



The rise and fall of a football legend: Looking into Fallen Moc: The Empty Five-Star with author David Williams

By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

Dr. David Williams is no small man.

As a former collegiate running back, Williams stood exactly 6 feet tall and weighed nearly 220 pounds in the prime of his life, and he still towers over the average person when he walks into a room — though he works as an assistant principal at Oxford High School these days.

Still, his physique, born of lifelong athletic training under the hawk-eyed guidance of his father, only tells one side of his multifaceted story. Williams has played many roles in his life — from teacher to coach to journalist to mentor — and he has the empathetic temperament of a man wise beyond his years to show for it.

What makes Williams least small, however, is not his form, shape or build; it is his willingness to share his vulnerabilities, fears and flaws with the world.

Williams's new book *Fallen Moc: The Empty Five-Star* explores all of those things and more, functioning as a multi-part football-centered memoir that digs deep into what it means to be a young prodigy — and what it means to be a young prodigy who returns home with nothing, not even a sense of purpose.

"You can have a gift or talent or trait or whatever it may be — but not really have that attached to a purpose," Williams stated in a sit-down interview with Gadsden Messenger. "Without that, it can be as detrimental as it can be uplifting. No one ever really talks about that."

For Williams, not having a purpose attached to his football career made him, in short words, arrogant, and he wanted to dissect that arrogance through *Fallen Moc*.

"I realize in retrospect that I was pretty stuck-up, or something like that, because

I thought I was God's gift to football — instead of realizing that it was God's gift to me. That was messed up," Williams stated in a moment of honest reflection.

"All of [God's gift] was taken away [from me], and then I had to earn it all back. When I was a star, I took it for granted," Williams said, adding that he would find out other players were walk-ons and wonder why they were being paid to be a part of the team. "I didn't understand their dreams, their goals, their desires or their love for the game."

"When I walked away — so many times — and I had to earn back what I took for granted, it gave me an appreciation [for what I had lost], or a different lens on it."

Williams summed up that learned appreciation concisely: "Hitting the bottom isn't a bad thing if you're able to rebuild in the right way. That can really be — at least for me — a blessing. I needed that."

Williams also emphasized that anyone could learn from the lessons featured in his memoir. "I think so much of [our lived experience] is individualized, but it's also universal. Because everyone has their ups and downs; everyone has their struggles; everyone has that gift or that talent."

Because of those many life lessons — some short and sweet, others long and cruel — Williams has been able to use his story to relate to people of all ages, including his own high school students.

"To see the cumulative impact of all those life lessons and being able to share that with the various students that I interact with at different stages of their lives... Now it all becomes wisdom, and I can say, 'Hey, you're an 11th grader now, but pretty soon you're going to be outside of [the school] doors, and if you don't learn to conquer these things, it's going to



limit your potential."

Williams highlighted one such case while discussing his own struggles bringing his memoir together. "I started writing this book many, many years ago, but I was never able to finish it because of my own immaturity. Later on in the book, when I am going through certain hardships, I think to myself, 'Why are they doing this to me?' But a lot of those [hardships] I played a role in."

Still, even when Williams was excelling outwardly and succeeding objectively, he had a hard time coping with the fact that he did not know what his purpose in life was.

"My parents told me that if I made good grades and I did

good in sports, I'd be happy. Well, I suddenly realized — I'm not happy," Williams stated, adding that while he was a "big man" on campus during the day, he was only sad and unfulfilled at night, with no one and nothing to turn to either.

"And if I'm not happy with this level of success, how will more success at the next level make me happy?"

Once Williams had that realization, it was hard to keep up any passion for football, and he left the team soon after, marking just one of many times that he left the sport — a decision that confused the people that knew him but made perfect

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How Alabama Power became Flock's longest-standing middleman

By Lee Hedepeth
Inside Climate News

Editors Note: This article originally appeared on Inside Climate News, a nonprofit, non-partisan news organization that covers climate, energy and the environment.

Wired for Profit: Fifth in a series about Alabama Power's influence over electric rates, renewable energy, pollution and politics in the Yellowhammer State.

BIRMINGHAM — Darrell Nance knows he's being watched. We all are.

Nance, a longtime resident of the city and founder of DeFlock Birmingham, can easily point out the cameras to you if you're interested. It's not much of a challenge.

Every few blocks, it's inevitable. Another surveillance camera, or two, or three, tucked at the top of a power pole, or two, or three, carefully recording from above. Here in the Magic City and across the country, the proliferation of surveillance cameras and automated license plate readers (ALPRs) has become commonplace. Increasingly, local governments, businesses and even homeowners associations have turned to companies like Atlanta-based Flock Safety to provide the camera infrastructure for their communities in a stated

effort to improve public safety and solve crime.

What has resulted, many residents and surveillance scholars say, is a network of interconnected surveillance systems that go far beyond the gas station CCTV of yore. Instead, anyone with access to the resulting data, authorized or not, has the ability to search millions of records of time-stamped, location-specific data like a passing car's license plate number, its make and model and any identifying information like bumper stickers.

Misuse of data collected by companies like Flock has already garnered headlines across the nation, including in Alabama. But one concern unique to the state, experts have said, is the relationship between surveillance companies and the state's massive investor-owned utility, Alabama Power, which Flock has called its "longest-standing reseller" as recently as this year.

Since at least 2019, the power company has marketed automated license plate readers and other surveillance camera equipment to local governments across the state as a convenient way for cities and counties to improve public safety with ease, allowing Alabama Power to do the necessary installation on its own power poles, providing

easy access to ideal camera placement and a source of electricity—all at a cost that could simply be added as a line item on the local government's power bill.

The strategy has worked. A company representative confirmed in 2025 that Alabama Power has partnered with more than 80 municipalities across the state to provide subscription-based surveillance services from Flock and similar companies, a result that law enforcement agencies have lauded as a meaningful law enforcement tool.

But the relationship between Alabama Power and companies like Flock comes with strings attached, residents like Nance and surveillance scholars have said. "I would think there are Alabama Power customers who would be alarmed that sensitive location data, including the ability to track individuals across time and space — is being collected and shared in ways that they may not realize," said Elizabeth Joh, the Martin Luther King Jr. professor of law at the University of California, Davis, who studies the intersection of policing and technology.

Nance, a longtime community organizer and data analyst, is one of them. He's worked for months to try to get substantive answers from elected officials about con-

tracts between local governments, Alabama Power and companies like Flock. He's had limited success.

"I don't think they really care," he said. "They're more worried about their relationship with people like Alabama Power than their relationships with constituents."

Alabama Power declined to answer specific questions for this story but spokesperson Alyson Tucker said in a written statement that "Alabama Power works with customers such as municipalities, businesses and community organizations to provide technology services and related equipment supported by our existing electric infrastructure."

"Under these agreements, Alabama Power installs and maintains equipment, but does not operate the system or have access to data," the company statement said. "Program participants own the data collected and are responsible for how that information is accessed, managed, used and shared."

Data reviewed by Inside Climate News aggregated from open records requests and public databases shows that dozens of cities across Alabama have adopted the use of Flock or similar surveillance equipment. The records, which date as far back

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SCAN ME



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Little Caesars



NEWS

Barrie Center children heal throuwgh art at GMA

In July, children served by The James M. Barrie Center for Children had a special opportunity to attend Summer Art Camp at the Gadsden Museum of Art.

The camp, made possible through a collaboration between the two organizations, provided children with an opportunity to explore their creativity in a safe, supportive and encouraging environment.

This year's theme, "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday," gave campers the opportunity to explore American history and symbols through art. Throughout the camp, children created artwork featuring the American flag, an eagle, a copper penny, the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell.

For children who have experienced trauma, opportunities for creative expression can be especially meaningful.

"Art is much more than a creative activity," Patricia Falcon, executive director of the Barrie Center, said. "It can be

a powerful, trauma-informed tool that gives children another way to express emotions, process difficult experiences and communicate feelings that may be hard to put into words."

The art camp offered children the chance to try something new, build confidence, experience joy and create something they could be proud of, all while continuing their journey toward hope and healing.

The Barrie Center extends its heartfelt appreciation to Ray Wetzel, Executive Director of the Gadsden Museum of Art, and the dedicated volunteers and staff who generously shared their time, talents and resources to make this special experience possible. Their kindness and commitment helped create a welcoming space where children could express themselves, connect with others and make positive memories.

"Partnerships like this with the Gadsden Museum of Art allow our com-



munity to become part of the healing process by creating experiences where children can simply be children, creating, laughing, learning and discovering what they can accomplish," Falcon said.

Collaborations like this demonstrate what is possible when community organizations come together on behalf of children. For the Barrie Center, healing does not happen through one service or one organization alone. It happens when a community chooses to surround children with opportunities to feel safe, supported, valued and hopeful about their future.

The Barrie Center is grateful to the Gadsden Museum of Art for being part of that community and for helping create moments of joy, hope and healing through the arts. For more information about the Barrie Center, please visit www.barriecenter.org.

Submitted photo.

Locally-owned VuePoint Diagnostics opens in Gadsden; brings on-demand, portable radiology to patients

**By Caylie Moore
Features Editor**

On Wednesday, Sept. 2, VuePoint Diagnostics held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of its new office in Gadsden, located at 241 S. 3rd Street, Suite B.

Based in Birmingham and currently operating across 48 states with around 250 employees, CEO Mark Emanuelson first founded the family-owned Alabaman company in 2011, and family has been at the forefront of VuePoint Diagnostics ever since. The opening of its Gadsden office on Sept. 2 simply illustrated — once again — just how important family is to the team behind it.

"Mark founded this company in 2011, and so he was pretty excited to bring our call center and billing center to Downtown Gadsden. [His mother] Susan lives here, and his brother lives here," Darcie Raines, the Plant Service Director, stated. "It's a family-owned company."

The company, a "locally owned leader in portable imaging," specializes in delivering high-quality, patient-focused diagnos-

tic services to the patient, rather than forcing the patient to come to where the services are.

"VuePoint really consists of two divisions: one is what we call 'on-demand radiology,'" Emanuelson explained. "We work with nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health agencies, and homebound patients. You call us for an X-ray and ultrasound, and we come to your house, your facility, your nursing home to do it."

Emanuelson stated that the other division included health screening for Medicare members, something that he wanted to get the word out about.

"Those can be eye exams, mineral checks, things like that. We don't really have much competition here in the state, so a lot of our work is educating people about what benefits they have access to."

"People on Medicare don't know that they can have people coming into their homes to perform our services," he stated, emphasizing that he wanted to help change that.

The ribbon cutting ceremony, packed with doz-



Caylie Moore|The Messenger

CEO, Mark Emanuelson (middle back row) cut the ceremonial ribbon at the Birmingham based VuePoint portable diagnostic Gadsden location on Wednesday Sept. 2.

ens of local residents, featured a door prize giveaway including a \$50 Mater's gift card and a gift basket filled with snacks from The Alabama Gift Company — local businesses that spelled out VuePoint Diagnostics's commitment to the community in Gadsden.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Emanuelson himself — as well as guest speakers like Kay Moore, Director of Downtown Gadsden Inc. — gave short speeches to those in attendance, expressing just how thankful they were for the new, mutually beneficial relationship between the company and the city.



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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



The Etowah County Emergency Management Agency helped residents prepare for severe weather Wednesday by programming weather alert radios at Walmart from 2 to 7 p.m.

By 4 p.m., more than 100 radios had been programmed, according to EMA Public Information Officer Patrick Huselton.

“Our primary severe weather season, of course, is in the spring,” Huselton said. “But our secondary one is in the fall. Here lately, over the last few years, we’ve been seeing

a lot of severe weather in November and December, which is really strange.”

The event also gave EMA staff an opportunity to connect with residents and explain the agency’s role in the community.

“We are an information-sharing notification agency,” said EMA Deputy Director Keshawn Long. “We provide resources and work with other agencies, nonprofit and private organizations to find resources for the community and citizens of Etowah County. We want to connect with the

community and let people know we are here for them.”

The WBRC First Alert Weather team also joined EMA at the event, promoting its First Alert Weather app and talking with residents about the importance of being prepared for severe weather.

As fall approaches, EMA officials are encouraging residents to stay informed and have multiple ways to receive weather warnings.



Trump’s beef import plan draws criticism from Alabama organizations, politicians

By Andrea Tinker
Alabama Reflector

President Donald Trump’s plan to import 300,000 metric tons of beef priced under market value drew rare rebukes from Alabama organizations generally supportive of him and provided an opening for an incumbent U.S. representative facing a difficult battle for re-election.

Trump’s proposal, which he said aimed to address high beef prices, garnered backlash from farmers and politicians across Alabama for having a negative impact on domestic agriculture.

Alabama Cattlemen’s Association Chief Executive Officer Erin Beasley wrote in a statement on social media last month that “flooding the market with subsidized foreign beef only discourages cattlemen from making investments in their operations, ultimately slowing down herd rebuilding.”

“This administration needs to focus on policies that will encourage herd expansion and lower the input costs that have burdened the industry for some time,” the statement said. “Market manipulation will never be the answer, and (last month’s) announcement is another slap in the face for cattlemen everywhere, especially the more than 10,000 members in our

organization.”

U.S. Rep. Shomari Figures, D-Mobile, who is seeking re-election in a district the Republican-controlled Legislature redrew in May to favor Republicans, introduced legislation last week that would nullify the president’s proclamation and prevent the president or other elected officials from suspending, waiving or reducing any tariff, fee or duty on beef products unless Congress moves to do so first.

“The initial reaction was somewhat surprised that he would be so disconnected from the struggle that cattle farmers are having right now, that the (agriculture) industry as a whole is having right now,” Figures said in an interview last week. “But on the other hand, we’ve seen several actions coming out of this administration that display a similar level of either a lack of understanding or just simply not caring about the impact of their policies on farmers.”

Rep. Rhett Marques, R-Enterprise, the Republican nominee for Alabama’s 2nd Congressional District, did not make a public comment on Trump’s proclamation last week. A message seeking comment was left with Marques Friday afternoon.

Amid the outcry, Trump Friday afternoon signed an executive order to make it easier for ranchers and farmers to process their own beef products and sell directly to consumers.

Certain organizations, such as the National Cattlemen’s Association, are opposed to allowing farmers and ranchers to sell products without the inspection citing food safety concerns.

The Alabama Cattlemen’s Association reported in January 2026 there were 1.2 million head of cattle and calves on Alabama farms. Alabama Cooperative Extension System reported that in 2022, there were 273,271 jobs in Alabama’s food, fiber, forestry, and green industries which

accounted for 10% of the state’s workforce.

According to Federal Reserve Economic Data, ground beef prices first spiked in June 2020 costing \$4.74 per pound before dropping to \$3.96 per pound in December 2020. As of July 2026, ground beef prices are \$6.86 per pound.

Higher prices can likely

be attributed to a smaller head of cattle. At the beginning of the year, the USDA reported 86.2 million head of cattle which was down from 86.5 million head in January 2025.

Rick Pate, the commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, said in a statement the proclamation is “unlikely to provide lasting relief” due to its temporary

nature.

