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Messenger

Volume 48, Issue 33

August 14, 2026

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Etowah sixth graders to receive free Challenger space mission

Every sixth-grade student in Etowah County Schools will have the opportunity to fly a simulated space mission and participate in hands-on STEM activities at no cost through a new partnership with the Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama.

The Teacher in Residence partnership a place Etowah County teacher Wes Weems at Challenger for the academic year, where he will work with center staff to lead mission training and STEM programming.

The partnership also will provide teacher training and STEM outreach for Etowah County educators, helping extend Challenger's mission-based learning into district classrooms.

"This partnership means every one of our sixth graders gets the chance to experience the kind of hands-on, immersive learning that makes STEM come alive," Etowah County Schools Superintendent Julie Talton said. "Having one of our own teachers embedded at Challenger for

Submitted photo
Challenger - Page A4

The Salvation Army of Gadsden Welcomes New Corps Officers, Lieutenants Daniel and Amanda Jones

The Salvation Army of Gadsden welcomes Lieutenants Daniel and Amanda Jones as its new officers, and the community is invited to meet them at a come-and-go reception on Wednesday, August 26, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at 120 N. 11th Street in Gadsden.

The event will feature food, fellowship, and conversation, giving donors, partners, and neighbors a chance to meet the Lieutenants and share their per-

spectives on the community's needs.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Etowah County and continue the mission of The Salvation Army in this community," said Lieutenant Amanda Jones. "I look forward to listening, learning, and serving alongside our donors, community partners, staff, and volunteers as we work together to share hope and meet needs in Christ's name."

Salvation Army officers are periodically transferred to different appointments as part of their ministry service. Lieutenants Daniel and Amanda Jones were commissioned as Salvation Army officers in June of 2023 and were appointed to Gadsden, Alabama, in June of 2026. They come to Alabama by way of Winter Haven, Florida, where they served for three years. Lieutenants Jones look forward to building relation-

ships throughout Gadsden, sharing the love of Christ, and working alongside the community to help neighbors find hope and stability.

For more information on the event or about the programs and services The Salvation Army of Gadsden provides, please call (256) 546-4673 or visit salvationarmyusa.org/al/gadsden/n-11th-st-corps/.

Gaston Elementary welcomes new principal Hollie Sewell

By Karla McArthur
Reporter

Hollie Sewell is returning to the community where her career in education began, bringing nearly 20 years of experience to her new role as principal of Gaston Elementary School.

Sewell, who holds master's degrees in Secondary Education English Language Arts and Instructional Leadership, began her career teaching English at Gaston High School before serving at Hokes Bluff Middle School, Pleasant Valley High School and, most recently, as assistant principal at Gaston High School.

Sewell said accepting the position is both meaningful and humbling.

"I am grateful to be here," she said. "My family and I spent a lot of time praying for a job like this. I started my career at Gaston, and to be back in this community is a blessing. I don't take the responsibility that I have been given lightly, and I plan to do my absolute best to make sure Gaston remains great."

As she prepares for the new school year, Sewell said her top priority is building relationships with faculty, students and parents.

"The most important thing in any

Submitted photo

school is for the leader to build relationships," she said. "Get to know everyone, see where we are, and formulate a plan on where we need to be."

She added that she is looking forward to welcoming students back to campus.

"The kids!" Sewell said. "I can't wait to get to know them and they get to know me."

Sewell said her leadership philosophy has been shaped by the administrators

she has served under, particularly former principals Seth Taylor and Laura Knighton, who taught her the importance of decisive leadership, supporting teachers and remaining committed to students.

"You aren't going to always make everyone happy," she said. "If we are putting students' best interests above our own agendas, then we are doing the right thing."

She also encourages aspiring administrators to learn from challenges and remain humble.

"Mistakes can be productive if you allow them to be," Sewell said. "Patience and hard work really do pay off. Also, be humble. It is okay to admit you are wrong and apologize."

While Sewell considers being named principal of Gaston Elementary her greatest professional accomplishment, she said her proudest achievements are her faith and family.

"My greatest accomplishments are being a Christian, a wife and a mother to two boys," she said. "Work wise, my greatest accomplishment is being named principal at Gaston Elementary School."

INSIDE THIS EDITION

On Tuesday, Gadsden City held its third annual Community Safety Night at The Venue at Coosa Landing.

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Gadsden City's Sam Sollie signed with Auburn University Saturday at his signing ceremony.

See Page B1

Free Dumpster Day

August 15, 2026

Locations:

 Behind Emma Sansom Middle School
2200 Sansom Ave

 Corner of Bay St and S 1st St
346 S 1st St (Parking Lot)

 East Gadsden Community Center
921 Wilson Ave

More Details in Caption

Gadsden

Free Dumpster Day by the City of Gadsden on Saturday. See more events on Your Community Calendar.

See Page A6

Singn C. Horn has announced a bid for Gadsden City Council District 7.

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Little Caesars

HOT-N-READY

PIZZA



NEWS



Gadsden's third annual Community Safety Night filled The Venue at Coosa Landing on Tuesday, giving families a chance to meet the first responders who patrol, treat and protect Etowah County daily.

The Gadsden Police Department hosted the event from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., bringing food, activities, demonstrations and free T-shirts for kids to the annual gathering. The evening gave residents a family-friendly setting to meet local first responders, while representatives from local organizations explained the assistance they provide throughout the community.

Past Community Safety Nights have drawn the Gadsden Fire Department, Etowah County Sheriff's Office, Gadsden State Police Department and police departments from Southside, Rainbow City, Hokes Bluff, Sardis and Altoona, with families able to explore fire trucks, the police boat and SWAT vehicles up close. Photos courtesy of GraceKelly Rhea and Carly Lankford with the City of Gadsden.



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The Messenger (USPS 011-757) is published weekly on Friday by The New Messenger, L.L.C., 1957 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, AL, 35901. Periodicals Postage Paid at Gadsden, Alabama 35901. Single copies 50 cents. Annual subscription rate \$30. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Post Office Box 858, Gadsden, AL 35902. Phone (256) 547-1049, FAX (256) 547-1011. All stories are compiled from press releases, submissions or assignments. COMMENTS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSPAPER REPRESENT THE PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM THEY ARE ATTRIBUTED AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE MESSENGER OR THE PUBLISHER. NEITHER THE ADVERTISEMENT NOR THE PUBLISHER IS RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR MISINFORMATION, MISPRINTS, TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS, ETC., CONTAINED IN THE MESSENGER. THE PUBLISHER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ALL CONTENT. NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PUBLISHER.

NEWS

Mental Health Sumit returns Oxford

Community members across Northeast Alabama are invited to the annual Out of the Shadows Summit on Sept. 1 at the Oxford Civic Center, a day dedicated to education, collaboration and discussion around improving mental health outcomes.

Nearly 800,000 Alabama adults live with a diagnosed mental health condition, according to a National Alliance on Mental Health fact sheet, with about a quarter classified as serious mental illnesses. More than half of adults with serious mental illness in the state are uninsured and unable

to access needed care, the fact sheet states. The crisis extends to youth as well. One in six Alabamians aged 12 to 17 are diagnosed with a mental health disorder each year, and an estimated 44,000 students statewide struggle with depression.

Since launching in 2017, the summit has drawn mental health professionals, healthcare providers, educators, first responders, faith leaders, students and community members together to address these challenges. It has been held annually except for a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's event is co-hosted by Jacksonville State University's Department of Social Work, the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, Highland Health Systems, the Oxford Police Department, United Way of East Central Alabama, Bradford Health Services and St. Michael's Clinic.

The theme, "Stronger Together: Collaboration, Connection and Care," centers on the role of partnerships and community engagement in improving mental health outcomes. Jared Wilson will deliver the keynote, "From the Outside Looking In: How

Connection Breaks the Cycle."

Sponsors include the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, Regional Medical Center, RMC Foundation, Calhoun County Medical Society and Alabama Power.

Community members can attend for \$10. Professional registration is \$85. Lunch is included, and 5.5 contact hours for nurses, counselors, and social workers are sponsored by Bradford Health Services. For additional information or to register, visit OutOfShadowsSummit.com.

The summit will feature 25 breakout sessions, including:

- Wired to Move: Beyond Sitting Still-The Neuroscience of Movement, Regulation and Mental Health, presented by Mindi Amberson and Colonie Hughes
- Easy Techniques to Clear Negative Emotions, presented by Camille Browning
- Stronger Together: Trauma-Informed Sexual Assault Response in Rural Communities, presented by Tina Deshotels and Carlie Thrasher
- A Journey from Trauma to Purpose, presented by Lee Evancho
- The Heart Behind the Care: Caring for the Caregiver, presented by Kendra Finley
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing: Benefits and Challenges Across the Lifespan, presented by Francesca Guida-Hall and Renee Bellew
- What All Human Beings Have in Common, presented by Joe Howell
- AI in Mental Health Care: Innovation, Risk, and the Policy Race to Keep Up, presented by Jeremy Jones and Russell Wofford
- Navigating the Paperwork: Advanced Directives, Mental Health, and Patient-Centered Decision Making, presented by Miriam Little
- Beyond the Diagnosis: Understanding the Person Behind the Symptoms, presented by Dorothy McDermott
- Collaboration in Action for Whole-Person Care, presented by Mary O'Dell, Price, LaFollette, and White
- Rediscovering the Person Behind the Professional, presented by Katesha Reid

- Engaging Families in Recovery: A 12-Step Approach, presented by Kathleen Saucier
- Stronger Together: Multidisciplinary Collaboration in Supporting Children After Trauma, presented by Morgan Schaffer
- Mental Health and Faith: The Delicate Balance, presented by Fred Smith
- Raising Resilience: The R.I.S.E. - Restoring Hope through Collaboration, Connection, and Care, presented by Jessica Smith, Jasmine Whatley, Leia Cook, and Becky Cox
- The Business of Leadership: Why Self-Care Is a Strategy for Success, presented by Brandy Turner
- Play With Purpose: Creative Games and Family-Based Interventions in Children's Counseling, presented by Lorena Williams
- Timeout: Pausing the Game to Focus on Student Athlete Mental Wellness, presented by Ataska Winsett
- A Whole Person Framework for Recovery Through Connection, Attention, and Healing, presented by James Wynfrey
- Living With Autism Spectrum Disorder, presented by Nathan Young
- Holding On When Everything Feels Like It's Falling Apart: Understanding Substance Use Disorder and Family Resilience, presented by Joe Hobby
- Beyond the Clinic Walls: How the CCBHC Model Changes Behavioral Health Care, presented by Highland Health Systems
- The Message in the Music, presented by Marc Fomby

Aug. 11 serves as annual reminder for Alabamians to call 811 before you dig

Before breaking ground on home digging projects, the Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC) urges homeowners to contact 811 at least two days prior to have utility lines marked.

"Every digging project begins with one important decision: contacting 811," says President Cynthia Lee Almond. "Taking a few minutes to request utility line markings helps protect your family, your neighbors and the essential infrastructure our communities rely on. It's one of the easiest ways to make any project safer before the first shovel ever hits the ground."

Contacting 811 allows homeowners and contractors to connect to the state-wide one-call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators then arrive at the digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

"Something as simple as landscape, installing a mailbox or doing any sort of home improvement work can have major consequences for you and your neighbor if you are not familiar with what lies beneath the ground," Commissioner Chris V. Beeker

III said. "Contacting 811 is a free and impactful resource for anyone to use. Having the 'call before you dig' hotline is an asset, and we hope to encourage everyone to remember to utilize that when doing any small to large scale project."

Factors such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces can cause utility line depth to vary. Marking utility lines properly can help prevent the risk of striking, even when only digging a few inches.

"Aug. 11 serves as a very important safety reminder we want everyone to take note of before starting their

next backyard project," Commissioner Jeremy H. Oden said. "The simple yet critical step of contacting 811 not only ensures the safety of the homeowner before they dig, but also helps avoid timely and costly repairs, inconvenience and outages."

The mission of the Alabama Public Service Commission is to ensure a regulatory balance between regulated companies and consumers in order to provide consumers with safe, adequate and reliable services at rates that are equitable and economical.



AURORA GRACE McCULLOUGH

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EDUCATION

Jax State Board of Trustees approves resolution implementing HB580

The Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees has approved a resolution implementing HB580, the recently enacted state law establishing new governance requirements for Alabama’s public institutions of higher education.

The resolution, voted on during Tuesday’s quarterly Board of Trustees meeting, ensures the University’s compliance with the requirements of state law while beginning an orderly transition to Board-approved policies governing faculty and staff advisory structures, tenure, post-tenure review, and curriculum oversight. It also authorizes the University to move forward with developing and presenting those policies for future Board consideration.

