction Wiring; Joshua Allen in Industrial Motor Controls; Anelisse Garcia in Cosmetology; Kameron Kuykendoll in Technical Drafting; Franklin Bishop in HVAC; Matthew Ustry in 5-Axis Milling; William Andru Houser in 2-Axis Turning; and the team of Braxton Bussie and Zachary Blaum in Robotics and Automation Technology.

Tristan Brown from Gadsden State was voted as the SkillsUSA Alabama State President for the college division. Alabama SkillsUSA officers are elected by their peers at the State Leadership and Skills Conference and represent Alabama's membership.

Individual gold medal winners, Dalton Chandler and Lucas Wilson, will represent Gadsden State at the 61st annual National Leadership and Skills Conference June 1-5 in Atlanta.

Program advisors for students competing include Daniel Anderson (Additive Manufacturing and CNC 5-Axis Milling Programmer); Matt Maini and Keith Tolbert (Robotics and Automation Technology); Dwayne Pruitt (Automotive Service Technology); Laura Sullins (Prepared Speech); Valeria Hill and Kristina Puckett (Barbering and Cosmetology); Hollie Bonds and James Wilson (Architectural Drafting and Technical Drafting); Peyton Amberson and Daniel Anderson (CNC 2-Axis Turning Programmer and CNC 3-Axis Milling Programmer); Wes Beecham and Todd Chandler (Electrical Construction Wiring); Wes Beecham (Industrial Motor Control); Peyton Amberson (Extemporaneous Speaking); and Tim Harrison (HVACR).

"We are extremely proud of the



Submitted photo

Gadsden State Community College students Lucas Wilson and Dalton Chandler will represent Gadsden State at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta June 1-5. They are pictured with instructors Todd Chandler and Wesley Beecham.

dedicated and highly skilled technical instructors across our campuses," Robertson said. "Their commitment to student success helps prepare students with the knowledge, confidence and hands-on experience needed to compete in these events, earn a degree or certificate, and successfully transition into today's workforce."

For more information about

Gadsden State technical programs visit [www.GadsdenState.edu/Technical](http://www.GadsdenState.edu/Technical).

### About SkillsUSA

Alabama SkillsUSA is developing the next generation of world-class champions at work. Alabama SkillsUSA is committed to producing a generation of strong workers and exceptional leaders who will take America's workforce into a

new frontier of triumph and prosperity. The national organization serves more than 444,000 students and instructors. SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. Our vision is to produce the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member the opportunity for career success.

## Jax State to host Summer Civics Seminar June 14-19

More than 100 elementary school teachers from across Alabama will gather at Jacksonville State University June 14-19 for a week-long Summer Civics Seminar designed to strengthen civic education in classrooms across the state.

The seminar is funded through a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education that supports three years of programming aimed at strengthening civic education statewide. Jax State is the only institution in Alabama to receive one of these American History and Civics Seminars Program awards from the federal government.

Participants will engage with leading

civic education organizations, including the National Constitution Center, iCivics, Thinking Nation, and the Center for American Civics, as well as faculty experts from universities across the country.

The weeklong program is designed to equip teachers with new resources, instructional strategies, and historical perspectives they can bring back to classrooms throughout Alabama.

Keynote speakers include New York Times bestselling author Nicholas Buccola, whose upcoming book, *One Man's Freedom: Goldwater, King, and the Struggle over an American Ideal*, was published

by Princeton University Press in October 2025. His previous works include *The Fire Is Upon Us: James Baldwin, William F. Buckley Jr., and the Debate over Race in America* and *The Political Thought of Frederick Douglass: In Pursuit of American Liberty*.

Additional speakers include nationally recognized civic education scholar Dr. Rudy Hernandez, an Associate Teaching Professor at the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy and the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Missouri, where he serves as Director of Undergraduate Studies for

political science. Hernandez received a national civic education award in 2024 and specializes in American and classical political thought.

In addition to classroom sessions, participants will take part in an experiential learning trip along Alabama's Civil Rights Trail, including visits to the Anniston Freedom Riders National Monument and the Legacy Museum properties.

For a complete list of guest speakers and session times, contact Dr. Benjamin Gross, director of Jax State's Center for Leadership and American Principles, at [bgross@jsu.edu](mailto:bgross@jsu.edu).

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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

# GOVERNMENT

## US Supreme Court overturns 2023 Alabama map ruling

By Anna Barrett & Ralph Chapoco  
Alabama Reflector

The U.S. Supreme Court Monday overturned a 2023 ruling blocking use of a congressional map the courts ruled as racially discriminatory, which could open the way for Alabama to use new district lines this year.

The order from the nation's highest court in the case, known collectively as *Allen v. Milligan*, came about a week before the state's May 19 primaries and about a week and a half after the court significantly weakened Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which prevents racial discrimination in voting laws, in a case known as *Louisiana v. Callais*.

The ruling said plaintiffs challenging maps under Section 2 must show intentional discrimination to prevail. As is common practice, the majority did not provide an opinion with Monday's order.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented in the order, joined by justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson, saying there is no reason to reconsider Alabama's case.

"In addition to holding that Alabama's 2023 Redistricting Plan violates [Section] 2, the district court held, in one of the three cases before this Court, that Alabama violated the Fourteenth Amendment by intentionally diluting the votes of Black voters in Alabama," Sotomayor wrote. "That constitutional finding of intentional discrimination is independent of, and unaffected by, any of the legal issues discussed in *Callais*."

The state currently uses a congressional map drawn by a special master appointed by a federal court in 2023, after the courts ruled a congressional map approved by the Alabama Legislature in 2021 discriminated against Black voters in the state by not giving them a full chance to select their preferred leaders. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ruling in 2023, after delaying its implementation for over a year, past the 2022



U.S. Rep. Shomari Figures, D-Mobile, leaves the lectern after speaking to an Alabama Senate committee on May 7, 2026 at the Alabama Statehouse in Montgomery, Alabama. House and Senate committees moved two bills that would reschedule primaries should courts allow the state to use congressional and legislative maps previously ruled discriminatory. The committee votes were preceded by protests from audience members who said the Legislature was denying Black Alabamians proper representation. (Brian Lyman/Alabama Reflector)

midterms.

A new map drawn by the Legislature in 2023 was also ruled a violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Under the current map, the 2nd Congressional District, currently represented by U.S. Rep. Shomari Figures, D-Mobile, has a Black Voting Age Population (BVAP) of about 49 percent, while the 7th Congressional District, represented by U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell, D-Birmingham, has a BVAP of about 52 percent.

Section 2 was considerably weakened by the U.S. Supreme Court in April in *Louisiana v. Callais*, which said plaintiffs challenging congressional maps had to prove intentional discrimination, a far higher bar than the previous standard of showing discriminatory effects.

"The Court's decision interferes with the ongoing election and puts the validity of the votes of thousands of early voters into doubt," said Deuel Ross, director of litigation at the Legal Defense Fund (LDF), which represented the plaintiffs in the *Milligan* case. "We will consider all of our options

for protecting the rights of voters and reinstating the court ordered map.

A message seeking comment from Gov. Kay Ivey was left Monday evening. Marshall said federal courts had "punished" the state for drawing its own maps, but the Supreme Court "vindicated the state's long held position."

"For too long, unelected federal judges had more say over Alabama's elections than Alabama's voters. That ended today," Marshall said in a video posted to social media. "My job in this office was to put the Legislature in the best possible legal position to draw a congressional map that favors Republicans 7-0."

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen said in a statement Monday that the ruling was a "historic win" for Alabama.

"The May 19 primary election will proceed as scheduled," the statement said. "My office will remain in close contact with the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Office as this situation continues developing."

Senate President Pro Tem

Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, said in a statement Monday that the court ruling "has cleared the path for Alabama to hold free, open, and fair elections using the constitutional maps drawn by the Legislature rather than the unconstitutional maps forced upon the state by activist federal judges."

"The Supreme Court's action removes the thumb from the scale in legislative and congressional elections and allows Republicans to once again have a fair chance to compete," the statement said.

Republicans control all statewide elected offices; both of the state's U.S. Senate seats; five of its seven U.S. House seats; 76 of its 105 state House seats and 27 of its 35 Senate seats.

Kim Bailey, president of the League of Women Voters of Alabama, said Monday that the decision was "deeply disappointing and creates uncertainty and confusion for voters about the 2026 elections."

"We encourage voters not to become disillusioned or discouraged," the statement said. "Your vote matters. Your voice matters. And

voter turnout will remain one of the most powerful tools we have to shape our future and defend representative democracy."

**'An inextricable, permanent feature of this case'**

"The Supreme Court has upended our election jurisprudence and done so in a way that severely, and systematically, disadvantages Black voters," said Dev Wakeley, worker policy advocate with Alabama Arise. "The idea that this is a more level playing field, or that the safeguards against discrimination that we previously had until *Callais* were ready to be lifted, is absurd."

The court Tuesday sent the case back to the three-judge panel with instructions to reconsider its ruling in light of the *Callais* ruling. Using the 2023 map would reduce the BVAP in the 7th Congressional District, represented by Sewell, to 50.6 percent and reduce the BVAP in the 2nd Congressional District, represented by Figures, to under 40 percent. That would likely throw the re-election of Figures into doubt.

Figures in a statement Monday called the court's action "an incredibly unfortunate decision" and said the conservative justices "just literally substituted themselves in to be the defense lawyers for the state of Alabama."

"I ran for this seat to be a voice for all of Alabama, and I'm not backing down from that mission now," the statement said. "The fight must and will go on. Beyond the courts, we know what has to be done. We will organize, we will register, and we will turnout people in record numbers at the polls."

Sewell in a statement Monday called the ruling "a stunning reversal" but said the decision would not be the final word.

"Black Alabamians have fought too hard and sacrificed too much to be dragged backwards by extremist politicians and an activist court," the statement said. "Black voters make up nearly one-third of Alabama's

electorate and we deserve no less than two seats where we can select the candidate of our choice."

Sotomayor noted that the court in *Callais* said its ruling in *Allen v. Milligan* — upholding a finding of racial discrimination in congressional maps — remained "good law."

"This Court's finding of racially discriminatory vote dilution is an inextricable, permanent feature of this case, and Alabama's willful decision to respond by entrenching rather than remedying that dilution is, as the District Court correctly recognized, evidence of discriminatory intent," Sotomayor wrote.

**After the session**

The Alabama Legislature last week approved two bills allowing new primaries to be held in districts that would be affected by the court overturning its prior orders. Lawmakers carried through with the process despite protests throughout the week that culminated with one person getting removed from the statehouse on the final day of the special session.

Plaintiffs in the *Milligan* case, who filed briefs on Monday, said the injunction should stand because the remedial map currently in does not consider race.

"The district court never held that Section 2 required Alabama to adopt a majority-Black district or otherwise draw districts on the basis of voters' race," the plaintiffs said in their response. "The district court's remedial plan is proof positive: it does not contain a second majority-Black district, and it was 'prepared race-blind.'"

Opponents have said the primary laws passed by the Legislature last week could be unconstitutional under a 2022 amendment that requires election law changes to be made no later than six months before an election. The date this year was May 3; the special session began on May 4. Republicans said last week the amendment applies to general elections and not primaries.

## Tuberville submits income tax returns, expert says it's not enough to prove residency

By Anna Barrett  
Alabama Reflector

U.S. Sen. Tommy Tuberville submitted partially redacted income tax records on Monday evening from 2018 to 2024 to prove that he meets the Alabama Constitution's residency requirement for governor.

The Alabama Republican Party (ALGOP) announced Monday that it will hear Ken McFeeters' third challenge of Tuberville's residency, who won the Republican nomination for governor on May 19. McFeeters, who got second place in the primary, would become the party's nominee if the challenge finds that Tuberville has not the eligibility requirement to be a candidate for that office.

The Alabama Constitution requires candidates for governor and lieutenant governor to be residents of the state for at least seven years.

"The governor and lieutenant governor shall each be at least thirty years of age when elected, and shall have been citizens of the United States ten years and resident citizens of this state at least seven years next before the date of their election," the Constitution reads.

Tuberville's campaign said Monday it would submit income tax returns in order to prove the senator's residency. The redacted returns show a partial return for 2018, beginning in August, where Tuberville and his wife Suzanne filed jointly and also reported filing Alabama income taxes in 2017. According to a filing to ALGOP in response to McFeeters' challenge, Tuberville voted in Walton County, Florida, in 2018.

McFeeters said in a phone in-

terview Tuesday afternoon that the tax returns open a new "can of worms."

"He's actually saying he's a resident and they're using that for his residency and his wife's residency back in '18 as Alabama," McFeeters said. "November of '18, they voted in Florida, and that's a federal crime, for voting in a state you don't reside in."

Tuberville has long faced questions about whether he has been a resident of Alabama. Tuberville moved to the state in 1999 when he started coaching football for Auburn University. He told Alabama Daily News last summer that time contributed to his residency qualification, and has said a homestead exemption claimed on property in Auburn by his wife and son in 2018 is proof of residence.

AL.com reported in May of last year that Tuberville and his wife voted in Florida in 2018, after the homestead exemption was claimed. Langiappe, a Baldwin County newspaper, recently reported that Tuberville had an active Florida drivers license until 2023 and the state denied a public records request for any tax documents that would indirectly confirm Tuberville's residency.

In Tuberville's response filing, his attorneys argue that time off spent in Florida does not disrupt residency in Alabama.

"Most importantly, the documentary evidence presented to this committee will confirm a long-standing and continuous connection to Alabama. Contestant's theory depends on speculation and isolated facts viewed out of context, while the actual records demonstrate that Coach Tuberville has been, and remains, a resident citizen of Alabama," the attorneys wrote.

Susan Hamill, a law professor emerita at the University of Alabama, said in a phone interview Tuesday afternoon that income tax returns alone are not enough to prove residency.

"What the tax picture shows is a financial tie, in a sense, to the state in having earned state-sourced income that is legitimately taxable by the state," Hamill said. "It doesn't say anything more about the person's residency, citizenship, the other indicators of resident citizenship that would speak to, are you qualified to be a candidate for governor, which is the highest state public office, or for any other public office?"

Hamill said that a candidate's voting record would strengthen the residency argument, and that Tuberville voting in Florida in 2018 does not help. Tuberville's filing says the senator registered to vote in Alabama in 2019, about two weeks before he announced his campaign for U.S. Senate.

"Where the heck you vote ought to be pretty darn important, because it's all about voting," she said.

She also said that having more than one residence does not disqualify a candidate, nor keep somebody from maintaining residency, as Tuberville's filing argues.

"If he has more than one that crosses a state line, you've got to determine, does that destroy or impact your analysis of his residence here," she said. "Which one is the real residence, and which one is the getaway for a while?"

The hearing will be on June 14 at 10 a.m. in Birmingham. A spokeswoman for Tuberville's campaign said Tuesday that the campaign has requested the hear-



U.S. Sen. Tommy Tuberville, the Republican nominee for governor, speaks to reporters after voting in Auburn, Alabama on May 19, 2026. Tuberville on Monday submitted Alabama income tax returns from 2018 to 2024 to defend his residency, but an expert said they are not enough on their own to prove the nominee has met the Alabama Constitution's seven year residency requirement. (Anna Barrett/Alabama Reflector)

ing be open to the public, but has not heard from the party. McFeeters said that the hearing being open is the "only way I stand a chance."

"It's no longer about what's right or wrong, or what's the truth. It's about who's got the most powerful attorneys and how much money you're going to spend, and I hate that about it," McFeeters said.

Tuberville is represented by Bert Jordan, a Birmingham-based

lawyer who has represented the last three governors of Alabama, and has supported the ALGOP in U.S. Supreme Court amicus filings related to congressional districts. As of Monday afternoon, McFeeters had meetings planned with potential attorneys.

The party is represented by Balch & Bingham LLP, who McFeeters described as "the most politically connected, most powerful law firm in Alabama."

# LIFESTYLE

## The Frontmen take the stage at the new Bluff Amp

By Lindsey Frazier  
Features Editor

The voices behind some of country music's most recognizable hits will open a new chapter in Hokes Bluff when The Frontmen headline the inaugural concert at The Bluff Amphitheater on June 6.