“Demand for beef remains strong during the recent higher prices. If prices rise too high, consumer demand will ease leading to price adjustments and producers retaining more heifers,” Pate said. “While I understand the intent behind federal actions, market forces will ultimately determine long-term outcomes.”

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GOVERNMENT

as 2020, document more than 3 million instances of searches by customers with Flock access in the state.

Officers or other users from more than 180 local governments or police departments in Alabama have searched Flock data, the records show.

Law enforcement officials have said they love the technology, which they claim helps them solve crimes more often and more efficiently.

“In a world of constantly expanding technology, Law Enforcement must also embrace and take advantage of every avenue to protect our communities,” the Alabama Sheriffs Association wrote in a July social media post. “Every day, dare I say perhaps every hour, these emerging technologies lead to the arrest of wanted persons, the location of AMBER Alert victims, and the provision of investigative leads.” The post said that while “there should be proper policies and procedures implemented to protect information and ensure security,” that the public should refrain from assuming the worst of law enforcement officials: “Be thankful and pray for them.”

The post went viral, garnering thousands of comments and shares.

“Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety,” one user commented, quoting Benjamin Franklin. A Flock Safety blog post argued the quote is used out of context in debates over its products.

Research on the efficacy of automated license plate readers has shown the technology has limited, if any, deterrent effect on crime.

Hesitancy over the scope of Flock surveillance has become bipartisan, even in deeply Republican Alabama. In August, influential state Sen. Arthur Orr, R-Decatur, said he believes there should be significant guardrails for the technology.

In 2021, he filed legislation that would have been the state’s first major effort at placing limits on the use of automated license plate readers. The proposal required secure storage of sensitive information, required written and publicized policies about the use of ALPRs and provided criminal penalties for anyone convicted of misusing collected data. The bill passed the Alabama Senate unanimously but died in the House.

Orr has said that opposition from law enforcement, who like the technology, likely stalled the bill’s final passage, but the legislator said he plans to introduce an updated bill during the 2027 legislative session.

“I have real concern, and we’ve seen this in other jurisdictions, and even some here in Alabama, where law enforcement has used it to

illicitly snoop on whomever they want to determine their whereabouts,” Orr said. “And that is absolutely unacceptable.”

Conservative media outlets have covered Flock extensively, publishing news stories and opinion pieces with headlines like “Flock cameras are quietly tracking Alabama gun owners.”

“On any given Saturday in Alabama, a man can leave his driveway, gas up, run by the gun shop for ammo, shoot all morning at the range, and be home for lunch,” one opinion piece said. “He hasn’t broken any law or bothered a soul. And in more of our towns than you’d guess, a camera on a pole photographed his truck at every stop and filed it in a searchable database owned by a private company in Atlanta.”

The pole in that scenario would likely be an Alabama Power pole — one of the selling points the company uses in marketing its surveillance tech to local governments.

The company’s website claims it serves municipalities, housing authorities, homeowners associations, nonprofits and businesses, providing them with advanced security cameras, license plate recognition, pole access, electric service, internet connectivity and a warranty.

Because of its status as the state’s largest utility, the company says it can provide potential surveillance clients streamlined deployment, ongoing maintenance support, an existing infrastructure and simplified billing.

“We coordinate installation, connectivity and infrastructure needs through a single provider,” the website states. “We maintain the infrastructure and equipment covered by the customer agreement.”

Those customer agreements between Alabama Power and local governments, as well as the utility’s own agreement with Flock, are not publicly disclosed in most municipalities, though some have been obtained through public records requests.

Inside Climate News obtained such contracts from multiple cities across Alabama. Nearly all are identical.

Typically, cities contract directly with Alabama Power to effectively lease the surveillance equipment and pay for all associated services, including electricity and internet connection. Each camera and related services costs municipalities around \$250 per month, a price that quickly adds up in larger cities. Because Flock costs are added to a city’s normal utility bill, the associated costs in smaller towns are often paid without additional scrutiny from public officials, who routinely approve such expenses.

In 2025, Birmingham opted to expand its part-

nership with Flock through Alabama Power, approving a \$9.7 million contract with the utility to install and maintain 100 cameras and license plate readers, adding to 330 cameras approved the year before.

Birmingham City Council members initially voted to delay consideration by a week, expressing surprise at the speed and sticker price of the proposal from Mayor Randall Woodfin and Chief of Police Michael Pickett.

Council member Hunter Williams also said he wanted more information about why Alabama Power was a necessary middle man in the surveillance landscape.

“Obviously Flocks could be placed wherever with solar panels: No need for Alabama Power,” he asked city officials present at the meeting. “So what do we gain from having this contract...rather than buying them a la carte outside of Alabama Power?”

Woodfin responded by telling council members that Birmingham Police Department representatives were in deep communication with Alabama Power officials to collaborate on how best to get the most out of federal funding for surveillance tech they had obtained through partnership with Republican U.S. Sen Katie Britt.

Later that week, the council held a committee meeting that was attended by Woodfin, Pickett, Jonathan Bozeman, public safety manager for Alabama Power and city council members.

During the July 7 meeting, council members questioned city officials and the utility representative about why the contract for surveillance cameras wasn’t placed out for a bid and why the city was choosing to contract with Alabama Power instead of directly with companies like Flock.

Woodfin and Birmingham’s chief financial officer Chaz Mitchell framed the arrangement between the city and Alabama Power as a practical and financial necessity — a convenient and efficient way, they argued, for the city to improve public safety. But council members had questions.

“Is this a sole-source situation,” then-Council member Carol Clarke asked officials. “Or is there a way to get competition in this process? Or not really — because we’d still have to have a pole use agreement?”

No offer was put out for other vendors to submit bids, officials explained, because the agreement fell under a public safety exception to the public bid law.

Council member Valerie Abbott, who like Clarke did not seek reelection, asked why the charges for Flock and other surveillance services were part of an electric service contract.

Bozeman, the utility representative, was careful to note that Alabama Power places charges for surveillance on a separate line item from charges for electricity, which are regulated by the state’s Public Service Commission.

“Where you see the service charge, that includes the entire process of installing and maintaining the camera systems,” he said. “So that includes subscriptions to the video management software, to the license plate recognition software. That is data plans for the cameras to be able to talk back to the internet to get back to the real-time crime center. And that is also including an upgraded data connection at the real-time crime center for the camera system.”

The power usage amounts to just \$3,000 a month, Bozeman said: “The rest of that is the service of the actual cameras.”

The camera infrastructure carries an ongoing price tag of \$2 million a year in Birmingham, council member Darrell O’Quinn noted, an amount the city hopes to recoup from continued grant funding. But using Alabama Power was also really the only option logistically and financially, according to the city officials in the meeting. The utility’s effective control of the infrastructure on right-of-ways would require them to be involved in one way or another, Mitchell said.

“It would be rather expensive” for the city to install its own poles to support the camera expansion, Mitchell said. “We would still have to lean on Alabama Power to do the install.”

“He’s being modest,” Woodfin said of Mitchell. “It’s cost prohibitive.”

Asked whether there had been any formal cost analysis, Woodfin said no.

Council members also asked whether the city expected to request additional cameras and surveillance funding in the future. Pickett said that the body could expect many future requests for money to support these programs.

“The more cameras a city has — the more eyes you have — the safer it will be,” he said. “Yes, in the future, we will request more.”

And the city’s surveillance capabilities go beyond license plate readers, Pickett emphasized.

“In other areas...we’ll have a 360-degree camera that’s identifying what a person is doing and good clothing descriptions and things of that nature,” he said.

In response to a question about where cameras would be deployed across the city, Woodfin said that Birmingham Police Department and Alabama Power would work together to determine locations for installation.

“The beauty of this conversation is Alabama Pow-

er and the Birmingham Police Department have gone really, really deep into this partnership relationship and the strategic deployment of where they should be,” Woodfin said of the cameras.

There was no discussion of privacy concerns around Flock cameras.

At its next regularly scheduled meeting, the Birmingham City Council approved the multi-million dollar agreement on its consent agenda.

Mark Linn, a nonprofit worker in Birmingham, said he’s not necessarily opposed to traffic cameras that only record during a violation and are accessible to an agency like the local department of transportation. The types of cameras and surveillance systems being installed across the city where he lives and works, though, are something different, he said.

“Where I think Flock goes overboard is the fact that it records far more than just violations, acting in some places like a perpetual panopticon of every person and vehicle that passes through their coverage area,” Linn said.

Even in Alabama, Flock has faced significant criticism after incidents of alleged misuse. In St. Clair County, which borders Birmingham to the northeast, officers from two police departments allegedly misused information collected by Flock.

In Springville, a police officer resigned on July 8 after the department’s chief confronted him over a search of a family member.

In Moody, another officer was terminated following an internal investigation over whether he or she had violated the department’s license plate reader policy.

A Washington Post investigation found 50 instances of similar incidents nationwide.

On Aug. 13, Flock Safety announced changes to its policies meant to address concerns about privacy.

As part of the changes, the company began recommending that the default retention time for collected data be limited to seven days, down from 30 days. The ultimate length of data retention would still ultimately be up to customers.

“Abuse of Flock technology, at any level, is unacceptable,” the company said in its announcement.

Still, Linn said he’s worried about the pattern of misuse among law enforcement officials with relatively easy access to sensitive data.

“I think we’ve been adequately shown that law enforcement can’t be trusted with these kinds of tools,” he said.

Residents like Linn and Nance are also worried about where the sensitive information collected by Flock cameras across the state is shared. Records from the sheriff’s office in

Morgan County, Alabama, show that in the last 30 days, the county’s seven Flock camera collected data on more than 100,000 vehicles. In the same period, users from more than 1,000 law enforcement agencies across the country, from Washington State to Maine, including the FBI, were granted access to the county’s data, the records show.

Morgan County is one of only a handful of the well over 100 Alabama agencies with access to Flock that chooses to publish a transparency portal, a ready-to-publish tool provided by Flock to all its customers.

Without Alabama Power, Nance believes that Flock’s spread in the state would have been a much more gradual process.

“They made it so easy,” Nance said. “That’s why it’s so scary.”

Residents also have concerns that cities’ contracts with Alabama Power may allow for the sale or sharing of sensitive data with third parties.

One contract between city officials in Moody and Alabama Power, dated October 2019, says that the city “expressly agrees that [Alabama Power Company] may authorize the disclosure” of captured content to third parties “with or without notice to customer” in several instances including “as allowed or required by applicable law.”

Joh, the legal scholar and expert on policing and technology, said that utility customers and residents deserve meaningful answers to questions about Alabama Power’s relationship with surveillance companies. She called the arrangement “interesting and troubling.”

“The big concern here is the obscuring of relationships, accountability and costs,” Joh said. “Are Alabama Power customers fully aware of this relationship? Does the contract allow for cities and their residents to see what entities — public or private — have access to the gathered content? Do they have the right to object at any point? Was there public input at the time these contractual arrangements were made? And what transparency obligations do Alabama Power or Flock have to cities where these cameras are installed?”

So far, the answers to those questions are limited. Alabama Power declined to answer specific questions for this story.

Linn would like to see Alabama Power representatives and public officials address questions like Joh’s.

“It is concerning that what is ostensibly a utility company is working so closely with unrelated third parties and law enforcement to push these cameras on cities,” he said. “It’s a company that already has too much control over the state and this ‘partnership’ is one more disturbing ex-



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ABSENTEE VOTING
NOVEMBER 3, 2026 - GENERAL
ELECTION

Qualified voters can apply for an absentee ballot that can be cast by mail, commercial carrier or in person at the Absentee Election Manager's Office, if he or she makes application in writing **not less than five days prior to the election** and meets one of the following requirements:

- A voter may cast an absentee ballot if he or she
 - **EXPECTS TO BE ABSENT FROM THE COUNTY** on election day
 - **IS ILL OR HAS A PHYSICAL DISABILITY** that prevents a voter's personal appearance at their polling precinct
 - **IS PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE IN PERSON BECAUSE THEY CANNOT ACCESS THEIR ASSIGNED POLLING PLACE DUE TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DISABILITIES** (neurological, musculoskeletal, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, or other life-altering disorder that affects his or her ability to perform manual tasks, stand for any length of time, walk unassisted, see, hear or speak) **AND: (a) HE OR SHE IS AN ELDERLY VOTER AGED 65 OR OLDER; OR (b) HE OR SHE IS A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY**

- **IS A REGISTERED ALABAMA VOTER LIVING OUTSIDE THE COUNTY**, such as a member of the armed forces, a voter employed outside the United States, a college student, or a spouse or child of such a person
- **IS AN APPOINTED ELECTION OFFICER OR POLL WATCHER** at a polling place other than his or her regular polling place
- **EXPECTS TO WORK A REQUIRED SHIFT, 10-HOURS OR MORE**, that coincides with polling hours
- **IS A CAREGIVER** for a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity and the family member is confined to his or her home
- **IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED** in prison or jail and has not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude

If an absentee ballot application is delivered by U.S. mail or by commercial carrier to the Absentee Election Manager Office, the application must be received by the by the 7th day prior to the election. If the absentee ballot application is delivered in-person by the voter only to the Absentee Election Manager, it must be received by the 5th day prior to the election. If requested, the voter will have the opportunity to vote in-person at the Absentee Election Manager's Office.

Pursuant to Title 17-9-30, Code of Alabama, absentee ballot applications must now be accompanied by a copy of a current, valid photo identification or voter ID, unless the voter is exempt from this identification requirement. Failing to provide the identification will result in your ballot becoming a provisional ballot.

- Emergency Absentee Applications**
- A qualified voter requiring emergency medical treatment by a licensed physician within (5) days before an election. The application must be signed by the physician and returned to the Absentee Election Manager.
 - A voter with a business emergency is required to apply and vote in-person at the Absentee Election Manager's Office. The voter shall sign an affidavit acknowledging that he or she was not aware of the business emergency (5) days prior to the election.
 - A caregiver for a person who requires emergency treatment by a licensed physician (the voter must deliver the application by hand to the Absentee Election Manager no later than (5) days prior to the election).
 - A family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity died within (5) days prior to the election (the voter must deliver the application by hand to the Absentee Election Manager no later than the day prior to the election.)

Applications for absentee voting are available at any of the following locations:

- Absentee Election Manager's Office (Etowah County Circuit Clerk/Absentee Election Manager, Cassandra Johnson, 801 Forrest Ave., Suite 202, Gadsden, AL 35901),
 - Secretary of State's web page: www.alabamavotes.gov
 - United States Armed Forces members, including spouses, should contact their Commanding Officer for a **UOCAVA** application or may go online for assistance at www.fvap.gov for a **Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)**. **Separate applications for absentee ballots are required for elections which are more than 42 days apart**, except as to individuals voting pursuant to the Federal Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973ff.
- Multiple applications cannot be mailed in the same envelope, even if the voters live at the same address.**

Completed absentee applications must provide the Alabama residence where the voter is registered to vote, even if the ballot is to be mailed to another address where the applicant voter regularly receives mail. If you have moved and have not updated your polling place you should contact the local Board of Registrars and update your address prior to applying for an absentee ballot. A completed application must be returned by the voter (in-person) or sent by U.S. Mail or commercial carrier.

No one, not even a family member, can return another person's application to the Absentee Election Office.