HB580 establishes new requirements related to faculty advisory structures, tenure, post-tenure review, and governance of academic programs at Alabama’s public institutions of higher education. The legislation requires institutions to implement compliant governance policies before Oct. 1, 2026.

“The Board has a responsibility to ensure Jacksonville State University complies with Alabama law while providing sound governance, accountability, and responsible stewardship of the public resources entrusted to the University,” Board Chairman Randall Jones said. “Today’s action fulfills that responsibility while beginning the important work of developing Board-approved policies that reflect the requirements of the law and support the University’s long-term success. We have every confidence in President Killingsworth’s leadership as he works with University leadership to develop recommendations for the Board’s consideration.”

Under the resolution, President Dr. Don C. Killingsworth, Jr. will work with University leadership, legal counsel, and other appropriate officials to develop recommendations for Board-approved policies governing faculty and staff advisory structures, tenure, post-tenure review, and curriculum oversight. Those recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration over the coming months as implementation of the new law continues.

President Killingsworth said the Board’s action marks the beginning of an important process for the University.

“Today’s action fulfills an important legal responsibility, but it also begins the work of thoughtfully developing policies that comply with state law while supporting the mission of Jacksonville State University,” Dr. Killingsworth said. “Everything we do as a University should ultimately support student success. As we move through this transition, that guiding principle will not change. I look forward to working with University leadership, our faculty, and our staff to develop policies that reflect the requirements of the law while continuing to strengthen Jax State and the opportunities we provide our students.”

The University will continue communicating with faculty, staff, and other campus stakeholders as these Board-approved policies are developed and considered in the coming months.

Challenger

- From A1

the year means that experience won’t stop at the mission simulator; it will carry back into our classrooms.”

Weems, a veteran Etowah County Schools teacher, will bring his classroom experience to the center while helping connect Challenger programming with instruction across the district.

“A Teacher in Residence gives us a direct line between what happens inside Challenger and what happens inside an ECBOE classroom,” Challenger Executive Director Farrah Hayes said. “Wes brings a teacher’s perspective into how we train and support students on mission day.”

Challenger board Chairman Tony Smith said the partnership ensures cost will not prevent students from participating.

“Removing cost as a barrier means every sixth grader in Etowah County, not just the ones whose schools can afford a field trip, gets access to this experience,” Smith said.

The Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama provides space-mission simulations and STEM education programs in partnership with Jacksonville State University’s College of Educational and Professional Studies.



Submitted photo

Left, back row Tim Womack, Danny Golden, RBC Mayor Joe Taylor, Tim Langdale, Tony Smith, Jennifer Maddox, Chad Strawn, Emily Wilson, Mark Condra. Seated row: left, Scarlet Farley, ECBOE Superintendent Julie Talton, Dr. Farrah Hayes, Amanda Johnson, Susan Spiker. Additional photo, Wes Weems, ECBOE Teacher in Residence.

EST'D 1960

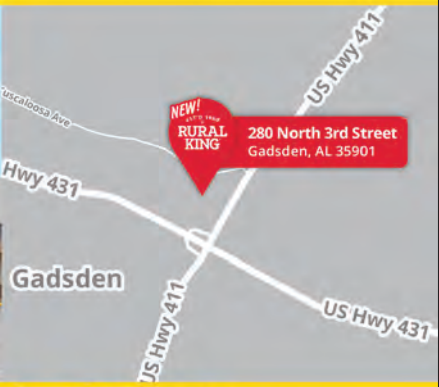
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GOVERNMENT

Horn announces candidacy for Gadsden City Council District 7

By Karla McArthur Reporter

Singn C. Horn has announced a bid for Gadsden City Council District 7, emphasizing economic development, infrastructure, recreation and greater representation for residents throughout the district.

Running under the theme “Let’s Grow Gadsden Together,” Horn said priorities include economic and community development, improved infrastructure, expanded use of parks and recreation areas for youth, government transparency and increased council visibility in the community.

Horn said the decision to seek office again was driven in part by concerns about representation in District 7A and the Mill Village community.

“District 7 — especial-

ly 7A and the Mill Village community — needs a voice and someone who will represent everyone, not just certain areas,” Horn said. “I want to remind the people of 7A that they are not forgotten.”

Horn identified homelessness, crime, stray animals, abandoned properties, litter and property maintenance among concerns facing the Mill Village area.

“We can do better, and I have a plan to restore pride, improve safety and beautify our neighborhood so it reflects the true potential of our city,” Horn said.

A Gadsden native and 1987 graduate of Gadsden High School, Horn attended Litchfield from 1983-85 and now lives in the Mill Village area of District 7A. Horn also served 25 years

in the military and cited that experience as influential in an approach to public service.

“During my military service — and now as a veteran — I learned that teamwork and community involvement get the job done,” Horn said.

Economic development is another focus of the campaign. Horn said Noccalula Falls could serve as a centerpiece for additional tourism and small-business growth and pledged to advocate for commercial development in District 7 while supporting broader development efforts across the city.

Horn also pointed to planned youth sports, recreation and water facilities, saying city leaders must ensure the facilities are properly used, maintained

and funded while benefiting families throughout the community.

If elected, Horn said regular in-person meetings with residents would be held to provide greater accessibility and accountability.

“It is time to stop showing up only during election season,” Horn said. “We must address concerns year-round, not just every fourth year when votes are needed.”

Horn said the campaign will focus on bringing residents of different generations into the civic process and ensuring residents who feel overlooked have a voice in city government.

“Our true potential is still ahead of us,” Horn said. “Now is the time for the voices of the unheard to be recognized.”



Submitted photo

Head Start faces ‘significantly reuced regulatory requiriements’ in 2027

By Carolyn Jones Alabama Reflector

The Trump administration appears poised to gut the central policies that shape Head Start, a popular and long-established early childhood education program that serves the country’s neediest children.

The Department of Health and Human Services announced the changes Thursday.

The federal Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs posted a notice that it intends to “significantly reduce regulatory requirements” for Head Start, effectively stripping the program of the unique features that have defined it since its creation in the mid 1960s.

That announcement came in late May and will likely go through a review process before becoming official in 2027.

The agency doesn’t specify what exactly it plans to cut, but reports indicate that it could be most of the program’s standards and guidelines. That may include low student-to-teacher ratios, minimum teacher qualifications, and stipulations that Head Start accept all income-eligible children regardless of whether they’re disabled or if their parents are citizens.

The agency also suggested it wants to shift Head Start funding to the states, although it didn’t specify how or when this would happen.

“The complete gutting of these goals ignores what we know really works in early childhood education,” said Deborah Stipek, a former dean of the Stanford School of Education who’s researched the topic. “If you’re going to spend money on something, wouldn’t

you want it to have positive effects?”

The agency said in its announcement it expects the cuts to be “well-received by Head Start programs, since they will welcome reduced (administrative) burden and increased flexibility.”

It also said it would allow local Head Start programs to keep policies that “best address the needs of their communities.” But individual Head Start programs are unlikely to comply with standards that aren’t required, particularly if they’re facing pressure to serve more students, said Melanee Cottrill, executive director of Head Start California, a nonprofit that advocates for California’s 1,813 Head Start centers.

In the same announcement, the agency said it also planned to boost the nutrition and physical exercise components of Head Start, but didn’t offer further details.

‘It will be very different’

So far, Head Start has evaded major budget cuts, and the federal government doesn’t appear poised to slash funding now. A handful of California Head Start programs shuttered during the government shutdown last fall, but reopened when legislators returned to work.

But a reduction in standards would, eventually, have a significant impact, Cottrill said. It’s likely Head Start will have less qualified teachers, larger class sizes and fewer opportunities for parent involvement, she said.

“Those standards are what make Head Start a high quality program,” Cottrill said. “Head Start will still exist, but it will be very different from what it is today.”

Head Start, launched in 1965 as part of President Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty, is a federal childcare program that serves

the country’s lowest-income families — those earning less than \$33,000 a year for a family of four. The federal government issues grants directly to school districts, nonprofits or other organizations that run Head Start programs, sometimes in combination with other funding sources.

Head Start offers health screenings, meals, curriculum focused on literacy and math, and resources for parents such as parenting classes. Children who attend Head Start are more likely to go to college and hold professional jobs later in life, a 2022 study found.

In California, about 70,000 children are enrolled in Head Start. The number would be higher but programs have had to

turn away families because they struggled to hire staff. Early childhood educators sometimes earn less than fast food workers and turnover is high, Cottrill noted.

Cost of losing disability screening

One Head Start standard that could be especially costly to eliminate is disability screening. Identifying and addressing disabilities such as dyslexia early can reduce the need for special education later on, potentially saving thousands of dollars, Stipek said.

Beth Meloy, an early childhood education consultant who worked on the federal government’s Head Start standards, said that simplifying and streamlining the standards is probably a good idea. Navigating

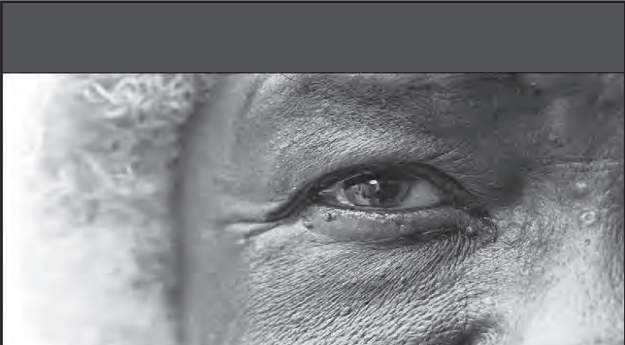
too many standards may be overly burdensome for some local Head Start programs, she said.

But gutting them entirely would be a disaster, she said.

“Head Start is built around a mission of giving low-income children a path to sustained education and life outcomes,” Meloy said. “These changes lack the thoughtfulness that these children deserve.”

This story was originally published by CalMatters.

This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes Alabama Reflector, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.



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City Council District 6



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- Serve on Humane Society Board; volunteer at shelter, serving as manager of human resources and operations; work with animal control officers to keep focus on stray animal issues in District 6

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Your

CALENDAR

Community

Gadsden Farmers Market

- Where: Mort Glosser Amphitheater, 90 Walnut Street, Gadsden
- When: Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Glencoe Farmers Market

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

Hokes Bluff Farmers Market

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

Attalla Farmers Market

- Where: 3rd Street Northwest & 5th Ave. Northwest, Attalla
- When: Thursday through Aug. 13 from 7 to 11 a.m.

Rainbow City Community Market

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

Useless Trivia at Back Forty

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

Bingo Night at Pique Nique

- Where: 1 River Road, Gadsden
- When: Friday at 7 p.m.

Bingo Night AJs Neighborhood Bar and Grill

- Where: 1582 Highway 77, Southside
- When: Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Open Mic Night at Blackstone Pub

- Where: 525 Broad Street, Gadsden
- When: Wednesday 7 to 10 p.m.

Monthly Music Trivia Night at Baja Rainbow City

Name that Tune Trivia hosted by Jason Bozeman

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

Taste of the Town Food Truck Festival

- Where: Southside City Hall | 2255 Alabama 77, Southside
- When: Second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Third Thirsty Thursday at the Stone Market

- Where: 120 Chestnut Street, Gadsden
- When: Third Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Free Dumpster Day

August 15, 2026

Locations:

**Behind Emma Sansom Middle School**
2200 Sansom Ave

**Corner of Bay St and S 1st St**
346 S 1st St (Parking Lot)

**East Gadsden Community Center**
921 Wilson Ave



More Details in Caption

August 14

Coosa River Irish Session

- Where: River Rocks Landing. 1 River Road, Gadsden
- When: 5 to 8 p.m.

August 14

Aladdin Jr. Hosted by Theatre of Gadsden

- Where: Gadsden State Community College, 1001 George Wallace Drive
- When: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

August 14

Smokin’ Band

- Where: Pitman Theater | 629 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL.
- When: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

August 14

Golf for Kids’ Sake
Big Brothers Big Sisters

- Where: Silver Lakes Golf Course. 1 Sunbelt Parkway, Gadsden
- When: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 15

Down by the Sea Pageant

- Where: 210 At the Tracks | 210 Locust St, Gadsden.
- When: 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

August 16

Dead Wrong Comedic Stageplay

- Where: The Venue at Coosa Landing
- When: 5 to 7 p.m.

August 18

Gadsden Landscape Supply Ribbon Cutting

- Where: 403 North 33rd Street, Gadsden
- When: 12:30 p.m.

August 20

Greater Gadsden Thrid Thursday Social

- Where: 102 Red Barn Road, Rainbow City
- When: 10 a.m.

August 22

Show Me Reptile and Exotics ShowBreaking

- Where: The Venue at Coosa Landing | 201 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden
- When: 9: to 3:30 p.m.