For many fans, the evening will be more than just a concert. It will be a return to a venue once known as Gold City Music Park and a chance to hear the songs that helped define a generation.

After renovations by owners Josh Santos, Chad Lee and Drake White, what was once a kudzu-covered lot has been transformed into an 18-acre entertainment complex featuring a campground and recording studio. The stadium-style seating built into the terrain can accommodate about 7,000.

"It feels great to come back to a place where we kind of took for granted all those years and then to be able to do something special," Santos said. "We want to do community-focused events, family events, on top of the concerts."

Fittingly for the venue's first major concert, The Frontmen will headline the night. The band consists of Tim Rushlow, formerly of Little Texas; Richie Mc-

Donald, formerly of Lonestar; and Larry Stewart, formerly of Restless Heart, who were all frontmen for each respective band.

Collectively, the trio has sold more than 30 million records and produced dozens of hits. Rushlow said the group's appeal comes from bringing together the voices of three successful country bands.

"To have three singers that are the voices of three of the biggest bands in country history on one stage at one time, in one band, it's pretty historical," Rushlow said. "It's an event... People are starting to realize, 'This isn't a tribute band or a cover band; these are the guys who sing these songs.'"

Although the group had performed together a couple of times, they didn't really begin touring until Rushlow was invited to play for the United Service Organizations and the Navy for their entertainment.

The band continued traveling in January to perform for the troops for about eight years, landing on aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf and traveling across the globe to play for the women and men, "giving them a little slice of home," Rushlow said.

For The Frontmen, being selected as the first act to perform at the newly re-opened venue is a distinction Rushlow said the group doesn't take lightly.

"It's an honor," Rushlow said. "The country music fans in Alabama are passionate. We're excited to be coming there and showing people who the Frontmen are."

That sense of nostalgia makes the band's selection as the amphitheater's inaugural act especially fitting. As The Bluff Amphitheater opens its gates, fans will gather under the stars once again to celebrate both the venue's grand opening and the music.

"To walk out there and sing those songs and see people's eyes light up, it's a thrill, it really is," Rushlow said. "It's pretty endearing when you have so many people come up to you after the show and go, 'Man, you guys were the soundtrack of my life.'"

The Bluff Amphitheater, located at 1820 US HWY 278 E, in Hokes Bluff, will open its gates at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased from The Bluff's website and range from \$35.20 to \$87.20, depending on the zone, and parking is \$10.



Photo courtesy of Alysse Gafkjen

# Your CALENDAR Community

### June 6 The Frontmen at The Bluff

For the first time, the stage comes to life at The Bluff Amphitheater. The Frontmen take the stage for a night of unforgettable country music. Featuring the legendary voices of Richie McDonald (formerly of Lonestar), Larry Stewart (of Restless Heart), and Tim Rushlow (formerly of Little Texas), this is more than a concert—it's the soundtrack of a generation. Tickets start at \$40.

- Where: The Bluff Amphitheatre and Campground, 1820 US-278, Hokes Bluff
- When: 5 to 10 p.m.

### June 6 Coosa River Irish Session at Clover on Court

A shared table, no stage, no set list... just jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, and the collective rhythm of musicians listening to one another. If you know the tunes, jump in. If you're learning, you're welcome to sit close, follow along, and join when ready. Musician and listeners alike are welcome.

- Where: Clover on Court | 124 Court Street, Gadsden
- When: 5 to 8 p.m.

### June 8 Rainbow City Community Market

- Where: Rainbow City Hall | 3700 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden
- When: 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### June 9 Glencoe Farmers Market

- Where: Glencoe Police Department | 201 Chastain Boulevard West, Glencoe
- When: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Where: Wilson Park, 313 Nancy Carrol Ave, Glencoe, AL
- When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### June 11 Taste of the Town Food Truck Festival

- Where: Southside City Hall | 2255 Alabama 77, Southside
- When: 5 to 8 p.m.

### June 11 Useless Trivia at Back Forty

- Where: Back Forty
- When: 7 p.m.

### June 9 Daddy and Me Fishing Tournament

All proceeds will go toward Help the Gaston Jr High Cheerleading team pay for competition, uniform, equipment and more. Dad (whom you see as a dad figure) and 1 child \$30  
Dad and 2 children \$50  
Dad and 3 or more children \$75  
prize and awards will be given out

- Where: Moragne Park
- When: Gates open at 8 a.m. for registration and payment.

### June 5-6 Glencoe Celebration in the Park

Celebrate summer, community, and great food at Celebration in the Park on June 5th and 6th at Wilson Park (313 Nancy Carrol Ave, Glencoe, AL). This two-day event will feature live music, food trucks, vendors, and children's activities, offering something for the whole family to enjoy. It's the perfect way to spend time with friends, support local businesses, and experience the energy of Glencoe. On Saturday, don't miss Smoke in the Park, where attendees can sample barbecue and participate in the \$1 Eat and Vote experience! Bring your family, invite your friends, and come enjoy a weekend full of fun, food, and community spirit right here in Glencoe!

- Where: Wilson Park, 313 Nancy Carrol Ave, Glencoe, AL
- When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### June 9 Spartan Wrestling Academy Showdown

- Where: Spartan Wrestling space inside Gadsden Mall
- When: Doors Open at 6:00 p.m., Event starts at 6:30 p.m.

### June 13 Music Trivia Night at Baja Rainbow City

Name that Tune Trivia hosted by Jason Bozeman

- Where: Baja California
- When: 6 to 8 p.m.

### June 15 Hokes Bluff Farmers Market

- Where: Hokes Bluff City Hall | 3301 Alford Bend Road, Hokes Bluff
- When: 7 to 11 a.m.

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# LIFESTYLE

## Words alone are often insufficient



Tabitha Bozeman

It has been said that “No communication is better than miscommunication.” I disagree. As Samuel Beckett said, “Words are all we have.” Words alone, however, are often insufficient when we are communicating, and this can have hysterical consequences.

I experienced a humorous breakdown in communication last week on my trip. A traveling friend from South Africa, Andriette, has a lovely way of communicating with her husband, Kobus (pronounced KWIB-us). They were always joking with one another, laughing and being silly. But, they were also kind and considerate. One day, we say in our bus seats and her hus-

band walked up and down the bus to get something for her and bring it back. They chatted a moment, then he was off to visit with someone else on the bus, and as he walked away, she said “Thank you, Darling Donkey.” As I listened, I was both amused and heartwarming by their banter. I thought “That is the sweetest little pet name she has for him! How precious that they can be so warm and silly at the same time, even in front of others!” I loved the donkey reference, too, because we’d already chatted about how she’d love to have a miniature donkey as a pet, and I’d told her about my sister having one and how funny he is. So, as a pet name for her husband I thought “Darling Donkey” was perfect because Kobus always had us in absolute stitches with his antics on the trip, was always the first to help load and unload luggage, and pass around sweets on our bus rides. We all loved traveling with him.

Thinking about this, I turned to Andriette and said “I am going to start using that with my husband! That’s adorable! I love it!” She looked at me, slightly confused, and asked what I planned to use. I answered “Darling Donkey—what a cute

little nickname!” She looked at me for a second and then burst into laughter. “No, no!” she said. “‘Dankie’ means ‘thank you’ in Afrikaans. I was saying ‘Darling, thank you!’”

We laughed and laughed over this miscommunication, and on my next search for souvenirs in Thessaloniki, Greece, I found a couple of little zipper bags with a donkey on each. Now she and I each have one as a reminder of our silliness.

Writer Carolyn Chun once said “When words fail, then real language arrives, that rare guest.” In this lighthearted example of language failing us, joy, humour, and laughter were our real language in the moment. At other times, breakdowns in communication can have more serious consequences. Readers witness this type of miscommunication over and over again in literary classics: In *The Great Gatsby*, *Daisy* and *Gatsby* experience fundamental barriers to true communication with tragic consequences. In *The Glass Menagerie*, an entire family lives in perpetual miscommunication and misunderstanding, becoming more and more isolated from one another. In these examples, words exist, but

real communication fails.

Becoming a better communicator is not a task that can be completed one time. Instead, continual re-evaluation and learning are required. Sometimes communication mishaps are as easy to clear up as defining how a word is used. Other communication challenges can require more time, patience, and effort. A few ways to begin improving communication include paying attention to nonverbal clues when someone is speaking, being fully present without thinking ahead to a response or another task while someone is speaking, and asking open-ended questions to clarify understanding. After all, understanding each other and ourselves opens the door to connection, and connection is what this life is about. As John Steinbeck reminds us, “Try to understand [others]. If you understand each other you will be kind to each other. Knowing [someone] well... almost always leads to love.”

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

## The storms of life are coming



Carrie Halladay

If you’ve lived in Alabama for very long, you’ve probably heard James Spann say some version of this:

“Don’t wait until the tornado warning is issued to figure out your plan.”

He says it every severe weather season. Know where your safe place is. Have a weather radio. Charge your phone. Gather your supplies. Wear a helmet to protect your noggin. Talk with your family. Make these decisions before the storm arrives.

Nobody hears that advice and says,

“James Spann is being negative.” We don’t accuse him of being pessimistic. In fact, we trust him precisely because he understands that storms are a normal part of life in Alabama.

What if we approached the storms of life in the same way?

Most people spend their lives hoping hardship won’t come. We tell ourselves that if we’re good enough, smart enough, careful enough, or lucky enough, we can somehow avoid pain. Then suffering arrives, and we’re shocked by it.

But suffering is a lot like a tornado. It doesn’t necessarily arrive on our schedule. We don’t always know when it’s coming. We can’t completely prevent it. Yet we know with certainty that at some point we will encounter it.

Loss. Grief. Illness. Disappointment. Relationship struggles. Anxiety. Failure. Heartbreak. Debt. These experiences are simply part of the human experience.

The people who navigate suffering best aren’t necessarily the strongest people. They’re often the people who pre-

pared before the storm clouds appeared. They built healthy relationships when life was calm. They developed coping skills before they desperately needed them. They learned how to ask for help. They invested in their faith, their community, their physical health and emotional well-being. They created an emotional storm shelter.

The time to build a storm shelter is not when the warnings are issued. By then, it’s too late. The work needed to happen beforehand.

The same is true emotionally.

Don’t wait until you’re too overwhelmed by anxiety to learn stress management skills. Don’t wait until your marriage is falling apart to start communicating. Don’t wait until grief arrives to build meaningful relationships. Don’t wait until a crisis to find a counselor. Prepare now.

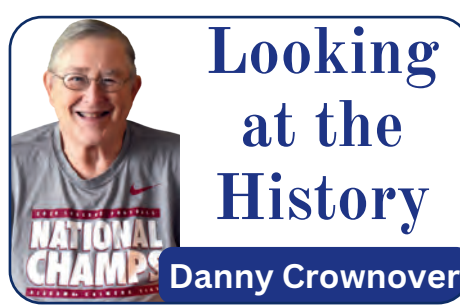
Another thing James Spann understands is that preparation doesn’t eliminate storms. Even the best storm shelter doesn’t stop a tornado from forming.

Likewise, resilience doesn’t eliminate suffering. It simply helps us survive it. The goal isn’t to create a life without suffering. That’s impossible. The goal is to become the kind of person who can endure suffering without being destroyed by it.

So the next time you hear James Spann reminding everyone to prepare before severe weather strikes, consider it a reminder for life as well. Storms are coming. The question isn’t whether you’ll face storms. The question is whether you’re building your shelter before the storms arrive.

Carrie Halladay is a Licensed Professional Counselor and the owner of Halladay Counseling in Gadsden. She earned her Master of Science in Counseling from Jacksonville State University in 2002.

## Boring for oil and gas near Gadsden



Danny Crownover

In 1868 Gadsden was excited over effort to bore an oil well in Owl Valley just on the northern edge of the city and the results were so favorable that it was decided 50 years later to organize a company and make another test.

It was in June, 1918, that the Gadsden Oil and Gas Company was organized with an authorized capital stock of \$300,000 to make the second attempt at almost exactly the same spot and there was good reason to believe that this time there would be some sort of success, probably a big one.

Otto Agricola was president of the

company. A.S. McGregor vice president and James L. Herring secretary and treasurer.

The directors were Otto Agricola, A.S. McGregor, J.L. Herring, O.R. Hood, J.S. Morange, Adolph P. Reich, F.P. Jackson, W.C. Hale.

In 1868 a Mr. Rogers, of Pennsylvania, came here and leased a large acreage of land entitling him to bore for oil on a royalty basis. Col. R.B. Kyle was impressed with the man’s earnestness and his recommendations and aided him in securing the lease on several thousand acres, most of the land being located in Owl Valley.

Mr. Rogers employed Calvin Brown, an expert oil well man, to do the boring and the latter started a well in a very short time.

He put up his derrick and work progressed satisfactorily. The shavings coming up from a depth of 200 feet were saturated with oil, so much so that Col. Kyle set fire to them and they burned freely. These indications encouraged the

promoter and he continued to sink the well.

When it reached a depth of 484 feet gas began to flow and reached such a pressure as to blow out the drill and wreck the derrick, seriously injuring Mr. Brown.

Col. Kyle was notified of the accident and he went to the scene with Dr. Joseph Bevans. They found Mr. Brown unconscious but he soon revived. Mr. Rogers was not in Gadsden at the time, but he returned in a few days only to express great disappointment and ordered the well sealed and abandoned.

He was hunting oil, not gas. Col. Kyle believed for 50 years at least that had the work been continued Gadsden would have had enough natural gas to develop into a great city.

The well of 1918 was started near Wiloughby Springs. In that section small ponds of water emitted gas that would burn. Many people tried this with lighted tapers and always the gas blazed up. Then, too, there was the experience of

Calvin Brown and his employer, Mr. Rogers, with the first well, all of which caused the new promoters to believe that they would strike oil or gas or both.

They were encouraged also by the written opinion of R.H. Elliott, noted geologist of Birmingham. He said that there was good reason to believe that great pressure on the rocks in this area had probably sealed in whatever oil and gas existed here and that the field should certainly be explored, even at a large cost.

The well was finally abandoned. It is interesting to recall that a number of geologists who were meeting in Birmingham decided to visit other industrial centers of Alabama and came here for a dinner and a session while the local oil well was being started. They all expressed the opinion that the promoters “might as well be boring straight up,” for all gas and oil out of this section.

Contact The Vagabond at [dkcrown@bellsouth.net](mailto:dkcrown@bellsouth.net).

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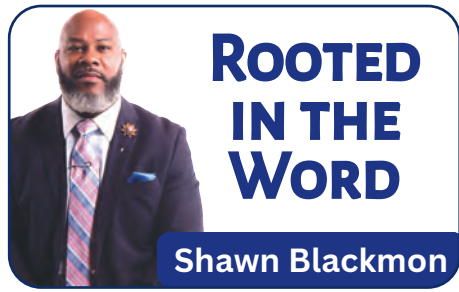
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# DEVOTIONALS



## ROOTED IN THE WORD

Shawn Blackmon

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to forget how painful something really was? A toxic relationship. A destructive habit. A season of depression. An addiction. A place where you cried yourself to sleep and begged God for a way out. Then somehow, after enough time passes, we begin to romanticize what nearly destroyed us. We forget the tears. We forget the sleepless nights. We forget the prayers we prayed asking God to rescue us. And before we know it, we're tempted to go back to the very thing God delivered us from. The Apostle Paul understood this struggle. Writing to the believers in Galatia, he

## Whatever you do, don't go back

warned them: *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."* Galatians 5:1

Notice what Paul says. Christ did not set us free so we could eventually return to bondage. He set us free so we could stay free. Yet if we're honest, sometimes the hardest part of freedom isn't getting out. It's staying out. We know God has changed us. We know He's healed us. We know He's brought us through things that should have broken us. But there are moments when the familiar begins calling our name again. The old mindset. The old habits. The old relationships. The old version of ourselves. Jesus said, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). In other words, you cannot move forward while constantly staring behind you.

You cannot embrace what God is doing next while clinging to what He already called you out of. The enemy knows he cannot destroy God's purpose for your life. So instead, he tries to convince you to revisit what God has already healed. Don't forget where God found you. Don't forget the prayers you prayed when your heart was broken. Don't forget the miracle of God's grace that carried you through. You didn't survive all of that just to go backward now. God has brought you too far. He has healed too much. He has restored too much. He has invested too much into your future. The road ahead may not always be easy, but it is better than the life God rescued you from. Keep moving forward. Keep growing. Keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep believing.