The absentee election manager is not permitted to give any person access to completed and filed voter applications for absentee ballots before the election is held. This information is not a matter of public record until after an election. It should be considered privileged information just the same as voter registration applications.

The absentee election manager shall forward absentee ballots by U.S. Mail to the applicant's residence address or upon written request of the voter, to the address where the voter regularly receives mail or by handing the ballot to the voter in-person or, in the case of medical emergency voting, to his or her designee in-person.

Only UOCAVA voters have the option to vote electronically after submitting a UOCAVA absentee application by mail to the Absentee Election Manager's Office.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ
VOTERS MUST COMPLETE ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE ABSENTEE VOTING AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE
IF A VOTER'S AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE IS NOT SIGNED (OR MARKED WITH AN "X"), AND IF THE AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE HAS NOT BEEN WITNESSED BY TWO WITNESSES (18 YEARS OF

AGE OR OLDER) OR BY A NOTARY PUBLIC OR OTHER OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO ACKNOWLEDGE OATHS, PRIOR TO BEING DELIVERED OR MAILED TO THE ABSENTEE ELECTION MANAGER, THE BALLOT WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES

- **Tuesday – Sept. 7, 2026** - Absentee voting for the General Election begins
- **Monday – Oct. 19, 2026** – Last day to register to vote for the General Election
- **Tuesday – Oct. 27, 2026** - Last day for absentee applications to be received by mail or commercial carrier for the General Election. (17-11-3(A))
- **Thursday – Oct. 29, 2026** - Last day voters can return their absentee application in-person and absentee vote. No one, not even a family member, can return another person's application by hand, (except a medical emergency voter named designee). **EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING BEGINS** – (Voter must meet the qualifications required for an emergency absentee ballot)
- **Monday – Nov. 2, 2026** - Last day a voter may hand-deliver his or her absentee ballot to the AEM. No one, not even a family member, can return another person's ballot, (except a medical emergency voter named designee) **EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING ENDS**
- **TUESDAY, NOV. 3, 2026 – GENERAL ELECTION DAY**
- Mailed ballots must be received by mail or commercial carrier to the AEM, no later than (**NOON**) this date
- Voted medical emergency ballots delivered by the voter's designee, must be received no later than **NOON** today
- Last day for military and other UOCAVA voters in the general election to postmark an absentee ballot returned by mail to the AEM

Absentee voting applications are available at the Etowah County Judicial Building – 1st floor – Circuit Clerk's Office/Absentee Voting Elections or online at www.alabamavotes.gov or etowah.alacourt.gov.

Physical and Mailing address:
Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk/Absentee Election Mgr.
Etowah County Judicial Building – 1st Floor
801 Forrest Avenue, Suite 202
Gadsden, AL 35901
E-mail Address: cassandra.johnson@alacourt.gov
Office Hours: Monday – Friday (except holidays)
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (open during lunch)

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EDUCATION

Saint James Catholic School named National Beta School of Merit

On Sept. 4, the Diocese of Birmingham announced that Saint James Catholic School has been recognized as a 2025-2026 National Beta School of Merit.

The National Beta School of Merit award is given to honor a club's dedication and commitment to academic excellence. To achieve this honor, a school must include members from all eligible grade levels in their Beta club. This year, 6,103 clubs across the country received this award.

In a congratulatory letter to the school, Bobby Hart,

CEO of National Beta, said, "Thank you for your continued support of National Beta and commitment to developing future leaders!"

"We are incredibly proud to receive this recognition as a National Beta School of Merit," Kierra Porter, the Beta Club Sponsor at St. James, stated. "This honor is especially meaningful because our students are challenged by a rigorous academic curriculum, with many of our Beta Club members already working a grade level ahead in various subjects."

"They balance these academic expectations with extracurricular activities, service and leadership responsibilities, while also smoothly orchestrating several of our school's major events throughout the year. Their ability to excel in the classroom while remaining actively involved in the life of our school speaks volumes about their dedication, character, and leadership. This recognition is a true reflection of the hard work of our Beta students and the teachers and families who continually support and en-

courage them."

With more than 500,000 active members from grade 4 to grade 12 and 14,000 clubs nationally and internationally, National Beta has become the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. National Beta recognizes outstanding achievement, promotes character and social responsibility, encourages service involvement to school and community and fosters leadership skills. Visit betaclub.org for more information.

Catalyst Church to host free training presented by Gadsden State PD

Catalyst Community Church will host a free Church Safety Class from 8 a.m. to noon Sept. 12 at 1707 Reid Circle in Glencoe. The training will be presented by the Gadsden State Community College Police & Public Safety Department.

The class is designed for church security and safety teams, church leaders, staff members, volunteers and others who play a role in protecting their congregations.

The training will focus on practical strategies churches can use to strengthen safety and preparedness. Topics will include situational awareness, prevention, security-team organization, identifying potential concerns, emergency response and preparing for critical incidents.

"Churches should be places where people can worship and fel-

lowship while feeling safe and secure," said Chief Jay Freeman of the Gadsden State police department. "Our goal with this class is to provide churches with practical knowledge, resources and training that will help them strengthen safety, improve preparedness and respond confidently when it matters most. A well-trained team that understands what to look for, how to communicate and how to respond can make a tremendous difference during an emergency."

The class also will give church security teams from throughout the area an opportunity to share ideas, discuss best practices and strengthen relationships with law enforcement and other churches in the community.

There is no cost to attend. Snacks and water will be provided. Partici-

pants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and bring a pen and notebook.

Registration is limited, and church security and safety teams are encouraged to attend together.

Cost: Free
Registration and information
Mike Osborne
Catalyst Community Church
mikeosborne601@gmail.com
Emily Feemster Coggins
Gadsden State Police & Public Safety Department
256-549-8611
efcoggins@gadsdenstate.edu

Space is limited. Interested participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Good Witch/Bad Witch flies into Jax State's Randy Owen Center on Oct. 4

Jax State's Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts (ROC) announced that "Good Witch/Bad Witch" will be performed on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m.

The performance will feature Broadway's Alli Mauzey and Dee Roscioli, both of whom have donned the pink and green as Glinda and Elphaba in the Broadway company of "Wicked." "Good Witch/Bad Witch" has thrilled audiences coast to coast with

stunning vocals, Broadway classics and playful banter. Mauzey and Roscioli will be joined by Jacksonville State University students, faculty and community members to perform songs from "Wicked" and other well-known musicals.

Roscioli is best known for her portrayal of Elphaba in the smash Broadway hit, "Wicked." She holds the distinction of having performed the role of Elphaba more than any oth-

er actress. She has also performed in "Death Becomes Her," "Titanique," "The Cher Show," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Cats" and more.

Mauzey most recently starred on Broadway as Pattie in the Tony Award Winning Best Musical, "Kimberly Akimbo." Other Broadway credits include "Hello, Dolly!," "Cry-baby" and "Hairspray." She also appeared as a special guest performer opposite

Kristin Chenoweth in her Broadway residency: "For the Girls."

Tickets for "Good Witch/Bad Witch" range from \$35 to \$55 and are available for purchase at jsu.edu/roc.

Jax State will also host a master class on campus with Roscioli and Mauzey for students from throughout the region. For more information about the master class, please contact Katie Burns at krburns@jsu.edu.

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CALENDAR

Recurring Events 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 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 12 to 5 p.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 - 200 North 6th Street, Gadsden - 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.	Sept. 12 Pathos and Pigment Workshop - Where: The Coffee Bar - 232 Broad Street, Gadsden - When: 12 to 2 p.m.	Sept. 18 Gadsden Hamfest 2026 - Where: The Venue at Coosa Landing - 201 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden - When: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	Sept. 13 Scary Stories and Snacks - Where: Rainbow City Recreation Ctr. - 4412 Rainbow Drive, RBC - When: 3 to 5 p.m.	Sept. 19 Gourd and Glaze Workshop - Where: The Coffee Bar - 532 Broad Street, Gadsden, - When: 12 to 2 p.m.
	Sept. 15 A Taste of Northeast Alabama - Where: The Venue at Coosa Landing - 201 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden - When: 5 to 7 p.m.	Sept. 20 Sweet Southern Sass 2026 Pageant - Where: The Venue at Coosa Landing - 201 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden - When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
	Sept. 17 Advancing Women to the Top Conference - Where: The Venue at Coosa Landing - 201 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden - When: 9 a.m. to 3:30p.m.	Sept. 25 Sweeney Todd Hosted by Theatre of Gadsden - Where: Wallace Hall - 1001 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden - When: 2:30 to 4 p.m.
	Sept. 17 Little Black Dress Affair 2026 - Where: Gadsden Country Club - 1884 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden - When: 5:30 to 8 p.m.	Sept. 26 Hokes Bluff City Fest and Cruise-In Car Show - Where: 3301 Alford Bend Road, Hokes Bluff - When: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m
	Sept. 17 Gadsden Symphony Orchestra Concert - Where: 501 Broad St, Gadsden - When: 6 to 7 p.m.	Sept. 26 62nd Annual Midsouth Marching Band Festival - Where: Titan Stadium - 1917 Black Creek Parkway, Gadsden - When: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	Sept. 17 Black Jacket Symphony-Pink Floyd - Where: Mort Glosser Amphitheater, - 90 Walnut Street, Gadsden - When: 7 to 10 p.m.	Sept. 26 Gadsden Gun & Knife Show - Where: The Venue at Coosa Landing - 201 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden - When: 9 a.m.to 5p.m.
	Sept. 18 Alabama Wine Festival - Where: Noccaculla Falls Park - 1500 Noccaculla Road, Gadsden - When: 5 to 9 p.m.	Sept. 27 Footprint on the Sky - Storyteller by Dolores Hydock - Where: Trinity Presbyterian Church - 1003 Albert Rains Blvd., Gadsden - When: 2:30 p.m.
	Sept. 18 The Raid on Little General's Farm Civil War Reenactment - Where: 5535 Old Gallant Road - When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Oct. 1 Highway 411 Yard Sale - Where: Highway 411 - US-411, Rainbow City - When: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	 PASTOR Anniversary Honoring Pastor Roderick and Lady Nakeya Thomas MOUNT PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH 408 N. 9th Street, Gadsden, AL. 35901 11:00 AM Guest Church Galilee Baptist Church Guest Pastor Dewayne Keith CELEBRATING 14 YEARS 3:00 PM Guest Church Fellowship Baptist Church Guest Pastor Scottie Rice	
Sept. 11 Gadsden's Beautification Board Annual 9/11 Memorial Service - Downtown Gadsden - Broad St, Gadsden, - When: 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.		
Sept. 11 Downtown Attalla Fall Open House - Where: Downtown Attalla - 5th Ave NW & 4th St NW, Attalla - When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.		
Sept. 12 Pathways Local Artisan and Food Truck - Where: The Tabernacle - 1301 S 11th Street, Gadsden - When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.		
Sept. 12 Fear Circus - Where: Pitman Theater - 629 Broad Street, Gadsden - When: 8 to 9:30 p.m.		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Yolanda James | 11 SEPTEMBER

Love, Mama (S Frog)



HAPPY Birthday

VICKIE THOMAS

September 11th

Love, Auntie Susie Thomas (S Frog)

LIFESTYLE



At 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 31, I received the kind of phone call no library director ever wants to get.

Amy McCary, our Circulation Manager and normally the first staff member to arrive each morning, was calling me from the Gadsden Public Library. She was crying.

“The library has been destroyed,” she told me. Those were her words, and at that moment, she had every reason to believe them.

When our Saturday crew had closed the library at 2 p.m. on Aug. 29, everything was normal. But sometime after they left, a copper plumbing fixture known as a water hammer arrestor failed above the men’s public restroom near our Children’s Department. The fitting had rusted through and fallen from a plastic water line, allowing clean water to spray at high pressure for what we now estimate was more than 20 hours.

By the time Amy arrived Monday morning, water had spread across much of the first floor and flooded the entire basement.

I live only a few blocks from the library, so I quickly dressed and arrived at 7:45 a.m. Amy and I located the failed arrestor on the restroom floor, and I immediately called Terry “TR” Rinault with the City of Gadsden Maintenance Department. TR sent two members of his

From flooded floors to open doors

crew right away, and they shut off the library’s main water supply near College Street.

Then came the part every librarian dreads: standing in a building filled with water and wondering where to begin.

The flooding affected our main Circulation area and roughly half of the first floor, including the section where our biography and nonfiction collections are located. And, as water tends to do, it found the lowest point. The entire basement was flooded.

Yet in the middle of an awful situation came one enormous blessing: our main book collections were unharmed.

Our shelving keeps the books approximately two feet above the floor, and that simple fact made an extraordinary difference. The Children’s Department was also spared, and the books that form the heart of our library collection remained safe.

Once the water was turned off, there was no time to stand around. Sleeves were rolled up, pant legs were raised, and the cleanup began.

TR contacted Dallas Plumbing and they were at the library by 8:30 a.m. to fix and replace the arrestor. The library’s water was then turned on with no further issues.

TR also called ProClean Services of Rainbow City, and their response was immediate. By 9:30 a.m., on-site managers Zack Lancaster and Chris Kerzic had assessed the situation and quickly recognized the scale of the problem. They called in additional crews and equipment, and soon the building was filled with water vacuums, industrial fans and dehumidifiers.

For the remainder of the week—and throughout the Labor Day weekend—the library became a massive drying operation.

Travelers Insurance has had adjusters on site, working with Stacey Spurling in the City of Gadsden’s Risk Management Department. Mayor Craig Ford and Tena King from the Mayor’s Office have also been involved from the very first day, helping us work through the many details that come with an emergency of this size.

I cannot say enough about my library staff.

Everyone has adapted, pitched in and continued working under conditions that have been anything but normal. “Discombobulated” may be the best word to describe us right now, but our staff has handled the disruption with patience, professionalism and a wonderful sense of teamwork.

We are also deeply indebted to TR and the City of Gadsden Maintenance crew, and especially to Zack, Chris and the entire ProClean Services team. Their expertise, quick response and hard work have been nothing short of remarkable. The transformation they have accomplished in just over a week is difficult to describe unless you saw the building that Monday morning.

And now, thankfully, we get to reopen. After being closed last week, the Gadsden Public Library will reopen to the public Tuesday, September 8, at 9 a.m.

Things will not look exactly normal. Our front desk will be temporary. Some staff members will be working from different offices and desks while damaged areas are repaired and replaced. There will still be fans, equipment, inconvenience and plenty of work ahead.

Realistically, it may take 30 to 60 days before everything is completely back to normal.

But we are getting there.

A week ago, standing in several inches of water and looking at a flooded basement, it was difficult to imagine reopening so quickly. Today, thanks to an extraordinary response from city employees, cleanup professionals, insurance representatives and our own library staff, the ending to this story is looking much better than the beginning.

This is certainly not how I planned to begin the second year of my Messenger column.

But perhaps there is a lesson in that, too.

Libraries are more than books, shelves and buildings. They are people. And when something goes wrong, it is people — working together, responding quickly and refusing to be defeated — who make all the difference.

We have a long way to go.

But the doors will be open Tuesday morning.