August 22

Book signing by local author, P. W. Stephens.

- Where: Glencoe Public Library, 101 W. Main Street, Glencoe
- When: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

August 23

Sip, Shop & Support

- Where: Family Success Center|821 East Broad Street
- When: 12 p.m.

August 29

Dukes, Boots, And Swimsuits

- Where: Etowah County Fair Grounds | 31 Griffin Street Southeast, Attalla, Al
- When: 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

August 31

Mall Coin & Collectable Show

- Where: Gadsden Mall | 1001 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, AL.
- When: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Sept. 1-6

Etowah County Fair

- Where: Etowah County Fair Grounds, 31 Griffin Street SE, Attalla, AL.
- When: 5 p.m.

Sept. 4

Sept. First Friday

- Where: Downtown Gadsden
- When: 5 to 8 p.m.

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LIFESTYLE



Looking at the History

Danny Crowover

Gadsden's First Methodist Church is 180 years old, maybe a year older. It was in 1845 or 1846 that a small group of Methodists got together and organized a congregation.

For more than 10 years they used the Union Church building in the middle of the block bounded by Broad, Locust, Third and Fourth streets.

When the congregation was first organized it had no regular pastor but in 1848 it became a preaching station on the Cedar Bluff Circuit.

The Rev. John W. Ellis, Jr. was assigned as the first pastor and he came here about once a

Gadsden First Methodist is 180 years old

month. His home was in Cedar Bluff and the presiding elder, the Rev. Ebenezer Hearne, resided at Talladega.

The congregation erected its first church in 1854 with James Christman as the architect. John Wilson furnished the lumber.

The lot at Fifth and Chestnut where the present building stands, was donated by Gabriel Hughes, one of the founders of the city. His grandson, Dr. Preston Hughes, was a member of the board of stewards and his great grandson, Preston Hughes, Jr., was ordained as a minister after graduating from Duke University and the North Alabama Conference that met and assigned him as a pastor of the church at Glencoe.

When additional space was needed it was donated by the late Col. R. B. Kyle.

In 1869 a new building on this site was begun but it was not until 1870 that it was completed.

When it was about ready for occupancy the

building suddenly became warped and twisted, largely because of a very tall steeple and faulty construction.

It was finally straightened out and was used for many years. It was ready for the organization of the North Alabama Conference here in 1870.

The Rev. R. A. Timmons was host pastor at that organization and the Rev. C. D. Oliver was the presiding elder. Bishop Robert Pain presided and the secretary was the Rev. J. G. Wilson.

Gadsden had become a fulltime station in 1868 and was experiencing a remarkable growth when the conference was formed.

In 1945, that church has a membership of 1,829. Other sessions of the North Alabama Conference have been held here as in 1877, presided over by Bishop J. C. Keener; Gallo-way; Hay. In 1885, Bishop Z. W. Wilson; In 1895, Bishop C. B. 1906, Bishop James Cannon, Jr.; In 1937, Bishop Sam.

The 1920 session celebrated the semi-cen-tennial of the organization. Steps were taken in 1891 to erect the present building. The Rev. S. L. Dobbs was appointed pastor and he and special committees went to work and eventu-ally they had a new place of worship.

The building has since been remodeled. The first sermon in the new structure was preached by the Rev. W. E. Mabry. The Sun-day school annex was completed in 1919-20 when the Rev. Frank W. Brandon was pastor.

The First Methodist was started when the late General Daniel C. Turrentine organized the first Sunday school in the city for all de-nominations. That was in 1845. Then he and his wife, Catherine Lucy Turrentine, set out to organize a church of their own denomina-tion.

Contact The Vagabond at dkcrown@bellsouth.net

Please don't throw that book away! Bring it to the library

There is something about throwing away a book that just doesn't feel right.

Maybe it's a favorite novel we read years ago. Maybe it is a set of encyclopedias that once occupied an entire shelf in the family room. Maybe it is a box of books that be-longed to our parents or grandparents. What-ever the reason, many of us can clean out a closet without a second thought—but when we get to the books, we stop.

"Surely somebody can use these."

Very often, that "somebody" turns out to be the Gadsden Public Library.

Throughout the year, members of our com-munity bring us thousands of donated books. They arrive a few at a time in shopping bags and sometimes by the carload in boxes. They include everything imaginable: recent best-sellers, mysteries, romances, cookbooks, bi-ographies, children's books, reference books and plenty of titles that take us back several decades.

And occasionally, they arrive after spend-ing a little too much quality time in an Ala-bama basement, attic or garage.

Those books can bring some unwanted friends with them—mold, mildew, insects and other evidence that their storage accom-modations were not exactly library quality. Unfortunately, not every book can be saved or reused. But every donation is appreciated and every donated book begins with the same

thing: a careful look from our library staff.

When books arrive at the library, they are reviewed to determine whether any of them should become part of the Gadsden Public Library's collection.

Sometimes we discover a newer title that we do not own. Other times, a donated book may be a better copy of something already on our shelves that has been loved—and checked out—so many times that our exist-ing copy is showing its age. In those cases, a donated book can find a permanent new home in the library's collection.

But what happens to all the others?

That is where our wonderful Friends of the Library come into the story.

Books that are not needed for the library's circulating collection but are suitable for resale are turned over to our Friends of the Library, a dedicated group of volunteers who support the library in countless ways. The Friends sort, organize and price the books and place them for sale in the Friends Book-store located near the library's main entrance.

If you haven't browsed the bookstore late-ly, you really should.

It is one of those places where you can walk in intending to "just look" and some-how leave carrying an armful of books. The prices are wonderfully affordable, the selection changes constantly, and you never quite know what treasure someone else has donat-

ed.

Best of all, those books continue giving back to the community.

The money raised through Friends of the Library book sales comes right back to sup-port the Gadsden Public Library. In other words, that mystery novel gathering dust on your bookshelf can eventually help support the library that serves your community.

We also provide donors with a donation acknowledgment form that may be useful for tax purposes. Library staff can document the donation, but the donor—not the library—determines the value of the donated materi-als. As always, donors should consult their tax professional regarding eligibility for any charitable deduction.

There is a wonderful cycle to all of this.

A book begins in someone's home. It is read and enjoyed. Eventually, the owner de-cides it is time to make room on the book-shelf but simply cannot bring themselves to toss it into the trash.

So it comes to us.

Perhaps it becomes part of the library's collection. Perhaps it replaces a well-worn copy that has circulated hundreds of times. Perhaps it travels a few steps away to the Friends Bookstore, where another reader dis-covers it for a dollar or two and takes it home.

And the money from that purchase comes back to help the library. That's quite a jour-



Welcome to the Library

Craig Scott

ney for a book someone almost threw away.

So, the next time you are cleaning out a bookshelf and find yourself standing there with a book in one hand and the trash can in the other, we understand the hesitation.

Book people just aren't very good at throw-ing books away.

Fortunately, at the Gadsden Public Li-brary, we're pretty good at finding them an-other chapter.

Gadsden Public Library: 254 South College Street, downtown Gadsden (next to the U.S. Post Office). Phone: 256-549-4699

Genealogy Branch: 2700 West Meighan Boulevard, Alabama City (next to the Ritz Theater at the corner of West Meighan and Wall Street). Phone: 256-549-4688

Craig Scott is the director for the GPL



Mindful Moment

Carrie Halladay

I can still remember the night before the first day of school. I would lie in bed unable to sleep, thinking about what the next day might bring. I was excited to see friends, cu-rious about my new teachers and ready for a new year, but I was nervous too. Excited and anxious seemed to exist at exactly the same time.

Looking back, I realize how normal that was.

The beginning of a new school year is of-ten portrayed as an exciting time. There are new backpacks, fresh school supplies, new teachers and the chance for a fresh start. But along with all that excitement, back-to-school season can bring a significant amount of stress for both children and parents.

Back-to-school stress: Helping parents and kids adjust

For kids, the worries vary depending on age. Younger children may be anxious about separating from parents, finding their class-room or making friends. Older children and teenagers may worry about academic pres-sure, changing friendships, fitting in, sports, extracurricular activities or navigating the complicated social world that comes with growing up.

Parents aren't immune to back-to-school stress either. Suddenly, mornings become more hectic, calendars fill up and homework returns to the evening routine. Parents may also worry about their child's grades, friend-ships, behavior or emotional well-being. Add work and household responsibilities and it can feel like the entire family goes from laid back summer mode to full speed school mode overnight.

One of the best ways to reduce this stress is to reestablish routines. Consistent bedtimes, wake-up times and meal schedules help chil-dren know what to expect. Predictability creates a sense of security, especially during

times of change. Preparing clothes, back-packs and lunches the night before can also make mornings a little less chaotic.

It's equally important to give children op-portunities to talk about what they're experi-encing. Instead of simply asking, "How was school?" try asking, "What was the best part of your day?" "Was anything hard today?" or "Who did you spend time with?" You may be surprised by how much more you learn.

When a child expresses anxiety, our in-stinct may be to say, "There's nothing to worry about." Instead, try acknowledging the feeling: "I can understand why you're nervous about that." Then help them think through how they might handle the situation. We don't need to eliminate every uncomfort-able emotion for our children. We need to help them learn that uncomfortable emotions are manageable.

Parents should also remember that children take cues from us. When we become overly stressed about schedules, grades or morn-ing chaos, they notice. Modeling flexibility,

healthy coping and realistic expectations can teach children just as much as anything we say.

Some nervousness at the beginning of school is normal. It may even look a little like lying awake the night before the first day, feeling excited and nervous at the same time. But persistent stomachaches, headaches, sleep problems, frequent crying, irritabil-ity, school refusal or significant behavioral changes deserve closer attention.

There will be rushed mornings, forgotten assignments and difficult days. A success-ful school year doesn't require eliminating stress. Sometimes, it simply means helping our children learn that they can experience stress, work through it and be okay on the other side.

Carrie Halladay is a Licensed Profes-sional Counselor and the wner of Halladay Counseling in Gadsden. She earned her Master of Science in Counseling from Jack-sonville State University in 2002.

Post-Its, pastels and preparation for the new year

Back to school season looks a little bit different at the Bozeman house this year. Our oldest daughter is driving herself to school, and we no longer have an elementary school student. Instead, we have two in mid-dle school and one in high school. Jason and I are ready to get back into our fall se-mester routines, but the first few days of a new school year are always an exciting and stressful mixture of fun, nerves, last minute purchas-es, and not enough sleep. For parents of children moving to new schools, new grades, and new experiences, the first week back can be full of many proud tears and hope-ful plans.

One way I help get my kids ready for a solid new year in school is by helping them take inventory of what they already have and still enjoy using and wearing, as well as identifying what sup-plies they need. Each year seems to have its own theme, and this year we somehow ended up with everyone wanting a similar color pal-let of pastels. So, we picked out pens and highlighters, binders and backpacks, Post-

Its and socks in the desired colors, and had fun doling out goodies. We have packed essentials to keep in lockers, practiced combinations, met teachers, discussed drop off and pick up plans, bought snacks, and so on.

There is always an ele-ment of anxiety when a new school year begins, though, that all of the new supplies and outfits and snacks can-not completely prevent. This is a great opportunity for discussing the importance of discomfort with our kids, helping them understand that there will always be days they don't want to get up, people they don't want to interact with, or homework they don't want to do. But, doing the uncomfortable, un-fun things when necessary is how they set themselves up for their future, even if that future is only 9 weeks away when grades are sent out. As George MacDonald said it, "The best preparation for the future is the present well seen to, and the last duty done." Louis Pasteur put it this way: "Fortune favors the prepared mind." Or, as I like to tell my children and students, "Luck favors

the well-prepared." Even be-ing well-prepared, though, cannot always keep us from having hectic mornings, or anxious nights, forgotten homework, or the occasional flat tire. It can definitely help make those moments feel less like the end of the world, though.

This hodge-podge of con-crete things and experienc-es, how we move through these moments, and how we feel and experience life in the midst of them is a great example of the difference between the "ontic," the "on-tological," and "lived experi-ence." The former refers to specific, physical things that exist (a backpack with a tricky zipper, a locker door that gets stuck, a tire with a

slow leak), the middle re-fers to the way reality and situations are structured (a morning routine that is well-planned, for example, but maybe occasionally breaks down), and the latter is how we each actually experience what is happening (one of my kids might be completely unfazed by a hectic morning, but another could be so over-whelmed that their entire day is affected). Understand-ing that no matter the effort and planning put into things, there is always the chance of last minute disruptions, or unforeseen events is just part of life; being aware that those changes can feel very differ-ent to different people is just part of parenting.