And whatever you do, don't go back. **Let's Pray**  
Father, thank You for every place You have delivered me from. When I am tempted to look backward, remind me of Your faithfulness. Give me the courage to release old habits, old hurts, and old ways of thinking. Help me keep my eyes fixed on You and the future You have prepared for me. Strengthen me to walk forward in freedom, confidence, and faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.  
**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 Alabama, leading life-changing mentoring initiatives that empower young people across five counties.*

## Hurdle splits, hounds and high ground

I fell in the mud this week. It was one of those days where I was trying to do more than I realistically should have. I was in a hurry, getting into the car to pick up my grandbabies for a birthday party, when my foot slipped right out from under me in a mud puddle, landing me in a hurdle split. Exasperated, I ran back into the house, changed my shoes, and grabbed some wipes to clean the bottom of the only clean pants I had left to wear. (Did I mention it's been a week?) I was ten minutes late to get the babies, and as I neared their house, the bottom fell out of the sky. I wheeled into three different parking arrangements when I arrived, trying desperately to avoid the flash flood that I knew would be a disaster for little feet to wade through. Umbrella-less, I hopped out of the car and made three trips to and from the house to buckle three little, slightly damp bodies into their car seats. Meanwhile, my second pair of shoes for the day were drenched, along with my muddy pants and fresh hairdo. We arrived at the birthday party a little worse for wear, but the rain had subsided and the birthday boy was delighted to see us—drippy wet and all. That is not what I intended to write

about, but it sets the stage for what happened Tuesday. The ground still hadn't had time to absorb the sheer amount of rain that had fallen over the last few days. As such, there were streams of running water and muddy puddles everywhere. On our walk that day, as I was dodging puddles and muddy patches, our deaf American Bulldog was pulling on his leash, trying to drag me into the wet grass. I responded with a hearty tug of my own. Planting my feet firmly on the high ground of the gravel road, I let him know that I had zero intentions of following him into the grass or letting his white paws touch the mud. He was completely unfazed by my declaration and continued to play his fruitless game of tug-of-war. I write a lot about this beast of burden—not because I am especially fond of him, but because it is during our walks together amidst the trees that my mind finally quiets. It's where I can see and hear in a way I don't take the time to do throughout the rest of the day. Looking down at my stubborn companion, I caught a glimpse of myself. How often am I the one pulling hard on the leash, determined to drag my Creator into the muddy patches of my own

schedule, my own anxieties, or my own willful desires? I want to go my own way, unfazed by the gentle—and sometimes hearty—tugs of Holy Spirit telling me to stay put. I knew the grass was a trap that would leave us both a mess, yet our boy kept pulling. In the same way, God sees the hidden pitfalls, the emotional quagmires, and the spiritual mud paths we try to wander into. When He corrects our course or holds us back, it isn't to restrict our freedom; it's to protect our peace and keep our feet steady. Proverbs 4:26-27 instructs us to, "Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil" (NIV). Sometimes, staying on the right path simply means letting go of our stubborn weight and letting the Master guide the walk. In order to follow His lead, we have to be willing to slow down enough to see which path we are actually placing under our feet. We must choose the slow, steady, gravel road of prayer, scripture, and rest, even when the world is pulling us to run straight into the mud. Where are you feeling a tug-of-war this week? Where do you need to plant your



## Memoir Musings

Sandra Bost

feet? Take a deep breath, release your grip on the frantic pace of this day, and trust that the Master is perfectly capable of keeping your feet steady, your heart at peace, and your path clear of the mud. After all, life is far too short—and the ground far too slippery—to try and navigate the race in our own frantic strength. Let Him guide your steps today, because staying on His path is a whole lot easier than landing in another hurdle split. Ask me how I know! Stay grounded, Friends.

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

# Your Weekly Devotionals

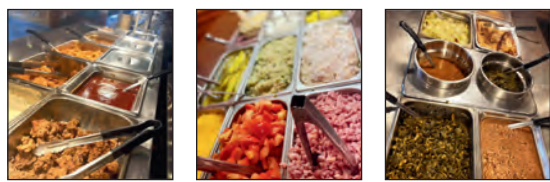
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# SPORTS



The athletes (pictured above from left to right) earned gold medals across seven different track and swimming events.

**Darian Waters-Whatley** earned two gold medals, taking first place in the 15-meter race walk and the 15-meter unassisted swim.

**Samantha Frederick** captured gold in the 25-meter freestyle and silver in the 25-meter freestyle relay.

**Albert Hall** earned bronze in the 50-meter freestyle and gold in the 100-meter freestyle.

**Braiden Dane** won gold medals in both the 50-meter freestyle and 50-meter backstroke.

**William Stewart** took gold in the 50-meter freestyle and was part of the gold medal-winning 25-meter freestyle relay team.

**Zack Moon** claimed gold in the 50-meter backstroke and the 25-meter freestyle relay and silver in the 50-meter freestyle.

**Jack Carr** won a gold in the 15-meter unassisted swim and silver in the 15-meter race walk.

**Alex Gaytan** earned silver medals in the 50-meter freestyle and 25-meter freestyle relay.

**ZaMarcus Collins** won silver in the 50-meter freestyle and gold in the 25-meter freestyle relay.

**Dylan Cox** captured gold in the 25-meter freestyle and silver in the 25-meter freestyle relay.

**Clayton Whitley** earned gold in the 50-meter freestyle and gold in the 25-meter freestyle relay.

**Zion Banks** won gold in the 25-meter freestyle and silver in the 25-meter freestyle relay.

## GCHS earn the gold at state games

Student athletes from Gadsden City High School competed in the Special Olympics State Games at Troy University earning 12 gold medals, five silver medals and one bronze medal. The event kicked off on Friday with the Opening Ceremony in the Trojan Arena, where William Stewart (pictured below with his coach Christine Lowery) was honored as the Alabama Special Olympics Athlete of the Year, before competitions began the following day. Lowery said the athletes embodied the Special Olympics oath of "Let me Win But If I Cannot Win Let me be Brave in the Attempt."

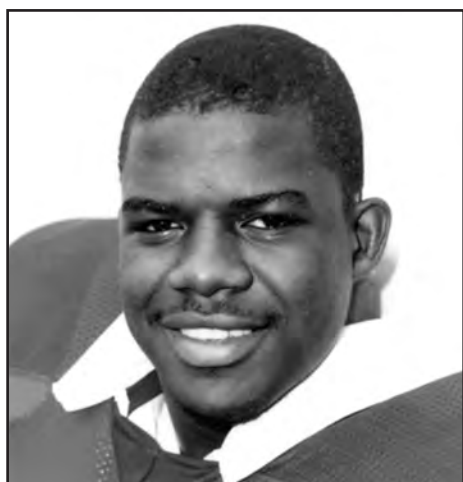


"I couldn't have asked for a better behaved group of student athletes," Lowery said. "They were very helpful in loading and unloading the bus to stay in the dorms and always concerned about the well being of their coach. They also enjoyed the victory dance on Saturday night."

Photos provided by Christine Lowery.



BARBARA DOWNEY PAYNE



AARON PEARSON



RANDY ROSS



WES VANCE

## County Sports Hall of Fame honoring inductees

The Etowah County Sports Hall of Fame will induct its Class of 2026 on June 13 at The Venue at Coosa Landing in Gadsden.

*Editor's Note: Last week, we introduced Garry Edward Elkins, James Wesley Graves, Jr., Rodney Wayne Long and Brian Mintz. This week, we introduce Barbara Downey Payne, Aaron Pearson, Randy Ross and Wes Vance.*

### Barbara Downey Payne

For more than five decades, Barbara Downey Payne has been a driving force in cheerleading and gymnastics across Etowah County and northeast Alabama—leaving a legacy as a standout athlete, coach, educator, and entrepreneur.

A graduate of Etowah High School and Jacksonville State University, Barbara's passion for cheerleading and gymnastics began early and quickly set her apart. At Etowah, she served as head cheerleader and earned Most Outstanding Cheerleader honors while also excelling in gymnastics, where she earned a state medal in trampoline. She helped lead her team to an international cheerleading championship and was selected to work with the International Cheerleading Foundation (ICF), becoming one of the first high school students chosen as a staff member.

Barbara continued her success at Jacksonville State University, earning a spot on the varsity cheerleading squad and later serving as captain. During her time there, the team achieved national recognition at UCA College Camp. She also coached, instructed tumbling and gymnastics, and began building programs that would impact generations of athletes.

After earning her degree, Barbara returned to Etowah High School as a teacher and cheer coach, later expanding her influence through teaching, choreography, judging, and entrepreneurship. She founded Downey's Gymnastics and later Rainbow Gymnastics and Childcare, Inc., where her athletes consistently qualified for state competitions and earned numerous local, state, and national titles. She also established one of the first all-star cheerleading programs in Etowah County.

A lifelong learner, Barbara earned three advanced degrees—all with a 4.0 GPA—while teaching and coaching full-time. Her dedication to excellence extended beyond the classroom and gym, as she mentored countless young athletes and helped shape the future of cheerleading in the region.

Among her many honors, Barbara was

named United Performing Association National Coach of the Year and led Team USA to a British International Open Cheerleading Championship in London.

Barbara Downey Payne's influence is measured not only in championships and accolades, but in the countless lives she has inspired through her leadership, passion, and commitment to excellence.

### Aaron Pearson

From youth football fields in Etowah County to the National Football League, Aaron Pearson established himself as a dominant and versatile force on the gridiron.

At Gadsden High School, Pearson played under head coaches Dexter Wood and David Martin from 1979 to 1982, contributing on both sides of the ball as a halfback, fullback, linebacker, and strong safety. As a senior, he helped lead the Tigers to a 7-3 record, highlighted by a commanding 70-6 victory over Etowah in the Charity Bowl at Murphree Stadium. His standout performance earned him Offensive Most Valuable Player honors. Following the season, he was recognized by the Gadsden Quarterback Club with the Outstanding Back Award.

Pearson continued his football career at Itawamba Community College, where, after his freshman season, he earned Mississippi Junior College All-Star Team honors, was named a Junior College All-American, and was featured on the cover of Sports South magazine as the state's "Top Hit Man." He later transferred to Mississippi State University, where he was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Week and earned All-SEC honors. In 1986, he was recognized as Defensive MVP of the prestigious Blue/Gray All-Star Classic.

Pearson went on to play linebacker in the National Football League with the Kansas City Chiefs from 1986 to 1988. He appeared in 16 games, including a playoff appearance, during his rookie season. In 1987, he played in 12 games with nine starts, and in 1988, he played in all 16 games, starting 10.

Beyond athletics, Pearson was actively involved in his community as a member of the Boy Scouts of America, the Gadsden High Honor Beta Club, and Kids with Character.

Aaron Pearson's athletic excellence, leadership, and dedication to both sport and community have left a lasting legacy worthy of recognition in the Etowah County

Sports Hall of Fame.

### Randy Ross

Though a native of Boaz, Randy Ross is most closely associated with Southside High School, where he built a lasting legacy as a coach, mentor, and leader.

As head coach of the Panthers' historic 1980 football team, Ross led Southside to a 12-1 record, capturing the program's first-ever region championship, first undefeated regular season, and first postseason victory. The Panthers advanced to the Class 3A quarterfinals, finishing the regular season ranked No. 3 in the state. That team's 12-win record stood until 2013. From 1977 to 1984, Ross compiled a 49-24 record at Southside and was named Area and County Coach of the Year in both 1980 and 1984.

Following his tenure at Southside, Ross coached at Scottsboro High School, leading the 1985 team to its first-ever playoff appearance and earning Class 5A Area Coach of the Year honors. Earlier in his career, he also found success at Gaston High School, guiding the 1976 baseball team to a Class 1A state championship.

Ross went on to an accomplished collegiate career, serving in multiple leadership roles at Vanderbilt University, the University of Alabama, Southern Methodist University, and the University of Arkansas. At Alabama, he worked under head coach Gene Stallings as Recruiting Coordinator and assistant coach, later serving in key administrative roles including Director of Football Operations and Head of Athletic Development. During his tenure, the Crimson Tide won 137 games, a national championship, two SEC titles, and five SEC West championships.

Ross also made a significant impact nationally, serving eight years on the College Football Hall of Fame Committee and 17 years with the NCAA Football Operations organization, including time as president. He was recognized as Football Scoop's 2019 Football Operations Director of the Year and founded the "Stay in School" program, encouraging student-athletes to complete their college eligibility.

A standout athlete at Boaz High School, Ross earned All-State honors in football and baseball and continued his playing career at Snead State and St. Bernard College.

Ross is a member of the Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame, the Southside High School Wall of Fame, and the Boaz High School Wall of Fame. He is currently active at Church of the Highlands in Tuscaloosa,

where he serves on the Dream Team.

### Wes Vance

Gadsden native Wes Vance has built an outstanding reputation on the golf course, achieving success at the local, state, and national levels over a career spanning more than 35 years.

A 1997 graduate of Gadsden High School, Vance's talent was evident early. He captured the Alabama Junior Championship in the 11-and-under division in 1990 and again in the 15-16 division in 1994, earning recognition in Links Magazine as a rising young golfer. He competed on the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) circuit from ages 14 to 18, finishing runner-up in the 1995 AJGA ClubCorp Tournament in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Vance distinguished himself as a four-time AJGA Long Drive Champion and dominated local competition, winning the Etowah County Junior Championship twice and the Gadsden Country Club Junior Championship seven times. He also claimed the Gadsden Country Club Men's Championship in 1993 and 1995. His junior career included three top-10 finishes at the prestigious Future Masters Tournament and a berth in the 1996 AJGA National Championship.

At Gadsden High School, Vance continued to excel, finishing as the runner-up at the AHSAA State Tournament in 1996. Ranked among the nation's top 100 high school golf recruits, he earned a scholarship to the University of Alabama, where he lettered four years for the Crimson Tide. In 1999, he won the University of Alabama Tournament and was one of only five golfers from Alabama to qualify for the U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach. He was also recognized for his academic excellence as a member of the All-SEC Academic Team in 2000 and 2001.

Now residing in Raleigh, North Carolina, Vance remains active in the game as Vice Chairman of Membership at Old Chatham Golf Club, where he has won three consecutive club championships (2022-2024). Professionally, he has served as North Carolina Market Leader for Invesco since 2013. He is also an active member of Hayes Barton United Methodist Church, where he serves as an usher and contributes to the church's Endowment Committee.

Wes Vance's sustained excellence in golf and his continued commitment to leadership and service reflect a career defined by dedication, achievement, and integrity.

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Per Lb.

**5.99** With Card

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**LIMIT 6**

Selected Varieties  
**Little Debbie Snack Cakes**  
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**Fudge Rounds**  
**Oatmeal Creme Pies**

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14.6-29.3 Oz.

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8 Ct.

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**Buy 4 SAVE MORE**

Selected Varieties, Betty Crocker Fruit Snacks (6-10 Ct.), Nature Valley Granola Bars (6 Ct.), General Mills Cereal Bars (8 Ct.) or  
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8.9-12 Oz.

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**LIMIT 4 EACH**

Selected Varieties, Pringles Party Stacks (7.1 Oz.), Pringles Mingles (5.5 Oz.), Pop-Tarts (5-8 Ct.), Entenmann's Donuts (9-10 Oz.) or  
**Eggo Waffles**  
8.4-14.8 Oz.

**2/\$5** With Card

**LIMIT 2 EACH**

Selected Varieties, Nutri-Grain Bars (16 Ct.), Special K Protein Bars (6 Ct.) or  
**Rice Krispies Treats**  
16 Ct.

**4.99** With Card

**LIMIT 2 EACH**

Selected Varieties, Cape Cod Potato Chips (6.5-8 Oz.) or  
**Munchies Sandwich Crackers**  
8 Ct.

**2.99** With Card

**LIMIT 2**

**Food Club Spring Water**  
24 Pk., 16.9 Oz. Btls.

**2.99** With Card

**LIMIT 6**

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**Terry's Potato Chips**  
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**3/\$5** With Card

**LIMIT 2**

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Selected Varieties, Smartfood Popcorn, 4.5-7 Oz.