And after the week we have had, that feels pretty wonderful.

- 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.

Grief doesn’t follow a timeline

One of the most common misconceptions about grief is that, given enough time, we should eventually be “over it.” We sometimes expect grief to follow a predictable path: we experience a loss, go through a difficult period and gradually return to normal.

But grief rarely works that way.

When someone we love dies, our lives change. We may adjust to that change, but adjusting is very different from forgetting or no longer missing the person. Grief doesn’t have an expiration date and there is no point on the calendar when we are supposed to be finished with it.

In the early days after a death, grief may feel overwhelming. There are funeral arrangements, family members coming and going and countless decisions to make. Friends call, neighbors bring food and people frequently check in.

Then life begins moving again.

Other people return to work and their normal routines. The phone rings less often. The casseroles stop arriving. Yet

the grieving person may just be beginning to understand the reality of the loss.

Sometimes the hardest moments come weeks or even months later.

Grief can also appear when we least expect it. A song on the radio, a familiar smell or finding an old photograph can suddenly bring back emotions we thought we had worked through. Birthdays, holidays, anniversaries and family celebrations can be particularly difficult. Even happy occasions such as weddings, graduations or the birth of a baby can carry sadness because someone important is missing.

This doesn’t mean we are moving backward.

Grief isn’t a straight line. You may have several good weeks and then suddenly have a difficult day. You may laugh with friends and genuinely enjoy yourself, then cry in the car on the way home. Both experiences can exist together.

We also need to be careful about comparing grief. One person may return to work quickly while another struggles for months. Some people want to talk about the person who died while others are more private. Some cry easily while others rarely cry at all. There isn’t one correct way to grieve.

If you are supporting someone who has experienced a death, remember that support is often needed long after the funeral. Check in a month later. Remember the anniversary of the loss. Don’t be afraid to mention the person who died. Many grieving people appreciate hearing their loved one’s name and knowing that others remember them too.

And if you are grieving, give yourself permission to have difficult days. You don’t have to meet someone else’s expectations about how long grief should last.

Over time, grief often changes. The pain may become less constant and memories may eventually bring more comfort than sadness. We learn how to



carry the loss while continuing to live our lives.

Perhaps that’s a better way to think about healing after a death. The goal isn’t to “get over” someone we loved. It’s learning how to move forward while still carrying a piece of them with us.

There is no deadline for that.

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



As our country remembers 9/11 this week, I am reminded of the seasonal nature of love and loss and remembrance, and how universal loss is to the human experience. This has been a season of remembrance, and today is a day for remembrance. All of my children were born post 9/11, but I was a college student. I will always remember where I was when I first heard the news, and how I watched the coverage all day. Classes were cancelled, people were checking on friends and family who were travelling that day, and no one had any answers yet.

Days like today ask us to do more than just remember where we were when something happened, though. They ask us to move past the spectacle aspect of

Love, loss and remembrance

catastrophe, loss and tragedy. Remembrance is more than recalling a moment in time. Instead, it asks us to pause and give of our most finite resource: time. Moments in memoriam ask us to consciously choose to recall an event, a person, a moment or emotion and to fully immerse ourselves in that memory not as a trick of nostalgia, but as a discipline of remembrance. Many works of literature are focused, in one way or another, on remembrance: on loss, avoiding loss, recovering from loss, reimagining life after loss and on remembrance. On the latter, Merwin tells us that “what you remember saves you.”

Bonhoeffer says “There is nothing that can replace the absence of someone dear to us, and one should not even attempt to do so. One must simply hold out and endure it. At first that sounds very hard, but at the same time it is also a great comfort. For to the extent the emptiness truly remains unfilled one remains connected to the other person through it. . . the more

beautiful and full the remembrances, the more difficult the separation. But gratitude transforms the torment of memory into silent joy. One bears what was lovely in the past not as a thorn but as a precious gift deep within, a hidden treasure of which one can always be certain.”

I know that for many losses in my life, time has never completely taken away the pain, but it has made me able to be glad of this aspect of loss Bonhoeffer describes: the loss and pain still sneak up, but in time it becomes a poignant and bittersweet reminder of how much I loved the person, rather than memories only registering the stark shock of the loss. Virginia Woolf ponders how “the beauty of the world which is so soon to perish, has two edges, one of laughter, one of anguish, cutting the heart asunder,” acknowledging that both love and loss coexist in our experience of life. Woolf also views remembrance as a creative act, one that redeems loss by building something new from it. This is

a beautiful way to think about personal and public losses. Tragedy on the scale of 9/11 is something we will hopefully never experience again, collectively, as a country. Holding the memory of it and marking time’s passing through remembrance of that day is a reminder that we can survive tragedy, come together to make it through the tunnel of loss and grief, and move forward to reimagine life after loss. It is also an opportunity for truly feeling the magnitude of loss others worldwide are experiencing due to natural disasters, war and hunger. We have witnessed our own loss, and when we spare a moment for remembrance we have the opportunity to create something new from tragedy: a new way of viewing the universality of loss and looking for ways to be kind to others knowing it is part of our human experience.

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

City dynamite blast and wondering thoughts

The heaviest dynamite explosion inside the city limits of Gadsden occurred at the Hammond Iron Ore Mines at the point of Shinbone Ridge on Tuscaloosa Avenue, near the T.A. & G. Railroad, one night in 1908.

It was caused by a fire in the machinery room at the mouth of the mine, the explosion coming just before the arrival of the firemen. A few minutes later it killed two firemen.

It was said at the time, the company kept its main stock of dynamite half a mile away in Owl Hollow. Each day just enough for the day’s operation was brought to the mine.

The blast completely destroyed the machine shop and almost shattered the commissary building just across the street. The watchman was killed, and several others in the neighborhood were hurt.

A peculiar feature was the effect the blast had up town. Every second story window on Broad Street from Fourth to Fifth streets was shattered, and the glass fell outward to the sidewalks. One could not walk anywhere on either side without stepping on pieces of glass.

In the 1980s, a new steel cell block was installed in the old county jail on Chestnut Street between Second and Third streets.

On an order from the county commissioners, the builders added a narrow steel cage where a man could not sit down or lie down. It provided a form of punishment that was extremely cruel. Six officers put the first prisoner into the cell, which was a difficult task since the offender was a large husky and obstreperous youth.

He had been jailed for stabbing his wife and for a battle with other men

during a neighborhood row.

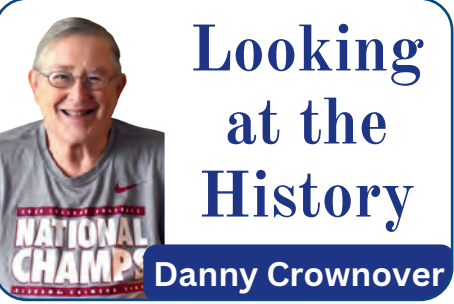
After a sharp struggle he was finally caged, and that night he was like an enraged animal.

After two days and nights of torture, he quieted down and promised to behave as long as he remained in jail. He kept that promise and, peculiarly enough, started to reform.

He said that his one ambition was to become a bartender, and that wish was finally realized once he left prison. After that, he became a policeman and ended his career as a petty bootlegger.

At that same time in a different area of town, a one-legged man named George Blake kept a knife rack on the vacant lot on Chestnut Street for many years and eked out a living at it.

He got the idea from the First Street carnival to appear here. Day and night, in all sorts of weather, George ran that



old knife rack. His chief customers were boys who spent much of their spare cash in trying to throw wooden rings around the cheap knives stuck into the board.

Another one-legged man who made a precarious living on that lot was Ben. That was the name he went by the time he was in business. He operated what would now be called a sandwich shop and his specialty was tripe sandwiches.

Contact The Vagabond at dkcrown@bellsouth.net.

DEVOTIONALS



We moved our motorhome this week! It was time.

Work-camping at our last stop was a blessing for working out the RV kinks and saving money, but our bodies don't bounce back from manual labor like they used to. Plus, a new project needs our full attention — so away we went.

Our new spot is everything I pictured simple living to be: nestled in shade, surrounded by trees, with our floral rug finally lying flat. We have a proper picnic table holding my late mother-in-law's pothos, flanked by memory wind chimes, and our favorite hand-painted slate shingle. (When we went nomadic, I used paint thinner to update "Established 1994" to "2025"— I'll repaint it if we ever move back to brick and mortar!)

The curtains stay open, letting in light—expanding the view. And our pup loves watching birds from his cozy bed as I enjoy my morning Costa Rican coffee at the picnic table before teaching. We are officially happy campers!

While packing up the ranch, I ran into the infamous fuel can — the one behind

Gas can grace

my recent "chemical peel" (church-speak for my brush pile explosion). *See *August 18th's edition*.

Honestly, it stopped me in my tracks. But as I stood there staring at that red plastic mistake, the Lord connected another spiritual dot.

It was brought home this past Sunday when we sang "Light a Fire" by David Leonard at church. The title alone was a little too on the nose for me! But it was the chorus that resonated deeply: "Light a fire that the world can't burn out. Fan the flame 'til nothing between us remains. My life is an altar to You. Breathe again on the embers that burn in my heart. A love taken back to the start. My life is an altar to You."

It reminded me of how easily our human hearts grow cold in the busyness of life. Even as believers who deeply love Jesus, we let good and necessary things quietly pull us away from the Source of Holy Fire.

Looking back on how haphazardly I grabbed that red can, I remember feeling completely confident. I thought it was diesel — just a slow, steady burn to get things moving. Instead, it was gasoline, and it blew up right in my face. Remembering my singed eyebrows and burning skin, it hit me: how often do I do the exact same thing spiritually?

When my heart feels heavy or depleted, I reach for the nearest quick fix — a bag of chips, my own stubborn willpower, a late-night TV binge, a passing compliment or endless scrolling. I convince myself these little substitutes will give me the boost I need. But just like that gas can, every self-made spark backfires, leaving me right back where I started — reminded that only Jesus, through prayer and His Word, can sustain real Fire in me.

In Leviticus 6, Yahweh gave Moses specific instructions for Aaron and the priests regarding their daily duties. They were to maintain the altar fire continuously: "Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out" (Leviticus 6:13). Later in Leviticus 9, God Himself provided the initial spark with Supernatural Fire. It wasn't the priests' job to manufacture the flame, but to faithfully tend, feed, and preserve what God had already given.

Keeping that Divine Fire alive required daily human effort — clearing away ashes, stacking fresh wood each morning, and arranging the offerings. Under the New Covenant, we no longer bring animal sacrifices to a tabernacle. Jesus fulfilled the ultimate, once-for-all sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit came down as tongues of fire at Pentecost to dwell within us.

Today, our lives are the altar. We don't have to manufacture the flame, but we are

called to daily "fan into flame" the gift of the Spirit through prayer, Scripture, and simple (and not so simple) surrender.

So as you navigate your own busy week, take a look at what you're reaching for when you feel weary or like your heart has grown cold. Are you trying to throw gasoline on a fading spark with quick worldly fixes, or are you laying down fresh wood at the feet of the One who kindled the flame? Let's commit to tending the altar of our hearts today — because He is endlessly worthy of a fire that never goes out.

Let's pray: Father God, Yahweh, forgive us for the times we have turned to quick fixes, human willpower, and worldly distractions to fill the empty places in our hearts. Thank You for sending Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice and placing Your Holy Spirit within us as an unquenchable flame. Teach us to daily tend the altar of our lives. Fan into flame the gift of Your Spirit within us so that our hearts become a place where worship, love, and sweet incense rise to you day and night, night and day.

Amen.

Fan the Flame, Friends!

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

Don't throw it away

There are moments in a football game when throwing the ball away is the smartest thing a quarterback can do. The pocket collapses, defenders are closing in, and instead of taking a sack or forcing a bad pass, he throws it out of bounds and lives to play another down. That may be good football. But in life, that can be dangerous theology. Because pressure has a way of making us want to throw things away, too.

When the marriage gets difficult, we want to throw it away. When the job becomes frustrating, we want to walk away. When ministry gets exhausting, we question whether it is worth it. When people disappoint us, we start reconsidering relationships. And when we have prayed, cried and waited longer than we ever expected, we can even become tempted to throw away our confidence in God. That is exactly why Hebrews 10:35 says, "So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded."

Notice what Scripture does not say. It does not say, "Don't lose your confidence." It says, "Don't throw it away."

There is a difference. You can lose something accidentally. Throwing something away is a decision. It means you have decided it is no longer worth carrying. And I wonder how many times we have blamed the enemy for stealing something that disappointment convinced us to throw away ourselves.

Before the writer of Hebrews tells these believers to hold on, he tells them to remember. These were not people who had

never trusted God. They had already suffered. They had already been mistreated. They had already taken some hits and remained faithful. Their problem was not that they had never trusted God. They were getting tired of trusting God.

Maybe you understand that feeling. You still love God. You still believe. You are just tired. But before you make a permanent decision because of temporary exhaustion, remember.

Remember what God has already brought you through. Remember the prayer he already answered. Remember the door he opened. Remember the season you thought would break you. Remember the nights you did not know how you were going to make it and, somehow, you are still here.

Sometimes you have to look backward long enough to find the faith to keep moving forward. Don't let today's pressure make you forget yesterday's faithfulness.

Then Hebrews 10:36 tells us what we need: "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."

It does not say you need more talent. More money. More connections. Another miracle. You need endurance.

That may not sound exciting, but some seasons are not won by being impressive. They are won simply by staying faithful. You do not have to be the fastest to finish. You just have to keep going.

Here is the difficult part: Scripture says that after doing the will of God, they still

had to wait.

We have created an idea of faith that says if we obey God, everything should immediately work out. But you can obey and still wait. You can pray and still wait. You can serve, give, believe and still wait. There is often a space between obedience and fulfillment. That space is called endurance.

Waiting does not mean God has forgotten you. A delayed testimony does not mean a denied promise. Sometimes the greatest test of faith is not whether you believe God can do it, but whether you can trust him when he has not done it yet. That is fourth-quarter faith.

Everybody has energy at kickoff. But the fourth quarter reveals what is really inside you. You are tired. You have taken some hits. The original game plan may have changed. Things did not happen the way you expected. But the game is not over.

Hebrews 10:39 declares, "But we do not belong to those who shrink back."

In other words: They Ain't Like Us!

We do not abandon everything God has built because one quarter got difficult. We believe. We endure. We keep going.

So ask yourself this week: What am I tempted to throw away simply because I'm tired? Your confidence? Your calling? Your marriage? Your ministry? Your dream? Your commitment? Your expectation that God is still going to do what he said?

Before you throw it away, look at how



much ground you have already covered. You have survived too much. Prayed too much. Grown too much. Seen God do too much to throw away your confidence now. Welcome to the fourth quarter.

You may be tired, but keep going. You may take another hit, but keep going. You may have to adjust the game plan, but keep going. When you can only take one more step, take one more step. You've gained too much ground to throw it away now.