This week, we have picked



Arranging the Pieces

Tabitha Bozeman

out outfits, made sure all the necessities are covered, made the necessary shifts to bedtime and morning alarms, and focused on the positives each new school year brings: new friends, new experiences, new learn-ing, and new memories. What would life be like without the sometimes unex-pected, occasionally uncon-fortable unknown? It would

be a lot calmer, but it would probably be a lot more bor-ing, too. Here's to a new fall and new school year, wheth-er you are headed to class, have kids in your life who are off to school, or are just looking forward to learning something new. After all, as Lemony Snicket reminds us, "Real comfort is not what we know, but the thrill of what we are about to find out."

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DEVOTIONALS

Don't lose focus

Some distractions are obvious. Work demands more of us than ever. Family responsibilities never seem to end. Politics dominates the news. Wars rage around the world. Inflation stretches our budgets, and tragedy can make us wonder what this world is coming to. But some of the most dangerous distractions never make the headlines. They happen inside of us.

Worry. Fear. Regret. Failure. Unanswered prayers. The situations that wake us up at two o'clock in the morning and refuse to let our minds rest. Everything is competing for our attention. And whatever captures our attention will eventually influence our faith. Life has a way of making us stare at the storm instead of the Savior.

That is why this week's message is simple: You cannot walk toward Jesus while staring at your storm.

Matthew 14 tells us that the disciples were caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. The wind was against them. The waves battered the boat. Then, in the middle of everything they feared, Jesus came walking toward them on the water. Peter said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus gave him one word: "Come."

Jesus didn't tell Peter to understand the storm. He didn't tell him to trust the water. He certainly didn't tell Peter to believe in himself. He simply told him to come. Peter's faith was never in the water. His faith was in the Word.

That's important because we sometimes think faith means believing our circumstances are about to improve. But real faith says,

"Even if my circumstances don't change, I still trust the One who called me." Peter stepped out. Think about the courage that is required. The wind was still howling. The waves were still crashing. Everything around him was screaming, "Stay in the boat!"

Yet Peter moved. Eleven disciples witnessed the miracle. Only one experienced it. Why? Because faith requires movement.

There comes a moment when you have to stop watching everybody else and respond to what God is telling you to do. Sometimes He calls you to serve when nobody else volunteers. Sometimes He calls you to forgive when nobody else understands. Sometimes He calls you to take a step nobody else is willing to take.

The fact that everybody else stayed in the boat did not excuse Peter from answering Jesus. But then something happened. Peter looked away. Scripture says that when Peter "saw the wind," he became afraid and began to sink. Here's what we often miss: the storm didn't suddenly get worse. Peter's focus changed. The wind was already blowing when he stepped out. The waves were already crashing when he started walking. The storm had been there the entire time. What changed was what Peter was looking at.

And aren't we just like Peter? We start out trusting God, and then we see the doctor's report. We check the bank account. We hear the criticism. We experience the loss. We remember the failure. Nothing changed about Jesus.

Our focus changed. Sometimes the greatest threat to our faith isn't the storm around

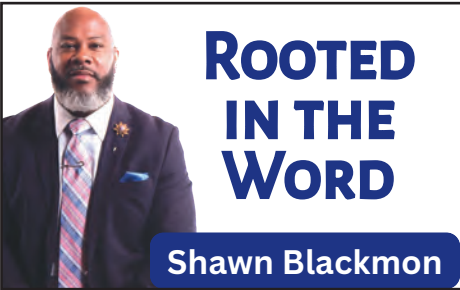
us. It's the attention we give to it. But this is where the story gets beautiful. Peter cried out, "Lord, save me!" The Bible says Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him. Not eventually. Not after Peter got himself together. Not after Peter promised to never doubt again. Immediately. Before the correction came, the rescue came. Before the lesson came, grace came. Jesus saved Peter first and taught him afterward.

Somebody needs that reminder today. Maybe you've lost focus. Maybe you've worried when you should have trusted. Maybe fear has gotten the best of you. Maybe you've started sinking in something you thought you were strong enough to handle. That does not mean Jesus has abandoned you.

The same hand that reached for Peter is still reaching for you. So ask yourself: Where has my focus shifted? What storm have I allowed to become bigger than my Savior? Maybe it's financial pressure. Maybe it's your family. Maybe it's your health. Maybe it's something from your past that you still haven't forgiven yourself for. The storm may be real. The waves may be high. The wind may be loud. But Jesus is greater. And when you feel yourself sinking, you don't need an impressive prayer. Peter only needed three words: "Lord, save me."

That was enough. This week, when anxiety rises and circumstances begin demanding your attention, don't give the storm more attention than you give your Savior.

Pray. Refocus. Keep moving toward Jesus. Because the goal isn't pretending the storm doesn't exist. The goal is remembering who is



**ROOTED
IN THE
WORD**

Shawn Blackmon

standing above it. The One who called Peter out of the boat is the same One calling you forward today. So don't lose focus. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Let's Pray

Father, there are moments when the storms around us become so loud that we lose sight of You. Forgive us for allowing fear, worry, regret, and circumstances to consume our attention. When our focus shifts, turn our eyes back toward Jesus. Give us the courage to step when You say come, the faith to trust You when we don't understand, and the humility to cry out when we begin to sink. Thank You that Your grace reaches us before we can rescue ourselves. No matter how hard the wind blows or how high the waves rise, help us remember that You are greater than our storm. 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.

Adoption, destiny and Abba Father

This article as originally published Aug. 13, 2025.

This past Monday was our middle granddaughter's "Gotcha Day." It is the day that her sweet little life—just five days old, with fresh wrinkles and fuzzy hair—was placed in the arms of our daughter and son-in-law for the first time. It marked the beginning of a year-and-a-half long journey of uncertainty, while social workers, attorneys, and judges worked to advocate for her well-being. The day that broke a biological family. The day that laid a foundation for life in an adoptive family. A day filled with both gut-wrenching sorrow and heart-felt joy.

What was meant to be a one-night, emergency placement has turned into 2,201 sleeps. And though all of those nights have not been joyfully peaceful, they have been covered in prayer, washed with tears, and filled with love and lots of laughter. With a new name and a forever family. Our precious grandchild has been lovingly grafted into a legacy where she is cherished and chosen. This adoption journey has given us a glimpse into Romans 8:15 that assures us that those who are led by the Spirit of God have "received the Spirit of adoption."

As providence would have it, the message at church on this Gotcha Day was on this very passage. Our pastor opened with

a story by Destiny Twohill, a young woman who was adopted from China over 25 years ago. In her poignant story on Lifesong.org entitled, "Being Seen Saved My Life: My Adoption Story," she shares the heartbreaking account of how her life nearly ended after she was found hypothermic on the steps of the poor orphanage in her town and placed in isolation to die. Miraculously, the director found her and noticed features of the Ming Dynasty in her face. She lovingly moved this baby with the "face of the king" to the room where she would receive the care that would save her life.

Destiny goes on to share her adoptive parents' disappointment when they received the packet from the adoption agency containing only her photograph. The Twohills had hoped to adopt twins. Disheartened, they went to sleep before giving the agency an answer about whether they would adopt this child or wait for twins. That night, Mr. Twohill dreamed of a little girl named Destiny who had shared a testimony at his church months before. When he woke and told his wife about the dream, she picked up the picture of this precious girl with fuzzy black hair and almond shaped eyes and declared, "Destiny Joy Twohill. Let's go get my baby!"

The story continues, filled with gratitude—to her birth mother for not aborting her, to her

adoptive parents for choosing her, and most of all, to her Heavenly Father for His Grace. Destiny says, "This story could have ended the day I was born, but God has seen me from the first day all the way to being here today." This is one reason why, according to Destiny, adoption helps us understand the depth of God's love and care for us. The apostle Paul believed this to be true as well, which is why he uses the metaphor at least 5 different times throughout scripture.

Building on this, my pastor added to Destiny's story a list of "I" words that he borrowed from Tim Keller describing the richness of being adopted into God's family. He said, "Being adopted into God's family through Christ gives us a new identity, a new intimacy, and a new inheritance that is waiting for us." He explained that in this Roman-ruled culture, the metaphor of sonship leading to a spirit of adoption in Romans 8:14-15 would have been partially understood. Historically, adoption was reserved for wealthy families in need of a son to pass their wealth to. The adopted son would immediately take on the father's name and the father would become instantly liable for the son's actions.

The new identity as "God's Son", like the legally binding adoption in Roman times, is a permanent name—dependable and securing our place in His family. The intimacy is



*Memoir
Musings*

Sandra Bost

the real knowledge of God's person. Verse 15 in The Message paraphrase says that we can greet God "with a childlike 'What's next, Papa?'" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children." I love the image this creates. It's like a child running to his daddy, arms opened wide, with spontaneity and confidence. The inheritance is a sharing in a future glory with Jesus that will far outweigh the suffering in this world.

In the same way that Destiny was seen and saved because someone recognized her worth, we too are seen by our Abba Father—not for what we've done, but for who we are in Jesus. Adoption into God's family gives us a new name, a new identity, and a place in His eternal legacy. And just like Destiny, each of us carries the image of the King, chosen not by chance, but by Grace, to be heirs of His glory.

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SPORTS

Glencoe High in running for \$1M field upgrade

Glencoe High School is one of 19 Alabama schools to win \$5,000 through T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights program, and now has a chance at a \$1 million football field upgrade later this fall.

The award, announced by T-Mobile as part of its first weekly round of winners, is the entry-level prize in a season-long national competition built around small-town high school football. Glencoe joins schools from Oneonta to Bay Minette on a list of 300 winners nationwide named in the program's opening week.

The \$5,000 can go toward needs such as helmets, weight room equipment, uniforms or travel costs, according to T-Mobile, though what Glencoe specifically plans to do with the money has not been confirmed by the

school.

A longer road to \$1 million

Winning the \$5,000 also enters Glencoe into a longer, multi-stage competition. Beginning in October, the school could advance through several tiers, ultimately competing for a \$1 million field upgrade, the program's grand prize.

The competition unfolds in stages, per T-Mobile:

A panel of judges will select 40 division finalists nationwide, 10 each from four regions, based on criteria including community need, creativity and social media engagement.

The public will then vote once per day, per person, from Oct. 8-25, to narrow the finalists to four division champions, each winning \$250,000.

A final public voting round, Oct. 29-Nov. 8, will determine the single

grand-prize winner, to be announced Nov. 12.

Whether Glencoe advances past the \$5,000 tier depends first on the judging panel, then on public voting, a process in which reach and social media visibility appear to carry real weight alongside need.

A pattern of viral underdogs

T-Mobile's two previous grand-prize winners suggest what it may take to go the distance. Inola High School in Inola, Oklahoma, population 1,900, won the inaugural \$1 million prize in 2024. Dierks High School in Dierks, Arkansas, population 900, won in 2025, a T-Mobile release said, after the school's campaign drew nearly 2 million votes with help from what the company described as "celebrity supporters."

That pattern raises a question for any of this

year's smaller applicants, Glencoe included: whether the program's structure rewards community need, as its marketing suggests, or primarily rewards whichever school can generate the most outside attention during a three-week voting window.

Applications remain open

High schools in towns with populations under 150,000 remain eligible to apply through Sept. 18. Applications are submitted by school officials at FridayNight5GLights.com and require a short essay on why the school's football field deserves an upgrade.

Public voting, when it opens, will run through FridayNight5GLights.com and the T-Life app, with one vote allowed per person per day.

By the numbers

T-Mobile says this season's competition will distribute more than \$8.4 million in total prizes, including:

- \$5,000 to 1,000 schools nationwide through weekly sweepstakes (Glencoe's tier).
- \$5,000 "Spotlight School" awards to four schools for standout social media videos.
- \$25,000 to 40 division finalists, plus a T-Mobile-hosted "Home Game Celebration."
- \$250,000 to four division champions, plus a Gronk Fitness gym the company values at \$90,000.
- \$25,000 "Fan Favorite" award, chosen by T-Mobile employees rather than public vote.
- \$1 million to one grand-prize winner for a football field upgrade.



Gadsden City High School quarterback Sam Sollie announced his commitment to Auburn University during a signing ceremony Aug. 8 at the school's practice pavilion. Speaking to family, friends, coaches and teammates, Sollie expressed his gratitude for the people who have helped him reach this point in his football career. "I mean, nothing but thank you," Sollie said. "There's no way I will be here without them." Sollie also thanked his teammates for the brotherhood they have built together, saying it has meant a great deal to him and pushed him to become a better player. "My family, friends, coaches — everyone has pushed me to be better," he said. Gadsden City head coach Ali Smith, teammates, Gadsden City central office personnel, and Sollie's family and friends joined him for the ceremony as he celebrated the next step in his career. With his commitment to Auburn, Sollie will continue his football journey at the collegiate level while representing Gadsden City and the community that helped shape him. By Karla McAuthor/Messenger.