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# LEGALS

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF ETOWAH Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Philip Montgomery and Tara Montgomery, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Embrace Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns dated February 2, 2016; said mortgage being recorded on March 9, 2016 as Instrument No. 3430850 as having been modified by an agreement recorded as Instrument No. 3550164 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment recorded as Instrument No. 3538102 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Freedom Mortgage Corporation, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on July 1, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to wit:

LOT 3 OF THE RESURVEY OF E.L. WILSON AND J.H. MCCORMICK SUBDIVISION, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "L", PAGE 46, PROBATE OFFICE, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.

Said property is commonly known as 1207 Case Avenue South East, Attalla, AL 35954.

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

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

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

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, went into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal AntiMoney Laundering

or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and the source of funds used in the reportable transaction, if applicable.\* The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements, if applicable. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN AntiMoney Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

\* The Rule is the subject of ongoing litigation in several jurisdictions. We suggest that you seek your own legal counsel if you have questions about the status of the Rule and its applicability to your sale, if any.

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

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP  
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
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May 22, 29, and June 5, 2026

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF ETOWAH Default having been made under the terms of that certain mortgage executed by Bobby Barron and wife Shannon Barron on the 14th day of July, 2017 to The Exchange Bank of Alabama which said mortgage is recorded in the Probate Office Etowah County, Alabama, as Instrument Number 3453406, and by reason of such default, having declared all of the indebtedness secured by said mortgage due and payable, and such default continuing, notice is hereby given that, acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, The Exchange Bank of Alabama will sell at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, before the North entrance of the Courthouse in the City of Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, at noon or otherwise during the legal hours of sale on June 17th, 2026 the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

The land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Etowah, State of Alabama, and is described as follows: Commence at a grader blade marking the SE corner of Fraction "D" in Section 21, T-12-S, R-7-E, thence along the East line of said Fraction "D" the following bearings and distances: Thence N00°06'30"W 470.42' to a 1/2" rebar thence N00°06'35"W 199.73' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), said point being the point of beginning, thence leaving said East line of said Fraction "D" N89°42'14"W 566.88' to a 1/2" rebar, thence N89°36'06"W 170.25' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence N00°05'24"W 242.84' to a 1/2" solid iron, thence N00°31'22"W 278.50' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence S87°17'36"E 218.50' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence N19°54'56"E 114.58'

to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence S89°09'47"E 481.65' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS) on the East line of said Fraction "D," thence S00°06'28"E 615.81' along said East line of said Fraction "D" to the point of beginning, containing 9.92 acres more or less.

Said above described property subject to a 25' easement described as follows: Commence at a grader blade marking the SE corner of Fraction "D," in Section 21, T-12-S, R-7-E, thence along the East line of said Fraction "D" the following bearings and distances: Thence N00°06'30"W 470.42' to a 1/2" rebar, thence N00°06'35"W 199.73' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence leaving said East line of said Fraction "D" N89°42'14"W 566.88' to a 1/2" rebar, thence N89°36'06"W 170.25' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence N00°05'24"W 15.06' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), said point being the point of beginning being 25' Northerly of the following described line: thence S61°59'27"W 291.03' to a point, thence S81°21'19"W 307.60' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS) on the Easterly R/W of Pineview Avenue (60' R/W) and the end of said easement.

Less and Except: Commence at a grader blade marking the SE corner of Fraction "D," Section 21, T-12-S, R-7-E, thence N02°23'55"W 670.64' along the East line of said fraction "D" to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), said point being the point of beginning, thence leaving said East line of said Fraction "D" S87°57'46"W 567.10' to a 1/2" rebar, thence S88°04'37"W 169.88' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence N02°26'58"W 242.82' to a 1" solid iron, thence N88°02'18"E 517.19' to a nail, thence S02°23'55"E 157.47' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence N87°57'47"E 220.00' to a 1/2" rebar capped (CA-497-LS) on the East line of said Fraction "D," thence S02°23'55"E 85.00' along said East line of said Fraction "D" to the point of beginning, containing 3.31 acres more or less.

For informational purposes the street address for the above referenced property is: 118 Barron Way, Glencoe, Alabama 35905.

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

Said sale will be subject to the right of way easements and restrictions of record in the Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama, and will be subject to outstanding property taxes, and existing special assessments, if any, which might adversely affect the title to subject property.

Said property will be sold on an "As is, Where is" basis without warranty or recourse, express or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment. Neither the mortgagee, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of the mortgagee make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property offered for sale. Any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition, including those suggested by Code of Ala. (1975) §35-4-271, are expressly disclaimed.

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

Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by the above described

mortgage, and the proceeds thereof will be applied as provided by the terms of said mortgage. The successful bidder must tender a non-refundable deposit of Five Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00) in certified funds made payable to Reynolds, Reynolds & Little, LLC. The balance of the purchase price must be paid in certified funds or by wire transfer by 5:00 p.m. the next business day at the Law Office of Reynolds, Reynolds & Little, LLC at the address indicated below unless prior to said sale Reynolds, Reynolds & Little, LLC has agreed to a later date or closing location. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate.

The failure of any high bidder to pay the purchase price and close this sale shall, at the option of Mortgagee, be cause for rejection of the bid, and if the bid is rejected, Mortgagee shall have the option of making the sale to the next highest bidder who is able, capable and willing to comply with the terms thereof.

This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

The Exchange Bank of Alabama  
Robert P. Reynolds  
REYNOLDS, REYNOLDS & LITTLE, LLC  
Attorneys for Mortgagee  
2115 Maxie Thomas Way  
Post Office Box 2863  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
35403-2863  
Telephone:  
205-391-0073  
File No. 18.0058

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

## MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain real estate mortgage executed by ASHLEY GOSS, an unmarried woman, to ALAN DICKY and KRISTAL DICKY dated April 9, 2024 and recorded in Instrument No.: 3572859 in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, Alabama, and the Mortgagee, by reason of such default having declared all the indebtedness secured by said mortgage due and payable and said mortgage subject to foreclosure, and said default continuing, notice is hereby given that, acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the Mortgagee will sell at public outcry, for cash, to the highest and best bidder in front of the Courthouse door of the Etowah County Courthouse, during the legal hours of sale on the 26th day of June, 2026, the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama:

Lot Twenty-four (24) in Block One (1) of R. L. McClain Rearrangement of portions of Tract "AA" of Stowers Rearrangement of portions of Attalla Iron & Steel Co.'s Addition to Attalla, according to the map of said R. L. McClain Rearrangement recorded in Plat Book "D", Page 239, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, lying and being in Etowah County, Alabama.

Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The property will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the records of the Probate Court. The property will be sold without warrant, or recourse, express or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment, and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the property and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the property. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in the property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help

persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An Attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

s/David C. Livingston  
By: David C. Livingston  
Attorney for Mortgagee  
P.O. Box 1621  
Gadsden, AL 35902  
(256) 546-9300

June 5, 12, and 19, 2026

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF ETOWAH

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Jonathon K Dawson, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC, its successors and assigns dated March 14, 2022; said mortgage being recorded on March 16, 2022 as Instrument No. 3537195 as having been modified by an agreement recorded as Instrument No. 3580434 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC D/B/A Mortgage Solutions Financial, by assignment recorded as Instrument No. 3556790 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC D/B/A Mortgage Solutions Financial, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on July 8, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

COMMENCE AT AN EXISTING 2" PIPE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) IN SECTION TWENTY-ONE (21), TOWNSHIP ELEVEN (11) SOUTH, RANGE SIX (6) EAST OF HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA AND RUN DUE EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE THEREOF 300.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID FORTY, 299.91 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID FORTY, 202.89 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID FORTY, 202.89 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID FORTY, 299.91 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID FORTY, 202.89 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID FORTY, 299.91 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; 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THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID FORTY, 202.89 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 0

**FILE CLAIMS**

Walter Joe James, III, was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 05/12/2026 to the Estate of Glenda Gail Tingle, 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

June 5, 12, and 19, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Gilbert A. Lane, Jr. was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 04/30/2026 to the Estate of Dorothy Marie Watts Lane, 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

June 5, 12, and 19, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

THE ESTATE OF: POOLE, JAMES DECEASED.

You will take notice that a Petition for Disposition of Remains filed by London Pearce, for the disposition of the remains of James Poole, who passed from this life and stepped into eternity on the 1st day of April, 2026, is set to be heard on the Wednesday, June 10th at 9:30 a.m. in Judge Hassell's courtroom, alleging that there are no known next of kin to take custody of the remains of the Decedent.

Please be advised that should you intend to contest this matter or desire to take custody of the remains of the Decedent of the proper disposition, you must file a written response within two (2) days of the last publication herein with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, Courthouse, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35901.

DONE THIS THE 4th DAY OF June, 2026.

Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

June 5, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

Case No.: 2024-00719

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER DWAYNE DAY, DECEASED.

TO: All Creditors, heirs or distributees, and all other persons interested in the Estate of Christopher Dwayne Day, deceased

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Brianna Day, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Christopher Dwayne Day, filed a Report of Insolvency on the 28th day of April, 2026.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 29th day of June, 2026 at 2:30 p.m., when said report will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the Report of Insolvency should be denied. DONE THIS THE 2nd DAY OF June 2026

Scott W. Hassell  
JUDGE OF PROBATE

June 5, 12, and 19, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: TED WARD, INCAPACITATED  
Case #: I-353

TO: Any interested party Please take notice that a PETITION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 29TH day of JUNE 2026 at 1:30p.m. was appointed a day and time for hearing on said Petition, thereof at which time you may appear and support and/or contest the Petition, if you so choose.  
DONE THIS THE 27TH DAY OF MAY 2026

Scott W. Hassell  
PROBATE JUDGE

June 5, 12, and 19, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: CLIFFORD EISENMAN, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED  
Case #: 2026-312

TO: Kelly Mason, Tim Schoenfeld, Brent Whitman 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 6th day of JULY 2026 at 1:30 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 27TH DAY OF MAY 2026

Scott Hassell  
PROBATE JUDGE

June 5, 12, and 19, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: MARK HICKS, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED

Case #: 2026-250

TO: Marissa Fowler-Hicks, Frances Fowler, Nicholas Hicks, John Hicks 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 27TH day of JULY 2026 at 1:00 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 28TH DAY OF MAY 2026

Scott W. Hassell  
Judge of Probate

June 5, 12, and 19, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EVA JANICE JENKINS, DECEASED.

Case No.: 2026-00165

TO: JOHN ROBIN SMITH; 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 Eva Janice Jenkins, deceased, and a petition in writing and under oath praying for the admission to probate and record in this Court of said instrument as the true Last Will and Testament of the decedent.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 29th day of July, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the instrument filed with said petition and purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Eva Janice Jenkins, 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 2nd DAY OF June 2026

Scott W. Hassell  
JUDGE OF PROBATE

June 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2026

**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.:2026-00191

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF: WAYNE NAQUIN, JR. and RANI PLAISANCE NAQUIN.

TO: Unknown father Address unknown

Please take notice that a petition for adoption of a child born to Brooklyn Naquin has been filed in said Court by the Petitioner(s) named above alleging that the identity

and/or whereabouts of the biological father of said minor child are unknown and have not been disclosed to the Court. The minor child's date of birth is 04/15/2025. As a notified party, you may appear in the adoption proceeding to contest or support the attached petition. Please be advised that if you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of service of this notice with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below and with the Clerk of the Probate Court at the following address: P.O. Box 187, Gadsden, AL 35902. If you fail to respond within thirty (30) days and appear at the hearing, the Court may construe that failure as an implied consent to the adoption and waiver of a right to appear and of further notice of the adoption proceedings. If the adoption is approved, your parental rights, if any, will be considered terminated.

Attorney for Petitioner:  
Scott Stewart, Esquire  
750 Forrest Avenue,  
Suite 213 Gadsden, AL 35901

Given under my hand this the 21st day of May 2026

Scott W. Hassell  
JUDGE OF PROBATE

May 29, June 5, 12, and 19, 2026

**NOTICE OF COMPLAINT**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

LUIS ERAZO and YURY SUAREZ, Plaintiffs, vs. CV-2022-900179

TIMOTHY GOODE, BELINDA BEECH, EMMA HAZLEWOOD, RICHARD MARCUS GOODE, III, et al. 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: Lot Number Four (4), Lot Number Five (5) and part of Lot Number Three (3) described as beginning at a point where the dividing line between Lot Numbers Three (3) and Four (4) intersects the Northeast line of Reynolds Circle, and from thence run in a Northwesterly direction and along the Southwest line of Lot Number Three (3) a distance of 7 feet; thence in a North-easterly direction and in a direct line to the Northeast line of Lot Number Three (3) at a point where the Southeast line of Lot Number Three (3) intersects the same; thence in a Southwesterly direction along the Southeast line of Lot Number Three (3) to the point of beginning; all in Reynolds Street Addition, according to the map thereof as recorded in Plat Book "C", Page 305, Probate Office, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama.

The address of the subject property is 800 Reynolds Circle, Gadsden, AL 35901. The PIN for the subject property is 35176. Done the 3rd day of June, 2026.

/s/GEORGE C.DAY, JR  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

Joshua B. Sullivan  
Knowles & Sullivan, LLC  
413 Broad Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
Phone: 256-547-7200

June 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2026

**NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-00032

GADSDEN LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation, Plaintiff, v.

BUDDY C. JACKSON, deceased; ELZATER JACKSON, deceased; W. CHARLES JACKSON, as the Personal Representative of the Estate of BUDDIE C. JACKSON;

GLENDFORD JACKSON, deceased; ELFIDO OVALLE, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Elfido Ovalle, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; EULALIA TOMAS, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Eulalia Tomas, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; GLENDA JACKSON, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Glenda Jackson, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; W. CHARLES JACKSON, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of W. Charles Jackson, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; DAVID L. JACKSON, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of David L. Jackson, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; DORIS A. JACKSON, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Doris A. Jackson, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; VANESSA JACKSON AUSTIN, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Vanessa Jackson Austin, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA; FIRST EDUCATORS CREDIT UNION; that parcel of real property located at 516 Evans Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 and having a legal description of: A tract or parcel of land described as beginning at a point in the North Line of Lot No. 13 in the Cummins Addition as shown by Map thereof recorded in Plat Book "A", Page 269, Probate Office, which said point is 75 feet Easterly, measured along the North line of said lot. From the Northwest corner thereof, said point also being the Northeast corner of that certain tract or parcel of land sold and conveyed by Clifford F. Ackerson and his wife, Gertrude V. Ackerson to Henry Williams and wife, Ester Williams, by Deed dated Oct. 22nd, 1948 and recorded in Book 401, Page 121, Probate Office; thence in a Easterly direction along the North line of said lot. From the Northwest corner thereof, said point also being the Northeast corner of that certain tract or parcel of land sold and conveyed by Clifford F. Ackerson and his wife, Gertrude V. Ackerson to Henry Williams and wife, Ester Williams, by Deed dated Oct. 22nd, 1948 and recorded in Book 401, Page 121, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, together with all improvements thereon.

Property Address: 516 Evans Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 4, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in Judge Brynn Crain's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them if being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

TO BUDDY C. JACKSON. ELZATER JACKSON, W. CHARLES JACKSON, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF BUDDIE C. JACKSON; ELFIDO OVALLE; EULALIA TOMAS; GLENDFORD JACKSON; W. CHARLES JACKSON; GLENDA S. JACKSON; VAESSA JACKSON AUSTIN; DAVID L. JACKSON; DORIS A. JACKSON; FIRST EDUCATORS CREDIT UNION; CITY OF GADSDEN; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2026, the Gadsden Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the record reflects recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Etowah

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk  
J. Lance Smith

County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

A tract or parcel of land described as beginning at a point in the North Line of Lot No. 13 in the Cummins Addition as shown by Map thereof recorded in Plat Book "A", Page 269, Probate Office, which said point is 75 feet Easterly, measured along the North line of said lot. From the Northwest corner thereof, said point also being the Northeast corner of that certain tract or parcel of land sold and conveyed by Clifford F. Ackerson and his wife, Gertrude V. Ackerson to Henry Williams and wife, Ester Williams, by Deed dated Oct. 22nd, 1948 and recorded in Book 401, Page 121, Probate Office; thence in a Easterly direction along the North line of said Lot No. 13 a distance of 55 Feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot No. 13; thence to the right at an angle of 99 degrees 51 minutes, forming an interior angle of 80 degrees and 09 minutes and run in a Southerly direction along the East lines of Lots No. 13 and 15 in said addition, a distance of 48 feet to a point; thence to the right at an angle of 84 degrees and 03 minutes, forming an interior angle of 95 degrees and 57 minutes, and run in a Westerly or Northwesterly, direction a distance of 57.3 feet to a point in the East line of said Williams Tract; thence in a Northerly Direction parallel with the West line of said Lot No. 13 and along the East line of said Williams, a distance of 44.5 feet to the point of beginning, and embracing portions of Lots No. 13 and 15 in the Cummins Addition, according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Book "A", Page 269, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, together with all improvements thereon.