Let's Pray

Father, when I am tired, remind me that tired does not mean finished. When pressure tells me to quit, remind me of everything you have already brought me through. Give me endurance when I cannot see the promise yet. Help me trust your timing and hold tightly to my confidence in you. I refuse to shrink back. I refuse to throw away what you have placed in me. Give me strength to take another step, keep believing and finish faithfully. 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,

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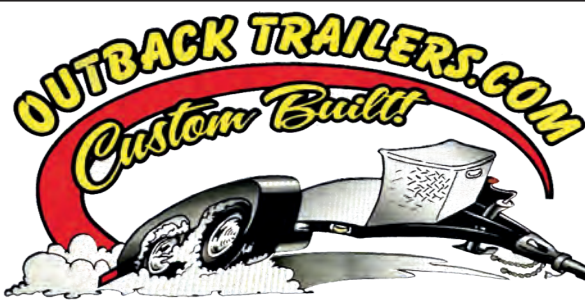
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SPORTS

Etowah beats out Hokes Bluff in neck-to-neck game

By Alex Chaney
Sports Correspondent

On Friday, Sept. 4, Etowah hosted Hokes Bluff in the opening region play game for both teams. Etowah and Hokes Bluff were shut out in their individual opening games of the season and needed redemption; Etowah lost to Cleburne County 0-21, and Hokes Bluff lost to Southside 0-35.

At the beginning of the 1st quarter, Etowah found its way onto the scoreboard before Hokes Bluff, giving them a headstart of 7-0. Etowah's team then scored again with 2:16 left in the 1st, pushing their lead to 14-0.

Etowah had built a solid foundation for their team's win by the beginning of the 2nd quarter, but Hokes Bluff finally got their offense going around the same time, and with 11:53 left on the clock, they scored with a touchdown run from their #7 quarterback Dean Morgan. This move worked to level the playing field some, putting the score at 14-7.

However, towards the end of the 2nd quarter, Etowah added another touchdown to their

score. Although they missed the extra point, they still led 27-7, and Etowah looked to be in command of the game.

This lead only lasted for about three minutes of game time, however, as Hokes Bluff was able to answer with 33 seconds left in the first half when Dean Morgan connected on a touchdown pass to freshman receiver Tate Simmons.

Like Etowah, though, the extra point attempt failed, and by halftime, the score stood with Etowah holding 27 points to Hokes Bluff's 13.

The 3rd quarter was hard-fought but ultimately uneventful, and neither team scored during it. In the 4th quarter, though, Hokes Bluff scored at the 11:23 mark and managed to convert a two-point attempt, bringing the score up 27-21.

With both teams vying for the win in this neck-to-neck game, Etowah tagged another touchdown with 3:20 left on the clock, sealing the night's win with a score of 34-21.

Next week, Etowah will host Glencoe, and Hokes Bluff will travel to Susan Moore.



Photos by Alex Chaney

Williams

sense to him at the time.

But that did not stop people from trying to understand the why anyway, even though Williams refused to talk about it.

"When you leave home a hero, there's an expectation — 'He's going to conquer the world.' You've been telling everyone that you're going pro, and you've been doing pro-like things. Then you come back, and you're still 6 feet tall, 200-something pounds, but you're just walking around! You don't want to talk about football. You don't want to explain the unexplainable."

Although Williams was going through something "unexplainable" to most people, there were still people in his life who wanted to help him and put him on the right track.

"There was one lady — her name was Dale Hill — and she was a mentor at Gadsden State. She saw me walking through the campus one day, and she said, 'David, come to my office.' Because she had been someone who had mentored me throughout my teenage years, I gave her space; she had earned the right to say something."

"I went to her office, and she sat me down and said, 'You need to be playing football.' I reasoned in that moment that maybe that's what people do — maybe they do what they're good at, even though they're not happy or content," Williams stated, explaining that he never asked his own parents whether they were happy working at Goodyear or in the military. "Maybe that's what maturity is."

Hill contacted the NCAA for Williams, who told him that he would have to graduate from Gadsden State in order to rejoin the football

league. Although he was still somewhat apprehensive about returning, it put him on a path that has stayed with him throughout the rest of his life. "I was studying very late academically so that I could graduate [from Gadsden State and rejoin college football], and I was studying the playbook so that I could make a good enough impression to hopefully make the team. That's how the third return started."

Williams's gratitude towards the people who have helped him along the way cannot be understated; a somber reminder of that gratitude also pushed him to start writing his memoir again.

"On the day that I got my doctorate, I looked back on the school website, and the coach that had signed me to my scholarship had passed. I got to reflecting that had it not been for the scholarship and the potential he saw in me, I never would have been on this path. I really appreciated that — even though the way it all transpired was never how I envisioned it. It made me a better me in the end, and that's when I started back writing the book in earnest and appreciating the conduits that God used to shape me."

Still, while Williams eventually went on to play for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, it was not an easy road. In fact, it was a road filled to the brim with hardships, ones where he felt isolated, including an instance where he was kicked off the team, moved from his apartment into one of the worst dorms on campus and made into a social pariah to his teammates.

As such, he was not always so grateful for where he had come from in the moment, and it was not until a

godly intervention took place that he was able to reflect on his life in a different way.

"[After that incident] I told myself, 'You can take my scholarship; you can kick me from my apartment; but you can't not make me an athlete.' So I got on my bicycle and rode for about 24 to 28 miles, and when my uncle got there later, he asked me, 'David, do you want to go to church with me?' Normally, it would have been a no, because growing up in a military family, we didn't go to church much, and I just didn't know much about God. But I had failed at everything, and I'm thinking, 'Yeah, I'll go.'"

Williams noted that what happened next was a "turning point." "Normally, if I'm in a setting where I don't know anything, I'm going to be as quiet as a mouse. I didn't know anything about the Bible or God. But my uncle introduced me to the guys there, and we shook hands — then they asked if anyone needed prayers. My mom had been having problems with her back from Goodyear," he said. And so — despite his quiet nature when it came to things he did not know — he asked them to pray for her.

For Williams, that already indicated that that day would be unusual — something special.

"The preacher starts reading the Bible aloud, going, 'The Bible says, 'If any man be in Christ, he's a new creature. Old things are passed away; all things are made new.' And I promise you, when he said that, it felt like a furnace lit inside of me. I raised my hand — here I'm speaking for the second time in a setting where I'd normally say nothing — and I asked him to read it again." He did, and Williams asked him if he was telling the truth, to which the preacher

replied yes.

"I said, 'You're telling me God will let me start over?' And he said yes. I knew I needed to start over — I'd messed up, and at that point, I felt like I'd disappointed everybody, including myself, and I couldn't figure out how to do any of the things I used to take for granted. The rest of the Bible study was a blur really — but that stuck."

Williams's uncle dropped him off back at his isolating dorm room afterwards, and as soon as Williams got back inside, he got on his knees and prayed.

"I said, 'God, if you're real, save me. I have done all that I've wanted to do, and I've messed up everything. I'll live for you. Let your Son come into my life and save me.' Somewhere along that way, the tears went from sadness to joy — and when I got up, that was it."

Williams returned to football yet again after this, but he said that this fourth return was notably different. "Now I wasn't running to go pro. I made the Dean's List and started doing good academically. I had my priorities in order."

While he still faced trials — such as when he returned as a junior and was forced to switch from leading rusher to fullback — he treated those as tests of whether he was going to quit when the going got tough. Instead of falling into his usual habits and leaving his team, Williams stopped and reasoned with himself that he would take the new position and use it as an opportunity to show the NFL teams that he could not only run the ball but also block.

After enduring the change as a junior, Williams would return to his previous position in his senior year, and he was awarded the MVP title that year. If his junior year was a test, his senior year

was the reward for passing it — and it showed that things were always hard before they became easy.

"God can take whatever situation and make a person victorious," Williams concluded thoughtfully. "God can take a broken, hurt, misguided person whose life is full of mistakes — and make something of that individual."

When asked for any final thoughts he wanted to share,

Williams simply replied, "The book says it all."

Readers can find *Fallen Moc: The Empty Five-Star* on Amazon today. A sequel to his memoir — titled *Risen Moc: After the Fall* — is also in the works. Dr. David Williams, who would also like to begin giving talks again and hopes his memoir will allow him to do just that, can be contacted at david.williams1234@yahoo.com.

Last Week's Scores

High School Sports

Football

Sept. 4

Coosa lost to Whitesburg 14-43
Gadsden City lost to Sparkman 14-42
Gaston defeated West End 60-36
Glencoe defeated Susan Moore 34-21
Westbrook defeated Mars Hill 35-14
Hokes Bluff lost to Etowah 21-34

This Week in Sports

High School Sports

Football

Sept. 11

Coosa vs. Westbrook
Gadsden City at James Clemens
Gaston at Pleasant Valley
Glencoe at Etowah
Southside vs Clay-Chalkville
Sardis vs. Crossville
Hokes Bluff at Susan Moore
West End at Piedmont

Girls Flag Football

Sept. 15

Gadsden City at Bob Jones (Huntsville) at 5 p.m



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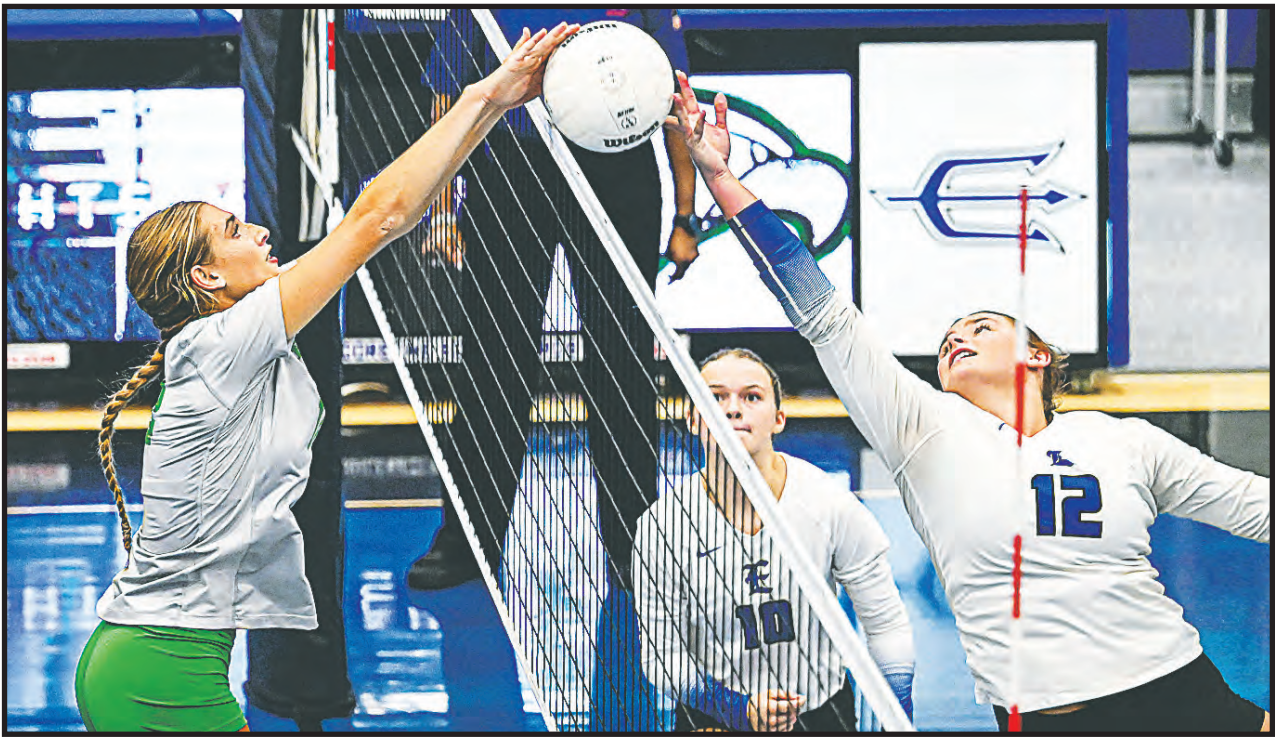
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SPORTS



On Thursday, Sept. 3, visiting Hokes Bluff defeated Etowah 3 sets to 1 in an area volleyball match. Hokes Bluff took the first two sets in close matches — set 1 being 25-20 and set 2 25-19 — but Etowah came back strong and took the third with a score of 21-25. Set 4 was close, and both teams had the lead at different points of the set. Ultimately, though, Hokes Bluff got the win 25-21, winning the best 3 out of 5 series. Photos by Alex Chaney.



Photos by RMM

Glencoe's Millie Chambless and Avery Barkley on Saturday.



Photos by RMM

Glencoe's Mia Talbot surpassed 1,000 kills on Saturday.



Photos by Alex Chaney

Sardis defeated Hokes Bluff 3-1 in volleyball matchup on Tuesday at Hokes Bluff. Sardis took the opening set in a back-and-forth battle, winning 26-24. Hokes Bluff answered in the second set, holding off Sardis 25-23 in another closely contested battle to even the match at 1-1. Sardis took control early in the third set winning 25-17. The fourth set was another competitive battle, but Sardis pulled away to secure the match with a 25-20 win.

Last Week's Scores

High School Sports

Volleyball

On Sept. 5, Glencoe defeated Brentwood (from Tennessee), Deshler, Fayette County and Prattville Christian. Glencoe also lost to Homewood 20-25 and 19-25 and to Cookeville (from Tennessee) 24-26 and 25-27. Mia Talbot had 27 kills and 11 digs. Katy Talbot had 21 kills, 16 digs and 9 aces. Millie Chambless had 9 kills. Kaedy Smith had 8 kills. Kinlee Montgomery had 46 assists and 7 digs. Avery Barkley had 35 assists, 5 aces and 12 digs. Gracyn Bunt had 13 digs and 4 aces. Kynsley Freeman had 4 aces.

Sept. 8

Glencoe defeated Hokes Bluff 20-25, 25-8, 25-22 and 25-14

Stats for Glencoe:

Mia Talbot had 21 kills, 5 aces and 16 digs, Katy Talbot had 16 kills, 14 digs Kinlee Montgomery had 14 digs and 21 assists, Gracyn Bunt had 11 digs, and Avery Barkley had 24 assists.

College Sports

Volleyball

Sept. 3.

Gadsden State defeated Cleveland State 25-23, 25-10, 16-25, and 25-23

Gadsden State defeated Georgia Highlands College 25-7, 25-14, and 25-16

Sept. 9

Gadsden State at Calhoun Community at 5:30 p.m.

This Week in Sports

High School Sports

Volleyball

Sept. 12

Westbrook Junior High at Gadsden City
Etowah Junior Varsity at Glencoe
Sardis Lady Lions Invitational vs. St. Clair County, White Plains, Glencoe, Ashville, and John Carroll
Etowah 7th and 8th graders at Lincoln Tournament

Sept. 14

West End Junior High vs. Douglas at 4 p.m.
Westbrook Junior High vs Springville and Glencoe at 4:30 p.m.
West End and Scottsboro at Sardis at 5 p.m.
Hokes Bluff Varsity and Junior High vs. Oneonta at 4 p.m.
Etowah and Gadsden City 7th and 8th at Rainbow Middle at 4 p.m.