Gadsden State names Presley assistant women's basketball coach

Gadsden State Community College has named Jason Presley as assistant coach for the women's basketball program.

Presley brings nearly three decades of coaching experience to Gadsden State, including successful roles at Gaston, Geraldine, and Hokes Bluff. Throughout his coaching career, he has helped build competitive programs while emphasizing character, accountability, and team culture.

"We are excited to welcome Coach Presley to the women's basketball family," said head women's basketball coach Eddy Norris. "His experience, leadership and commitment to developing student-athletes make him a great addition to our program as we continue building toward the future."

Presley's coaching journey began in 1996 as the junior varsity boys' basketball coach at Gaston High School. At age 26, he became the school's varsity boys coach and compiled a 91-65 record over six seasons. During that time, his teams

won two Etowah County championships, two area championships, a regional championship, and advanced to the Final Four.

Following his success at Gaston, Presley coached one season at Geraldine High School, where his team finished 19-9. He later spent 10 years at Hokes Bluff Middle School before becoming the varsity boys coach at Hokes Bluff High School, compiling a 59-25 record in three seasons with an area championship and two Etowah County runner-up finishes.

For the past three years, Presley stepped away from coaching to watch his son, Jordan Presley, compete at the collegiate level.

Presley said his long-standing relationship with Norris and belief in the direction of the women's basketball program drew him to Gadsden State.

"Coach Norris and I developed a strong relationship competing against one another for many years," Presley said. "My respect for Coach Norris and his commitment to revamping the women's program

influenced my decision to be a part of the culture he is building for the program's future."

Presley said his previous experiences rebuilding programs have prepared him well for his new role.

"I have been involved in rebuilding basketball programs and helping establish a basketball culture," he said. "I hope to draw from those experiences as we continue building the Gadsden State women's program."

His coaching philosophy centers on using basketball as a tool for personal growth.

"My basketball coaching philosophy is to use basketball as a tool to promote character, lasting accountability, and team culture that builds habits that impact the lives of young people for years to come," Presley said.

He expects players to maintain high standards both on and off the court.

"I have always told my players, 'What you do one time is what you do all the

time,'" Presley said. "That means giving as much effort to the smallest detail as you would the largest."

Presley said he is excited about the potential of the current women's basketball roster and the opportunity to contribute to the program's continued growth.

"I have met all the players, and I'm impressed with the group as a whole," he said. "With Coach Norris's vision, I hope we can add to the successes of last year."

When not coaching, Presley enjoys spending time with his wife and two children.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to become a part of the women's basketball program and the Cardinal family as a whole," Presley said. "With Coach Norris's direction, we plan on building a program that the entire community will support and take pride in."

For more information about Gadsden State's women's basketball, visit gocardinals.gadsdenstate.edu.

This Week in Sports

Football

August 14
Etowah High School at Cedar Bluff High School at 7 p.m.

Girls Flag Football

August 20
Gadsden City High School vs Scottsboro High School at 6 p.m.
August 25
Gadsden City High School at Leeds/Anniston Tri-Match at 5:30 p.m.
August 27
Gadsden City High School vs Talladega/Clay-Chalkville High School Tri-match at 4:30 p.m.

Volleyball

August 20th
Sardis High School and West End high School at Ashville High School at 4:30 p.m.
Etowah High School and Gadsden City High School at Westbrook Christian at 5:30 p.m.
Glencoe High School at Pleasant Valley High School TBA

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LEGAL

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 John Micah Turner, unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Stockton Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns dated November 29, 2023; said mortgage being recorded on December 1, 2023 as Instrument No. 3566930 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2026, Page 3607741 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services, 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 September 16, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Lot Number Fourteen (14) in Block "A", and Lots Number Nine (9) and Ten (10) in Block "D", in Casey Estates Rearrangement, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book "H", page 34, in the Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being in Etowah County, Alabama. SAVE AND EXCEPT the following described property: Commence at the northwest corner of the Lot Number 10, Block "D", Casey Estates, as recorded in Plat Book "H", page 34, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and run in an easterly direction along the north line of said Lot Number 10 for a distance of 238.24 feet to the beginning point of this description; thence deflect 90 degrees 23 minutes to the right for a distance of 138.86 feet to a point on the northwesterly line of Sherry Lane; thence deflect 115 degrees 16 minutes to the left and run along the northwesterly line of said Sherry Lane for a distance of 219.76 feet to a point of curve; thence run in a northeasterly direction along the northwesterly line of said Sherry Lane on a curve to the right for a distance of 119.00 feet to the northeast corner of said Lot Number 10; thence run in a westerly direction along the north line of said Lot Number 10 for a distance of 307.80 feet to the point of beginning. The above described property embracing a portion of the Lot Number 10, Block "D", Casey Estates, as recorded in Plat Book "H", page 34, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 216 Casey Dr, Gadsden, AL 35903-1402.

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

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

above-named or the undersigned. Bidders must perform their own due diligence. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

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

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, 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 Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and the source of funds used in the reportable transaction, 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 Anti-Money 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.

SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES as holder of said mortgage McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP 505 20th Street N, Suite 1775 Birmingham, AL 35203 Telephone: (205) 216-4238 FT21@mccalla.com File No. 25-06822AL www.foreclosurehotline.net

July 31, August 7 and 14, 2026

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Tony David Battles and Veda Evelyn Battles, husband and wife and David Earl Battles, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee as nominee for Family Savings Credit Union, its successors and assigns, on July 23, 2025, said mortgage being recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, on July 29, 2025 at MORTGAGE Book 2025, at Page 3595491. Renasant Bank, the current holder, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Etowah County Courthouse, in Gadsden, Alabama, on September 9, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, the follow-

ing described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

To reach the point of beginning, commence at the point of intersection of the Northwest right of way of Highway #11 and the Northerly right of way line of the Old Crudup Road and run in a Southwesterly direction along the Northwest right of way of Highway #11 a distance of 373.7 feet to a point, said point being the point of beginning; and being the Southernmost corner of the property described in Deed Book 1437, Page 253, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama. From the point of beginning run Northwesterly and along the Southwesterly line of said "1437-253" tract and 211 feet to the Westernmost corner of said tract, thence Southwesterly along the line parallel with the Northwestern right of way of Highway #11 to a point in the centerline of a ditch, said point, also being in the Northeasterly line of the Ray Woodard property, thence Southwesterly of centerline of said ditch and along the line of the Ray Woodard property to the Northwest line of Highway #11, thence Northeasterly along the line of the Ray Woodard property to the Northwest line of Highway #11, thence North-easterly along the line of Highway #11 to the point of beginning, and embracing a portion of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section Four (4) Township Eleven (11) South, Range Six (6) East and a portion of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Section Nine (9) Township Eleven (11) South, Range Six (6) of Huntsville Meridian, and lying and being in Etowah County, Alabama.

More commonly known as: 1416 Valley Drive, Atlanta, AL 35954

This Property will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis, without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expense of foreclosure. The successful bidder must tender certified funds by noon the next business day to Law Office of Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Certified funds must be in the form of a wire transfer, bank or credit union's cashier's check, or bank official check payable to Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. If sale is voided, Mortgagee/Transferee shall return the bid amount to the successful purchaser and the Mortgagee/Transferee shall not be liable to the purchase for any damages. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the purchaser at the sale shall be only entitled to a return of the deposit and bid amount, if paid. The Mortgagee/Transferee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation. Important Notice to Potential Bidders: Federal law administered by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, requires certain residential real estate transactions to be reported to the federal government. If you are the winning bidder at auction, you may be required to provide identifying information about

yourself and, if applicable, any entity or trust purchasing the property. This information is required by federal law and must be provided to complete the sale. Failure to provide required information after the sale may delay or prevent issuance of the foreclosure deed. Renasant Bank ("Transferee")

Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. 3000 Riverchase Galleria, Suite 705 Birmingham, AL 35244 Phone: (801) 355-2886

August 7, 14, and 21, 2026

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having being made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage dated June 9, 2021 executed by Joshua Laughlin, an unmarried person, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., solely as a nominee for Village Capital & Investment LLC, said Mortgage being recorded July 15, 2021, in Inst. # 3524242, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama; having later been assigned to Planet Home Lending, LLC by instrument recorded in Inst. # 3584076, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said default continues and notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Planet Home Lending, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash or certified funds at the main entrance to the County Courthouse, Etowah County, Alabama on 10/14/2026, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

Situated in the City of Gadsden, County of Etowah, State of Alabama:

Lot number sixteen (16); and a lot or parcel of land described as beginning at a point where the northeast line of lot number 17 intersects the southeast line thereof; thence in a northwesterly direction and along the northeast line of said lot a distance of 30 feet to a point; thence in a southwesterly direction and parallel with the northwest line of said lot number 17 a distance of 120 feet to a point; thence in a southeasterly direction and parallel with the southwest line of said lot a distance of 5 feet to a point; thence in a southwesterly direction and parallel with the southeast line of said lot a distance of 20 feet to a point in the southwest line of said lot number 17; thence in a southeasterly direction and along the southwest line of lot number 17 a distance of 25 feet to the point of intersection of the southwest line of said lot number 17 with the southeast line thereof; thence in a northeasterly direction and along the southeast line of said lot a distance of 140 feet to the point of beginning, and embracing a portion of lot number 17, all in block number 44 in first addition Bellevue Highlands, as surveyed and platted by Totten and Woodruff, civil engineers, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in plat book "B" beginning at page 286, in the office of the judge of probate, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama.

TAX ID NO: 1009323000027.000 (PARCEL ID NO.) 19506 (PPIN)

For informational purposes only, the property address is: 209 Harbys Ave., Gadsden, AL 35904. Any property address provided is not part of the legal description of the property sold herein and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description referenced herein shall control.

THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS-IS, WHERE-IS" BASIS, SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, ENCUMBRANCES, AND EX-

CEPTIONS REFLECTED IN THE MORTGAGE AND THOSE CONTAINED IN THE RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE OF PROBATE OF THE COUNTY WHERE THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SITUATED. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, 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.

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.

Federal law requires that certain residential real estate transactions purchased with all cash or without institutional lender financing, where at least one buyer/transferee is a legal entity, LLC, Corporation, Partnership, trust, trustee or other non-natural person, be reported to the United States Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCen).

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by mortgage as well as the expenses of foreclosure, including a reasonable attorney's fees and other purposes set out in said mortgage.

The successful bidder may be required to provide identifying information/documentation successful bidders must tender funds and a fully completed FinCen form before noon of the next business day after the sale or the property will be reverted to the next highest bid.

Planet Home Lending, LLC Paul K. Lavelle, Esq. Attorney for Mortgagee Spina, & Lavelle, P.C. One Perimeter Park South-Suite 400N Birmingham, Alabama 35243 (205) 298-1800 39-FC-26-01309

August 14, 21, and 28, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain Mortgage executed by Vashti M. Lopez, single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), (solely as nominee for Lender, First Bank, and Lender's successors and assigns), dated the 17th day of June, 2024, which Mortgage was recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, in Instrument Number 3576181; said Mortgage having been transferred and assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), (solely as nominee for Lender, First Bank, and Lender's successors and assigns) to Alabama Housing Finance Authority by virtue of that certain Assignment of Mortgage dated June 29, 2026, and recorded in said Probate Office in Miscellaneous Book 2026, at Page 3611573. The undersigned Alabama Housing Finance Authority as Assignee of said Mortgage will, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, sell at auction to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Etowah County Courthouse in the City of Gadsden, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on September 17, 2026, the real property described in said Mortgage, which said description is hereby referred to and made a part hereof, said property being situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Lot No. Twenty-Three (23) in Block No. Nineteen (19) in Gadsden Land and Improvement

Company's Kyle Addition, according to the map of plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book "A", Page 23, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being in Etowah County, Alabama; subject to any easements or restrictions or record.