Property Address: 516 Evans Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 4, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in Judge Brynn Crain's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them if being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk  
J. Lance Smith

Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, P.C.  
200 Chestnut Street,  
Suite A  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
Phone: (256) 543-3664  
Facsimile: (256) 543-3674

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

**NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-00033

GADSDEN LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation, Plaintiff, v.

GEORGE WRIGHT, deceased; GERTRUDE WRIGHT, deceased; GEORGE WRIGHT, JR., deceased; MILLICENT E. SWIFT-WRIGHT, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Millicent E. Swift-Wright, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; GEORGE ANTHONY WRIGHT, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of George Anthony Wright, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; JEFFREY EDWARD WRIGHT, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Jeffrey Edward Wright, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; that parcel of real property located at 515 Kyle Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 and having a legal description of: A lot described as beginning at the northwest corner of Lot Number 11, and from thence run in a southerly direction and along the easterly line thereof a distance of 50 feet to the southwest corner of said lot Number 11; thence in an easterly direction and along the South line of said lot Number 11 a distance of 75 feet; thence northerly and parallel with the west line of said Lot Number 11 a distance of 50 feet to a point in the north line thereof; thence in a westerly direction and along said north line a distance of 75 feet to the point of beginning, and embracing a portion of Lot Number Eleven (11) in the Cummins Addition according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Book "A", Page 269, Probate Office, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, together with all improvements located thereon. Subject to any easements and restrictions of record, and known as Parcel ID No. 10-08-33-3-000-372.000 PPIN: 17009; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, Defendants.

Property Address: 516 Evans Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 4, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in Judge Brynn Crain's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

TO GEORGE WRIGHT; GERTRUDE WRIGHT; GEORGE WRIGHT, JR.; MILLICENT E. SWIFT-WRIGHT; GEORGE ANTHONY WRIGHT; JEFFREY EDWARD WRIGHT; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

Defendants.

TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2026, the Gadsden Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the record reflects recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

A lot described as beginning at the northwest corner of Lot Number 11, and from thence run in a southerly direction and along the easterly line thereof a distance of 50 feet to the southwest corner of said lot Number 11; thence in an easterly direction and along the South line of said lot Number 11 a distance of 75 feet; thence northerly and parallel with the west line of said Lot Number 11 a distance of 50 feet to a point in the north line thereof; thence in a westerly direction and along said north line a distance of 75 feet to the point of beginning, and embracing a portion of Lot Number Eleven (11) in the Cummins Addition according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Book "A", Page 269, Probate Office, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, together with all improvements

located thereon.

Property Address: 516 Evans Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk  
J. Lance Smith

Property Address: 515 Kyle Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 5, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Sonny Steen's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them if being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk  
J. Lance Smith  
Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, P.C.  
200 Chestnut Street,  
Suite A  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
Phone: (256) 543-3664  
Facsimile: (256) 543-3674

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

**NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-00034

GADSDEN LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation, Plaintiff, v.

FOY HOSKINS, deceased; EARLENE HOSKINS, deceased; GLENN HOSKINS; BRYAN HOSKINS; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; that parcel of real property located at 0 Louise Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35901 and having a legal description of: Lots Number Five (5), and Seven (7), in Rearrangement of West Half of Block 4 of Brainerd R. Pegram Trustee Subdivision, according to the map of said rearrangement recorded in Plat Book "D", Page 201, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama. Said property is conveyed subject to the rights of Alabama Power Company as shown in Book 5-Y, Page 182, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama. Subject to any easements and restrictions of record, and known as Parcel ID No. 10-07-36-2-000-025.002 PPIN: 15632; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, Defendants.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk  
J. Lance Smith

TO FOY HOSKINS; EARLENE HOSKINS; GLENN HOSKINS; BRYAN HOSKINS; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2026, the Gadsden Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the record reflects recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Lots and Number Five (5), and Seven (7), in Rearrangement of West Half of Block 4 of Brainard R. Pegram Trustee Subdivision, according to the map of said rearrangement recorded in Plat Book "D", Page 201, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama. Said property is conveyed subject to the rights of Alabama Power Company as shown in Book 5-Y, Page 182, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.

Property Address: 0 Louise Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35901

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for July 22, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Judge George Days's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk J. Lance Smith Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, P.C. 200 Chestnut Street, Suite A Gadsden, AL 35901 Phone: (256) 543-3664 Facsimile: (256) 543-3674

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-00035

GADSDEN LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation, Plaintiff, v.

BILLY R. BROWN, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Billy R. Brown, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; JAMES F. JOHNSON if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of James F. Johnson, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA; that parcel of real property located at 1613 Cooper Street, Gadsden, AL 35904 and having a legal description of: Lot Number Twenty-one (21) in Rebecca Addition, according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Book "D" Page 59, Probate Office, and lying and being in Etowah County, Alabama, subject to the rights, if any of the Southern Natural Gas Company as described in Deed Record "4-Z", Page 576, Probate Office, and being subject to the rights of Alabama Power Company as described in Record Book "343", Page 485, in said Probate Office. Subject to any easements and restrictions of record, and known as Parcel ID No. 15-04-17-0-001-053.000 PPIN: 40457; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, Defendants.

TO BILLY R. BROWN; JAMES F. JOHNSON; CITY OF GADSDEN; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2026, the Gadsden Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the record reflects recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Lot Number Twenty-one (21) in Rebecca Addition, according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Book "D" Page 59, Probate Office, and lying and being in Etowah County, Alabama, subject to the rights, if any of the Southern Natural Gas Company as described in Deed Record "4-Z", Page 576, Probate Office, and being subject to the rights of Alabama Power Company as described in Record Book "343", Page 485, in said Probate Office.

Property Address: 1613 Cooper Street, Gadsden, AL 35904

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 5, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Judge Cody Robinson's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed

and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk J. Lance Smith Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, P.C. 200 Chestnut Street, Suite A Gadsden, AL 35901 Phone: (256) 543-3664 Facsimile: (256) 543-3674

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-00036

GADSDEN LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation, Plaintiff, v.

C.E. LOFTIS, JR., deceased; EDDIE LOFTIS, deceased; BRENDA WEST, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Brenda West, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; JOANNA THOMPSON; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA; ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; that parcel of real property located at 418 Princeton Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 and having a legal description of: Commencing 50 feet from the Southwest corner of Lot Number 62, East as a starting point, thence along the public road 100 feet, to the Southeast corner of said Lot 62, thence North along the line of said Lot 62, 303 feet to the Northeast corner of said lot, thence West along the North line of said lot, 30 feet, thence South 303 feet to the beginning point and being a part of lot 62, of the India Sutherlin Estate as shown by map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book C, page 311 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama said property being and lying in the County of Etowah, State of Alabama; Less and except a lot or parcel of land commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 62, and running North 148 feet, as a starting point; thence North along the Public road 155 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot 62, thence West 30 feet, thence South 150 feet, thence East 80 feet to the point of beginning and being a part of Lot 62 in the India Sutherlin Estate as shown by map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book C, page 311 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said property being and lying in the County of Etowah and State of Alabama. LESS AND EXCEPT: A part of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, Section 35, Township 11 South, Range 6 East, identified as Tract No. 67 on Project No ACSTPAA-0137(013) in Etowah County, Alabama and being more fully described as follows:

Commencing at the SW corner of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 Section 35, Township 11 South, Range 6 East, thence North 60 degrees 8 minutes 35 seconds East a distance of 362.07 feet to a point that is 110 feet Southerly of and at right angles to the centerline of said project at Station 141+15.47; thence following the curvature thereof an arc distance of 184.69 feet (said arc having a chord bearing of North 87 degrees 21 minutes 26 seconds East, a counter clockwise direction, a chord distance of 184.64 feet and a radius of 2402.00 feet), to the grantor's West property line, which is the point of beginning; thence following the curvature thereof an arc distance of 61.10 feet (said arc having a chord bearing of North 84 degrees 09 minutes 28 seconds East, a counter clockwise direction, a chord distance of 0161.04 feet and a radius of 2402.00 feet) to a point that is 110 feet Southerly of and at right angles to said centerline at Station

143+50; thence South 54 degrees 30 minutes 28 seconds East a distance of 62.19 feet to a point that is 50 feet Westerly of and at right angles to the centerline of Auburn Avenue at Station 25+00; thence South 18 degrees 35 minutes 54 seconds East a distance of 108.04 feet to a point on the Northerly right of way of Princeton Avenue said point being 40 Westerly of and at right angles to the centerline of Auburn Avenue at Station 25+07.58' thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 24 seconds East and along said right of way a distance of 28.23 feet to a point on the Westerly right of way of Auburn Street; thence North 13 degrees 48 minutes 46 seconds West and along said right of way a distance of 161.06 feet; thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 55 seconds West a distance of 01135.86 feet; thence South 0 degrees 25 minutes 24 seconds East a distance of 24.26 feet; to the point and place of beginning. Subject to any easements and restrictions of record, and known as Parcel ID No. 10-07-35-2-000-067.000 PPIN: 15067; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, Defendants.

TO C.E. LOFTIS, JR.; EDDIE LOFTIS; BRENDA WEST; JOANNA THOMPSON; ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE CITY OF GADSDEN; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2026, the Gadsden Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the record reflects recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Commencing 50 feet from the Southwest corner of Lot Number 62, East as a starting point, thence along the public road 100 feet, to the Southeast corner of said Lot 62, thence North along the line of said Lot 62, 303 feet to the Northeast corner of said lot, thence West along the North line of said lot, 30 feet, thence South 303 feet to the beginning point and being a part of lot 62, of the India Sutherlin Estate as shown by map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book C, page 311 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama said property being and lying in the County of Etowah, State of Alabama; Less and except a lot or parcel of land commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 62, and running North 148 feet, as a starting point; thence North along the Public road 155 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot 62, thence West 30 feet, thence South 150 feet, thence East 80 feet to the point of beginning and being a part of Lot 62 in the India Sutherlin Estate as shown by map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book C, page 311 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said property being and lying in the County of Etowah and State of Alabama. LESS AND EXCEPT: A part of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, Section 35, Township 11 South, Range 6 East, identified as Tract No. 67 on Project No ACSTPAA-0137(013) in Etowah County, Alabama and being more fully described as follows:

Commencing at the SW corner of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 Section 35, Township 11 South, Range 6 East, thence North 60 degrees 8 minutes 35 seconds East a distance of 362.07 feet to a point that is 110 feet Southerly of and at right angles to the centerline of said project at Station 141+15.47; thence following the curvature thereof an arc distance of 184.69 feet (said arc having a chord bearing of North 87 degrees 21 minutes 26 seconds East, a counter clockwise direction, a chord distance of 184.64 feet and a radius of 2402.00 feet), to the grantor's West property line, which is the point of beginning; thence following the curvature thereof an arc distance of 61.10 feet (said arc having a chord bearing of North 84 degrees 09 minutes 28 seconds East, a counter clockwise direction, a chord distance of 0161.04 feet and a radius of 2402.00 feet) to a point that is 110 feet Southerly of and at right angles to said centerline at Station

North 84 degrees 09 minutes 28 seconds East, a counter clockwise direction, a chord distance of 0161.04 feet and a radius of 2402.00 feet) to a point that is 110 feet Southerly of and at right angles to said centerline at Station 143+50; thence South 54 degrees 30 minutes 28 seconds East a distance of 62.19 feet to a point that is 50 feet Westerly of and at right angles to the centerline of Auburn Avenue at Station 25+00; thence South 18 degrees 35 minutes 54 seconds East a distance of 108.04 feet to a point on the Northerly right of way of Princeton Avenue said point being 40 Westerly of and at right angles to the centerline of Auburn Avenue at Station 25+07.58' thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 24 seconds East and along said right of way a distance of 28.23 feet to a point on the Westerly right of way of Auburn Street; thence North 13 degrees 48 minutes 46 seconds West and along said right of way a distance of 161.06 feet; thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 55 seconds West a distance of 01135.86 feet; thence South 0 degrees 25 minutes 24 seconds East a distance of 24.26 feet; to the point and place of beginning.

Property Address: 418 Princeton Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 4, 2026 at 9:15 a.m. in Judge Brynn Crain's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk J. Lance Smith Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, P.C. 200 Chestnut Street, Suite A Gadsden, AL 35901 Phone: (256) 543-3664 Facsimile: (256) 543-3674

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-00037

GADSDEN LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation, Plaintiff, v.

W.C. ROBERTSON, deceased; VERA ROBERTSON, deceased; RICKY ROBERTSON, deceased; LARRY ROBERTSON, deceased; MARTHA HEATH, as the personal representative of the Estate of Vera Robertson; MARTHA JEAN ROBERTSON DENSON, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Glenda Robertson, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; GLENDA ROBERTSON, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Glenda Robertson, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; VALERIE GALBREATH; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; that parcel of real property located at 306 Princeton Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35901 and having a legal description of: Lot Number Thirteen (13) in Block Number Ten (10) of North Highland Addition to the City of Gadsden according to the map thereof recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama in Vol. "B", Page 61, said property lying and being situated in the City of Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama. Subject to any easements and restrictions of record, and known as Parcel ID No. 10-07-35-2-000-078.000 PPIN: 15080; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, Defendants.

TO W.C. ROBERTSON; VERA ROBERTSON; MARTHA JEAN ROBERTSON DENSON; GLENDA JANE ROBERTSON; RICKY ROBERTSON; LARRY ROBERTSON; VALERIE GALBREATH; MARTHA HEATH, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF VERA ROBERTSON; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2026, the Gadsden Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the record reflects recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Lot Number Thirteen (13) in Block Number Ten (10) of North Highland Addition to the City of Gadsden according to the map thereof recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama in Vol. "B", Page 61, said property lying and being situated in the City of Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama.

Property Address: 306 Princeton Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35901

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 5, 2026 at 10:15 a.m. in Judge Sonny Steen's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of

Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk J. Lance Smith Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, P.C. 200 Chestnut Street, Suite A Gadsden, AL 35901 Phone: (256) 543-3664 Facsimile: (256) 543-3674

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-00038

GADSDEN LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation, Plaintiff, v.

HELEN DUKE HESTER, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Helen Duke Hester, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; RODGER DALE DUKE, deceased; MARSHA DUKE CHAPMAN, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Marsha Duke Chapman, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; LINDA DUKE EADS, deceased; CHRIS DUKE, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Chris Duke, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; CRAIG DUKE, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Craig Duke, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA; that parcel of real property located at 220 Presley Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35901 and having a legal description of: Lot Number Four (4) in Block Number One (1) in Presley Addition, being a resurvey and resubdivision of Lots 68, 70, and 71 of the India Sutherlin estate, according to the map or plat of said Presley Addition as same appears of record in Plat Book "D", page 215, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being situated in Etowah County, Alabama. Subject to any easements and restrictions of record, and known as Parcel ID No. 10-07-35-2-000-003.000 PPIN: 14992; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, Defendants.

TO HELEN DUKE HESTER; RODGER DALE DUKE; MARSHA DUKE CHAPMAN; LINDA DUKE; CRAIG DUKE; CHRIS DUKE; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2026, the Gadsden Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the record reflects recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

Lot Number Four (4) in Block Number One (1) in Presley Addition, being a resurvey and resubdivision of Lots 68, 70, and 71 of the India Sutherlin estate, according to the map or plat of said Pres-

ley Addition as same appears of record in Plat Book "D", page 215, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being situated in Etowah County, Alabama.