Sept. 15

Westbrook and Cherokee County at Sardis at 4 p.m.
Westbrook Junior High vs. Oneonta and Sardis at 4:30 p.m.
Westbrook Junior High and Westbrook Varsity at Glencoe at 4:30 p.m.
West End Varsity and JB Pennington at Cleveland at 4:30 p.m.
West End Junior High at Glencoe
Glencoe Varsity vs. Ashville at 4 p.m.
Etowah Varsity and Junior High and Boaz at Douglas at 5 p.m.
Hokes Bluff Varsity and Junior High and Lincoln at Gadsden City at 4 p.m.

Sept. 17

West End at Locust Fork
Glencoe vs. Oneonta and Westbrook at 4 p.m.
Sardis Varsity at Douglas at 4 p.m.
Hokes Bluff Varsity and Junior High at Sand Rock at 4 p.m

College Sports

Volleyball

Sept. 11 and 12

Vincennes Tournament in Vincennes IN.

Sept. 14

Gadsden State at Calhoun Community College

Sept. 16

Gadsden State vs. Beville State Community College

Cross Country

Sept. 12

Gadsden State at Saturday Night Lights at 4:30 p.m.

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SPORTS

Glencoe defeats Hokes Bluff 3-1 in area match

Photos by Alex Chaney



On Thursday, Sept. 3, visiting Hokes Bluff defeated Etowah 3 sets to 1 in an area volleyball match. Hokes Bluff took the first two sets in close matches — set 1 being 25-20 and set 2 25-19 — but Etowah came back strong and took the third with a score of 21-25. Set 4 was close, and both teams had the lead at different points of the set. Ultimately, though, Hokes Bluff got the win 25-21, winning the best 3 out of 5 series.



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SPORTS



In & Around SEC
Cole Frederick

Week two review of SEC football

Auburn Week 1 Review
The Alex Golesh era began with a dramatic finish at the goal line as Auburn safety Eric Winters made a game-saving tackle inches away from the goal line on a Baylor 2-point attempt. The Tigers survived with a 17-16 victory over the Bears, and while it wasn't the performance Golesh hoped for in his debut on offense, it was a major positive for Auburn to win a one-score game after going 0-6 in those games a season ago. Byrum Brown threw for 259 yards and rushed for a score in his Auburn debut, though he did have three interceptions on the afternoon. Auburn hosts Southern Miss on Saturday (Sept. 12) night in Golesh's home debut on the Plains.

Alabama Week 1 Preview
Year three of Kalen DeBoer's tenure in Tuscaloosa started much better than year two. Alabama handled its business in a 48-10 win over East Carolina, and starting quarterback Keelon Russell showed flashes of why he is the most highly-rated quarterback prospect in school history. Russell threw for 256 yards, and he rushed for another 86 yards and a touchdown as Alabama outgained the Pirates 487-162. The Crimson Tide begin conference play this weekend with a road trip to Kentucky.

Game of the Week
Ohio State at Texas (-1.5)
Both of these programs have a championship-or-bust mentality for 2026, but there is more pressure on Steve Sarkisian and Texas to deliver this season. The Longhorns have a loaded roster and a Heisman candidate at quarterback in Arch Manning, but after missing the playoffs a season ago, this matchup against Ohio State is pivotal for the Long-

horns' season outlook. Texas can obviously still make the playoffs if they lose, but there will be more doubt that arises if Sark loses another big game—especially at home. Prediction: Texas 27, Ohio State 24.

Missouri at Kansas (-5.5)
The Border War is one of the most underrated rivalries in college football. The two former Big 12 rivals didn't play for 14 years after Missouri left for the SEC, but they continued the series last year. The Tigers won 42-31 a season ago, and they should be able to do enough to pull out a road victory on Friday night. Missouri 38, Kansas 31.

Arizona State at Texas A&M (-14.5)
Both of these programs have made the playoffs in the last two years, and the Aggies have the roster to compete for another playoff spot in 2026. Kenny Dillingham is one of the top young coaches in college football, but his Sun Devils have a tall order on Saturday afternoon in College Station. Prediction: Texas A&M 31, Arizona State 20.

Oklahoma at Michigan (+5.5)
The most controversial play of the opening weekend of college football occurred in Ann Arbor as Michigan snuck past Western Michigan on a last-second Hail Mary. A Hail Mary on the previous play fell incomplete, and the clock initially said zero seconds, but one second was added, and Bryce Underwood completed the next pass to avoid a massive upset in Kyle Whittingham's debut. Now, the Wolverines welcome in an Oklahoma team that made the playoffs a season ago and has their sights set on another playoff berth with quarterback John Mateer. Expect a physical, defensive battle in Ann Arbor on Saturday. Prediction: Michigan

SEC Week 2 Rankings

1. LSU (1-0)
2. Texas (1-0)
3. Georgia (1-0)
4. Ole Miss (1-0)
5. Alabama (1-0)
6. Oklahoma (1-0)
7. Texas A&M (1-0)
8. Tennessee (1-0)
9. Florida (1-0)
10. Auburn (1-0)
11. South Carolina (1-0)
12. Missouri (1-0)
13. Mississippi State (1-0)
14. Kentucky (1-0)
15. Vanderbilt (1-0)
16. Arkansas (1-0)

19, Oklahoma 17.

Western Kentucky at Georgia (-41.5)
Georgia dominated Tennessee State 63-3 in its opener, and they will cruise to another victory this weekend before conference play begins next week at Arkansas. Prediction: Georgia 45, Western Kentucky 6.

Alabama at Kentucky (+10.5)
Will Stein's first game in the SEC is a matchup against one of the premier programs in the country as Alabama visits Lexington this weekend. The Wildcats have a chance to be very good offensively, and they could provide some matchups problems with Alabama in the first half. On the other side of the ball, the Crimson Tide should have no trouble moving the ball against a vulnerable Kentucky defense, and Keelon Russell could have a breakout performance Saturday afternoon. Prediction: Alabama 34, Kentucky 20.

Mississippi State at Minnesota

(-1.5)
One of the most underrated quarterbacks in the country resides in Starkville. Kamario Taylor amassed over 400 yards and five touchdowns in the Bulldogs's 62-13 win over UL Monroe, and he gives Mississippi State a chance to compete each week in the SEC. Prediction: Mississippi State 27, Minnesota 24.

Delaware at Vanderbilt (-20.5)
Clark Lea and the Commodores started the year off with a win over Austin Peay, and they should improve to 2-0 this weekend before the schedule toughens next week against NC State. Prediction: Vanderbilt 31, Delaware 10.

Campbell at Florida
Jon Sumrall started his tenure in Gainesville with a resounding 66-21 victory over FAU, and they have one final tune-up before traveling to Auburn next weekend. Prediction: Florida 59, Campbell 10.

Tennessee at Georgia Tech (-12.5)
True freshman quarterback Faizon Brandon accounted for five total touchdowns and over 300 yards in his debut as the Tennessee quarterback, and now he will make his first road start against a Georgia Tech team that was upset by Colorado in week one. Prediction: Tennessee 34, Georgia Tech 24.

Towson at South Carolina
Shane Beamer's Gamecocks dominated Kent State 57-0 in the season opener, and they should cruise to another victory before conference play begins next week against Mississippi State. Prediction: South Carolina 52, Towson 3.

Louisiana Tech at LSU (-35.5)
No team in the country made a louder statement during the

opening weekend than LSU. The Tigers obliterated Clemson 51-10 in Lane Kiffin's debut on the Bayou, and they announced themselves as a legitimate title contender. Prediction: LSU 45, Louisiana Tech 6.

Charlotte at Ole Miss (-47.5)
The expectations are sky-high for Pete Golding entering his first official season as the Ole Miss head coach, and the Rebels found a way to slip past Louisville in the season opener. This week's contest should be no problem for the Rebs, but next week's tilt versus LSU is the most highly-anticipated matchup of the season in the SEC. Prediction: Ole Miss 44, Charlotte 3.

Southern Miss at Auburn (-33.5)
While Alex Golesh is certainly thrilled to win the opener against Baylor, the Tigers have plenty to clean up on both sides of the ball—particularly on offense. The Tigers lost the turnover battle and couldn't sustain a consistent rushing attack or passing attack over the middle of the field. Auburn will need to improve in those areas before Florida visits the Plains next weekend. Prediction: Auburn 48, Southern Miss 13.

Arkansas at Utah (-12.5)
Both Ryan Silverfield and Morgan Scalley started their tenures with wins at their respective schools, and they will square off in an intriguing non-conference matchup this weekend in Salt Lake City. The Hogs have their work cut out for them against an underrated Utah squad. Prediction: Utah 38, Arkansas 17.

 SCHEDULE 2026 SEASON			
WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/SCORE
1	SEPT 5	VS. EAST CAROLINA	W. 48-10
2	SEPT 12	AT KENTUCKY	2:30 PM ABC
3	SEPT 19	VS. FLORIDA STATE	2:30 PM
4	SEPT 26	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA	TBA
5	OCT 3	AT MISSISSIPPI STATE	TBA
6	OCT 10	VS. GEORGIA	TBA
7	OCT 17	AT TENNESSEE	TBA
8	OCT 24	VS. TEXAS A&M	TBA
9	OCT 31	OFF	
10	NOV 7	AT LSU	TBA
11	NOV 14	AT VANDERBILT	TBA
12	NOV 21	VS. UT-CHATTANOOGA	1:00 PM
13	NOV 28	VS. AUBURN	3:30 PM

 SCHEDULE 2026 SEASON			
WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/SCORE
1	SEPT 5	VS. BAYLOR AT MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM, ATLANTA GA	W. 17-16
2	SEPT 12	VS. SOUTHERN MISS	6:45 PM ESPN
3	SEPT 19	VS. FLORIDA	7:00PM
4	SEPT 26	VS. VANDERBILT	7:00 PM
5	OCT 3	AT TENNESSEE	8:20 PM
6	OCT 10	OFF	
7	OCT 17	AT GEORGIA	3:30 PM
8	OCT 24	VS. LSU	1200 PM
9	OCT 31	AT OLE MISS	1200 PM
10	NOV 7	VS. ARKANSAS	1200 PM
11	NOV 14	AT MISSISSIPPI STATE	1200 PM
12	NOV 21	VS. SAMFORD	3:30 PM
13	NOV 28	AT ALABAMA	3:30 PM

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 Anthony B Henson, Lea J Henson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns dated January 19, 2013; said mortgage being recorded on February 4, 2013 as Instrument No. 3380356 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Rocket Mortgage, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2026, Page 3612179 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, 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 before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on October 14, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Lot Number Fifteen (15), Phase I, Coosa Veranda Subdivision, according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Map "K", page 48, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama. Said property is commonly known as 2391 Veranda Trce, Gadsden, AL 35903. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control. Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Bidders must perform their own due diligence. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, 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.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control. Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Peggy Redden, James Redden to PNC Bank, National Association dated August 8, 2023; said mortgage being recorded on August 23, 2023 as Instrument No. 3562479 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. The undersigned, PNC Bank, National Association, 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 October 7, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: LOT 42, BROCK HILLS SECOND ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "G", PAGE 399, PROBATE OFFICE, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA. Said property is commonly known as 4338 Tawannah Cir W, Hokes Bluff, AL 35903. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control. Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Bidders must perform their own due diligence. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs

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* 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. ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC as holder of said mortgage McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP 505 20th Street N, Suite 1775 Birmingham, AL 35203 Telephone: (205) 216-4238 FT21@mccalla.com File No. 26-08877AL www.foreclosurehotline.net September 4, 11, and 18, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF ETOWAH

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Peggy Redden, James Redden to PNC Bank, National Association dated August 8, 2023; said mortgage being recorded on August 23, 2023 as Instrument No. 3562479 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. The undersigned, PNC Bank, National Association, 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 October 7, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: LOT 42, BROCK HILLS SECOND ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "G", PAGE 399, PROBATE OFFICE, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA. Said property is commonly known as 4338 Tawannah Cir W, Hokes Bluff, AL 35903. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control. Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Bidders must perform their own due diligence. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

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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 Lama Investments LLC to Commercial Lender LLC dated September 17, 2025; said mortgage being recorded on September 23, 2025 in Deed Book 2025, Page 3598292 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Commercial Lender LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2026, Page 3612751 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. The undersigned, Commercial Lender 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 before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on October 14, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Lot 19 in Block One (1) in Agricola's Coosa Street Addition to Gadsden, ac-

cording to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book "C", Page 341, in the Probate Office, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 114 Victory St, Gadsden, AL 35901.

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.

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.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control. Lot Number 25 in Spring Hill estates, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "I", page 121, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, lying and being in Rainbow City, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 132 Pineview St, Rainbow City, AL 35906.

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

505 20th Street N, Suite 1775 Birmingham, AL 35203 Telephone: (205) 216-4238 FT21@mccalla.com File No. 26-08863AL www.foreclosurehotline.net The Messenger 09/04/2026,09/11/2026,0 9/18/2026 26-08863AL

September 4, 11, and 18, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF ETOWAH

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by David L. Tucker, a married man and Kimberly Tucker, and his Wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns dated August 4, 2014; said mortgage being recorded on August 6, 2014 as Instrument No. 3405519 as having been modified by an agreement recorded as Instrument No. 3476570 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Quicken Loans, Inc. by assignment recorded as Instrument No. 3471615 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., 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 October 9, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot Number 25 in Spring Hill estates, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "I", page 121, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, lying and being in Rainbow City, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 132 Pineview St, Rainbow City, AL 35906.

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.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC. as holder of said mortgage McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP 505 20th Street N, Suite 1775 Birmingham, AL 35203 Telephone: (205) 216-4238 FT21@mccalla.com File No. 26-08879AL www.foreclosurehotline.net

September 11, 18, and 25, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain Mortgage executed by Daniel Jeremy Loudermilk and Abigail Nicole Loudermilk, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), (solely as nominee for Lender, First Federal Bank, A FSB, and Lender's successors and assigns), dated the 4th day of November, 2022, which Mortgage was recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, in Instrument Number 3549133; said Mortgage having been transferred and assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), (solely as nominee for Lender, First Federal Bank, A FSB, and Lender's successors and assigns) to Alabama Housing Finance Authority by virtue of that certain Assignment of Mortgage dated July 29, 2026, and recorded in said Probate Office in Miscellaneous Book 2026, at Page 3613070. 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 October 1, 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 Number Twenty-Four

(24) McClain Heights, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "C", Page 393, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being North Gadsden, Alabama. 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.