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

This sale is made for the purpose of realizing the mortgage debt, together with all expenses of the sale, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

CAPELL & HOWARD, P.C. Bowdy J. Brown, Esq. 150 South Perry Street Montgomery, Alabama 36104 Our File No.: 37591-3749 ATTORNEYS FOR ASSIGNEE

ALABAMA HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY ASSIGNEE

August 14, 21, and 28, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Cerry Mike Greer was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 06/23/2026 to the Estate of Rayfyl IL Greer, 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

July 31, August 7, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Stephanie Garrard and Jackie Garrard was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 07/07/2026 to the Estate of Deloris Faye Harrison, 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

July 31, August 7, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

David Benton King, Esq. was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 06/08/2026 to the Estate of Janice Collier, 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

July 31, August 8, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Danny P. Brady was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 06/22/2026 to the Estate of Jeffery S. Hopper, 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

July 31, August 7, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Patrick Keith Hill was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 06/22/2026 to the Estate of Mary Lou Hill, 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

July 31, August 7, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Mary Lorie Rodgers Harden was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 07/09/2026 to the Estate of Rosa Retencie Rodgers Holland, 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

Judge of Probate

July 31, August 7, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Christian Prater was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 07/10/2026 over the Estate of Lawrence L. Prater, 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

July 31, August 7, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Terry Lee White was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 07/13/2026 to the Estate of Shirley White Rubin, 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

July 31, August 7, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Debra Jan Greenhaw was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) 06/25/2026 to the Estate of Van Norris Greenhaw, 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

July 31, August 7, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Kimberly Bailey was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 06/26/2026 over the Estate of Philip Anthony Bailey, 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

July 31, August 7, and 14, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Byron Rahmon Bonner was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) 07/10/2026 to the Estate of Inzer Bonner, 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 August 7, 14, and 21, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Vicki Lyle Potter was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) 06/29/2026 over the Estate of Earlene Lyle, 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

August 7, 14, and 21, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Nanette Kennedy was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) 06/24/2026 over the Estate of Neal Wayne Holderfield, 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 August 7, 14, and 21, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Laura Brothers was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) 06/29/2026 to the Estate of Colleen Gwendolyn Jones Brothers, 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

CIA WISE, Plaintiffs,

A PARCEL OF LAND IN ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

And the Estate of Norma Jean Rhodes, deceased, and all Fictitious Defendants claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, or if any Defendant is deceased, such a Defendant's heirs or devisees shall be made parties in their stead. In the Circuit Court of Etowah County, Alabama, there is pending in Case Number CV-2026900181.00, a verified Bill of Complaint filed by the Plaintiffs, Joe Wise and Patricia Wise, on the 27th day of March, 2026, against the below-described lands, lying in Etowah County, Alabama, and against the Estate of Norma Jean Rhodes, deceased; and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, lien or encumbrance on said lands and to clear up all doubts or disputes concerning the same. Plaintiffs claim to own all of said land in fee simple absolute, free of all liens and encumbrances. The subject property is described as follows:

Parcel #1: The East Quarter (maps as east 1/2) of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (E14 of NW14 of SE14) in section Nineteen (19), Township Eleven (11) South, Range Five (5) East of Huntsville Meridian in Etowah County, Alabama.

Parcel #2: To reach the point of beginning, begin at the northwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, Section 19, Township 11, Range 5 East of Huntsville Meridian and run south and along the west line of said forty 525 feet to a point, which said point is the point of beginning to describe the property herein conveyed; and from said point of beginning run south and along the west line of said forty 551.25 feet to a point; thence run east and parallel with the north line of said forty 400 feet to a point; thence run north and parallel with the west line of said forty 551.25 feet to a point; thence run west and parallel with the north line of said forty 400 feet to the point of beginning; and being a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE14 of SE14), in Section Nineteen (19), Township Eleven (11) South, Range Five (5) East of Huntsville Meridian, and lying and being in Etowah County, Alabama.

All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or any encumbrance thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur or otherwise respond to the Complaint on or September 21, 2026; or else suffer judgment by default to 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. Your response must be filed with the Circuit Clerk, Cassandra "Saro" Johnson, Etowah county Courthouse, 801 Forrest Ave. #202. Gadsden. AL 35901. Done this 15th day MAY 2026

CASSANDRA JOHNSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Etowah County, Alabama

Counsel for Plaintiff:
Jessica Guthrie-Hudson
Palisades Title & Land, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
204 3rd St. N.
Oneonta, AL 35121
205-706-6942

July 31, August 7, 14, and 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME OF MINOR

Notice to: Jessica Sandlin
whose address is unknown

You will take notice that a Petition to Change Name of Minor regarding a female child born to Jessica Sandlin Ball on September 22, 2010, was filed on the 29th day of July, 2026. The Petition is set to be heard on 6th day of October, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, 800 Forrest

Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. Please be advised that you are required to answer this petition within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice. Your answer to this petition is to be filed with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

August 14, 21, 28, and September 4, 2026

CITATION AND PUBLICATION OF NOTICE, SUMMONS & PROCESS

JUVENILE COURT OF FLOYD COUNTY, GEORGIA

To: Ethan Cresie, Sr. and Matthew Hand, the fathers, and any other unknown person claiming a parental interest

Last Known addresses: Ethan Cresiek, Sr.: 3314 Madison Avenue, Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama 35904
Matthew Hand, 360 Sequoyah Drive, Unit B, Chatsworth, Murray County, Georgia 30705
In the Interest of: E. C., JR. N. V.
Date(s) of Birth: 08/24/2019 10/09/2014
File No: 2600368 & 2600369

This notice and summons are published pursuant to an Order of the Court for service by publication dated the 10th day of August 2026, and in accordance with the applicable provisions of O.C.G.A. 9-11-4, 9-11-5, 15-11-163, 29-2-15 and 17 et. seq., to notify you that a Petition for Permanent Guardianship to the above-named children in the above-styled matter was filed with this Court on the 22nd day of June 2026. The basis for this filing includes, but is not limited to, your abandonment of your children and your failure to provide child support for the children. You are entitled to object either to the establishment of a permanent guardianship or to the selection of the petitioner as permanent guardian, or both. Any objection must be filed in writing within fourteen days of the second publication of this notice. The individuals seeking the guardianship are Jenna and Jimmy Vasser, maternal grandparents. You will lose all rights to object to the appointment of a permanent guardian if you fail to file a petition to legitimize the minor within 30 days of the hearing on your objection to the guardianship.

Now Therefore, you, the party or parties named above, are commanded to lay all other business aside and to be and appear before the Juvenile Court of Floyd County, Georgia located at the Juvenile Court of Floyd County, Georgia at #3 Government Plaza, Rome, Georgia on the 5th day of October, 2026 at 9:00 o'clock a.m., and to remain in attendance of the Court from hour to hour, day to day, month to month, year to year and time to time until discharged by the Court and you are hereby commanded to be and appear with the aforesaid children in said court at the time and place identified herein to make defense thereto and to show cause why the said children and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of law. Failure to appear as directed may cause you to be held in contempt of court and punished accordingly. A copy of the petition may be obtained in the Office of the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Floyd County, Georgia at the Floyd County Courthouse, #3 Government Plaza, Suite 202, Rome, GA 30161 during business hours or from counsel for the petitioner, to-wit: William O'Dell, Esq., J. Brent O'Dell, Esq., Kelly J. Freeman, Esq., Special Assistant Attorneys General, P.O. Box 65, Rome, GA 30162-0065. If you are a putative/biological father, you are hereby noticed that If you have any objection to the granting of this petition, you must: (1) file a written objection setting forth the grounds of any such objection with this Court within 14 days of the date you are personally served; the date that notice was mailed to you; or the day following the date of the second publication of this citation, AND you must: (2) file a petition to legitimize the minor within 30 days of the hearing on your objection. If you fail to file a petition for legitimation within 30 days or your petition is dismissed for failure to prosecute, or if an order issues on your petition which does not name you as the father of the minor, you will have no further rights to receive notice or object to the appointment of a permanent guardian for the minor. You are required to be present at the formal hearing. You are entitled to counsel, and the Court will appoint counsel for you if you are unable, without undue financial hardship to employ your own counsel. If you ask for a lawyer to be appointed to represent you, the Court will inquire into your financial circumstances to determine if you qualify for a Court appointed attorney. If you desire to apply for counsel, you must do so immediately. Any answer or response to the Petition must be filed within the time prescribed by the Georgia law and a copy of said answer or response served upon counsel for the Petitioner identified above.

Witness the HONORABLE STEVEN V. BENNETT, JUDGE of the Juvenile Court of Floyd County, GA

S/ Angela Chestnut
Clerk-Juvenile Court of Floyd County, GA

August 14 and 21, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Water Works Board of Attalla will hold a public hearing on September 1, 2026, from 5:00 PM until 6:00 pm at the Attalla Water Board Office, 509 4th Street NW, Attalla, AL 35954 to discuss the submission of an application for the 2026 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the Environmental Information Document (EID) associated with the proposed project. The hearing will address the proposed construction of a new clearwell at the Water Treatment Plant located at 1780 Highway 77, Attalla, AL 35954.

A copy of the EID will be available for review at the Public Hearing. Any person with a disability or communication impairment should contact the Water Works Board of Attalla at (256) 538-3322 if special accommodation is needed. The Board will attempt to satisfy all reasonable requests.

August 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2026

INVITATION TO BID

BID INFORMATION
A.Project: Industrial Tank Recoating

B.Owner: Attalla Water Works Board

C.Engineer: Canyon Engineering, LLC

1.2 ANNOUNCEMENT

A. Your firm is invited to submit a sealed Bid for the project listed above. The Owner will receive Bids at the Attalla Water Works Board Office, located at 509 4th Street NW, Attalla, Alabama, 35954, until 11:00 AM local time on the 20th day of August 2026, at which time and place the Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids not received by the indicated time will not be opened.

B.Project Description: Cleaning, blasting, minor repairs, recoating, and disinfecting of a 500,000 gallon welded steel elevated water tank known as the Industrial Tank.

C.Owner requires the Project to be completed in 60 calendar days.

D.Bidding Documents for a Unit Price contract may be obtained from the office of the Canyon Engineering, LLC, 1912 Gault Avenue N, Fort Payne, Alabama, 35967. Electronic copies will be available via a free download to all potential bidders. Paper sets are available upon receipt of a \$60.00 non-refundable amount per set.

E.Potential bidders may view the Bid Documents at the office of Canyon Engineering by appointment only.

F.Bidders will be required to provide Bid security according to the requirements in Document

002113 - Instructions to Bidders and Document 003100 - Available Project Information.

G.Refer to other Bidding requirements as described in Document 002113 - Instructions to Bidders and Document 003100 - Available Project Information.

H.Submit your Bid on the Bid Form provided. Bidders are required to submit the bid form, bid bond, and the E-Verify documents at the time of the bid. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the bidder, the bidder's General Contractor's license number, the project name, and bid date. Bidders are asked not to submit the full contract documents and specifications book at the time of the bid.

I. Bidders must carry the Painting and Sandblasting construction classification as listed in the roster of the Alabama State Licensing Board for General Contractors to be considered for the award of the project.

J. Your Bid will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 calendar days after submission.

K.The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and to accept or reject any or all Bids.

James G (Chuck) Chitwood, P.E.
President
Canyon Engineering
P.O. Box 680021
Fort Payne, AL 35968
(256) 558-0773
chuck@canyonengineeringllc.com

July 24, 31, August 7 and 14, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
ITB No. 2026-01

Etowah County Emergency Communications District
4610 Airport Rd.
Gadsden, AL 35904

Etowah County Emergency Communications District is issuing an Invitation to Bid (ITB) to interested qualified companies for a Grounding and Electrical Improvement Project. A mandatory prebid conference will be held on August 18th, 2026 at 11:00 AM Central Time at the Etowah County 911 center located at the address above.

Sealed proposals will be received on September 1st, 2026 until 2:00 PM Central Time at the above address, at which time there will be a public bid opening.

Award will be made only to competent and responsible bidders as mandated by Title 39 of the Code of Alabama who have the experience and other qualifications as set forth in the bid documents. Prequalification is not required.

Proposal documents may be requested at the above address during regular business hours or by emailing your request to lee.moore@911consult.com.

Etowah County Emergency Communications District reserves the right to reject any/or all proposals, waive any informality in the proposals received, and to accept any proposal which, in its opinion may be in the best interest of Etowah County Emergency Communications District.

August 7, 14, and 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSED VACATION OF NANCY AVENUE

A petition has been received by the City of Gadsden for the vacation of Nancy Avenue, described as follows:

Tract #1: Begin at an existing 1" pipe at the Southwest corner of Lot #8, in Block "16", of Clayton Subdivision, as recorded in Plat Book "D", Pages 70 & 71, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and point being at the intersection with the Northerly R/W of Nancy Avenue (50' R/W) and the Easterly R/W of Perry Street (50' R/W), and run S02°01'41"E, along said Perry Street Easterly R/W, 25.06 feet to a point; thence run S87°56'22"E, leaving said R/W, 300.09 feet to a point at the intersection with the Westerly R/W of Wilson Drive (50' R/W), along said Westerly R/W, 25.06 feet to an

existing 3/4" pipe; thence run N87°56'22"W, leaving said Westerly R/W, 300.09 feet to the point of beginning. Said property being a portion of the annulled Nancy Avenue, lying between Block "16" on the North, and Block "17" on the South, Clayton Subdivision, Etowah County, Alabama and contains 0.17 acre (more or less).