Property Address: 2 2 0 Presley Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35901

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 5, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in Judge Sonny Steen's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk

J. Lance Smith  
Turnbach, Warren, Rice,  
Frederick & Smith, P.C.  
200 Chestnut Street,  
Suite A  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
Phone: (256) 543-3664  
Facsimile: (256) 543-3674

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

#### NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-00039

GADSDEN LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation, Plaintiff,

v. JOHN HAWKINS, deceased; WILLIS HAWKINS, deceased; TISHA JONES, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Tisha Jones, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; SHARISE JONES, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Sharise Jones, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA; that parcel of real property located at 513 Kyle Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 and having a legal description of: A lot described as beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot Number 13 and from thence run in an Easterly direction and along the North line of said Lot Number 13 a distance of 75 feet; thence in a Southerly direction and parallel with the West

lines of Lots Numbered 13 and 15 a distance of 51.5 feet; thence to the right at an angle of 88 degrees and run in a Northwesterly direction and in a direct line a distance of 73 feet to a point in the West line of said Lot Number 13; thence Northerly and along the West line of said Lot Number 13 a distance of 36.5 feet to the point of beginning, and embracing portions of Lot Numbers Thirteen (13) and Fifteen (15) in the Cummings Addition according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Book "A", page 269, Probate Office, lying and being in Gadsden, Alabama, Etowah County, together with all improvements located thereon. Subject to any easements and restrictions of record, and known as Parcel ID No. 15-02-04-2-000-151.000 PPIN: 33312; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, Defendants.

TO JOHN HAWKINS; WILLIS HAWKINS; TISHA JONES; SHARISE JONES; CITY OF GADSDEN; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein,

TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2026, the Gadsden Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the record reflects recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

A lot described as beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot Number 13 and from thence run in an Easterly direction and along the North line of said Lot Number 13 a distance of 75 feet; thence in a Southerly direction and parallel with the West lines of Lots Numbered 13 and 15 a distance of 51.5 feet; thence to the right at an angle of 88 degrees and run in a Northwesterly direction and in a direct line a distance of 73 feet to a point in the West line of said Lot Number 13; thence Northerly and along the West line of said Lot Number 13 a distance of 36.5 feet to the point of beginning, and embracing portions of Lot Numbers Thirteen (13) and Fifteen (15) in the Cummings Addition according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Book "A", page 269, Probate Office, lying and being in Gadsden, Alabama, Etowah County, together with all improvements located thereon.

Property Address: 5 1 3 Kyle Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 5, 2026 at 8:45 a.m. in Judge George Day's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and

that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk  
J. Lance Smith  
Turnbach, Warren, Rice,  
Frederick & Smith, P.C.  
200 Chestnut Street,  
Suite A  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
Phone: (256) 543-3664  
Facsimile: (256) 543-3674

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

#### NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-00040

GADSDEN LAND BANK AUTHORITY, a Public Corporation, Plaintiff,

v. STACEY THOMAS, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of Stacey Thomas, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; JOHN WILLIAMS, if alive whereabouts unknown, if deceased, the heirs and creditors of John Williams, whose names, addresses and ages are unknown; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; that parcel of real property located at 518 Evans Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35901 and having a legal description of: A lot described as beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot Number 11 and from thence run in a Southerly direction and along the East line thereof a distance of 50 feet to the Southeast corner of said Lot Number 11; thence in a Westerly direction and along the South line thereof a distance of 55 feet; thence Northerly and parallel with the East line of said Lot Number 11 a distance of 50 feet to the North line thereof; thence Easterly and along said Lot line a distance of 55 feet to the point of beginning and embracing a portion of Lot Number 11 in Cummins Addition, according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Book A, page 269, Probate Office, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama. Subject to any easements and restrictions of record, and known as Parcel ID No. 10-08-33-3-000-371.000 PPIN: 17008; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, Defendants.

TO STACEY THOMAS; JOHN WILLIAMS; ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; and any and all other unknown heirs, claimants or interested parties claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real estate described herein, TAKE NOTICE that on May 12, 2026, the Gadsden Land Bank Authority filed the above-styled Complaint and the record reflects recorded notice of a pending quiet title and foreclosure action in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama concerning the rights and/or interests in the following real property:

A lot described as beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot Number 11 and from thence run in a Southerly direction and along the East line thereof a distance of 50 feet to the Southeast corner of said Lot Number 11; thence in a Westerly direction and along the South line thereof a distance of 55 feet; thence Northerly and parallel with the East line of said Lot Number 11 a distance of 50 feet to the North line thereof; thence Easterly and along said Lot line a distance of 55 feet to the point of beginning and embracing a portion of Lot Number 11 in Cummins Addition, according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Book A, page 269, Probate Office, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama. Property Address: 518 Evans Street, Gadsden,

AL 35901 ANY PERSON WITH A PROPERTY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE PROPERTY IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY LOSE SUCH INTEREST, IF ANY, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. The final hearing on this quiet title and foreclosure action is hereby set for August 4, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in Judge Brynn Crain's Courtroom, Etowah County Courthouse, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The judgment of the Court may result in title to the property vesting in the Gadsden Land Bank Authority. Any person who proves to the Court's satisfaction a right to redeem the property pursuant to Alabama Code §§ 40-10-73 (1975) et seq. or Alabama Code §§ 40-10-83 (1975) et seq. may redeem the property pursuant to those statutes within five (5) days after the appropriate Order on Final Hearing is issued. FAILURE TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY AND PRESENT PROOF OF REDEMPTION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN THE 5-DAY PERIOD MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION.

The address of the Gadsden Land Bank Authority is City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The Gadsden Land Bank Authority may be contacted care of Erin Patterson, City of Gadsden, at (256) 549-4553.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the undersigned Clerk of Court that publication of this notice be made once a week for three consecutive weeks in the Gadsden Messenger, a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, and that all persons to whom this notice is addressed and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, or lien or encumbrance on the above-described land or any part thereof are hereby directed to plead, answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint in this cause before the hearing date or a judgment by default may be rendered against them it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Dated this the 21st day of May, 2026.

Cassandra "Sam" Johnson, Circuit Clerk

J. Lance Smith  
Turnbach, Warren, Rice,  
Frederick & Smith, P.C.  
200 Chestnut Street,  
Suite A  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
Phone: (256) 543-3664  
Facsimile: (256) 543-3674

May 29, June 5 and 12, 2026

#### PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of Rainbow City, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at the Rainbow City Municipal Building located at 3700 Rainbow Drive, to consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing an Economic Development Agreement with GFL Environmental located at 100 Catalyt Drive (Lumley Road Industrial Park) in Rainbow City, Alabama. This existing business proposes having a capital investment of \$9,000,000. This new business will increase the need for new employees, increase payroll, and sales tax. The owner has requested financial assistance from the City of Rainbow City to make this proposed project feasible. The City of Rainbow City proposes to grant a one-time donation of chert not to exceed 200 triaxle loads with a value of \$14,000.00. GFL Environmental will be responsible for hauling the chert and the Rainbow City Street Department will load the chert. The city represents and warrants to the Company that it has the power under the constitution and laws, and amendment 772, of the State of Alabama to grant this incentive. You are invited to be present at the public hearing and express your opinion on the proposed agreement and whether it serves a valid and sufficient public purpose. The City of Rainbow is committed to making meetings accessible to all. If you need accommodation, please contact Beth Lee at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Joe Taylor, Mayor  
Beth Lee, City Clerk

June 5, 2026

#### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS STATE-FUNDED PROJECT NO. IAR-028-000-004

CITY OF RAINBOW CITY  
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Rainbow City at 3700 Rainbow Dr, Rainbow City, AL 35906, until Monday, June 29, 2026 at 10:00am CST and at that time publicly opened for constructing the following:

Base and pave of an industrial access road from Lumley Road to SMD Steel Facility  
For the City of Rainbow City, PROJECT NO. IAR-028-000-004

The bracket estimate on this project is from \$800,000 to \$950,000. This bracket range is shown only to provide general financial information to contractors and bonding companies concerning the project's complexity and size. This bracket should not be used in preparing a bid, nor will this bracket have any bearing on the decision to award the contract. The principal items of work are approximately as follows:

446 Borrow Excavation (Loose Truckbed Measurement), Per Cubic Yard  
12397 Roadbed Processing, Per Square Yard  
10507 Crushed Agg Base Course, Type B, Plant Mixed 6" Compacted Thickness, Per Square Yard  
815 SuperPave Bituminous Concrete Wearing Surface Layer 1/2" Max Agg Size Mix Esal C/D, Per Ton

963 SuperPave Bituminous Concrete Upper Binder Layer 3/4" Max Agg Size Mix Esal C/D, Per Ton  
The entire project shall be completed in thirty (30) working days.

To be eligible for consideration, bids must be submitted on complete original proposals made available by the owner. Bid documents (including plans and proposals) are available at Three Notch Group, Inc., 515 Locust Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901(256) 543-9431, upon payment of a refundable (if plans are returned in reusable condition within 10 days of bid opening) deposit of \$250. Checks shall be made payable to Three Notch Group. PDF electronic copies are available via email at no cost to the bidder. Bid documents will be mailed only upon receipt of deposit. No bid documents will be distributed later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled opening of bids. A cashier's check (drawn on an Alabama bank) or bid bond for 5% of the amount bid (maximum Of \$10,000.00) and made payable to the City of Rainbow City must accompany each bid as evidence of good faith. In accordance with Section 34-8-8, Code of Alabama as amended, "all owners, architects, and engineers receiving bids pursuant to this chapter shall require the person, firm or corporation to include his or her current license number on the bid." It also states that "...it will be necessary for him or her to show evidence of license before his or her bid is considered."

Proposals will be issued only to and accepted from contractors on the Alabama Department of Transportation's (ALDOT) List of Pre-Qualified Contractors. The award of the contract will be made only to a contractor who has a valid certification of qualification from ALDOT as required by state law and will not be made to any bidder who is considered by ALDOT to be disqualified from bidding, or is an affiliate of or has a corporate officer, director, or principal officer who is a corporate officer, director, or owner of, another person who is presently disqualified by ALDOT. Further details and definitions regarding this provision are included in SECTION 102 of SPECIAL PROVISION 26-LPA-001 and ALDOT's standard specifications. Proof of insurance coverages of the types and amounts as set forth in the project specifications will be required of the contractor, and any and all subcontractors, prior to beginning work. The contractor will be required to perform work amounting

to at least 30% of the total contract cost with his own organization. This is a state-funded project through ALDOT. The proposed work shall be performed in conformity with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. The right to reject any or all bids is reserved. Honorable Joe Taylor, Mayor

May 29, June 5, 12 and 19, 2026

#### JOB COMPLETION

Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction, LLC hereby gives notice of completion for project IMI059(447) & IMI059(450), in Etowah County, Alabama. This notice will appear for three consecutive weeks beginning on May 22 and ending on June 5, 2026. All claims should be filed at Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction, LLC P.O. Box 1890, Gadsden, Alabama, 35902 during this period.

Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction, LLC

May 22, 29, and June 5, 2026

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, from Qualified General Contractors will be received by The Etowah County Board of Education at the board office 401 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 until 10:00am CST, Thursday, June 25, 2026 for Re-roofing Sardis School Entry: 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, 436 Chestnut Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. Bidders may receive digital documents from the Architect at no cost.

Only general contractors who have been approved to bid pursuant to pre-qualification procedures, attended the mandatory prebid conference and have demonstrated the ability to provide 24/7/365 service with a main office within 60 miles driving distance of the project site as described in the pre-qualification package and/or Div 1 specifications and criteria established by the Owner will be eligible to bid for the Project. Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof.

Prequalification packages are due at the office of the Architect by 9am CST on Monday, June 15, 2026. Contractors seeking pre-qualification shall submit a printed AIA form A305 in duplicate. A mandatory prebid conference shall be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 10am CST at the project site.

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 judgment, 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)

May 29, June 5, and 12, 2026

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, from Qualified General Contractors will be received by The Etowah County Board of Education at the board office 401 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 un-

til 9:30am CST, Thursday, June 25, 2026 for Re-roofing Rainbow Middle School Cafeteria: 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, 436 Chestnut Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. Bidders may receive digital documents from the Architect at no cost.

Only general contractors who have been approved to bid pursuant to pre-qualification procedures, attended the mandatory prebid conference and have demonstrated the ability to provide 24/7/365 service with a main office within 60 miles driving distance of the project site as described in the pre-qualification package and/or Div 1 specifications and criteria established by the Owner will be eligible to bid for the Project. Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof.

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

May 29, June 5, and 12, 2026

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, from Qualified General Contractors will be received by The Etowah County Board of Education at the board office 401 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 until 9:00am CST, Thursday, June 25, 2026 for Re-roofing Gaston School Cafeteria: 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, 436 Chestnut Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. Bidders may receive digital documents from the Architect at no cost.

Only general contractors who have been approved to bid pursuant to pre-qualification procedures, attended the mandatory prebid conference and have demonstrated the ability to provide 24/7/365 service with a main office within 60 miles driving distance of the project site as described in the pre-qualification package and/or Div 1 specifications and criteria established by the Owner will be eligible to bid for the Project. Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof.

Prequalification packages are due at the office of the Architect by 9am CST on Monday, June 15, 2026. Contractors seeking pre-qualification shall submit a printed AIA form A305 in duplicate. A mandatory prebid conference shall be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 10am CST at the project site.

Prequalification packages are due at the office of the Architect by 9am CST on Monday, June 15, 2026. Contractors seeking pre-qualification shall submit a printed AIA form A305 in duplicate. A mandatory prebid conference shall be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 10am CST at the project site.

es are due at the office of the Architect by 9am CST on Monday, June 15, 2026. Contractors seeking pre-qualification shall submit a printed AIA form A305 in duplicate. A mandatory prebid conference shall be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 9:00am CST at the project site.

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 judgment, 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)

May 29, June 5, and 12, 2026

#### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals will be received by the City Clerk, City of Gadsden, Alabama, at the City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Room 411, Gadsden, Alabama until 2:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 30, 2026, for the 2026 LANDFILL COVER DIRT PROJECT, Bid Request No. 3646, located in the City of Gadsden, Alabama.

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

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the above time and place. Specifications and contract documents are open to the public for inspection at the City Hall. Electronic (pdf) specifications and contract documents can be distributed at no cost by contacting ecoakley@cityofgadsden.com. All bidders must be registered with the City of Gadsden Engineering Department in order to submit a bid. Bids received from unregistered bidders will be rejected.

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

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

The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for the satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond or Bond in the amount required by Section 39-1-1(a), Code of Alabama 1975, and evidence of insurance as required by the bid documents within ten (10) days after being notified that he has been awarded the contract.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The bidder must comply with all requirements of the public works bid law Section 39-2-1 et seq., Code of Alabama 1975.

Any bidder, whether a resident or non-resident of the State of Alabama, must comply with all applicable provisions of Section 34-8-1, et. seq., Code of Alabama, 1975, including requirements for licensing as a general contractor and the necessity to show evidence of license before the bid will be considered by the awarding authority. A current license number must be included on the bid.

This is a tax-exempt contract.

By signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of the agreement, that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for em-

ployment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the state of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.

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

THE CITY GADSDEN, ALABAMA  
Craig Ford, Mayor  
Jennifer Smith, City Clerk  
June 5, 2026

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The following units will be auctioned or otherwise disposed of on June 11, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the premises of Stock It N Lock It Mini Storage located at 3403 Rainbow Parkway, Rainbow City, AL. 35906.

Shawntez Cash  
Unit 195-G

Kristi Clark  
Unit 151-F

Lauren Fowler  
Unit 310-K

Wes Gwin  
Units 95-D, 159-F, & 503-L

Kenneth Higdon  
Unit 136-E

Tonya Latham  
Unit 225-I

Lance Langdale  
Units 300-K & 302-K

Drew Owen  
Unit 55-B

Tanqela Steward  
Unit 416-I

Kristina Vaughan  
Units 67-C, 76-C, & 209-H

Matthew Vonbartheld.  
Unit 132-E

May 29 and June 5, 2026

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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

Marcia Hardney  
Unit 24C & 170

Brunson Assoc  
Unit 151

Brandon Garrard  
Unit 162

Lisa Turk  
Unit 184 & 533

Latonya Rutledge  
Unit 446

Penny Witcher  
Unit 468

Jessica Spears  
Unit 520

Joe Gielarowski  
Unit 577

Mary Butler  
Unit 581

Kenneth Womack  
Unit 609 & 640

Lynn Carson  
Unit 671

Fulton Smith  
Unit 692

Amber Smith  
Unit 707

Frankie Pollard  
Unit 792

Courtney Lumpkin  
Unit 797

Joshua Kilgore  
Unit 831

Donna Gregor  
Unit 13-8

Lauri Price  
Unit 28-1B

Ligaya Ferguson  
Unit 34-1A

Susan Black  
Unit 48-6

Lisa Rydel  
Unit 5A-8 & 5A-9

Barbara Mashburn  
Unit 13-12

Judith Gordon Moon  
Unit 13-25

Joseph Giamalva  
Unit 34-12

Katie Barcomb  
Unit 52-17

Lanalda Woods

Unit 83-14

Latonya Rutledge  
Unit 211-32

Leon Taylor  
Unit 211-33

Sammy Satcher  
Unit M3

Angela Vaughn  
Unit 739 & 733

David Partridge  
Unit G15

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

May 29 and June 5, 2026

#### NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on 07/20/2026 at 8:00 am.

2015 Chrysler 200  
VIN: 1C3CCCBB-8FN583535

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

May 29 and June 5, 2026

#### NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on 07/20/2026 at 8:00 am.

2014 Hyun Tucson  
VIN: KM8JU3A-88EU945716

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

May 29 and June 5, 2026

#### 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:

2005 BUICK RAINIER  
VIN: 5GADS13S252207484

2006 HONDA ACCORD  
VIN: 1HGC-M72736A006562

The public auction will be held at Kelton Wrecker LLC located at 1625 Forrest Ave Gadsden AL 35901 at 8:00 AM on 06/30/2026. 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.

June 5 and 12, 2026

#### VEHICLE NOTICE

In accordance with the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Alabama Code Sections 32-13-1 through 32-13-8 notice is hereby given to the owners, lienholders, and other interested parties. The following motor vehicle will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 9:00 am, July 17, 2026 at Team One Toyota, Rainbow City, Alabama. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and the right to bid.

2012 Toyota Scion  
VIN# JTKKU4B40C1017974

Stephanie Gillilan  
Attorney at Law  
834 Chestnut Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
(256) 458-6515

June 5 and 12, 2026

#### 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, July 7, 2026 commencing at 10:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held to consider the adoption of an ordinance substantially as follows:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, that the Official Zoning Map of the City of Gadsden adopted by Ordinance No. O-36-25, as amended, is hereby further amended by Zoning classification district for the following described properties:

A request for Planning Approval for Rezoning property from (TR) Traditional Residential District to (NC) Neighborhood Center on several areas of property described below:

AREA:1 ( 3619-3101 Forrest Avenue)  
COMMENCE AT THE NORTH EAST CORNER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, GADSDEN, ALABAMA; THENCE, SOUTH 16° 20' 29" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 2381.65 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 18' 54" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 385.48 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, WHOSE NORTHING IS 1280255.6744 AND WHOSE EASTING IS 589757.9742. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 18' 54" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 253.29 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 00° 45' 02" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 15.03 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 50' 12" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 3281.94 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 55' 43" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 121.63 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 48' 59" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 1331.25 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 17° 20' 55" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 226.55 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 87° 48' 06" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 1327.42 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 29° 21' 41" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 110.67 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 87° 47' 31" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 2640.57 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 89° 10' 21" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 465.70 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 05' 55" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 56.36 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A NON-TANGENTIAL CURVE, SAID CURVE TURNING TO THE RIGHT THROUGH 38° 18' 26", HAVING A RADIUS OF 610.15 FEET, AND WHOSE LONG CHORD BEARS SOUTH 70° 35' 17" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 400.38 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 18.16 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. LESS AND EXCEPT ALL PORTIONS OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING WITHIN ANY EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WHETHER ESTABLISHED BY USE, DEDICATION, OR RECORDED INSTRUMENT.

AREA:2 (3600-3204 Blocks of Forrest Avenue)  
COMMENCE AT THE NORTH EAST CORNER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, GADSDEN, ALABAMA; THENCE, SOUTH 16° 20' 29" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 2,683.82 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 18' 54" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 2,285.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, WHOSE NORTHING IS 1288085.2020 AND WHOSE EASTING IS 599181.6060. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 48' 32" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 852.31 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 50' 05" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 911.57 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 84° 53' 12" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 50.43 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 44' 48" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 984.68 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 01° 38' 12" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 139.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 87° 49' 26" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 1044.68 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 17' 37" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 911.10 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 57' 07" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 852.04 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 01° 58' 25" WEST A DISTANCE OF 141.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 9.01 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. LESS AND EXCEPT ALL PORTIONS OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING WITHIN ANY EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WHETHER ESTABLISHED BY

USE, DEDICATION, OR RECORDED INSTRUMENT. AREA:3 2400-2200 of Railroad Ave and 2417-2000 Forrest Avenue)  
COMMENCE AT THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, GADSDEN, ALABAMA; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 31' 29" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 2,206.36 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 00° 28' 31" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 1,909.16 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, WHOSE NORTHING IS 1280625.0612 AND WHOSE EASTING IS 593003.8358. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 41' 11" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 499.03 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 87° 40' 53" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 60.02 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 87° 41' 14" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 451.28 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 87° 19' 03" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 314.09 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 87° 19' 18" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 339.12 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 42' 51" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 235.39 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 08° 02' 47" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 396.59 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 01° 43' 34" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 222.18 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 89° 14' 09" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 405.66 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 85° 21' 59" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 60.06 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 02° 08' 46" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 274.21 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 31' 33" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 450.18 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 02° 08' 15" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 290.29 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 89° 01' 48" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 60.08 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 89° 02' 02" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 151.76 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 89° 23' 34" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 148.60 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 10' 17" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 149.09 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 43' 46" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 154.02 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 42' 34" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 55.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 37' 05" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 403.37 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 37' 05" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 59.99 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 37' 15" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 450.49 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 22' 03" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 60.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 87° 08' 53" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 498.48 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 02° 18' 17" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 142.77 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 02° 17' 17" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 59.99 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 02° 18' 24" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 139.38 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 02° 15' 08" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 19.99 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 02° 17' 56" WEST A DISTANCE OF 143.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 40.63 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. LESS AND EXCEPT ALL PORTIONS OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING WITHIN ANY EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WHETHER ESTABLISHED BY

USE, DEDICATION, OR RECORDED INSTRUMENT. AREA:4 (1500-1200 Blocks of Forrest Avenue)  
COMMENCE AT THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, GADSDEN, ALABAMA; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 31' 29" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 6,721.65 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 00° 28' 31" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 2,006.39 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, WHOSE NORTHING IS 1280490.3852 AND WHOSE EASTING IS 597518.1621. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 14' 36" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 919.24 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 46' 32" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 50.67 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 14' 41" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 1080.14 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 00° 14' 12" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 174.71 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 14° 38' 25" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 57.37 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 86° 45' 07" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 50.38 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 89° 19' 44" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 862.59 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 00° 37' 19" EAST A DISTANCE OF 329.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 15.45 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. LESS AND EXCEPT ALL PORTIONS OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING WITHIN ANY EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WHETHER ESTABLISHED BY USE, DEDICATION, OR RECORDED INSTRUMENT.

AREA:5 (Parts of Forrest Ave in and around South 9th St, South 10th, South 11th streets and 3rd Avenue and Chestnut Street)  
COMMENCE AT THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, GADSDEN, ALABAMA; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 31' 29" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 11,071.76 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 00° 28' 31" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 4,364.85 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, WHOSE NORTHING IS 1278095.9347 AND WHOSE EASTING IS 601848.5668. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE, SOUTH 81° 10' 51" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 140.80 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 45° 23' 04" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 48.39 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 83° 15' 31" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 631.37 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 42° 44' 07" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 69.86 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 09° 05' 58" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 97.09 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 81° 21' 02" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 271.82 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 10° 34' 22" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 64.01 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 13° 47' 58" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 105.91 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 16° 26' 09" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 151.67 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 08° 55' 14" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 86.11 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 04° 16' 12" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 51.55 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 01° 12' 04" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 93.92 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 03° 32' 43" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 66.06 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 41' 13" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 299.80 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 13° 21' 05" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 59.25 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 11° 52' 22" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 286.88 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 38' 45" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 801.01 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 38' 45" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 362.30 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 06° 22' 53" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 45.76 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 09° 39' 21" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 51.05 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 07° 34' 54" WEST FOR A

DISTANCE OF 41.33 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 09° 47' 15" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 125.45 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 09° 47' 51" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 50.71 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 10° 12' 50" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 157.08 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 10° 14' 58" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 12.17 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 10° 12' 46" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 140.45 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 10° 11' 39" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 60.80 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 10° 12' 49" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 284.19 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 09° 14' 36" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 919.24 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 46' 32" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 50.67 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 14' 41" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 1080.14 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 00° 14' 12" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 174.71 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 14° 38' 25" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 57.37 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 86° 45' 07" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 50.38 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 89° 19' 44" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 862.59 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 00° 37' 19" EAST A DISTANCE OF 329.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 15.45 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. LESS AND EXCEPT ALL PORTIONS OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING WITHIN ANY EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WHETHER ESTABLISHED BY USE, DEDICATION, OR RECORDED INSTRUMENT.

AREA:6 (Around Walnut Street, College Street, South 7th Street, Berea Avenue and South 8th Street)  
COMMENCE AT THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, GADSDEN, ALABAMA; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 31' 29" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 11,071.76 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 00° 28' 31" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 4,364.85 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, WHOSE NORTHING IS 1278095.9347 AND WHOSE EASTING IS 601848.5668. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE, SOUTH 81° 10' 51" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 140.80 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 45° 23' 04" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 48.39 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 83° 15' 31" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 631.37 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 42° 44' 07" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 69.86 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 09° 05' 58" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 97.09 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 81° 21' 02" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 271.82 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 10° 34' 22" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 64.01 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 13° 47' 58" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 105.91 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 16° 26' 09" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 151.67 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 08° 55' 14" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 86.11 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 04° 16' 12" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 51.55 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 01° 12' 04" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 93.92 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 03° 32' 43" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 66.06 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 88° 41' 13" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 299.80 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 13° 21' 05" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 59.25 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 11° 52' 22" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 286.88 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 38' 45" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 801.01 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 38' 45" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 362.30 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 06° 22' 53" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 45.76 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 09° 39' 21" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 51.05 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 07° 34' 54" WEST FOR A

AREA:7 (Parts of Forrest Ave in and around South 9th St, South 10th, South 11th streets and 3rd Avenue and Chestnut Street)  
COMMENCE AT THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, GADSDEN, ALABAMA; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 31' 29" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 11,071.76 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 00° 28' 31" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 4,364.85 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, WHOSE NORTHING IS 1278095.9347 AND WHOSE EASTING IS 601848.5668. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE, SOUTH 81° 10' 51" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 140.80 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 45° 23' 04" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 48.39 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 83° 15' 31" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 631.37 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 42° 44' 07" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 69.86 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 09° 05' 58" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 97.09 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 81° 21' 02" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 271.82 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 10° 34' 22" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 64.01 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 13° 47' 58" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 105.91 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 16° 26'

DISTANCE OF 47.99 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 00° 45' 50" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 44.29 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 03° 09' 11" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 152.10 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 02° 54' 13" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 66.03 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 42' 04" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 40.53 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 40' 37" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 89.52 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 10° 01' 41" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 159.70 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 88° 56' 03" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 66.34 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 10° 18' 43" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 239.73 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 80° 56' 57" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 15.02 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE

NORTH 10° 12' 40" EAST A DISTANCE OF 150.65 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 23.51 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LESS AND EXCEPT ALL PORTIONS OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING WITHIN ANY EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WHETHER ESTABLISHED BY USE, DEDICATION, OR RECORDED INSTRUMENT. AREA: 7 (430, 425 Hoke Street, 1104 Litchfield Avenue and 921 Wilson Street). COMMENCE AT THE NORTH EAST CORNER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, GADSDEN, ALABAMA; THENCE, SOUTH 89° 31' 29" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 7,948.40 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 00° 28' 31" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 9,808.76 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING,

WHOSE NORTHING IS 1274422.2527 AND WHOSE EASTING IS 612701.4342. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE, NORTH 83° 57' 35" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 99.77 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 81° 47' 55" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 99.47 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 06° 21' 23" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 76.44 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 02° 33' 35" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 53.63 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 01° 43' 17" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 48.05 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 05° 59' 51" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 42.39 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 09° 58' 47" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 42.41 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 14° 29' 01" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 53.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 18° 47' 39" EAST FOR A

DISTANCE OF 125.77 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 18° 50' 50" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 504.75 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 17° 31' 43" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 125.27 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A NONTANGENTIAL CURVE, SAID CURVE TURNING TO THE RIGHT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 108° 24' 56", HAVING A RADIUS OF 56.13 FEET, AND WHOSE LONG CHORD BEARS NORTH 78° 56' 57" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 91.06 FEET TO A POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH A NON-TANGENTIAL LINE. THENCE, SOUTH 49° 20' 56" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 20.50 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 37° 49' 52" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 18.78 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 27° 29' 55" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 72.05 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A NONTANGENTIAL CURVE, SAID CURVE TURNING TO THE RIGHT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 27° 52' 19", HAVING A RADIUS OF 178.22 FEET, AND WHOSE LONG CHORD BEARS SOUTH 10° 20' 53" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 85.84 FEET TO A POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH A NON-TANGENTIAL LINE. THENCE, SOUTH 09° 14' 13" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 641.39 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A NONTANGENTIAL CURVE, SAID CURVE TURNING TO THE LEFT THROUGH AN ANGLE OF 82° 06' 24", HAVING A RADIUS OF 248.42 FEET, AND WHOSE LONG CHORD BEARS SOUTH 39° 03' 30" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 326.31 FEET TO A POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH A NON-TANGENTIAL LINE. THENCE, SOUTH 05° 00' 33" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 89.05 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 05° 24' 05" EAST FOR A

DISTANCE OF 75.02 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 84° 36' 06" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 40.62 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 06° 01' 48" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 93.69 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 82° 00' 56" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 113.14 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 79° 04' 17" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 115.08 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, SOUTH 82° 42' 52" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 146.69 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 05° 35' 47" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 114.72 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 84° 35' 27" EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 24.66 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 05° 24' 33" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 99.99 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE, NORTH 06° 31' 13" WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 85.23 FEET TO THE POINT OF

BEGINNING, CONTAINING 7.91 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LESS AND EXCEPT ALL PORTIONS OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY LYING WITHIN ANY EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WHETHER ESTABLISHED BY USE, DEDICATION, OR RECORDED INSTRUMENT.

Jenifer Smith, City Clerk  
June 5 and 26, 2026

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**2025 Annual Water Quality Report**  
**(Testing Performed January through December 2025)**  
**WHORTON BEND WATER AUTHORITY**  
**4975 Whorton Bend Road**  
**Gadsden, Alabama 35901**  
**PWS # 000573**

We are pleased to provide you, our customer, our annual Water Quality Report. This report presents our water quality data and other information about drinking water. We are committed to providing our customers with the highest quality drinking water possible.

<b>Water Sources</b>	Purchased surface water from Gadsden Water Works (Middle Coosa Basin)	
<b>Number of Customers</b>	Approximately 1400	
<b>Board Members</b>	Jimmy Gann – Chairman    Gary Whorton – Vice Chairman    James Kilgore	
<b>Staff</b>	Operator – Tyler Gidley	Office Manager- Mary Thomas

Our water source comes from the Middle Coosa Basin. This watershed contains 23 rivers and streams and 420 lakes. The basin is fed from the Upper Coosa Basin and multiple aquifers, including Pennsylvania aquifers, Valley and Ridge aquifers, and Valley and Ridge carbonate rock aquifers. You may find more information about the Coosa River watershed on the EPA's website at [https://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc\\_code=03150106](https://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc_code=03150106).

#### Water Source Protection

In compliance with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board (GWWSB) developed a Source Water Assessment plan that assists in protecting our water sources. It includes a susceptibility analysis, which classifies potential contaminants as high, moderate, or non-susceptible to contaminating the water source. The susceptibility analysis identified several contaminant sources that could potentially affect the quality of the source water. To help address these concerns, the GWWSB developed a Contingency Plan. You may request to review a copy during regular business hours, or you may purchase a copy upon request for a nominal reproduction fee.

In addition, the GWWSB monitors numerous sampling points around the lake each month to track the water quality in the lake and to identify contaminant sources. The GWWSB realizes that protection of our water resources is essential to providing high-quality drinking water to our community. In further efforts to protect our drinking water source, the GWWSB is an active member of the Coosa River Basin Clean Water Partnership, a group dedicated to protecting and restoring water quality and biological integrity in the Coosa River Basin.

Please help us make these efforts worthwhile by protecting our source of water. Carefully follow instructions on pesticides and herbicides you use for your lawn and garden, and properly dispose of household chemicals, paints, and waste oil. We ask that all our customers help us protect our valuable water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's futures.

#### Questions?

If you have any questions about the information in this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jimmy Gann, Board Chairman, 256-490-0142, or Tyler Gidley Water Operator, 256-613-9918.

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. Whorton Bend Water Authority holds regular public meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 P.M. At our office at 4975 Whorton Bend Road, Gadsden Alabama, 35901. All are welcome to attend.

More information about contaminants to drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

#### General Information about Drinking Water

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. MCL's, defined in a List of Definitions in this report, are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and it can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water run-off, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm water run-off, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the number of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants was not required.

Your source water is also tested for pathogens, such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia. These pathogens can enter the water from animal or human waste. For people who may be immuno-compromised, a guidance document developed jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control is available online at [www.epa.gov/safewater/crypto.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/crypto.html) or from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. This language does not indicate the presence of cryptosporidium in our drinking water.

**Cryptosporidium** is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium, the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion of Cryptosporidium may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immune-compromised individuals, infants and small children, and the elderly are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illnesses. We encourage immune-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through other means than drinking water. We currently monitor for Cryptosporidium and have had none detected.

**Radon** is a naturally occurring gas present in some groundwater. Inhaled radon has been linked to lung cancer and may pose a health risk when inhaled after the release from water into the air. This inhalation could occur during showering, bathing, washing dishes, or washing clothes. The radon gas release from drinking water is a relatively small part of the total radon found in air. One major source of radon gas is from the soil, where the gas can seep through the foundations of homes. It is not clear whether ingested (i.e. taken through the mouth) radon contributes to cancer or other adverse health conditions. If you are concerned about radon in your home, tests are available to determine the total exposure level. For additional information on home testing contact (insert name of local health department). Note 300 Pci/l proposed MCL.

Some people who drink water contaminated with trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5's) in **excess of the MCL**, over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Since most surface water treatment plants use chlorine for disinfection, TTHMs and HAA5's has become a national problem. As you can see from the report, we did not exceed the contaminate levels for TTHMS and HAA5s for 2024. We are constantly working at the Whorton Bend Water Department to control the amount of TTHMS and HAA5s in our drinking water.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People at risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants to drinking water and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (1-800-426-4791).

The Whorton Bend Water Authority strives to provide a dependable and safe supply of water to all consumers. We ask that you be considerate when accidents or Mother Nature hinder our efforts to supply your water. Regardless of the time, or weather, waterworks personnel are on call and working to keep water flowing. Please help us protect our water sources, which are a vital part of our lives and our children's future.

#### Information about Lead

Lead in drinking water is rarely found in source water but is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is more likely to cause leaching of lead from plumbing materials. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. These recommended actions are very important to the health of your family. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead). Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

Lead Service Line Inventory: Our Lead Service Line Inventory was completed and submitted by the deadline of October 16, 2024, and a copy of it is in our office as required by EPA. If any would like to review it or have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Upon completing the lead service line inventory, Whorton Bend Water Department is pleased to report, that they had 0 – Lead Service Lines, 0 – Galvanize Required Replacement Service Lines, 0 – Unknown, and 905 Non- Lead Service Lines.

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### Tap vs. Bottled

Thanks in part to aggressive marketing, the bottled water industry has successfully convinced us all that water purchased in bottles is a healthier alternative to tap water. However, according to a four-year study conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, bottled water is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. In fact, about 25 percent of bottled water is actually just bottled tap water (40 percent according to government estimates).

The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for regulating bottled water, but these rules allow for less rigorous testing and purity standards than those required by the U.S. EPA for community tap water. For instance, the high mineral content of some bottled waters makes them unsuitable for babies and young children. Further, the FDA completely exempts bottled water that's packaged and sold within the same state, which accounts for about 70 percent of all bottled water sold in the United States.

People spend 10,000 times more money per gallon for bottled water than they typically do for tap water. If you get your recommended eight glasses a day from bottled water, you could spend up to \$1,400 annually. The same amount of tap water would cost about 49 cents. Even if you installed a filter device on your tap, your annual expenditure would be far less than what you'd pay for bottled water.

### Water Main Flushing

Distribution mains (pipes) convey water to homes, businesses, and hydrants in your neighborhood. At times, we may need to flush the distribution mains. Water main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains. Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. For example, flushing removes sediments like iron and manganese. Although iron and manganese do not themselves pose health concerns, they can affect the taste, clarity, and color of the water. Flushing helps ensure the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen and disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell. During flushing operations in your neighborhood, some short-term changes are possible. For instance, the water may run darker for a while due to the flushed sediment from the distribution pipes. Avoid tap water for drinking and washing white clothes at such times. If you do use the tap, allow your cold water to run for a few minutes at full velocity before use, and avoid using hot water, to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information on our water main flushing schedule.

### Causes of Pink or Gray Stains on Fixtures

Gray or pink stains are sometimes noticed on moist surfaces of water fixtures. This condition is typically caused by an air borne bacteria that thrives in moist and otherwise favorable locations. These bacteria are generally "serratia marcescens" bacteria, although many other airborne bacteria can exist under these moist conditions. These bacteria are generally not hazardous to a healthy person. This discoloration easily wipes from the fixture surface and typically leaves no staining once cleaning is completed. The origin of these bacteria is airborne and NOT from the water in the water plumbing system.

### Definitions

- Action Level-** the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.
- Coliform Absent (ca)-** laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- Disinfection byproducts (DBPs)-** formed when disinfectants react with bromide and/or natural organic matter (i.e., decaying vegetation) present in the source water. Disinfection byproducts for which regulations have been established include trihalomethanes (TTHM), haloacetic acids (HAA5), bromate, and chlorite.
- Distribution System Evaluation (DSE)-** a four-quarter study conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with high concentrations of THMs and HAAs.
- Level 1 Assessment-** a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- Level 2 Assessment-** a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)-** highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal-** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)-** highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal- (MRDLG)** the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Micrograms per liter (ug/L)** – equivalent to parts per billion (ppb) since one liter of water is equal in weight to one billion micrograms.
- Milligrams per liter (mg/L)** – equivalent to parts per million
- Millirems per year (mrem/yr)-** a measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)-** a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
- Not Detected (ND)-** laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present above detection limits of lab equipment.
- Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l)-** corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)-** corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l)-** corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.
- Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (nanograms/l)-** corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)-** a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- Running Annual Average (RAA)-** yearly average of all the DPB results at each specific sampling site in the distribution system. The RAA, along with a range, is reported in the Table of Detected Contaminants.
- Standard Units (S.U.)- pH** of water measures the water's balances of acids and bases and is affected by temperature and carbon dioxide gas. Water with less than 6.5 could be acidic, soft, and corrosive. A pH greater than 8.5 could indicate that the water is hard.
- Treatment Technique (TT)-** a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Variances & Exemptions (V&E)-** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

### Monitoring Schedule and Results

Whorton Bend Water Authority and Gadsden Water Works routinely monitor for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The EPA or ADEM requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. This report contains results from the most recent monitoring which was performed in accordance with the regulatory schedule.

Constituents Monitored	Northeast Etowah	GWWSB
Inorganic Contaminants	Not required	2020
Lead/Copper	2022	2018
Microbiological Contaminants	current	current
Nitrates	Not required	2020
Radioactive Contaminants	Not required	2012
Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including herbicides & pesticides)	Not required	2020
Volatile Organic Contaminants	Not required	2020
Disinfection By-products	2020	2020
Cryptosporidium	Not required	2017
Distribution System Evaluation (DSE)	2017	2017
UCMR4 Contaminants	Not required	2018 <sup>1</sup>
PFAS Contaminants	Not required	2020 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UCMR4 results are on GWWSB's website [www.gadsdenwater.org/files/GWWSB\\_CCR\\_2020.pdf](http://www.gadsdenwater.org/files/GWWSB_CCR_2020.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> GWWSB has been monitoring for PFAS since 2016. For PFAS results, see [www.gadsdenwater.org/environmentalreporting.aspx](http://www.gadsdenwater.org/environmentalreporting.aspx)

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**WHORTON BEND WATER AUTHORITY**  
*continued*

Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants Whorton Bend Water Department						
Contaminants	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	NO	0.16 *	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Household plumbing corrosion; erosion; preservative leaching
Lead	NO	0.0018	ppm	0.015	AL=.015	Household plumbing corrosion; erosion; preservative leaching
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	NO	LRAA 12.86 22.0-8.4	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	NO	LRAA 5.61 1.3-9.8	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants Gadsden Water Works and Sewer Board						
Contaminants	Violation Yes/No	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	NO	1.52	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes
Total organic carbon (TOC)	NO	0.85	ppm	n/a	TT	Oil runoff
Turbidity	NO	0.064	NTU	n/a	TT	Soil runoff
Alpha emitters	NO	ND	PCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (Consumer's tap)	NO	0.082 *	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Household plumbing corrosion; erosion; preservative leaching
Barium	NO	0.35	ppm	2	2	Drilling waste; refinery discharge; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	NO	ND	ppm	10	10	Erosion; water additive for tooth health; factory discharge
Fluoride	NO	0.92	ppm	4	4	Fertilizer runoff; septic tank leaching, sewage; erosion
Nitrite	NO	ND	ppm	10	10	Fertilizer runoff; septic tank leaching, sewage; erosion
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	NO	17.28	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	NO	8.84	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Chloroform	NO	8.62	ppb	none	none	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Bromodichloromethane	NO	5.34	ppb	none	none	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Chlorodibromomethane	NO	3.43	ppb	none	none	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Secondary Contaminants						
Aluminum	NO	0.02	ppm	n/a	0.2	Naturally occurring in the environment or from treatment
Chloride	NO	26.7	ppm	none	250	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Hardness	NO	43.0	ppm	none	none	Naturally occurring or from water additives
Iron	NO	ND	ppm	none	0.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	NO	0.016	su	none	0.5	Erosion of natural deposits
pH	NO	6.5	S.U.	none	none	Naturally occurring or from water additives
Sodium	NO	16.8	ppm	none	none	Naturally occurring in the environment
Sulfate	NO	ND	ppm	none	250	Naturally occurring in the environment; erosion
Total Alkalinity	NO	55	ppm	none	none	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Dissolved Solids	NO	104	ppm	none	500	Naturally occurring in the environment or from runoff
Zinc	NO	ND	ppm	none	5	Erosion; factory & refinery discharge; runoff from landfills

\* Figure shown is 90th percentile and # of sites above the Action Level (AL) = 0

## 2025 Annual Water Quality Report (Testing Performed January through December 2025) WHORTON BEND WATER AUTHORITY *continued*

### Standard List of Drinking Water Contaminants

Following is a list of Primary Drinking Water Contaminants and a list of Unregulated Contaminants for which our water system routinely monitors according to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. These contaminants were not detected in your drinking water unless they are listed in the Table of Detected Drinking Water Contaminants.

### STANDARD LIST OF PRIMARY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants	MCL	Unit of Msmt	Contaminants	MCL	Unit of Msmt
<b>Bacteriological Contaminants</b>			trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	100	ppb
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	present/absent	Dichloromethane	5	ppb
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	0	present/absent	1,2-Dichloropropane	5	ppb
Fecal Indicators	0	present/absent	Di (2-ethylhexyl)adipate	400	ppb
Turbidity	TT	NTU	Di (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	6	ppb
Cryptosporidium	TT	Calc.organisms/l	Dinoseb	7	ppb
<b>Radiological Contaminants</b>			Dioxin [2,3,7,8-TCDD]	30	ppq
Beta/photon emitters	4	mrem/yr	Diquat	20	ppb
Alpha emitters	15	pCi/l	Endothall	100	ppb
Combined radium	5	pCi/l	Endrin	2	ppb
Uranium	30	pCi/l	Epichlorohydrin	TT	TT
<b>Inorganic Chemicals</b>			Ethylbenzene	700	ppb
Antimony	6	ppb	Ethylene dibromide	50	ppt
Arsenic	10	ppb	Glyphosate	700	ppb
Asbestos	7	MFL	Heptachlor	400	ppt
Barium	2	ppm	Heptachlor epoxide	200	ppt
Beryllium	4	ppb	Hexachlorobenzene	1	ppb
Cadmium	5	ppb	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	50	ppb
Chromium	100	ppb	Lindane	200	ppt
Copper	AL=1.3	ppm	Methoxychlor	40	ppb
Cyanide	200	ppb	Oxamyl [Vydate]	200	ppb
Fluoride	4	ppm	Polychlorinated biphenyls	0.5	ppb
Lead	AL=15	ppb	Pentachlorophenol	1	ppb
Mercury	2	ppb	Picloram	500	ppb
Nitrate	10	ppm	Simazine	4	ppb
Nitrite	1	ppm	Styrene	100	ppb
Selenium	.05	ppm	Tetrachloroethylene	5	ppb
Thallium	.002	ppm	Toluene	1	ppm
<b>Organic Contaminants</b>			Toxaphene	3	ppb
2,4-D	70	ppb	2,4,5-TP(Silvex)	50	ppb
Acrylamide	TT	TT	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	.07	ppm
Alachlor	2	ppb	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	200	ppb
Benzene	5	ppb	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	5	ppb
Benzo(a)pyrene [PAHs]	200	ppt	Trichloroethylene	5	ppb
Carbofuran	40	ppb	Vinyl Chloride	2	ppb
Carbon tetrachloride	5	ppb	Xylenes	10	ppm
Chlordane	2	ppb	<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfection Byproducts</b>		
Chlorobenzene	100	ppb	Chlorine	4	ppm
Dalapon	200	ppb	Chlorine Dioxide	800	ppb
Dibromochloropropane	200	ppt	Chloramines	4	ppm
o-Dichlorobenzene	600	ppb	Bromate	10	ppb
p-Dichlorobenzene	75	ppb	Chlorite	1	ppm
1,2-Dichloroethane	5	ppb	HAA5 [Total haloacetic acids]	60	ppb
1,1-Dichloroethylene	7	ppb	TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	80	ppb
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	70	ppb			

#### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

1,1 - Dichloropropene	Aldicarb	Chloroform	Metolachlor
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	Aldicarb Sulfone	Chloromethane	Metribuzin
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	Aldicarb Sulfoxide	Dibromochloromethane	N - Butylbenzene
1,1-Dichloroethane	Aldrin	Dibromomethane	Naphthalene
1,2,3 - Trichlorobenzene	Bromobenzene	Dicamba	N-Propylbenzene
1,2,3 - Trichloropropane	Bromochloromethane	Dichlorodifluoromethane	O-Chlorotoluene
1,2,4 - Trimethylbenzene	Bromodichloromethane	Dieldrin	P-Chlorotoluene
1,3 - Dichloropropane	Bromoform	Hexachlorobutadiene	P-Isopropyltoluene
1,3 - Dichloropropene	Bromomethane	Isopropylbenzene	Propachlor
1,3,5 - Trimethylbenzene	Butachlor	M-Dichlorobenzene	Sec - Butylbenzene
2,2 - Dichloropropane	Carbaryl	Methomyl	Tert - Butylbenzene
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	Chloroethane	MTBE	Trichlorofluoromethane