September 11, 18, and 25, 2026

CAPELL & HOWARD, P.C. Bowdy J. Brown, Esq. 150 South Perry Street Montgomery, Alabama 36104 Our File No.: 37591-3770 ATTORNEYS FOR ASSIGNEE ALABAMA HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY ASSIGNEE

September 11, 18, and 25, 2026

CAPELL & HOWARD, P.C. Bowdy J. Brown, Esq. 150 South Perry Street Montgomery, Alabama 36104 Our File No.: 37591-3770 ATTORNEYS FOR ASSIGNEE ALABAMA HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY ASSIGNEE

September 11, 18, and 25, 2026

September 11, 18, and 25, 2026

September 11, 18, and 25, 2026

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Herman Hunter and wife, Myrtice A. Hunter, to United States of America acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, on May 2, 1991, said mortgage being recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, on May 6, 1991 at Book 1848, at Page 55. United States of America, acting through the Rural Housing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 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 October 12, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: A portion of Lot Sixteen (16), of Longview Acres First Addition, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "I", page 108, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Southeast corner of Lot Sixteen

(16); thence run Northwesterly along the Northeast line of Russell Road a distance of 150.0 feet to the Southwest line of said lot; thence deflect 90 degrees to the right and run in a Northeasterly direction and along the West line of said Lot a distance of 302.0 feet to a point; thence deflect 90 degrees to the right and run a distance of 150.0 feet to a point in the East line of said lot; thence run in a Southwesterly direction and along the East line of said lot a distance of 302.0 feet to the point of beginning. Said property subject to restrictions as set out in Misc. Record 102, page 89, and subject to the rights of Alabama Power Company, as recorded in Book 1251, page 989, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama. More commonly known as: 349 Russell Rd, Gadsden, AL 35901 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

ETOWAH COUNTY
STATE OF ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-
2026-900126

BECKY NORDGREN,
REVENUE COMMISS-
SIONER OF ETOWAH
COUNTY, ALABAMA, IN
HER OFFICIAL CAPACI-
TY V. TERESAA. SMITH,
et al., AND A PARCEL OF
REAL ESTATE SITUAT-
ED IN ETOWAH COUN-
TY, ALABAMA

NOTICE OF IN REM AC-
TION PURSUANT TO
ALABAMA CODE § 6-6-
564 AND OTHER CON-
TROLLING LAW

To: Teresa A. Smith,
Amanda Leigh Edmon-
son, Jessica Paige Mar-
tin, Amy Nicole Martin,
Jeremy Smith, Lane
Sorensen, and all indi-
viduals and entities that
may claim an ownership
interest in the real estate
described below:
Take notice that an in
rem action has been
filed in the Circuit Court
of Etowah County, Ala-
bama, in civil action no.:
CV-2026-900126, styled
as Becky Nordgren, Re-
venue Commissioner of
Etowah County, Alabama,
in her official capacity v.
Lane Sorensen; Teresa
A. Smith; Amanda Leigh
Edmonson; Jessica
Paige Martin; Amy Nicole
Martin; Jeremy Smith;
a parcel of real estate in
Etowah County, Alabama,
described as: "3032 MC-
CLAIN CIRCLE, HOKES
BLUFF, ALABAMA
35903, PIN: 22420, TAX
PARCEL: 12-04-18-0-
000-002.002, AS MORE
FULLY DESCRIBED IN
THE COMPLAINT;" and
fictitious defendants A-D,
being those individuals
and/or entities that claim
and/or have any own-
ership or interest in the
subject real estate, whose
identities are currently un-
known. Teresa A. Smith,
Amanda Leigh Edmon-
son, Jessica Paige Mar-
tin, Amy Nicole Martin,
Lane Sorensen, Jeremy
Smith, and any entity or
individual that claims any
ownership or interest in
said parcel of real estate
must file an answer to
said action on or before
thirty (30) days from the
date of the last publica-
tion of this notice, or judg-
ment may be entered af-
fecting your ownership and/or in-
terest in said parcel of real
estate. Your answer must
be filed with the under-
signed Circuit Court Clerk
and copied to Bradley
W. Cornett, attorney for
Etowah County Revenue
Commissioner, 140 South
9th Street, Gadsden, Ala-
bama 35901.

Done this the 27th day of
August 2026

Cassandra Johnson
Circuit Court Clerk of
Etowah County, Alabama
801 Forrest Avenue, Suite
202
Gadsden, Alabama
35901

September 4, 11, 18, and
25, 2026

NOTICE BY
PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF ETOWAH COUNTY,
ALABAMA

BECKY NORDGREN,
ETOWAH COUNTY
REVENUE COMMISS-
SIONER, Plaintiff,
v.
31-CV-2026-90027
SKG QRP et al, Defen-
dants.

NOTICE BY
PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF ETOWAH COUNTY,
ALABAMA

BECKY NORDGREN,
ETOWAH COUNTY
REVENUE COMMISS-
SIONER, Plaintiff,
v.
31-CV-2026-90027
SKG QRP et al, Defen-
dants.

TO: BECKY NORD-
DGREN, ETOWAH
COUNTY REVENUE
COMMISSIONER; AN-
THONY E. GRIGSBY;
CHRISTY M. GRIGS-
BY; WELLS FARGO
FINANCIAL LEASING,
INC.; UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA ACTING
THROUGH THE FARM
SERVICE AGENCY,
UNITED STATES DE-
PARTMENT OF AGRIC-
ULTURE; and ANY
AND ALL UNKNOWN
PERSONS, HEIRS,
SUCCESSORS, AS-
SIGNS, OR ENTITIES
WHO MAY CLAIM ANY
RIGHT, TITLE, INTER-
EST, LIEN, OR RIGHT
OF REDEMPTION IN
THE REAL PROPERTY
DESCRIBED BELOW,
WHOSE ADDRESSES
ARE UNKNOWN AND
CANNOT BE ASCER-
TAINED AFTER REA-
SONABLE DILIGENCE.

You are hereby notified
that on the 21st day of
June 2026, SKG QRP
LLC filed a Verified Com-
plaint for Judicial Fore-
closure of Alabama Ad
Valorem Tax Liens, Quiet
Title in Rem, and Eject-
ment in the Circuit Court
of Etowah County, Ala-
bama, Case No. 31 CV
2026 900279, concerning
the following real property
located in Etowah County,
Alabama:

The Northwest Quarter

(NW 1/4) of the Northeast
Quarter (NE 1/4) of Sec-
tion Thirty two (32), Town-
ship Ten (10), Range Four
(4) East of Huntsville Me-
ridian in Etowah County,
Alabama, less all that part
lying North of the New
Highway, containing here-
in conveyed 32 acres,
more or less, lying and
being situated in Etowah
County, Alabama, togeth-
er with all improvements
located thereon. Subject
to a right of way for in-
gress, egress and utilities
over and across a strip of
land being 20 feet evenly
off the East side of the
above described property.
Commonly known as
3744 Bluff Road, Boaz,
Alabama 35956.
Parcel ID: 05 09 32 0 000
003.000.

All persons claiming any
title, interest, lien, en-
cumbrance, or right of
redemption in the above
described property are
required to plead, answer,
demur, or otherwise re-
spond to the Complaint
filed June 21st 2026 with-
in thirty (30) days after the
last date of publication of
this notice, or thereafter
a default judgment may
be entered against them,
foreclosing all rights of
redemption and quieting
title to the property in SKG
QRP LLC.
A person with a right to
redeem the property may
do so at any time prior to
the entry of final judgment
in this action by filing a
timely answer or motion
in the court. A judgment
quieting title may cause a
person with an interest in
or claim on the property to
lose that interest or claim.
Any person claiming an
interest in the property
may appear in this action.
Any person who is entitled
to redeem may request
that the property be sold
at public auction.

Done this 31st day of Au-
gust 2026.
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Etowah County, Alabama

STANLEY & ASSOCI-
ATES, LLC
201 20th Street South
Irondale, Alabama 35210
Telephone: (205) 451-
4196

September 4, 11, 18, and
25, 2026

NOTICE TO
INTERESTED
PARTIES

IN THE PROBATE
COURT OF ETOWAH
COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF CARL
WEAVER, DECEASED

CASE NO: 2024-190
Letters of Testamenta-
ry on the Estate of Carl
Weaver, deceased, hav-
ing been granted to the
undersigned on the 11th
day of April, 2024, by the
Honorable Judge of the
Probate Court of Etowah
County, Alabama, notice
is hereby given that all
persons having claims
against said estate are
hereby required to pre-
sent the same within time
allowed by law or the
same will be barred. Fur-
thermore, notice is here-
by given pursuant to Ala.
Code § 43-6-2, § 43-2-3,
and other applicable laws,
that all known heirs and
next of kin have formally
disclaimed, renounced,
and rejected any and all
interest in the following
specific assets of the Es-
tate:
Any and all stock own-
ership or other interest in
Techtrix, Inc., an Alabama
corporation in which the
deceased was a share-
holder.
Any and all interest in the
real estate located at 525
Plainview Street, Gads-
den, AL 35901 (Parcel
#10-09-32-4-000-172.000
and 10-09-32-4-000-
259.000).
Any unknown heirs, in-
terested parties, or persons
claiming any right, title, or
interest in the above-de-
scribed assets, or who
may have an objection to
the administration or dis-
position of said assets by
the Personal Representa-
tive, must file their claims
or objections with the
Probate Court of Etowah
County, Alabama, within
the time allowed by law, or
be forever barred.
Sharon Marbut
Personal Representa-
tive of the Estate of Carl
Weaver, Deceased
Prepared by: Ralph K.
Strawn, Jr.
Attorney for Petitioner
Strawn & Robertson, LLC
2401 Rainbow Drive
Gadsden, Alabama
35901
(256) 485-4980

Any and all interest in the
real estate located at 525
Plainview Street, Gads-
den, AL 35901 (Parcel
#10-09-32-4-000-172.000
and 10-09-32-4-000-
259.000).
Any unknown heirs, in-
terested parties, or persons
claiming any right, title, or
interest in the above-de-
scribed assets, or who
may have an objection to
the administration or dis-
position of said assets by
the Personal Representa-
tive, must file their claims
or objections with the
Probate Court of Etowah
County, Alabama, within
the time allowed by law, or
be forever barred.
Sharon Marbut
Personal Representa-
tive of the Estate of Carl
Weaver, Deceased
Prepared by: Ralph K.
Strawn, Jr.
Attorney for Petitioner
Strawn & Robertson, LLC
2401 Rainbow Drive
Gadsden, Alabama
35901
(256) 485-4980

September 4, 11, 18, and
25, 2026

NOTICE TO
CONTRACTORS
FEDERAL AID
PROJECT NO.
DEMO-BR-A181(941)
ETOWAH COUNTY,
ALABAMA

Sealed bids will be re-
ceived by the Director

of Transportation at the
office of the Alabama
Department of Trans-
portation, Montgomery,
Alabama until 10:00 AM
on September 25, 2026
and at that time publicly
opened for constructing
the Bridge Replacement
(Grading, Drainage,
Pavement, Bridge Re-
moval, and Traffic Sig-
nals) on SR-77 (North-
bound Roadway) over the
Coosa River in Rainbow
City. Length 1.353 mi.
The total amount of un-
completed work under
contract to a contractor
must not exceed the
amount of his or her qual-
ification certificate.
The Entire Project Shall
Be Completed By Decem-
ber 31, 2029.
A Bidding Proposal may
be purchased for \$5.00.
Plans may be purchased
for \$81.00 per set. Plans
and Proposals are avail-
able at the Alabama
Department of Transpor-
tation, 1409 Coliseum
Boulevard, Room E-108,
Montgomery, AL 36110.
Checks should be made
payable to the Alabama
Department of Transpor-
tation. Plans and Propo-
sals will be mailed only up-
on receipt of remittance.
No refunds will be made.
Minimum wage rates for
this project have been
pre-determined by the
Secretary of Labor and
are set forth in the adver-
tised specifications. This
project is subject to the
contract work hours and
Safety Standards Act and
its implementing regula-
tions.

Cashier's check or bid
bond for 5% of bid (max-
imum - \$50,000.00) made
payable to the Alabama
Department of Transpor-
tation must accompany
each bid as evidence of
good faith.
The bracket range is
shown only to provide
general financial infor-
mation to contractors
and bonding companies
concerning the project's
complexity and size. This
Bracket should not be
used in preparing a bid,
nor will this bracket have
any bearing on the de-
cision to award this con-
tract.

The Bracket Estimate
On This Project Is
From \$14,726,184 To
\$17,998,669 .

The proposed work shall
be performed in conform-
ity with the rules and reg-
ulations for carrying out
the Federal Highway Act.

Plans and Specifications
are on file in Room E-108
of the Alabama Depart-
ment of Transportation at
Montgomery, Alabama
36110.

In accordance with the
rules and regulations of
The Alabama Department
of Transportation, propos-
als will be issued only to
prequalified contractors
or their authorized repre-
sentatives, upon requests
that are received before
10 A.M., on the day pre-
vious to the day of opening
of bids.

The bidder's proposal
must be submitted on the
complete original propos-
al furnished him or her by
the Alabama Department
of Transportation.

The Alabama Depart-
ment of Transportation, in
accordance with Title VI
of the Civil Rights Act of
1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42
U.S.C. 2000D TO 2000D-
4 and Title 49 code of Fed-
eral Regulations, Depart-
ment of Transportation,
Subtitle A, Office of The
Secretary, Part 21, non-
discrimination in federal-
ly-assisted programs of
the Department of Trans-
portation issued pursuant
to such act, hereby notifi-
es all bidders that it will
affirmatively insure that in
any contract entered into
pursuant to this adver-
tisement, minority busi-
ness enterprises will be
afforded full opportunity
to submit bids in response
to this invitation and will
not be discriminated against
on the grounds of race,
color, religion, sex, or na-
tional origin in consider-
ation for an award.
The right to reject any or
all bids is reserved.

JOHN R. COOPER
Transportation Director

September 4, 11, and 18,
2026

NOTICE TO
CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals will be
received by the City Clerk,
City of Gadsden, Ala-
bama, at the City Hall, 90
Broad Street, Room 411,
Gadsden, Alabama until
2:00 P.M., Tuesday, Octo-
ber 6, 2026, for the Gads-
den Municipal Complex
Demolition Project, Bid
Request No.3652, locat-
ed 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 con-
tract documents are open
to the public for inspection
at the City Hall. To regis-
ter and request Electronic
(pdf) specifications and
contract documents at no
cost, send an email re-
quest to: ecoakley@city-
ofgadsden.com. All bid-
ders must be registered
with the City of Gadsden
Engineering Department
in order to submit a bid.
Bids received from un-
registered bidders will be
rejected.

The bidder shall file with
his bid either a cashier's
check drawn on an Al-
abama 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 infor-
malities or to reject any
and all bids.

The successful bidder
will be required to furnish
and pay for the satisfac-
tory 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 docu-
ments 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 ap-
plicable provisions of
Section 34-8-1, et. seq.,
Code of Alabama, 1975,
including requirements
for licensing as a general
contractor and the ne-
cessity to show evidence
of license before the bid
will be considered by the
awarding authority. A cur-
rent license number must
be included on the bid.

By signing this contract,
the contracting parties
affirm, for the duration of
the agreement, that they
will not violate federal
immigration law or know-
ingly employ, hire for em-
ployment, or continue to
employ an unauthorized
alien within the state of
Alabama. Furthermore, a
contracting party found to
be in violation of this pro-
vision 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 facili-
ties that are segregated
on a basis of race creed,
color, sex, or national or-
igin. Bidders must also
certify they will make facili-
ties handicap accessible to
the extent required by
law.