Tract #2: Commence at an existing 1" pipe at the Southwest corner of Lot #8, in Block "16", of Clayton Subdivision, as recorded in PI at Book "D", Pages 70 & 71, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, said point being at the intersection with the Northerly R/W of Nancy Avenue (50' R/W) and the Easterly R/W of Perry Street (50' R/W), and run S02°01'41"E, along said Perry Street Easterly R/W, 25.06 feet to the point of beginning of the property described herein; thence run S87°56'22"E, leaving said R/W, 300.09 feet to a point at the intersection with the Westerly R/W of Wilson Drive (50' R/W); thence run S02°01'41"E, along said Westerly R/W, 25.06 feet to a point; thence run N87°56'22"W, leaving said R/W, 300.09 feet to a point on said Perry Street Easterly R/W; thence run N02°01'41"W, along said Easterly R/W, 25.06 feet to the point of beginning. Said property being a portion of the annulled Nancy Avenue, lying between Block "16" on the North, and Block "17" on the South, Clayton Subdivision, Etowah County, Alabama, and contains .017 acre (more or less).

A resolution granting assent to this vacation will be considered by the City Council at its meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 90 Broad Street. Objections to the passage of the resolution will be heard at that time. A map of the proposed vacation will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Engineering Department, third floor, Room 302, City Hall. Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

August 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSED VACATION OF MARGIE STREET

A petition has been received by the City of Gadsden for the vacation of Margie Street, described as follows:

A parcel of land that is described as beginning at northeast corner of Lot 1 of the James Neal Subdivision recorded in Plat Book " I", Page 160 as filed in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama; thence in a westerly direction 118.32' to the northwest corner of Lot 1 of said subdivision; thence in a southerly direction along the western boundary lines of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of said subdivision the distance of 919.65' to the southwest corner of Lot 7 of said subdivision; thence west 50.1' to the southeast corner of Lot 8 of said subdivision; thence in a northerly direction along the eastern boundary lines of Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of said subdivision the distance of 918.17'; thence in an easterly direction approximately 50' to the northwest corner of Lot 1, being the point of beginning. Said property describing the area described as Margie Street as depicted on the James Neal Subdivision plat as recorded in Plat Book "I", Page 160 as filed in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama.

A resolution granting assent to this vacation will be considered by the City Council at its meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 90 Broad Street. Objections to the passage of the resolution will be heard at that time. A map of the proposed vacation will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the Engineering Department, third floor, Room 302, City Hall. Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

August 7, 14, 21, and 28, 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, September

15, 2026, for the Hoke Street Resurfacing Project from Elmwood Ave to Meighan Blvd, Bid Request No.3649, 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. To register and request Electronic (pdf) specifications and contract documents at no cost, send an email request to: ecoakley@cityof-gadsden.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 employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the state of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.

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

.THE CITY GADSDEN, ALABAMA
Craig Ford, Mayor
Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

August 14, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Gadsden, Alabama, proposes to consider a resolution regarding issuance of the following alcoholic beverage license:

Applicant: CLOVER ON COURT LLC

Trade Name: NOLAS CLOVER
Location: 124 Court St
Type: Restaurant Retail Liquor

A public hearing thereof will be held at a regular meeting of the Council at 10:00 a.m. on

August 18, 2026 in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 90 Broad Street. All interested persons are invited to attend and express themselves on this subject.

Jennifer Smith, City Clerk
August 14, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. R-498-26

Appointing Election Officers

Whereas, the regular municipal election has been called to be held on August 25, 2026, with a runoff election, if necessary, to be held on September 22, 2026; and Whereas, Sections 11-46-24 and 11-46-27, 1975 Code of Alabama, and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, provide, in part, that the municipal governing body, not less than 15 days before the holding of any municipal election, appoint from the municipality, officers to hold the election; and Whereas, Section 11-46-24(b) requires the municipal governing body to determine the number of voting machines needed to adequately serve the voters at the election; Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, as follows: Section 1. The persons listed in Exhibit A are appointed as officers to hold such elections. Section 2. The machines listed in Exhibit B are the number of DS200 machines required to hold such elections. Section 3. The City Clerk is authorized to fill vacancies if an appointed person is unable to serve, is excused from serving or is otherwise disqualified from serving on the day of the election. Section 4. No person shall be appointed to serve as an election official unless they have been issued a certificate from a previous school of instruction, are qualified under current federal court decrees and are otherwise qualified under law. Section 5. The City Clerk shall cause this resolution and exhibits to be published no later than August 15, 2026, and shall also give written notice to the persons of their appointment. Adopted by the City Council of Gadsden on August 4, 2026.

Jennifer Smith, City Clerk
Exhibit A
Box 01A—Antioch Baptist Church Family Life Center
2103 East Broad Street
Jennifer Marie Crowley
Malinda Brad Evans
Phyllis Wyckoff Mathews
Robin Valentine Weston
Gregory Lane Wilson
Ella B. Woody

Box 01B—East Gadsden Community Center
921 Wilson Avenue
Mary Gause Burse
Mabel Lee Davenport
Lesia Michelle Finister
Mildred C. Hutchinson
Robbie Miller

Box 02A—East Gadsden Community Center
921 Wilson Avenue
John D. Bradford
Joseph Quinton Farmer
Patricia A. Welch
Myra Faye Williams
Michael Leroyal Witt

Box 02B—Thompson Community Center
236 Goldenrod Avenue
Samuel Hayden Ashley
Jimmey Burnett
Pamela McBrayer Story
James Frank Story
Kathy Faulkner Tuck

Box 03A—Abundant Life Church (Gym)
323 South 12th Street
Donna Renee Adams
Rickey Lee Carlisle
Sheena Zeigler Carlisle
Myra McFee Gibbs
Barbara Green Jones

Box 03B—Carver Community Center 1030 Tuscaloosa Avenue
Valerie Regina Dudley
Cedric Lewis Dupree
Cathy Elaine Green
Martha Delane Hoyett
Gerald Wayne Maxwell
Rose Mary Rancher
Audrey Felicia Steward
Ekra M. Tolbert
Donzella Wynette Williams

Box 03C—Thompson Community Center
236 Goldenrod Avenue
Joan Kenyon Evetts
Carolyn D. Hammond
Chita Dianne Arrington
Kite
Marilyn Waker
Nancy Williams Wilson

Box 04A—The Venue
201 George Wallace Drive
Shelia Miller Gordon
Jennifer Lynette James

Danny Jerome Menyweather
Shelia P. Cooper-Moragne
Lisa E. Pacheco

Box 04B—Meadowbrook Baptist Church (Family Life Center)
2525 Rainbow Drive
Thomas Taylor Cash
Frankie McClendon Copeland
Debra Lee Harker
Jamie Howell Payton
Leslie Wayne Payton
Sandra B. Plummer
Paula Bone Stewart
Judy McClendon Swafford

Box 04C—Downtown Civic Center
623 Broad Street
Delores Driskill Abney
Raymond Edward Macon
James Randall Michael
Laura Lucille Wells

Box 05A—Downtown Civic Center
623 Broad Street
Sheila Billingsley
Taylor Mae Dupree
Cynthia Yvonne Gousard
Gloria Dean Hope
Caroline Evette Mostiller
Cynthia Frazier Williams
Richard Michael Wolfe

Box 05B—The Tabernacle Church
1301 South 11th Street
Paula R. Brewster
Shelly Rae Freeman
Gracie F. Green
Evelyn Christine Hines
Linda Suggs King

Box 06A—Senior Wellness Center
2829 West Meighan Boulevard
Regina Diane Adkison
Wanda Langston Bowen
Peggy B. Logan
Deborah Lynn St. John
Patricia M. Strickland

Box 06B—Walnut Park

Community Center
3200 Walnut Street
Gina Chastain
Charlotte Brookins Goggins
Donna Thomas Green
Traci McBurnett Sharp
Peggy Wright Tilley

Box 07A—Senior Wellness Center
2829 West Meighan Boulevard
Johnny R. Brooks
Kendra Joan Turner Brooks
Paulette E. Chandler
Stephen Ward Reagan

Box 07B—Kiwanis Pavilion
1500 Noccalula Road
Freda W. Burgess
Laura L. Couch
Douglas Edwin Davidson
Peggy Ann Davidson
Karen Ward Deaibes
Jill Wellingham Gardner
Anita N. Mayo
Jennifer Anita Mayo
Pamela C. Michell
Katie M. Simpson

Absentee Box—City Hall
90 Broad Street
Valerie Gamble Borden
Marilee Steward Hickman
Rebecca Lynne Moon
Barbara Kovar Pavey
Mary Guinn Thomas
Exhibit B

VOTING MACHINES (DS200)

01A
Antioch Baptist Church
Family Life Center 1 machine

01B
East Gadsden Community Center 1 machine

02A
East Gadsden Community Center 1 machine

02B
Thompson Community Center 1 machine

03A
Abundant Life Church (Gym) 1 machine

03B
Carver Community Center 2 machines

03C
Thompson Community Center 1 machine

04A
The Venue 1 machine

04B
Meadowbrook Baptist Church (Family Life Center) 2 machines

04C
Downtown Civic Center 1 machine

05A
Downtown Civic Center 1 machine

05B
The Tabernacle Church 1 machine

06A
Senior Wellness Center 1 machine

06B
Walnut Park Community Center 1 machine

07A
Senior Wellness Center 1 machine

07B
Kiwanis Pavilion 2 machines

ABSENTEE
City Hall 1 machine
TOTAL 20 machines

ORDINANCE NO. O-23-26

Authorizing the Conveyance of Certain Property

Whereas, the City of Gadsden owns the following described property:

SE 40' (S) LT 19 BLK 1 GADSDEN LIDDELL ADD PLAT A-216
Whereas, Leon Harris wishes to purchase said property for \$1,000.00 plus \$20.00 for deed preparation; and
Now, Therefore, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, as follows:
1. The conveyance will be subject to a city easement along the south end of the property; legal description of such drainage easement is as follows: BEGIN AT THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF LOT 19, BLOCK 1, LIDDELL ADDITION. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING RUN NORTHEASTERLY ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 19 FOR A DISTANCE OF 40.50 FEET; THENCE DEFLECT 68°38' RIGHT AND RUN ALONG THE WEST PROPERTY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 9.60 FEET, MORE OR LESS; THENCE DEFLECT 110°22' RIGHT AND RUN SOUTHEASTERLY AND PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 19, A DISTANCE OF 40.50 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF LOT 19; THENCE DEFLECT 68°38' RIGHT AND RUN ALONG THE EAST LINE OF LOT 19, A DISTANCE OF 9.60 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PARCEL OF LAND BEING A PORTION OF LOT 19, BLOCK 1, LIDDELL ADDITION, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "A", PAGE 216 ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA, CONTAINING 0.008 ACRES, MORE

OR LESS.
2. This real property is otherwise not needed for any municipal or public purpose; and
3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a warranty deed to and in favor of Leon Harris for the sum of One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00). Adopted by the City Council of Gadsden on August 4, 2026.
Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

August 14, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

The contents of the following units will be disposed of on Friday August 21, 2026 for charges past due: Kim Payne – Unit 104, 107, and 311

Briarmeade Village Mini Warehouses
409 W. Main Street,
Glencoe AL. 35905

August 14 and 21, 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 09/14/2026 at 9:00 a.m.

2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland
VIN: 1C4RJFCG-4FC623368

A&J Towing LLC
4975 Hopper Road
Altoona, AL. 35952

August 7 and 14, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

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

2020 Jeep Renegade
VIN: ZAC-NJBB-B0LPL70261,

2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1C4RJFLG-7JC405157,

2021 Mazda CX-5
VIN: JM3KFAD-M2M0392857,

2014 Honda Civic
VIN: 19XFB2F5X-EE031449.

2012 Chev Suburban
VIN: 1GNSKKE-70CR219861,

2007 Jeep Renegade
VIN: 1J4GA39107L129819.

The public auction will be held at Thacker Towing, 927 5th Ave NE, Attalla, AL 35954 on September 18, 2026. The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

August 14 and 21, 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 09/21/2026 at 9:00 a.m.

2011 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
VIN: 1GLRCTE02B2389487

A&J Towing LLC
4975 Hopper Road
Altoona, AL. 35952

August 14 and 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Please take NOTICE that Thacker Towing will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicles:
2012 Chevrolet Cruze 1G1PF5C5C239825

2001 Ford Focus
VIN: 1FAFP-34P61W168423

2012 Honda Civic
VIN: 19XFB-2F53CE071787

2011 Hyundai Sonata
VIN: 5NPEC4AC-0BH047581

2004 Ford F-150
VIN: 1FTRX-12W04NC34903

2001 Yamaha Road Star
VIN: JYAVP07E31A005123

The public auction will be held at Thacker Towing, 927 5th Ave NE, Attalla, AL 35954 on September 18, 2026. The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

August 14 and 21, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

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

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

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AUTOMOTIVE

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-724-3049 today!

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

SURPLUS ITEMS

Gadsden State Community College will now be selling all Surplus items on Govdeals.com.

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



Become an ADULT FOSTER CARE Provider

"Love Never Ages"

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
1-800-458-7214
dhr.alabama.gov/AFC



Prior to entering any Alabama school or child care center, an up-to-date Certificate of Immunization must be submitted for each child.

www.alabamapublichealth.gov/imm



STOP Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation

Submit a report to the Alabama Department of Human Resources Adult Protective Services Division

1-800-458-7214
aps@dhr.alabama.gov





NE
Northeast Orthopedic Sports Clinic & Physical Therapy
256-547-7417

QUALITY CARE CLOSE TO HOME

ETOWAH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL FEE SCHEDULE

The Etowah County Health Department has been operating with a fee schedule adopted from November 16, 2007. Almost two decades later, the county has experienced a noticeable rise in the cost of various goods and services. Etowah County is no exception. With that in mind, the ECHD is revising the fee schedule that more accurately reflects the increased cost of operations.

The adjusted fees for ECHD will align more closely with current fees of those within the district. The updated fees are also within the recommended range of fees according to the Alabama Department of Public Health's Schedule of Proposed Environmental Fees for County Health Departments with Local Fee Bills. The fee schedule will result in an increase in most fees, but several will remain unchanged, and some fees will be reduced. The Division reviewed each fee to create a fee schedule that is equitable to the business and individuals, and better addresses the time invested by the department for each service.

The fees associated with the two largest programs within the Environmental Division; the food and onsite programs were the most modified. With the new schedule, the fee structure for food establishment permits will be based on the Priority Category instead of annual gross revenue. This will result in a potential increase in fees for many food establishments permits.

Following a detailed analysis and careful consideration, we have created an updated fee schedule that is representative of the current costs associated with our industry while also being fair and reasonable to the public we serve. The date for implementation of these proposed fees is September 1, 2026.

Etowah County Environmental Fee Schedule			
SERVICE CODE	DESCRIPTION	OLD FEE	NEW FEE
Onsite/Septic			
602	Conventional Application Sewage Permit	\$100	\$200
604	Engineered Application Sewage Permit	\$200	\$200
605	EXPEDITED Application Sewage Permit (Additional Fee)	New Fee	\$150
606	Commercial Conventional Application Sewage Permit	\$200	\$300
610	Commercial Engineer Application Sewage Permit	\$300	\$300
615	EXPEDITED Commercial Application Sewage Permit (Additional Fee)	New Fee	\$150
636	Sewage Tank Pumper Truck Permit Appt. Per Vehicle	\$50	\$100
638	Application for Septic Tank Manufacturer per Model/Series	\$250	\$250
641	Application for Solid Waste Transfer Station or Solid Waste Processing Facility	\$250	\$300
643	Solid Waste Exemption Permit: Individual Household (Fee established by Code §22-27-3(g))	\$10	\$10
644	Solid Waste Exemption Permit Appt. Per Vehicle	\$100	\$100
645	Application for Land Application/Septage Permit	\$250	\$300
620	Large Flow System/Development (Part 1)	\$250	\$300
622	Large Flow System/Development (Part 3) (+\$30 per lot)	\$300+	\$300+
681	Late Penalty Fee Charge (postmarked past due date)	\$35-\$70	\$75
Health Permits			
	Food		
631	Temporary Food Service Permit Application-Per Event -14 days or less	\$75	\$100
648	Food Processors Priority Category 1 based on rules/risk	\$200	\$300
649	Food Processors Priority Category 2 based on rules/risk	\$300	\$400
666	Food Service Establishment - Cat. 1	New Fee	\$100
668	Food Service Establishment - Cat. 2	\$75	\$150
670	Food Service Establishment - Cat. 3	\$200-\$500	\$500
672	Food Service Establishment - Cat. 4	\$200-\$500	\$600
677	Mobile Food Units	\$100	\$200
	Body Art		
625	Temporary License Tattoo Facility (Fee set by Code of Alabama §22-17A-3)	\$50	\$50
653	Body Art Facility Initial \$200/New Facility \$250 (Fees set by Code of Alabama §22-17A-3)	\$200-\$250	\$200-\$250
655	Body Art Operators	\$100	\$100
	Lodging		
659	Hotel/Motel 01-25 rooms	\$200	\$300
660	Hotel/Motel 26 or more rooms	\$300	\$400
664	Resident and Day Camps	\$50-\$100	\$150
	Other		
633	All Plan Review Requests	\$100	\$200
681	Late Penalty Fee Charge (postmarked past due date)	\$35-\$75	\$75
685	Inspection Request (Not Governed by Regulations)	\$100	\$100
699A	Environmental Fine-Grease trap lid law (Fees set by Code of Alabama §22-20-5.2)	\$100	\$100
	Other		
618	Private Water Consult -Homeowner Takes Sample	\$15	\$15
619	Water Sample -Env. Takes Sample	\$30	\$50
626	Cemetery Review	\$100	\$150
635	Records Search	\$5	\$25
657	Copies-copy fee (per page-electronic or paper)	\$1	\$2

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it's home.
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\$5

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

AUGUST 14 & 15

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



\$222 IN SAVINGS

PICK 5

for \$14.99

2 DAY SALE

Mix or match any five specially marked meat items for \$14.99 after \$5 discount and your ValuCard. Limit 2 per ValuCard.

Pick 5 price

\$19.99

with ValuCard

2 Day discount

\$5.00

2 Day price

\$14.99

with ValuCard

PICK 5

for \$5.00

2 DAY SALE

Mix or match any five specially marked produce items for \$5.00 after \$2.99 discount and your ValuCard. Limit 2 per ValuCard.

Pick 5 price

\$7.99

with ValuCard

2 Day discount

\$2.99

2 Day price

\$5.00

with ValuCard



IN THE PRODUCE Dept.

DIETITIAN'S PICK

shortcuts

Cut Fresh In-Store, Watermelon, Cantaloupe or Pineapple Fruit Bowls Each

5.00

With Card



Available IN SELECT STORES

Selected Varieties In-Store Made Sushi Each

5.00

With Card



Selected Varieties Eckrich Smoked Sausage 12-16.8 Oz.

2/\$5

With Card



Buy 4 SAVE MORE

Selected Varieties Coca-Cola Products 12 Pk., 12 Oz. Cans

5.99

With Card

When you buy 4 in the same transaction. Lesser quantities are 11.49 each. Limit 1 transaction (4 total items). Discount applied as a coupon. Customer pays sales tax.



AVAILABLE 11AM-7PM

Hot Bar Meal Includes Entree, 2 Sides and a Roll

5.00

With Card



IN THE PRODUCE Dept.

DIETITIAN'S PICK

Fresh Corn 7 Pk.

5.00

With Card



LIMIT 4

Selected Varieties Food Club String Cheese 24 Ct.

5.00

With Card



LIMIT 10

Frozen, Selected Varieties Michelina's Entrees 4.5-9 Oz.

5/\$5

With Card



IN THE Deli

Selected Varieties Octagon Tray Each

5.00

With Card



LIMIT 6 EACH

Selected Varieties, Food Club Jelly (18 Oz.) or Food Club Peanut Butter 16 Oz.

3/\$5

With Card



LIMIT 4

Selected Varieties Lay's Multi-Pack Chips 8-10 Ct.

5.00

With Card



LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Hunt's Tomato Sauce (15 Oz.) or Diced Tomatoes (14.5 Oz.) or Libby's Vegetable Cups 4 Pk.

4/\$5

With Card



LIMIT 4

Selected Varieties Crav'n Flavor Ice Cream 48 Oz.

2/\$5

With Card



LIMIT 4

Selected Varieties Mayfield Novelties 6 Ct.

2/\$5

With Card



LIMIT 8

Selected Varieties Brownie Mix (18-18.3 Oz.) or Duncan Hines Cake Mix 15.25 Oz.

4/\$5

With Card



LIMIT 4 EACH

Frozen, Selected Varieties, UNO Pizza (12.34-25.5 Oz.), Food Club Chicken (26-32 Oz.), Eggo Protein (10 Ct.) or Eggo Family Size Waffles 24 Ct.

5.00

With Card

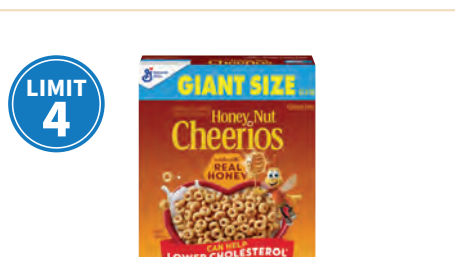


LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Florida's Natural Orange Juice (89 Oz.) or Stok Cold Brew Coffee 48 Oz.

5.00

With Card



LIMIT 4

Selected Varieties General Mills Giant Size Cereal 20-29 Oz.

5.00

With Card



LIMIT 4

Selected Varieties, Mott's Apple Juice (64 Oz.) or Refrigerated Jell-O Dessert Cups 4 Ct.

2/\$5

With Card

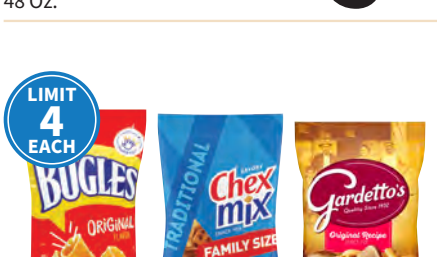


LIMIT 6 EACH

Selected Varieties, Polaner All Fruit (10 Oz.), Minute Rice (4.4-8.8 Oz.), Food Club Mac & Cheese (12-14 Oz.) or Cousin Willie's Microwave Popcorn 3 Ct.

3/\$5

With Card

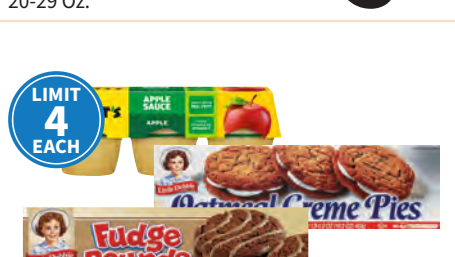


LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties Bugles, Chex Mix or Gardetto's 5.5-8.75 Oz

2/\$5

With Card

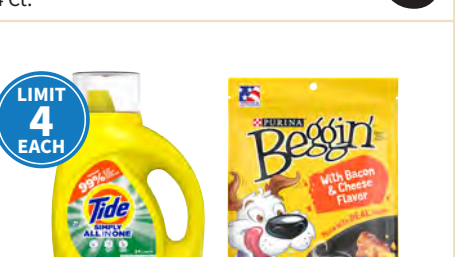


LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Mott's Apple Sauce (6 Pk.) or Little Debbie Snack Cakes 9.5-16.2 Oz.

2/\$5

With Card

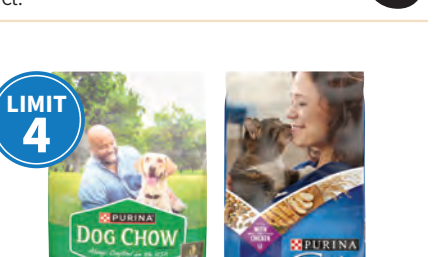


LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Beggin' Strips (6 Oz.) or Tide Simply Laundry Detergent 31-32 Oz.

2/\$5

With Card



LIMIT 4

Selected Varieties Purina Cat Chow or Dog Chow 3.15-3.5 Lb.

5.00

With Card

COUPON EFFECTIVE

AUG. 14-AUG. 15



MUST PURCHASE MINIMUM 1 POUND

INSTANT DIGITAL COUPON SAVINGS

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LIMIT 10 LBS.

Seedless White Grapes Per Lb.

ValuCard Price.....2.49

Digital Coupon.....-0.80

FINAL PRICE WITH COUPON

1.69

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COUPON EFFECTIVE

AUG. 14-AUG. 15



USE 5X

INSTANT DIGITAL COUPON SAVINGS

LOAD TO YOUR VALUCARD AT FOODCITY.COM OR ON THE FOOD CITY MOBILE APP.

CLIP ONCE AND USE UP TO 5X IN ONE TRANSACTION.

Frozen, Selected Varieties, Morey's Fish (8-10 Oz.) or SeaPak Shrimp 8.2-20 Oz.

ValuCard Price.....7.99

Digital Coupon.....-2.00

FINAL PRICE WITH COUPON

5.99

With Card

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