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

September 11, 2026

NOTICE OF
COMPLETION

PROJECT: Etowah
Schools New Intercom
Systems

CONTRACTOR: Staley
Technologies

WORK: Equipment – IP
Intercom System

LOCATION: Etowah
County Schools, Etowah
County, Alabama

OWNER: Etowah County
School Board of Educa-
tion

NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that Staley Tech-
nologies, 6101 S. Shack-
leford Road, Little Rock,
AR 72204, has complet-
ed work consisting of
the installation of an IP
Intercom System for the
Etowah Schools New In-
tercom Systems project at
Etowah County Schools,
Etowah County, Ala-
bama. Any person, firm,
or corporation having any
claim for labor, materials,
equipment, services, or
other project-related work
furnished in connection
with this project is hereby
notified to promptly submit
such claim to:

Staley Technologies
1-800-280-9675
6101 S. Shackleford
Road
Little Rock, AR 72204
This notice is published
pursuant to applicable Al-
abama law.

August 28, September 4,

11, and 18, 2026

PUBLIC RELEASE

Child and Adult Care
Food Program

Public News Release for
Non-Pricing Programs

Summit ETC announces
the sponsorship of the
Alabama State Depart-
ment of Education (ALS-
DE) Child and Adult Care
Food Program (CACFP)

In accordance with feder-
al civil rights law and U.S.
Department of Agriculture
(USDA) civil rights regu-
lations and policies, this
institution is prohibited
from discriminating on
the basis of race, color,
national origin, sex (in-
cluding gender identity*
and sexual orientation*),
disability, age, or reprisal
or retaliation for prior civil
rights activity.

Program information
may be made available
in languages other than
English. Persons with
disabilities who require
alternative means of
communication to ob-
tain program information
(e.g., Braille, large print,
audiotape, American Sign
Language), should con-
tact the responsible state
or local agency that ad-
ministers the program or
USDA's TARGET Center
at (202) 720-2600 (voice
and TTY) or contact US-
DA through the Federal
Relay Service at (800)
877-8339.

1. Mail U.S. Dept of Ag-
riculture, Office of Asst
Secretary for Civil Rights,
1400 Independence Ave.
SW, Washington DC,
20250-9410; or 2. Fax
202-690-7442; or Email
program.intake@usda.
gov. This institution is an
equal opportunity provid-
er.

Program locations: Sum-
mit ETC – Gadsden, 715
Raley St., Gadsden, AL
35902 and Summit ETC
– Centre, 1975 East By-
pass, Centre, AL 35960.

Persons interested in re-
ceiving more information
should contact Katie Her-
zberg, 241 S. 3rd St, Ste
A, Gadsden, AL 35901 at
telephone number 256-
439-1575.

September 4 and 11,
2026

JOB COMPLETION

In accordance with Chap-
ter 1, Title 39, Code of Al-
abama, 1975, Bob Smith
Construction, Inc. hereby
give written notice of the
completion of a contract
with the City of Gads-
den, Alabama, for 2024
City of Gadsden Annu-
al Drainage & Concrete
Work, project no. 3524,
and has made request
for final settlement of said
Contract. This notice is to
appear for four consec-
utive weeks beginning
August 28, 2026 and end-
ing September 18, 2026.
All persons having any
claim for labor, materials
or otherwise in connection
with this project should
immediately notify Heath
Williamson, Architect for
City of Gadsden, P.O. Box
267, Gadsden, AL 35902-
0267 during this period.

August 28, September 4,
11, and 18, 2026

NOTICE OF
COMPLETION

In accordance with Chap-
ter 1, Title 39, Code of Al-
abama, 1975, as amended,
notice is hereby given that
A & S Electrical Contrac-
tors, Inc., Contractor, has
completed the contract for
Construction of Football
Stadium Lighting Renova-
tions for Southside and
Hokes Bluff High School,
at Etowah Couty, Ala-
bama for Etowah Coun-
ty Board of Education,
Owner, and have made
request for final settle-
ment of said Contract. All
persons having any claim
for labor, materials, or oth-
erwise in connection with
this project should im-
mediately notify B. Craig
Lipscomb Architect 422
Chestnut Street, Gads-
den, AL 35901.
A & S Electrical Contrac-
tors, Inc.
906 Nuckolls Street
Gadsden, AL 35903

August 28, September 4,
11, and 18, 2026

NOTICE OF
COMPLETION

Vulcan Materials Asphalt
& Construction, LLC here-
by gives notice of comple-
tion of Resurfacing Pav-
ing at Carlisle Elementary
School in Etowah County,
Alabama. This notice will
appear for three consec-
utive weeks beginning on
September 4, 2026 and
ending on September 18,
2026. All claims should
be filed at Vulcan Mate-
rials Asphalt & Construc-
tion, LLC, P.O. Box 1890,
Gadsden, Alabama,

35902 during this period.

September 4, 11, and 18,
2026

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chap-
ter 1, Title 39, Code of Al-
abama, 1975, as amend-
ed, notice is hereby given
that GKL Companies,
Inc., Contractor, has com-
pleted the Contract for
Renovation of Reroofing
of Southside Element-
ary School located at
2551 AL-77, Southside,
AL. 35907 for the State
of Alabama and County
of Etowah, Owners, and
have made request for
final settlement of said
Contract. All persons hav-
ing any claim for labor,
materials, or otherwise in
connection with this proj-
ect should immediately
notify B. Cragi Lipscomb
- Architect, LLC, 436
Chestnut Street, Gadsden
AL 35906

GKL Companies, Inc.
2323 East Greenview Av-
enue
Rainbow City, AL. 35906

September 4, 11, and 18,
2026

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chap-
ter 1, Title 39, Code of
Alabama, 1975, notice is
hereby given that Greer
Building Contractors,
LLC, has completed the
Contract for Construction
of A Modular Building for
the Etowah County Board
of Education for the State
of Alabama and Etowah
County, Owner(s), and
have made request for
final settlement of said
Contract. All persons hav-
ing any claim for labor,
materials, or otherwise in
connection with this proj-
ect should immediately
notify: B. Craig Lipscomb,
Architect at PO Box 1518,
Gadsden, AL. 35902,
256-390-5657.

Greer Building Contrac-
tors, LLC
110 Thomas Dr.
Gadsden, AL 35904

September 11, 19, and
25, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chap-
ter 1, Title 39, Code of
Alabama, 1975, DV DPH-
QGHG notice is hereby
given Bob Smith Con-
struction, Inc., has com-
pleted the Contract for
construction of: Connec-
tor Additions to Glencoe
High School and West
End High School, 25-112
for the Etowah County
Board of Education, and
have made request for
final settlement of said
Contract. All persons hav-
ing any claim for labor,
materials, or otherwise in
connection with this proj-
ect should immediately
notify: McKee & Associ-
ates, Inc., Kathy Sheffield,
334-834-9933, 631 S.
Hull Street, Montgomery,
AL 36104

Bob Smith Construction,
Inc.
8076 US Highway 11,
Springville, AL 35146

September 11, 18, 25,
and October 2, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

The following units will
be auctioned or otherwise
disposed of on Septem-
ber 17, 2026 beginning
at 9 a.m. on the premises
of Stock It N Lock It Mini
Storage located at 3403
Rainbow Parkway. Rain-
bow City, AL. 35906.
Kristi Clark - Unit 151-G
Evan Chevryon - Unit
191-G
Ted Hurst - Unit 46B and
47B
Blake Krucs - Unit 129-E
Jamie Pierce - Unit 227-I
Madison Reaves - Unit
45-B
Wesley Wilkerson - Unit
179-G
Kyra Vaughan - Unit 413-I
Logan Williams - Unit 218-
H
Stock It N Lock It
3403 Rainbow Parkway
Rainbow City, AL. 35906

September 4 and 11,
2026

NOTICE OF
VEHICLE
POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that
the undersigned will pro-
ceed to take possession of
the following described
abandoned vehicle(s) on
October 14, 2026.
2017 HONDA CR-V
VIN: 7FARW1H-
97HE043914
UNI AUTOMOTIVE
GROUP, LLC
2501 3rd Street SW
Attalla AL. 35954
256-538-6600

September 4 and 11,
2026

NOTICE OF VEHICLE
POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that
the undersigned will pro-

ceed to take possession
of the following described
abandoned vehicle(s) on
10/16/2026 at 8:00 am.

2012 Ford Focus Sedan
SE
VIN: 1FAHP3F-
25CL352668

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

September 11 and 18,
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 aban-
doned motor vehicles:

2003 Ford F-150
VIN: 1FTR-
W08693KB20239

The public auction will be
held at Thacker Towing,
927 5th Ave NE, Attalla,
AL 35954 on October 30,
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 pub-
lic auction.

September 11 and 18,
2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC
AUCTION OF
ABANDONED
VEHICLES

may examine and review the proposed agreement in the Office of the City Clerk, located at 612 4th Street NW, Attalla, Alabama 35954, during normal business hours before and after the public meeting referenced above.

Mandy Cash
City Clerk
September 4 and 11, 2026

**ORDINANCE
NO. O-24-26**

Appointing Jessica Wilson as Council Member for District Five

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2026 the council adopted a resolution declaring vacant the office of Council Member for District Five; and

WHEREAS, Section 11-43B-12, Alabama Code 1975, provides that in the event of a vacancy in the office of a Council Member, the Council shall appoint a person from the district in which such vacancy occurs to succeed to the office of the Council Member for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Wilson is a resident of District Five; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Wilson is eligible for appointment to Council Member

for District Five for the unexpired term;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, that Jessica Wilson is appointed as Council Member for District Five for the remainder of the term which expires on the first Monday of November, 2026.

Adopted by the City of Gadsden on September 1, 2026.

Jennifer Smith, City Clerk
September 11, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Gadsden will conduct a Certified Public Test and Inspection of DS200 and ES Express Vote machines to be used in the Gadsden Municipal runoff election on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. Said test and inspection is open to the public and will be conducted at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at the former health department building located directly behind the Etowah County Courthouse, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama.

Jennifer Smith
City Clerk/Treasurer
September 11, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE
CITY OF ATTALLA**

The City of Attalla will hold public hearings to discuss the remedies for nuisance/abatement cases that will come before the Attalla City council on Monday, September 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. public hearings will be held at 612 4th Street NW. Attalla, Alabama. The following addresses will be discussed.

05th Street, North, Attalla, AL 35954
121 Mulberry Lane, Attalla, AL 35954
638 Owens Avenue, Attalla, AL 35954
305 Mcelroy Street, SE, Attalla, AL 35954
913 1st Street, Attalla, AL 35954
920 Cleveland Avenue, Attalla, AL 35954
612 & 612 ½ Highland Avenue, Attalla, AL 35954

Mandy Cash
City Clerk
September 11 and 18, 2026

**LEGAL ZONING
NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that on September 23, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., the Planning Commission of the City of Gadsden will hold a regularly scheduled public hearing in the

Council Chamber at City Hall, First Floor, 90 Broad Street to give all persons who desire an opportunity to be heard, in opposition to or in favor of, the following requests:

Final/Preliminary Plat for a proposed Lot Line Adjustment on property described below: (Property Address being in an around Johnston Avenue and Twin Bridges Golf Course)

Parcel "A"

Commence at the southwest corner of lot 3, block 4, of mineral district land company's first subdivision, as recorded in plat book b, page 350, Gadsden, Alabama, which is also the point of beginning; thence run north 88°10'00" east a distance of 140.00 feet to a point; thence run south 01°50'00" east a distance of 200.00 feet to a point; thence run south 88°10'00" west a distance of 140.00 feet to a point; thence run north 88°10'00" east a distance of 200.00 feet to the point of beginning. Said property containing 0.16 acres, more or less, being lot 3 in block 4 of mineral district land company's first subdivision, as recorded in plat book b, page 350, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.

Parcel "B"

Commence at the northwest corner of lot 4, block 4, of mineral district land company's first subdivision, as recorded in plat book b, page 350, Gadsden, Alabama, which is also the point of beginning; thence run north 88°10'00" east a distance of 140.00 feet to a point; thence run south 01°50'00" east a distance of 200.00 feet to a point; thence run south 88°10'00" west a distance of 140.00 feet to a point; thence run north 88°10'00" east a distance of 200.00 feet to the point of beginning. Said property containing 0.64 acres, more or less, being lots 4, 5, 6, and 7 in block 4 of mineral district land company's first subdivision, as recorded in plat book b, page 350, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama. Reconsideration for Final/Preliminary Plat for a proposed Re-Division of property described below: (Property address being 1401 Cloverdale Road and the corner of Paden Road).

Begin at an existing capped rebar at the Southwest corner of Lot #1, in Block "1", of Second Addition of Paden Farm Subdivision, as recorded in Plat Book "C", Page

275, Etowah County Probate Office, being on the East R/W of Paden Road (50' R/W) and run N 02 degrees 03'23"W (M) N 02 degrees 02'00"W (R), along < aid RAY, 123.47 feet (M) 123.58 feet (R) to an existing capped rebar; thence run S 83 degrees 33'09"E (M) S83 degrees 31'42"E (R), leaving said R/W, 159.87 fee: (M) 160.00 feet (R) to an existing capped rebar; thence run N 03 degrees 09'06" E (M) N 03 degrees 04'40"E (R), 137.17 feet (M) 137.22 feet (R) to an existing 1/2" rebar; thence run N73 degrees13'24" W (M) N73 degrees12'08"W (R), 179.90 feet (M) 180.00 feet (R) to an existing 1/2" rebar on said R/W; thence run N02 degrees 00'00"W, along said R/W, 145.67 feet to a point on a R/W flare; thence run N79 degrees 43'38"E, along said flare, 29.85 feet to a point on the Southwest-erly R/W of Cloverdale Road (60' R/W); thence run S 65 degrees 17'18"E, along said R/W, 269.29 feet to an existing 3/8" rebar; thence run S 01 degrees 58'00"E, leaving said R/W, 324.01 feet to an existing 1/2" pipe on the South line of Lot #1; thence run N

87 degrees 38'29"E, along said South line, 200.09 feet to an existing 1/4" roc. at the Southeast corner of Lot #1; thence run S 01 degrees 59'34"E, along the East line of Lot #2, 176.00 feet to an existing pinch-pipe; thence run S 87 degrees 55'07' W, 469.96 feet to a point on said East R/W; thence run N 02 degrees 00'00"W, a long-said R/W, 176.00 feet to the point of beginning. Said property being a portion of lot : Lots #1 and 2, Block "1", Second Addition of Paden Farm Subdivision, Etowah County, Alabama and contains 3.73 acres (more or less).

Final/Preliminary Plat for a proposed Re-Division of property described below: (Property address being 3508 California Street).

All of Block "D", including a 10" foot Annulled alley, in the "Map of Plant City", as recorded in Plat Book "B", page 300 and 301, in the Probate office of Etowah County, Gadsden, Alabama.

September 11, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

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

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

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

condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-385-7131

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!

BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems at AFFORDABLE PRICES! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 1-877-583-6484

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-358-5270

HEALTH/BEAUTY

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

FOR SALE

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is the most advanced gutter protection for your home, backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-833-683-

2005 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 20% off! Seniors and military save an additional 10%. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-877-930-3506

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-877-817-4697 www.dental50plus.com/alabama #6258

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AUTOMOTIVE

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

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.



**we protect your house.
because to you
it's home.
simple human sense.**

FORD
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
cfordinsurance.com 256-413-7611
1957 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, AL 35901
AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS