



Riding for a better tomorrow: Discussing horse-facilitated therapy in Altoona

By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

Amy McCormick knows from firsthand experience just how strong the healing power of horses is — and she has made it her life goal to ensure that everyone else gets to experience it, too.

“My little girl Olive” — one of the many rescued horses on Anchor of Hope Ranch — “is in her 40s, and she’s gotten me through so many bad journeys and bad situations and bad seasons. She gives me purpose.”

And for McCormick, that purpose is clear: helping people build therapeutic relationships with horses — a more mutually beneficial relationship than most people might believe. “Horses just want to be seen — just like people,” McCormick stated in an interview with Messenger’s Features Editor Caylie Moore, who had the opportunity to visit the ranch and see firsthand what McCormick did at Hope in Her Eyes.

“We want to be seen, we want to be validated, we want to be heard. And they show up — no judgment, no passive-aggressive behaviors. What you bring today might not be what you bring tomorrow, but they’ll be there again for you tomorrow.”

As the owner of Hope in



Her Eyes, a “faith-centered nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals find healing, resilience and renewed purpose through the powerful connection between humans and horses,” McCormick has spent the past few years of her life busy with all that a part-rancher-part-therapist must do before the day is over.

Certified as an EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) Military Equine Specialist in 2022, Hope in Her Eyes has been officially operating since 2019, and since January of 2020 as

a nonprofit — though it has its oldest roots in New Jersey, where it found its start. Since its founding, the program has helped hundreds of people all across the East Coast.

“We’ve done retreats for kids in New York City where law enforcement would bring them down for barbecues, and we would let them know what it was like to be out on the ranch and have a horse ride... We’ve also done stuff with social workers in groups of 20 or 30, so they don’t have to pour from an empty cup because they already have to do the heavy lift-

ing,” McCormick explained, adding that she has seen a variety of people come through the ranch’s gates for a variety of reasons. “In North Jersey, I was more focused on the mental health of veterans, but down here, the foster system and the kids — there’s countless more than I saw in North Jersey. So that’s where my heart’s really pulling me [right now].”

McCormick was more than happy to explain the thought processes — both scientific and personal — behind horse-facilitated therapy.

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A letter from one of the editors: Fresh starts and unwordable excitement



Dear reader:

As some of you have thoughtfully noticed, Gadsden Messenger recently welcomed someone new to the team behind the “local good news newspaper”: me — that is, Caylie Moore, Features Editor! And I am so excited to be here, more than I could ever begin to put into words!

But let me try to, anyway.

The past few weeks have been some of the most fun, most interesting times of my life: I’ve met so many wonderful people who were willing to tell me their stories; I’ve learned what it means to be a journalist who aims to not only highlight but also exemplify the positive aspects of their community; and I’ve made so many new friends who have taught me the ins and outs of this role. Needless to say, I am beyond grateful to have been given the opportunity to tell your stories to our community — and I hope that in telling your stories, you’ll come to understand a little bit of mine, too.

I grew up in Attalla — Duck Springs, to be specific — and I’d like to think it shows in the ways that count: in the way I treat other people with kindness and understanding, in the way I let my accent slip out when I talk about something I’m passionate about, in the way I wear my heart on my sleeve all of the time. Although I have traveled around the country — to Massachusetts, to California, to Connecticut, to New York — and been across the Atlantic (here and there!), there’s

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Renowned storyteller Dolores Hydock to perform in Gadsden; admission free thanks to Alabama grant

By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

On Sunday, Sept. 27, renowned Birmingham-based storyteller Dolores Hydock is set to perform a one-woman program at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The program — titled Footprint on the Sky: Voices from Chandler Mountain — will center a “funny and tender” story featuring strong women, Southern hospitality, bonnets, bow-tie quilts, poke salad, folk remedies and all the things that brought the real-life 1970s community together. Admission to this event will be free thanks to Alabama Humanities Alliance, who is presenting this original work in partnership with the church, and its Road Scholars grant.

Features Editor Caylie Moore sat down with Sammie Hill, acting liaison between Hydock and Alabama Humanities Alliance and longtime friend of Hydock, for an interview about the sto-

ryteller and her programs.

“For more than fifty years, there has been an international storytelling center in Jonesborough, Tennessee, and [Hydock] and I have both been members as storytellers. So, we’ve been friends a long time through [that center], but she is a professional storyteller in that it’s her living, and I’m just a piano player at church,” Hill said with a laugh.

“She’s one of Alabama’s treasures. I know I’m partial because she’s my friend, but [a lot of] people in Alabama don’t realize what a treasure she is.”

While Hill may have been joking around when it came to her own skillset, her admiration for Hydock and her storytelling abilities was no laughing matter. “I find every genre that she goes into very fascinating,” she stated.



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SCAN ME



INSIDE THIS EDITION



Springville defeats Gadsden City peewee 39-0.

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Hokes Bluff Lady Eagles take the win over Oneonta.

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GSSC held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its \$9 million renovations to Wallace Hall.

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Week three of SEC update with Cole Frederick.

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Little Caesars



NEWS

Hope - From A1

“There is nothing that lives more in the present than a horse. When we go through any kind of therapy, they tell us to practice mindfulness and not to get lost in our thoughts. Horses teach us that because we have to be very aware of them,” McCormick stated. “You walk in with a 1,200-pound animal, you have to be aware of where your feet are, and you have to be aware of where his tail is. They teach us a lot about just being present in our bodies.”

McCormick used this opportunity to go through the process of on-the-ground wellness sessions. “Once we start to get comfortable, the beauty of being on the ground is that [horses’] hearts are so much larger than humans’ and have an electromagnetic field that is five times larger than ours, so the energy that they pull from us, they use to mirror our heartbeat and help relax our nervous system... That’s where all of the good stuff happens, like reducing your cortisol levels — cortisol keeps us spiraling — and releasing serotonin — your feel-good hormone,” she explained. “That’s on-the-ground — just interacting, grooming and being in their presence.”

“It’s all research-based,” McCormick added, noting that EAGALA and Path Therapeutics, a biotechnology company that discovers new treatments for brain disorders, have both studied and contributed to the literature surrounding horse-facilitated therapy. “Research has said that they take about eight couch therapy sessions off the table when you bring a horse into the equation.”

Hope in Her Eye’s other service, Draper Sensory Therapy, is more specialized — but equally as effective. Conducted on horseback and using the “natural rhythmic movement of the horse to stimulate and regulate the brain and nervous system,” this brain-first approach incorporates unique techniques — like riding backwards — to activate sensory pathways and improve balance, coordination and neural connectivity. When performed across multiple sessions, Draper Sensory Therapy provides “effective, long-term healing” to those with neurological conditions



Caylie Moore|The Messenger

like TBI and autism.

“What we do with the Draper Sensory Therapy, where you sit backwards, is create a state of homeostasis — how God made us, with no stress. When we do that, we take advantage of the brain’s ability to repair itself — the neuroplasticity of the brain. We try to re-engage the right and left hemispheres, getting that logic and reasoning part of our brain back in focus.”

Both types of horse-facilitated therapy, McCormick reassured, have significant scientific backing.

But beyond the science is an even more intimate reason as to why McCormick chose to pursue this line of work, as opposed to other, more traditional types of therapies.

“[The why] is my deep, personal place... My daughter was diagnosed with PTSD, severe depression and anxiety at 11 years old. Her first suicide attempt and suicidal ideations were [around then], and she had two suicide attempts there-

after, three in total. There’s no doubt in my mind that Hope — who all of this is named after, our first rescue — saved her life countless times. [Hope] gave [my daughter] purpose, she gave her will, she gave her a reason to go on.”

“My daughter suffered from severe social anxiety and didn’t find comfort in friends and others, but she found it in Gracie [a horse]. So, Gracie became that constant companion at 11, 12 years old. She would spend 12 or 13 hours at the barn,” McCormick stated, adding that at that time, the McCormicks were living at the Jersey Shore, so she was driving her daughter to the barn every day. “She would eat lunch in the stall and do her homework in the stall; it was a lifestyle.”

Horses have offered a safe haven for the McCormick family for a long time now — and McCormick is determined to bring that haven to others. “As [my daughter’s] life ebbed and flowed, we moved so she could have the horses in her backyard, so whenever she was having an episode, she always had her safe place,” McCormick explained. “Years later, they became my safe place, and I felt that people that didn’t have the opportunity to know a horse, whether because they were an urbanite or because of something else, should get the chance, too — there’s no reason that people shouldn’t experience this.”

Although McCormick and her husband John were both born and raised in the Garden State, they eventually made the decision to move

the organization down to Altoona, Alabama in 2025 and have been working locally since February of 2026.

The choice, McCormick emphasized, felt natural — for a variety of reasons.

“New Jersey has become financially unaffordable, and in order for my husband to retire early and do this together as a team, we had to go somewhere where it was more affordable.”

McCormick also explained that the decision had less to do with the strain on the couple’s own pockets and more to do with the logistics for her patients and their families. “I’m a non-profit because I want [Hope in Her Eyes] to take on a life of its own and not put additional stresses on families. They’re already handcuffed with insurance for OT, PT, speech language therapy, other mental health therapy. I don’t want this to be that kind of burden on families. We can afford to do that here.”

But that was not the only reason behind choosing Alabama, and even Altoona specifically; much of it had to do with the differences in culture, too — differences that affected how the organization was able to operate. “Honestly, New Jersey is morally and culturally corrupt. There were a lot of things that we were not permitted to do in New Jersey as a nonprofit — because of bias, for lack of a better word,” stated McCormick.

“As [John and I] talked about our future now that our kids are grown, we knew that we wanted to leave New Jersey — for Christian values, for affordability, for [Hope

in Her Eyes] to take on a life of its own... We made a list of pros and cons; we went to Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and we fell in love with [Alabama]. And then you add on the Southern hospitality — it was real easy to fall in love with it.”

Those who have been able to witness Hope in Her Eyes’s services firsthand know that the feeling between locals and these native New Jerseyans is more than mutual.

Jordy, a 6-year-old girl with autism, loves the horses as much as the McCormicks love Altoona and their work.

Riding in circles and backwards on Eva, the horse designated for Draper Sensory Therapy sessions with children, Jordy’s excitement was practically bubbling over — and no one knew that better than her own mother, Jazlyn Wills.

“She’s already started talking more, and it’s only the second session,” Wills stated. “She really loves this — the horses.”

After a short session where Jordy engaged with Eva through Draper Sensory Therapy, McCormick helped her off the horse and gave her a treat to feed Eva, who was happy with the reward.

“You can see in Jordy, for instance, that her brain doesn’t stop at all,” McCormick explained after Jordy’s session. “Most kids riding around for 30 minutes will become completely regulated. I get her for intervals; she’ll get up there for a little while, she’ll relax — and then she’s off the rails again. She’s nonstop energy.”

McCormick went on to explain that the fine details

— like a horse’s particular shoulder rotation, gait or body language — can play a significant role on the effectiveness of the therapy, and finding the right fit is tricky.

“Next time, I’m going to put her on a big horse that has a different shoulder rotation so that we can get her a little bit more regulated... I typically use Eva for the littles, just because she’s less intimidating and has a different gait — but I’m going to take Jordy to another, bigger Western pleasure horse so that we can see if that’s a better fit for her.”

As tricky as it can be, it is also very rewarding work in that McCormick gets to help other people using her horses — and she knows that she has been blessed.

“Being a single mom, being a domestic violence survivor, being a child who has attempted suicide, being an estranged mom, I didn’t have an easy walk,” she stated, “so I want to provide that to others who also don’t have an easy walk. God gave me this life so I can be here for others, and He blessed me with these amazing creatures to do it with.”

And for Amy McCormick, that blessing is irreplaceable — and she hopes that her work becomes an irreplaceable blessing for the people she has helped in turn.

Readers can contact Amy McCormick through Hope in Her Eyes’s website, hopeinhereyes.org, or by email at HopesHaven42@gmail.com to book a consultation or inquire about or donate to the nonprofit.



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NEWS



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Rachel Taylor, chief lending officer at Emblem Credit Union, was chosen as the 2026 Advancing Women to the Top Fierce Award winner. Taylor started as a loan clerk at Emblem in 2004 before working her way up the ladder for nearly 23 years.

Caylie

- From A1

something special about the community that is Etowah County, and I find myself coming back to it again and again, no matter what.

Having studied English at Columbia, you'd think I'd be able to quote some awe-inspiring line from some awe-inspiring author, or maybe even a poet or two, to sum up how I feel about this moment in my life — but my memory fails me right now, just as much as my words fall short of doing my feelings justice. I just know that I am better — happier — these days than I have been in a long, long time. And I know just as well that Gadsden Messenger is to thank for that.

I'll make this simple: We have a lot of work to do. There are so many stories to cover — so many words to put to the page, so many computer keys to tap, tap, tap — in our small but mighty community, and there's not nearly enough time in the day to cover them all.

But let me try to, anyway.

The clock is ticking, and my fingers are itching to write the next story. So, let's get to work.

TOG brings close shave to GSCC with Sweeney Todd

Sweeney Todd is a complicated and dramatic musical by one of America's most accomplished composers. But more than that, it is the twisted tale of a tortured soul enacting an elaborate revenge scheme.

Theatre of Gadsden and Gadsden State Community College are staging Stephen Sondheim's Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, the tale of the Victorian-era murderer of those who came for a haircut and a shave, for performances from Sept. 25 to Oct. 4.

It is, the musical's director Skylar Wheat said, perhaps the most challenging musical involving Sondheim's most difficult character.

"When I stepped into this [role], on every page there was another puzzle," Wheat stated. Jason Wright, who grew up in Anniston, plays the title character. It is his first role with Theatre of Gadsden, but not his first musical.

"This is a daunting task," Wright said. "I have not played a villain like this. Sweeney is a very particular type of character. Everyone has been wronged in some way in their lifetime and wanted to get justice. I try to approach Sweeney not as a madman, but as everyman."

Wright said he's done opera at Jacksonville State, which prepared him in some ways for the technical challenges of the role.

Amanda Hunter, a Gadsden native, plays Sweeney's business associate Mrs. Lovett, who bakes the barber's victims into the meat pies that she sells to unsuspecting customers. For her, the music is the bigger challenge.

Hunter said she played in the musical when she was 17, and Sweeney Todd marks a kind of comeback for her, as it is her first show in about 15 years.

"This is not the same youthful brain that used to memorize all these things," she stated, "but jumping back in has been like riding a bike. I'm excited to stretch myself."

She got back into theatre because of her friendship with Wheat. She also wanted the chance to work with Wright.

"It's a very difficult and complex show — and very rewarding," Hunter said.

She sees Mrs. Lovett as wanting to assuage some of Sweeney's rage but in "her own way, whether that may be helpful or not."

"She has her own goals, but she sees the darkness that's overtaking Sweeney."

The show runs from Sept. 25 through Oct. 4 at Wallace Hall on the Gadsden State Community College campus. To get more information or tickets, visit the website at www.theatreof-gadsden.org.



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Dolores

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While all of Hydock's stories are family-friendly, Hill warns that most children will not have the life experience necessary to fully understand the meaning behind them — because ultimately, Hydock's goal is to make you feel the way a certain character felt and use that as a basis to empathize with other people.

"She did a program [on Norman Rockwell's biography] — and I can read his biography and enjoy it — but somehow, as she was telling this story, I was thinking, 'Wow, I feel like that.' I'm not an artist or anything, but I felt like that. She makes you ask: 'Am I going to make somebody's day better?'"

Alabama Humanities Alliance's Road Scholars all have one thing in common — making it a mission to "provide context, build empathy, and make [Alabama] a more vibrant place to live" through the humanities — and Hydock is an exemplar of that.

Hill also explained that this one-of-a-kind experience was only free thanks to the work of that same state organization, adding that it should be taken full advantage of when it comes around. "This Road Scholars program is sponsored by Alabama Humanities Alliance, and Dolores is one of the Road Scholars," she stated. "There are many in the state, and they go around and do programs about things like Egyptian pottery and [so on]; Dolores has up to about 20 different programs about things like the Statue of Liberty and Greek civilization."

As for what convinced Hydock to tell this story about Chandler Mountain and its people, Hill's answer was simple: "She's doing this about Chandler Mountain because people here are familiar with [it]." And, as Hill would put it, so is Hydock.

"She grew up in Pennsylvania, and part of her college work was to delve into American folklore — Southern folklore. Around that time, in the 1970s, the Foxfire books were coming out, and people loved them."

Hill further explained that the Foxfire books were a series about the folkways and traditions of the Southern Appalachians and proved to be a driving force behind Hydock's work.

But she ended up loving far more than just the books, as evidenced by one major decision in her personal life. "So she came to Chandler Mountain to get a taste of Southern folklore, and she met the people, lived [there] and fell in love with the spirit of the South. [The South is full of] hard-working people, so she brings those people out in the story and focuses on how they really changed her life. She never went back to live in Pennsylvania, and she's been here since the '70s," Hill stated.

As for Hydock's favorite part of Footprint on the Sky, a program she has performed many times before, Hill knew the answer nearly immediately.

"I think [Hydock] would say that her favorite part is introducing us to the people — they took good care of her, and she was just this young Yankee from Pennsylvania. They welcomed her," she stated.

"[Hydock loves] those kinds of people — ones we encounter every day, who we don't really think about. They are so warm and loving and inclusive."

That warmth, love and inclusion, Hill added, is what Hydock hopes to highlight, as these qualities in the people of Chandler Mountain are what helped guide her when she was a young college student with no real knowledge of the world.

The Sept. 27 program will be presented at Trinity Presbyterian Church on 1003 Albert Rains Blvd. in Gadsden at 2:30 p.m. Those interested in more detailed information about Hydock or the program can contact Sammye Hill at (256) 490-1845 or visit storypower.org. For more information about the organization that made this possible — Alabama Humanities Alliance through its Road Scholars grant — visit alabamahumanities.org.



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GOVERNMENT

Gadsden City Council amends 2027 budget, transfers \$75,000 back to Board of Education for school programs

By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, the Gadsden City Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting to amend its budget for fiscal year 2027 and transfer a reported \$75,000 to the Gadsden City Schools Board of Education from a miscellaneous payment account.

District 1 Councilwoman Tonya Lynn Latham, who introduced and backed the amendment, explained that the adjustment would put the funds back into “very needed programs that service young people after school.”

“After a few serious concerns of not being able to continue programs that are vital to our young program, we were able to see how to give these funds back to the Board of Education in order to continue those programs — after-school tutoring especially,” Latham stated. “We are glad to see this come forward today.”

“Hopefully, in the future, we can have those necessary conversations with [the Education and Recreation Committee chair] to see where our school system is

and really hear from the superintendent about [those concerns],” she added.

Mayor Craig Ford was not present during the meeting, but a representative from his office stated that “there was some miscommunication during the conversations about the budget between the superintendent and mayor.”

“This is just an attempt to make it right,” the representative stated. “We are putting a plan in place to make sure that we do have open lines of communication between all involved.”

District 2 Councilman Steve Smith also expressed his approval for the amendment, stating, “It is never our intention as a council to ever bring any kind of loss to our school system.”

The amendment was put in for immediate consideration, and the council unanimously approved it.

In other new business, District 6 Councilwoman Dixie Minatra also introduced a resolution to approve a Special Events Alcoholic Beverage License for Artober Fest, which will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. The resolution, which was put in for immediate consid-

eration, was unanimously approved.

The council also:

- Approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
- Ratified payment of accounts for the week of Sept. 4 through Sept. 10.
- Held two public hearings for and ultimately approved two resolutions authorizing the annulments of Margie Street and Nancy Avenue, of which all affected property owners had petitioned for.
- Rezoned 7.2 acres of the front road portion of 1651 J.R. Countryman Highway, which totals 26 acres, from the traditional residential category to the highway commercial category. The remaining acreage will be developed as a residential subdivision consisting of approximately 60 lots, as proposed by the property owner.
- Approved issuance of a Specialty Retailer of Consumable Hemp Products License to Meldi 1808, Inc.
- Authorized a community policing agreement with the Greater Gadsden Housing Authority, continuing a long-standing agreement between the seven

public housing facilities.

- Read a resolution authorizing a memorandum of understanding with Gadsden State Community College, a mutual aid agreement between Gadsden Police Department and the college for the department to provide assistance during emergencies and other special circumstances. A substitute resolution was also introduced to change the terms from one year to four years, and the substitute resolution was ultimately approved.
- Approved a contract with the Humane Society Pet Rescue and Adoption Center to shelter animals impounded by Animal Control in the amount of \$10,691.67 per month, beginning Oct. 1. A substitute resolution was also introduced to change the terms from one year to four years, and the substitute resolution was ultimately approved.

The next city council meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 10 a.m. due to the upcoming runoff election in District 1 between incumbent Tonya Lynn Latham and newcomer LaMont Kyle on Sept. 22.

Voting rights advocates regroup as Callais decision threatens Black representation

By William J. Ford
Maryland

With “the crown jewel” of civil rights legislation gutted by the U.S. Supreme Court, and possibly the seats of 20 Black members of Congress at stake in November, voting rights advocates on Wednesday called for a makeover of the nation’s highest court.

The court’s decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* was “a calamity” that erased equal representation for Black voters, said Janai Nelson, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

In April, conservative justices ruled 6-3 that protections in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 allowing states to consider race in redistricting amounted to an “unconstitutional racial gerrymander.”

At issue were Louisiana maps that created a second majority-Black congressional seat currently held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Cleo Fields, who is not seeking re-election. Following the court decision, the GOP-controlled legislature quickly redrew Fields’ district to favor a Republican, leaving Louisiana with one Black-majority district out of six. The state’s Black population is around 30%.

Callais marked the second consequential decision on voting rights by the Supreme Court. In 2013, justices struck down preclearance of voting laws and maps in states with a history of voter disenfranchisement.

“It’s awful,” Nelson said Wednesday on the first day of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s annual leg-

islative conference in Washington, D.C.

“But it’s also an invitation to do something much bolder and broader than what we had before,” Nelson said. “I’m a Voting Rights Act cheerleader through and through. As powerful a tool as it was, the Supreme Court, in a different iteration, called it the crown jewel of civil rights legislation. It was always held up as the emblematic, most muscular legislation that came out of the Civil Rights Movement. And even with all that, it wasn’t quite enough.”

The Callais decision triggered Republican majorities in several Southern states to reshape congressional districts less favorable to minority voters in time for the midterm elections. Analysts have said possibly 20 of the Congressional Black Caucus’s 62 members could lose their seats this fall.

“I think a lot of electeds are very much affected and nervous about themselves and their community having a lot less power after Callais,” said Spencer Overton, a law professor at George Washington University.

Panelists discussed several options that lawmakers could consider to help reestablish and reinforce voting rights — a system of proportional representation, expanding the court or setting term limits. They stressed that people must be willing to sacrifice to make changes in the current political climate.

Overton said proportional representation allows people to elect multiple representatives in each district in proportion to the number of people who vote

for them.

“It’s an opportunity to kind of reset and kind of reimagine,” Overton said. “So, I think we have some opportunities in this moment.”

But the idea isn’t new, he said.

Lani Guinier, a civil rights attorney whom former Democratic President Bill Clinton nominated in 1993 to become the first Black woman to head the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division, endorsed the idea.

But Clinton abruptly withdrew Guinier’s nomination over criticism from Republicans about her views on voting rights, as she had suggested that “one person, one vote” was not sufficient to advance minorities’ concerns.

Cliff Albright, co-founder and co-executive director of Black Voters Matter, said Guinier’s nomination was not only caught in controversy over race “but also this: Proportional representation is fundamentally a challenge to the two-party system. That’s where the bigger threat was.”

Albright offered three possible changes to improve the work of the Supreme Court: expand it from the current nine members; creating ethics reform; or setting term limits.

“Try. Be willing to do and make mistakes,” he said. “In trying, we may fall short, but guess what? In falling short, we will still move one step closer to liberation.”

Getting out the vote

The panel on Callais was among more than 100 sessions during the 55th an-

nual conference at the Washington E. Convention Center where thousands of elected officials, legal experts, community leaders and others are expected. Topics will cover health, education, artificial intelligence and space exploration industry.

During a press conference Wednesday morning, Reps. Glenn Ivey, D-Maryland, and Alma Adams D-North Carolina, said that although the Trump administration, helped by Republican-controlled statehouses that passed redistricting laws to give the GOP an advantage, they remain confident many of their members will succeed in the November general elections.

“We are working to get those seats. We’re going to try and turn this vote out. That’s really important,” Adams said before the press conference. “We know we’re going to take the House. We’re confident about that in terms of the numbers and how the members are faring out here in the community.”

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



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GOVERNMENT

Alabama grocery tax repeal, once on the margins, becomes bipartisan campaign issue

By Ralph Chapoco
Alabama Reflector

Repeal of Alabama’s grocery tax, once an effective political impossibility, has become a bipartisan issue in the fall campaign.

Long touted by anti-poverty groups and championed by Democrats, Republicans have sponsored efforts to reduce the tax over the past four years. John Wahl, the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor, made the issue central to his primary campaign this spring and Democratic gubernatorial nominee Doug Jones has centered it in his pitch to voters.

Last week, Republican gubernatorial nominee Tommy Tuberville, who had largely ignored the issue during his primary campaign, endorsed it in his first ad of the general election, saying “elimination” of the tax would be the first step in a broader tax-cutting program.

As of early Friday afternoon, Tuberville’s campaign website did not explicitly list cutting the grocery tax among his priorities. Messages seeking comment were left with Tuberville’s campaign on Thursday and Friday.

One of a handful
Alabama has taxed groceries since the sales tax was introduced in 1939. The state is one of eight that still imposes a levy on food, and until 2023 was one of an even smaller number that fully taxed it.

Efforts to eliminate the tax were complicated by the fact that it brought hundreds of millions of dollars into the state’s Education Trust Fund, which pays for most public education in the state, and disagreements over how to replace the lost revenue.

According to the Legislative Services Agency, in 2025 the sales tax rate on food brought \$393.5 million to the Education Trust Fund. Through August, sales tax collections on food this year totaled \$207.6 million. LSA expects total collections from the grocery tax for the year will be about \$230 million, artificially lower because of a two-month sales tax holiday on food in May and June, which overlapped with state primary and runoff elections.

The cost to fully eliminate the remaining 2% state sales tax on food would be approximately \$270 million.

“From an economic perspective, grocery taxes are effective at raising revenue because groceries are what we call inelastic goods in elasticity,” said Benjamin Meadows, an assistant professor of economics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. “When we say that a good is inelastic in price, what that means is that when you change the price a little bit, people don’t change their behavior much.”

Anti-poverty advocates have long said the

tax, which could rise up to 10% of a grocery bill in many parts of the state, hit low-income households particularly hard and contributed to food insecurity.

“Someone of limited means is going to pay more out of their paycheck proportionally than someone who is of adequate means,” Meadows said. “As you have less and less income, more of the income is devoted to that tax.”

But as other states have begun reducing or eliminating grocery taxes, the state has taken steps to do so. The Republican-controlled Legislature in 2023 reduced the state tax on groceries from 4% to 3%, and cut it to 2% in 2025. Local grocery taxes have been frozen but still remain in place.

Republicans have touted the move as a means of fighting inflation.

“I think the first thing we need to do on a state level is eliminate the rest of the state grocery tax,” said Sen. Andrew Jones, R-Centre, who led efforts to reduce the tax in the Alabama Senate.

Democratic counterparts said they had always supported eliminating the grocery tax. Former Rep. John Knight, D-Montgomery, a former chair of the House Ways and Means General Fund committee, fought for years to reduce the levy.

“Democrats have been advocating for eliminating the grocery tax for well over 20 years,” said Jones

in an interview on Friday. “Republicans have been in control of the Legislature for 16 years, and they could have done it at any point.”

Jones, whose platform calls for fully eliminating the grocery tax, added that “there are people in this state that really need the break.”

Phillip Ensler, the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor, said he has advocated for eliminating the grocery tax while he was a member of the House of Representatives and voted to reduce it in both 2023 and 2025.

“Everywhere I go in the state, it doesn’t matter if it is a bigger city or smaller town, Republican area or Democrat, there is overwhelming support to cut it because people are having a hard time, and we know that those few extra dollars on the grocery bill, it adds up,” Ensler said.

Though the lieutenant governor has little power to address the tax, the issue is one that Ensler and Wahl, the Republican lieutenant governor nominee, broadly agree on.

“I really have a heart for the people of Alabama, and I think there are a lot of people out there right now who are struggling to make ends meet,” Wahl said. “You have young families just working to put food on the table, seniors on fixed incomes who are having trouble just paying for basic necessities.”

‘A tax on survival’

Chris Sanders, a spokesman for Alabama Arise, an anti-poverty group that has long fought to eliminate the grocery tax, said the group was excited that “there is widespread, bipartisan support for untaxing groceries.”

“This is not a partisan issue,” he said. “It is a human issue, a moral issue, everybody has to eat to survive, and that makes the grocery tax a tax on survival.”

Rep. Danny Garrett, R-Trussville, who chairs the House Ways and Means Education Committee, which oversees levies like the grocery tax that go into the ETF, said in an interview Friday that a bill has been drafted to eliminate the remaining state portion of the grocery tax.

“What we said when we eliminated the first 50% that we thought we would be on a path to eliminate the remainder of it at some point,” Garrett said. “We have already drafted a bill; we have had a bill drafted a couple of months ago that would do that.”

Garrett’s plan to repeal the grocery tax altogether, however, does not include a provision to replace the lost revenue.

“We know the revenue growth, the projections on the budget,” Garrett said. “We can also look at expenses and things we have in the budget, so we have the wherewithal to repeal it.”

A constitutional amendment to fully eliminate the

state grocery tax passed the Alabama House of Representatives in 2008, but failed to attract the necessary votes in the Senate. Both chambers were controlled by Democrats at the time. Subsequent efforts to address the issue got little traction until 2023.

Others have expressed concerns about the potential impact it would have on the ETF budget and proposed some alternatives. Alabama Arise, for example, wants to eliminate the federal income tax deduction, a longtime proposal from Democrats who called for eliminating the grocery tax.

“That is a highly skewed, highly upside-down tax break that overwhelmingly benefits the wealthy households in our state,” Sanders said. “For most people in Alabama, it is worth \$100 or less, but for people at the very top of the income scale, it can be tens of thousands, potentially even hundreds of thousands of dollars, per year.”

Democrats, on the other hand, want to eliminate the CHOOSE Act, which provides tax credits of up to \$7,000 per child to be spent on non-public school activities, including private school tuition.

“When we lift the caps off of the ability to have taxpayer money going to private schools for the wealthiest people in this state, I think we can offset this a good bit,” Jones said.

Doug Jones, Phillip Ensler propose overhaul of Alabama lieutenant governor’s role

By Anna Barrett
Alabama Reflector

The Alabama lieutenant governor has a dwindling number of powers. The Democratic nominees on the top of November’s ballot want to change that.

Former U.S. Sen. Doug Jones, the party’s nominee for governor, announced Wednesday that he plans to work with the Legislature to introduce a constitutional amendment to reorganize the state government, if elected, hearkening back to efforts made over two decades ago to redefine the office.

“It’s almost like the lieutenant governor is a figurehead in the Legislature that just sits with a gavel,” Jones said. “The lieutenant governor, in my view, always should be a part of the executive branch, a partner with the governor to help implement the administration’s policies.”

The governor and lieutenant governor are elected separately. Jones said he would support a constitutional amendment that would have the governor and lieutenant governor elected as a ticket, like the president and vice president of the United States. According to the National Lieutenant Governor’s Association, 27 states jointly elect the two positions together.

Rep. Phillip Ensler, D-Montgomery, the party’s nominee for lieutenant governor, joined Jones on Wednesday and touted his bipartisan record in the Legislature.

“There is so much that I can do because

of the relationships I have, as Doug said, across the aisle, and to be able to help carry out a vision, help fight for the people of Alabama,” Ensler said.

Jones wants to treat the lieutenant governor – regardless of November’s results – as a team member.

“I want him to have a seat at the table, whether as officially as a member of the government’s cabinet or at least as a member of the government’s cabinet in an advisory role, we’re going to talk during a transition about what portfolio he might want to work on,” Jones said of Ensler on Wednesday.

Messages seeking comment were left Wednesday afternoon with Tommy Tuberville and John Wahl, the Republican nominees for governor and lieutenant governor.

Section 280 of Alabama’s Constitution prohibits an individual from financially benefiting from two public offices – like a lieutenant governor and a cabinet position or staff member.

“When you elect Doug Jones and Phil Ensler, you’re electing a team to help implement the same strategies, the same efficiencies in government, the same programs that we’re talking about on the campaign trail,” Jones said. “So he’ll have a seat at the table, and more importantly, a voice at the table. It will not be double dipping, so to speak, at all.”

First attempt in two decades

State lawmakers filed similar legislation to redefine the lieutenant governor’s

role more than 20 years ago, but no proposal received a floor vote in its house of origin. Sen. Bobby Denton, D-Tusculum, filed a proposal in 1999; Rep. Mary Sue McClurkin, R-Pelham, filed a proposal in 2004; and then-Rep. Cam Ward, R-Alabaster, filed proposals in 2005 and 2006.

Jones and Ensler said they plan to work with legislators in both chambers to get their proposal passed. Jones said he had “cleared it” with Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton of Greensboro and House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels of Huntsville.

A message seeking comment was left with Singleton. Daniels confirmed his support for the proposal in a phone interview Wednesday afternoon.

“The lieutenant governor is someone that’s elected statewide, so their duties should exceed just presiding over the Senate,” Daniels said. “I do think that they can be extremely valuable in the government.”

Currently, the lieutenant governor becomes governor should the occupant of that office die, resign or be removed. The office once had powers comparable to those of the Speaker of the House, with powers to control legislation and assign senators to committees.

But the office was stripped of its power in 1999 after a lengthy standoff between then-Lt. Gov. Steve Windom, a Republican, and the Democratic-controlled Senate, which transferred most of Windom’s

powers to the Senate President Pro Tem.

The role had its powers further decreased by the Senate this spring through Senate Resolution 108, sponsored by Sen. Arthur Orr, R-Decatur. It allows Senate President Pro Tem to preside over the Senate if the lieutenant governor has not taken their seat five minutes after a meeting time.

The resolution also removes the lieutenant governor from a committee that assigns committee chairs, removes their power to appoint members to conference committees, gives the Pro Tem the power to recommit bills to committees and gives the Pro Tem and to direct the lieutenant governor to call up legislation carried over to the call of the chair.

Republicans have held the office since 2010.

Jones hopes to get the amendment through the Legislature in time for the 2028 election to be considered by voters. Amendments need two-thirds support in each chamber, and a simple majority on the ballot. Republicans hold a supermajority in both chambers, and there are not enough contested races in November to challenge that hold.

Daniels said there could still be support from his colleagues across the aisle.

“I think that it’s something that has probably been thought about by both sides, but never been acted upon,” Daniels said. “Someone has to start the conversation.”



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EDUCATION

GSCC celebrates renovations to Wallace Hall Fine Art Center

Gadsden State Community College celebrated the completion of a nearly \$9 million renovation to Wallace Hall with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 11 on the Wallace Drive Campus.

College employees, students, alumni, community leaders and guests gathered to mark a new chapter for the 38,322-square-foot facility, a longtime home for the arts at Gadsden State and a gathering place for the College and surrounding community.

“Wallace Hall has been an important part of Gadsden State and this community for generations,” said Alan Smith, president of Gadsden State. “This renovation is an investment in our students, our faculty and the future of the arts in our region. We’re proud to preserve the history of this facility while creating a modern space that will serve our College and community for many years to come.”

The large-scale renovation spanned more than a

year and was completed in phases to minimize disruption to campus operations. The project represents a current investment of \$8.94 million, including work by Hudak Construction Company Inc. and Lathan McKee Architects.

The 22,036-square-foot academic wing, originally constructed in 1967, underwent a complete interior renovation. The space was gutted and rebuilt with new mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems and a redesigned layout featuring modern instructional spaces for photography, pottery, visual arts, choral and band programs.

The project also included improvements to the 16,286-square-foot theatre and surrounding public spaces. Work included a new brick and precast façade, redesigned main entrance, structural windows, a concrete-paved courtyard, architectural lighting and other exterior improvements.

U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers

joined college and community leaders in celebrating the renovated facility and its continued role in serving students and the community.

“Gadsden State is an important institution for our state and plays a significant role in preparing our people and communities for success,” Rogers said. “This community has done a tremendous job investing in this facility and ensuring it will continue to serve students and the people of Northeast Alabama for years to come.”

Derrick Griffey, dean of Academic Programs and Services, said the improvements provide an enhanced environment for Fine Arts students and faculty.

“These improvements give our Fine Arts students and faculty a space that better reflects the quality of the work happening here every day,” Griffey said. “Wallace Hall is more than a building. It is a place where students develop their talents, gain confidence and prepare to



Caylie Moore|The Messenger

take the next step in their education and careers.”

The ceremony also featured remarks from Gadsden Mayor Craig Ford; Mario Gallardo, chair of the Division of Fine Arts; Gadsden State alumnus and AV technician Chris McCurley; retired Gadsden City Schools Superintendent Tony Reddick; and local artist Nanda Patel.

Following the program, college leaders, elected officials, Fine Arts faculty

and staff and community members participated in a ceremonial ribbon cutting. Attendees were then invited inside Wallace Hall for an open house and tour of the renovated facility.



Caylie Moore|The Messenger

Gadsden State EMS Program earns five-year accreditation, welcomes largest incoming class in more than 15 years

Gadsden State Community College’s Emergency Medical Services program is preparing to welcome 115 students this fall, making it the program’s largest incoming class in more than 15 years.

The enrollment growth comes as emergency response agencies and health care systems continue to need trained emergency medical personnel throughout the region.

“This fall, Gadsden State is helping meet that need by preparing the next generation of EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and paramedics,” said John Hollingsworth, EMS program director.

“Our students are gaining the education, experience and confidence they need to make a meaningful difference when their communities need them most.”

Students in the program receive classroom and laboratory instruction along with hands-on clinical and field experience through partnerships with regional hospitals, ambulance services, fire departments and other emergency medical organizations.

The program also uses simulation equipment and real-world training scenarios to help students prepare for emergency situations.

The enrollment milestone

comes as Gadsden State’s EMS program has received five-year programmatic accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

The accreditation process included an evaluation of the program’s curriculum, faculty qualifications, student outcomes, clinical and field internship experiences and institutional support.

Dr. Joey Battles, dean of Health Sciences at Gadsden



Submitted photos



State, said the accreditation recognizes the work of the program’s faculty and staff.

“This accreditation is a tremendous accomplishment for our EMS Program and a reflection of the dedication of our faculty and staff,” Battles said.

The EMS program is led by Hollingsworth, with

full-time faculty members Tracy Shew and Brian Selke.

The program prepares students for careers as emergency medical technicians, advanced EMTs and paramedics, with instruction emphasizing clinical skills, evidence-based practice, teamwork and leader-

ship.

Hollingsworth said the combination of enrollment growth and accreditation reflects the program’s continued development.

“With 115 students entering our EMS Program this fall, Gadsden State is helping meet that need,” Hollingsworth said.

Jax State sets enrollment record for sixth year

Jacksonville State University’s enrollment has reached a new record for the sixth consecutive year, with 10,433 students enrolled for the fall 2026 semester.

The university’s enrollment has increased for eight consecutive years, growing from 8,479 students in fall 2018 to this year’s record enrollment.

This fall’s enrollment is up 94 students from last year’s record of 10,339. The university also saw a notable increase in first-time freshmen, with 1,813 enrolled this fall — 172 more than in fall 2025, an increase of about 10.5%.

Undergraduate enrollment stands at 9,090 students, while 1,343 graduate students are enrolled.

The university surpassed 10,000 students for the first time last fall.

The continued enrollment growth comes as Jax State expands its academic offerings and campus facilities. This fall, the university welcomed its first students in two new programs: a Bachelor of Science in Aviation and a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship.

Jax State also opened West Village this fall, adding more than 700 beds to its on-campus housing capacity.

“While we are proud to see Jax State continue to grow, our focus remains on providing the personal connections, opportunities and sense of community that make this uni-

versity special,” Jax State President Dr. Don C. Killingsworth Jr. said. “Our students remain at the center of everything we do.”

Dr. Jessica Wiggins, vice president for enrollment management, said the continued growth reflects students’ interest in the university’s academic programs and campus community.

“Eight consecutive years of growth demonstrate that students continue to see Jax State as that place,” Wiggins said.

Applications are open for the spring 2027 and fall 2027 semesters.

LIFESTYLE



As a child, I read voraciously. I always had a book in my hand, at the dinner table, walking down the hall, sitting in the car — if I had 5 minutes, I was joining my favorite characters in their adventures. I read so much, in fact, that I outgrew and out-read the Children’s department at the Gadsden Public Library pretty quickly, and began checking out books from the Adults department. I would sit and read in the library, then check out ten books from the Children’s department and ten books from the Adults department, take them home and then return the next week. My mother or grandmother took me nearly every single week. Because of reading, I was able to imagine being: a nurse, an artist, a ballerina, a teacher, a friend, a mother, a sister, a writer — and so many other possibilities. I

Through literature, we learn humanity

was also able to understand how people very different from myself felt and experienced the world. Reading gave me the language to understand myself and those around me. In Jane Eyre, one of my all-time favorite novels, Charlotte Bronte wrote that “Children can feel, but they cannot analyze themselves; and if they are not understood, they bleed inwardly.” These days, I read to my granddaughter and with my children, and help other children learn to read so that they can experience the world and understand themselves and those around them more fully.

This understanding is what “the humanities” are all about, and understanding the human experience is the most important part of what I teach — both to young readers and to college students. After all, we might only each have one life to live and experience, but through reading literature, learning about the humanities and examining our ideas and the ideas of those around us, we can understand multiple ways of life. But we shouldn’t stop with the ability to understand. We should take that understanding and use it to help others around us. This

is where the true value of literature, art, philosophy and the humanities in general is found: through these things, we have access to innumerable perspectives and views, experiences and beliefs. We might not have the same experiences or hold the same views, but we can identify the human emotions and motives behind them. When we can do this, it is easier to understand why someone might be frightened, or angry, or overwhelmed. Once we humanize those emotions and experiences, we can see those around us as the humans they are. We are all trying our best to make it through this one life we each have.

Charles Dickens reminds us that “no one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.” Anne Frank mused, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Isn’t it also wonderful that something as simple as reading stories can give us the tools to recognize others’ burdens, and the understanding to improve our little places in the world? When I feel overwhelmed by all of the things happening outside of my control in this world, I often sit down

with a short story or book and read for a few minutes. Not only because it lowers anxiety and the body’s stress response, but because it gives me perspective, and reminds me that there are people I have yet to meet, going through things I cannot imagine.

Writing classes, literature classes, humanities survey classes all provide tools for understanding, asking questions, using logic and analytical thinking to better understand and contribute positively to the world around us. Finding ways to help others, being proactive and understanding, actively volunteering to support someone — these are the things that make life fulfilling. Ralph Waldo Emerson put it this way: “The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” Developing compassion, understanding others, and making a difference is what reading literature and studying the humanities equips us to do.

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

Forgiveness: What it is and what it isn’t

“Just forgive and move on.”

It sounds simple, but anyone who has been deeply hurt knows that forgiveness is rarely that easy. In counseling, I sometimes meet people who believe they should have forgiven someone by now. They may even feel guilty because anger, hurt or resentment remains long after the event itself.

Part of the problem is that we often misunderstand what forgiveness actually means.

Forgiveness does not mean saying that what happened was okay. It doesn’t excuse harmful behavior or erase the consequences of someone’s actions. If someone betrayed your trust, abused you, lied to you or repeatedly crossed your boundaries, forgiveness doesn’t require pretending those things didn’t happen.

Forgiveness also doesn’t automatically mean reconciliation.

Reconciliation requires two people. It involves accountability, changed behavior and rebuilding trust. Forgiveness can happen entirely within one person, even when the other person never apologizes,

takes responsibility or changes.

You can forgive someone and still decide that they no longer have access to your life.

That’s an important distinction, particularly when we’re talking about relationships that have been harmful. Sometimes people feel pressured to restore a relationship because they have been told that forgiveness requires giving someone another chance. It doesn’t. Healthy boundaries and forgiveness can exist at the same time.

Forgiveness isn’t forgetting either. Our brains don’t simply erase painful experiences because we decide to forgive. In fact, remembering what happened can help us recognize unhealthy patterns and make wiser choices in the future.

So, what is forgiveness?

I tend to think of forgiveness as gradually releasing our need to carry the offense with us every day. It is choosing, sometimes repeatedly, not to allow another person’s actions to continue occupying so much emotional space in our lives.

That doesn’t necessarily happen all at

once.

You may decide to forgive someone and discover a month later that you’re angry again. That doesn’t mean you failed. Forgiveness can be a process. Sometimes we have to make the same decision many times as different emotions surface.

It is also important to recognize that forgiveness should not be forced. Telling someone who has experienced a significant betrayal or trauma that they “need to forgive” can minimize the seriousness of what happened. Before forgiveness is even considered, a person may need time to feel angry, grieve what was lost and understand how the experience affected them.

And sometimes the person we struggle most to forgive is ourselves.

We replay old decisions and think, “I should have known better.” But we often judge our past selves using information and wisdom we only gained afterward. Self-forgiveness means acknowledging our mistakes, taking responsibility when appropriate, learning from them and allowing ourselves to move forward.



Ultimately, forgiveness isn’t about giving the person who hurt us a gift. It is about deciding how much power that hurt will continue to have in our own lives.

You can forgive without forgetting. You can forgive without reconciling. You can forgive and still have boundaries.

And most importantly, forgiveness doesn’t mean what happened was acceptable.

It simply means you don’t want to carry it forever.

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

King Hotel, one of the first in Gadsden

One of the earliest hotels in Gadsden was the King Hotel on Fourth Street — located just south of Broad and Chestnut, on Fourth Street’s west side. It was between the Herzberg corner and Chestnut and Fourth — and it was part of one of the most unusual set-ups of the frontier period of this city.

The typical two-story white building — with porches to extend its full length —

was operated by William King.

In the 1870s, it was a popular place for drummers and visitors. Across the street, where the McClesky Bros. plant was located, was the King Livery Stable, which fronted on Fourth Street.

A large oil lantern was suspended from the second-story porch to the stable’s roof, on the side of which were the words “King Hotel.” The other side of the lan-

tern read “King Livery Stables.”

On Broad Street — where the Gadsden Hardware Store was located — was the King Saloon. This saloon was run by Joe King, son of William, and it was housed in a stone building. The bar was semi-circular and bowed out from the rear to the front.

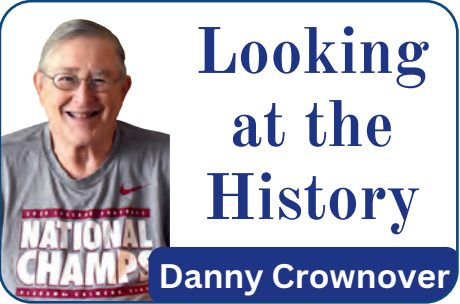
In the rear was a two-story wooden structure, with the ground floor being used for a bowling alley and the second story for roulette and other gambling machines.

A high board fence enclosed the area behind the saloon from the hotel along Chestnut Street to within 75 or 100 feet from the old Kyle Realty offices — or up to the residences of I. M. Stephens, who managed a drug store next door to the saloon. It later became the Cottle Drug Store.

The fenced in area was the scene of many chicken fights, horse trades and occasionally a man-to-man fist fight to the finish.

Many barbecues and feasts of that kind were held there, and they were attended by practically everybody.

One of those community barbecues in 1879 was a stag affair, but the women and



children were parked in nearby homes and were served bountiful trays. That was the first and only time that many had ever tasted barbecued link sausage.

In one corner of the lot was a brick bake oven, and it was used frequently.

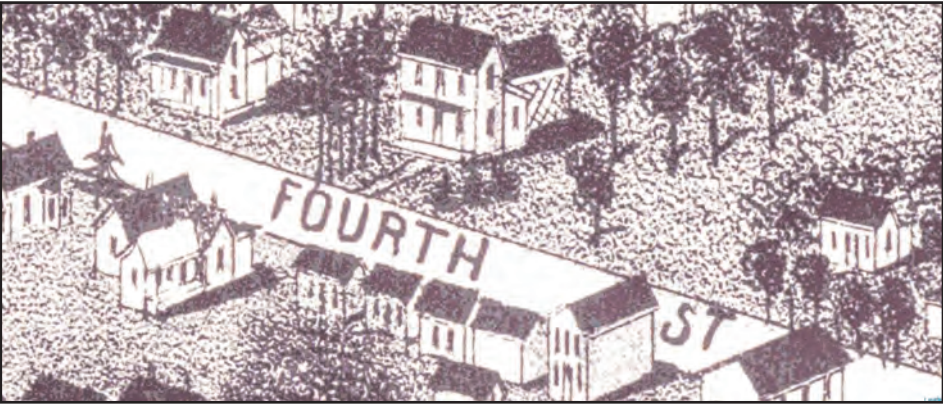
Joe King resided in a big, two-story white house just west of Fourth and Chestnut Streets.

The hotel was torn down in the 1880s after a fire in 1883 destroyed his saloon.

Joe set up a bar in the neighborhood of the Coosa Furnace quarters with a signboard reading, “First and last chance.”

After the fire, the picture changed somewhat, but that vacant spot on Chestnut between Fourth and Fifth retained its reputation to a large degree.

Contact The Vagabond at dkcrown@bellsouth.net.



Submitted by Danny Crownover

The King Hotel was located on the west side of Fourth Street and south of Chestnut Street, as shown on this 1887 panoramic map of Gadsden.



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DEVOTIONALS



Running into the shadows

Written for National Suicide Prevention Week — for anyone walking through the shadows, and for those who stand watch in the dark.

I was around four years old when my momma last tried to take her life. Nearly twenty years later, my husband and I came home to an answering machine message from my momma’s momma telling us “Goodbye.”

Thankfully, we called 911 in time. Paramedics reached her, pumping the toxic pills from her stomach. She still had charcoal on her face when we arrived at the emergency room in Columbus, Georgia.

I am no stranger to the devastating aftermath of suicide. I have lived the dark days of walking alongside family through mental illness and spiritual hopelessness.

At four, no one explains what is happening or why Mommy is sad. But you don’t need words to know that you live under the shadow of generational trauma — it becomes the very air you breathe. You absorb it in the quiet tension, the unspoken secrets and the fragile spaces where joy ought to rest.

I was Momma’s guardian. My earliest memories are of sitting in a dark hallway outside her bedroom door, keeping watch.

Yet, as furiously as that shadow tried to reach across generations, it didn’t get the final word. Darkness was never powerful enough to stop the Light from shining through. Praise Jesus!

Looking back, 50 years later, the pieces are falling into place.

Physically, life was relentless for Momma and Memaw. My grandmother stood faithfully by her WWII veteran husband through a near-fatal wound, alcoholism, homelessness and the wreckage of a shattered hero. During one binge, left unprotected, my nine-year-old mother was abused by an older relative. Threatened into silence, she carried that dark secret alone while it ate away at her from the inside.

Spiritually, my grandfather lived in a tormenting crossfire between the spirit and the flesh. He preached at a small Baptist church on Sundays, only to drown his war trauma in alcohol during the week. It was a heartbreaking, confusing reality. It left my mother and grandmother wrestling for years to untangle the holy nature of God from the broken man speaking for Him.

Mentally, the strain was exhausting. As a young mother of two, Memaw never knew if she could afford the light bill or

clothing and feeding her children. Momma spent a lifetime trying to forget the horror done to her and forgive her daddy for leaving her vulnerable.

And don’t even get me started about the hormonal battle my matriarchs dealt with in a world that did not support their medical needs. Anxiety and despair took deep root in their minds, and it threatened to claim my mind and heart, too.

That furious shadow tried with all its might to define our family’s destiny. But shadows can only exist where light is present — and they are powerless when the Light Himself steps into the room. Darkness may have shaped our past, but Jesus ensured it wouldn’t write our ending. He gave Momma and Memaw strength to live in His light and fight the good fight to the very end. They finished their races and are now Home with Him. Thank You, Abba!

John 1:5 tells us, “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (ESV). In his commentary, Jurica Sinko highlights that John used the Greek word *phainei* for “shines” — written in the present active indicative tense. The Light didn’t just shine once in the past. It shines. Now. Always. It is constantly invading enemy territory.

The Light is on the offensive — and since Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12), He gets the final word.

If you are walking through a valley of

shadows today — exhausted from old family pain or carrying a heavy sadness you can’t shake — know this: you do not have to fix this yourself—you can’t! Just look up. The Light Himself is already standing in your dark room. Turn your heart toward Him right where you are, call out His name and allow Jesus to light up the shadows.

National Suicide Prevention Week reminds us to break the silence around mental health, but as believers, we are called to bring more than just awareness — we are called to bring a Savior. To those of us called to carry this Light into a world weighed down by hidden pain: RUN!

Run directly into the dark places. We do not carry a fragile flame snuffed out by someone else’s storm. We carry the living, triumphant presence of Christ Jesus!

Keep showing up. Keep praying over broken spaces with authority. Hold fast to the truth that no shadow is too dark and no soul is too far gone for the unrelenting grace of Jesus to rescue, reclaim and restore!

He was the final Word then. He is the final Word now. He will be the final Word forever.

Jesus IS the Light of the world!

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Fourth and faithful

Everybody loves looking at the scoreboard. In sports, the scoreboard tells us who is winning and who is losing. In life, we have scoreboards, too. We count the money. We count the accomplishments. We count the followers. Churches count attendance. Businesses count revenue. Families compare where they are to where they thought they would be. And sometimes we look at the scoreboard and think, “This isn’t where I thought I would be by now.”

Maybe you thought your marriage would be stronger. Maybe you thought your career would be further along. Maybe you thought your children would have made different choices. Maybe you thought the prayer would have been answered by now.

So what happens when the scoreboard doesn’t look like you hoped? Paul gives us a different way to measure our lives. In 1 Corinthians 4, Paul is writing to a church fascinated with personalities. Some followed Paul. Others preferred Apollos. People were comparing leaders, ministries and results. Paul cuts through all of it and says we should be regarded as “servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.”

That changes everything. Paul doesn’t call himself a celebrity. He doesn’t call himself an owner. He calls himself a servant and a steward.

A steward manages something that belongs to somebody else. Your life is stewardship. Your family is something God entrusted to you. Your gifts are something God entrusted to you. Your influence, resources, opportunities and calling have been placed in your hands for a reason. Which means the better question isn’t simply, “What have I accom-

plished?” The better question is, “What am I doing with what God entrusted to me?”

Then Paul makes the standard unmistakably clear: “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” Required. Not suggested. Not recommended. Not when it is convenient. Just required. And notice what God does not require. He doesn’t say, “Be found famous.” He doesn’t say, “Be found popular.” He doesn’t say, “Be found impressive.” He says, “Be found faithful.”

That challenges me because we live in a world obsessed with results. We can become so consumed with what is measurable that we forget what actually matters. Yes, results matter. Responsible people evaluate, adjust and improve. But never confuse your scoreboard with your identity.

The scoreboard gives you information. It does not give you your identity. A good team watches the scoreboard, but it listens to the coach. And somebody reading this needs to stop allowing the scoreboard to tell you that God is finished with you.

Maybe the numbers are down. Maybe the plan didn’t work. Maybe somebody left. Maybe you took a hit you never expected. Maybe you did exactly what God told you to do and still haven’t seen the results you expected.

Don’t confuse disappointing results with failed faithfulness.

Paul says something powerful: people do not get the final evaluation of your life. Then he goes even further: You don’t even get the final evaluation of yourself.

“It is the Lord who judges me.”

People can call you successful while God says you weren’t faithful. And people can

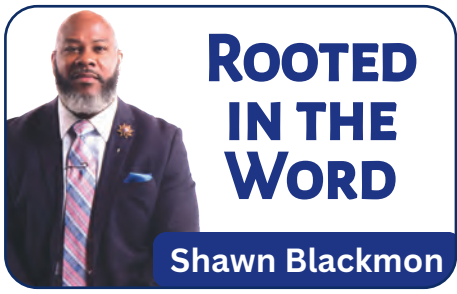
look at your life and call you unsuccessful while God says, “You did exactly what I told you to do.”

So maybe we have been asking the wrong question. Instead of asking, “God, when are You going to make me successful?” Perhaps we should ask, “God, am I being faithful?” Am I faithful with my marriage? Am I faithful with my children? Am I faithful with my gifts? Am I faithful with my resources? Am I faithful with the opportunities God has placed in front of me? And here is where it gets uncomfortable: Faithfulness yesterday does not excuse complacency tomorrow.

You cannot live forever on what you did five years ago. Yesterday’s obedience doesn’t fulfill today’s assignment.

As long as God keeps giving you breath, there is still something to steward. So don’t quit because you took a hit. Don’t retreat because the numbers changed. Don’t abandon the assignment because somebody walked away. Don’t punt on what God told you to do because the scoreboard doesn’t look the way you imagined.

And with that said, I’m reminded of an old song that puts faithfulness into perspective. Because when you’ve taken some hits, suffered some losses, and the scoreboard still doesn’t look the way you hoped, sometimes you have to stop looking at what went wrong and remember just how good God has been. The song says . . . “I’ve had some good days. I’ve had some hills to climb. I’ve had some weary days. And some sleepless nights. But when I look around. And I think things over. All of my good days. Outweigh my bad days. I won’t complain.”



You’re still here. And if you’re still here, don’t complain because God is not finished.

So this week, stop asking whether everybody else thinks you’re winning.

Ask something harder: If God evaluated what He has entrusted to me, would He find me faithful? Because when everything is finished and the final scoreboard is revealed, there is only one evaluation that ultimately matters. God’s. And when He looks at my life, I want Him to find one thing: Faithful.

Let’s Pray:

Father, thank You for everything You have entrusted to me. Forgive me for the times I have measured my life by somebody else’s scoreboard. Help me remember that I am Your servant and a steward of what belongs to You. When results disappoint me, keep me faithful. When people criticize me, keep me faithful. When I am celebrated, keep me humble and faithful. Show me where I have become complacent and give me courage to recommit to the assignment. When my work is finished, may my life testify that I remained faithful to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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Pastor Shawn Blackmon serves as the Lead Pastor of UNITY Church in Attalla.

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LIMIT 4

Selected Varieties

Hunt's Snack Pack Pudding

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LIMIT 6

Selected Varieties

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Marie Callender's Meals

10-14 Oz.

2/\$5

With Card

LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Brawny Paper Towels (4 Double Rolls), Tide Simply (94-107 Oz.), Glad Trash Bags (25-40 Ct.) or

Quilted Northern Bath Tissue

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SPORTS

Hokes Bluff takes clear win over Susan Moore

By Alex Chaney
Sports Correspondent

On Friday, Sept. 11, Hokes Bluff defeated Susan Moore 33-14 at Susan Moore High School.

Hokes Bluff took the first kickoff and quickly put points on the board, scoring with 11:46 left in the first quarter by a long jet sweep that allowed its runner, #13 Jace Hanks, to get past the edge of Susan Moore's defense. Unfortunately, however, Hokes Bluff missed the extra point, leaving the score at 6-0.

By 8:12 in the first quarter, though, Hokes Bluff scored again, this time on a passing play to #9 Javin Norman. The extra point attempt was good, and Hokes Bluff led 13-0.

With 2:21 left in the first quarter, Susan Moore got on the board with a run by its #13 player Max Cervantes, putting the score at Susan Moore 7 to Hokes Bluff's 13.

There was only one score in the second quarter; this time, Hokes Bluff's quarterback, #7 Dean Morgan, ran the ball in with 29 seconds left in the half. The extra point attempt was good yet again, pushing the score up to Hokes Bluff 20 to Susan Moore's 7 by halftime.

In the third quarter, Hokes Bluff ran in another touchdown with 9:01 left in the period; this score was also by #13 Jace Hanks. Hokes Bluff attempted a 2-point conversion afterwards, but the attempt failed when #7 Dean Morgan's pass fell incomplete. At the end of the third quarter, the scores were 26-7 with Hokes Bluff leading.

With 11:52 left in the fourth quarter, HB tacked on yet another touchdown, this time with a pass to their tight end, #3 Maddox Hutt. The extra point attempt was good once more, and the score jumped up to Hokes Bluff 33 to Susan Moore's 7.

With 7:07 left in the fourth quarter, Susan Moore finally scored again on a running play. The extra point attempt was good, and the score began to level out at Hokes Bluff 33 - Susan Moore 14.

Still, with Susan Moore unable to score any more points before the end of the fourth quarter, Hokes Bluff ultimately emerged victorious and walked away from the field with a win under their belt, the final score reading 33-14.



Photos by Alex Chaney



Photos by Alex Chaney



On Saturday, Sept. 12, Springville and Gadsden City's peewee teams faced off in a game where Springville won 39-0. Photos by Teri Chupp.

Last Week's Scores

High School Sports

Football

Sept.11

Coosa 7 Westbrook 63
Gadsden City 15 James Clemens 42
Gaston 0 Pleasant Valley 34
Glencoe 0 Etowah 30
Southside 3 Clay-Chalkville 55
Sardis 48 Crossville 6
Hokes Bluff 33 Susan Moore 14
West End 0 Piedmont 55

This Week in Sports

High School Sports

Football

Sept.18

Coosa vs. Mars Hill
Gadsden City vs Hazel Green
Gaston at Piedmont
Glencoe vs. Hanceville
Southside at Pinson Valley
Sardis vs.Fairview
Hokes Bluff vs. Oneonta
Westbrook vs. Decatur Heritage
West End at Saks
Etowah at Susan Moore

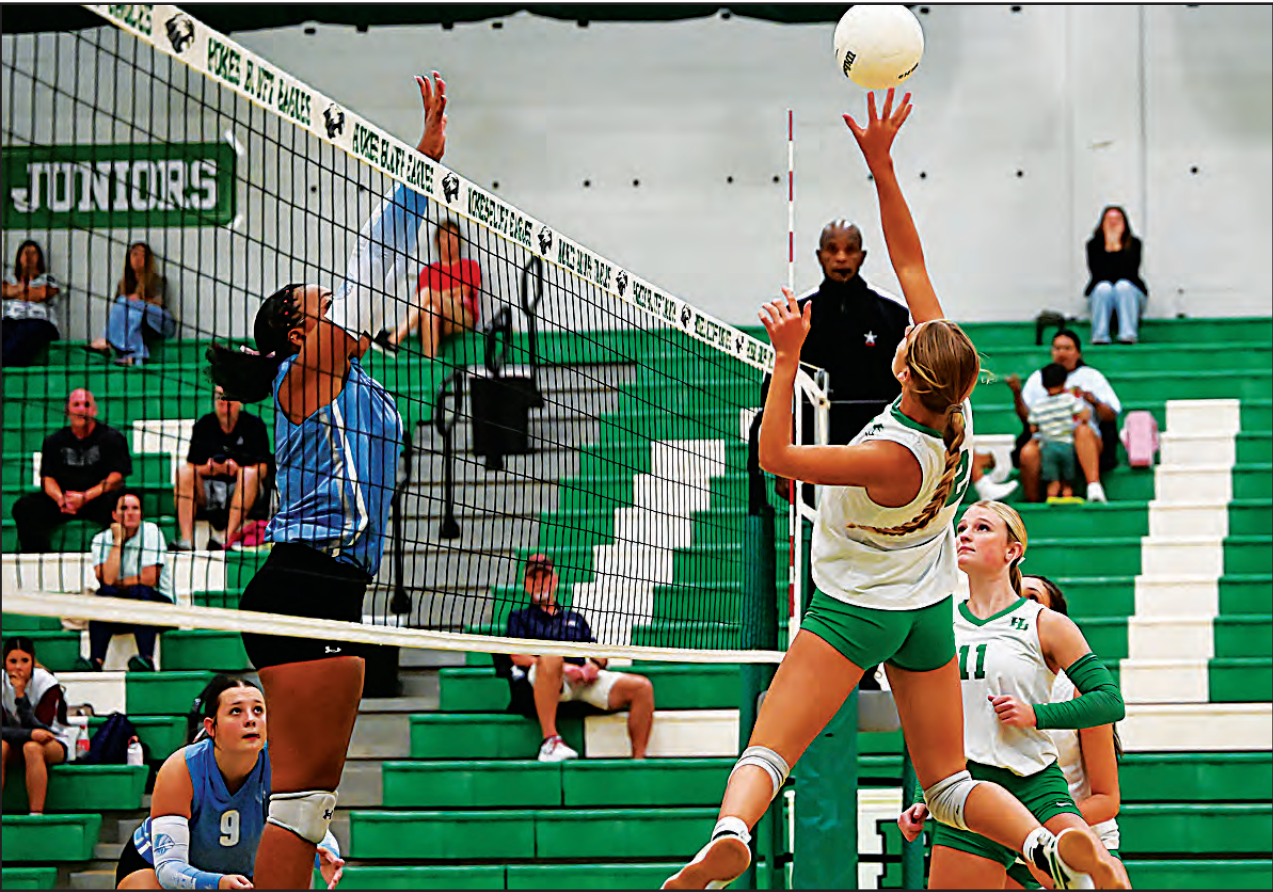
Girls Flag Football

Sept. 24

Gadsden City at Boaz at 5:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Hokes Bluff defeats Oneonta in nail-biting volleyball match



By Alex ChaneySports Correspondent

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Hokes Bluff Lady Eagles took the win over Oneonta in area play. The match took five games to settle, as each set was extremely competitive, which made for an exciting game to watch. To add to the excitement, Oneonta bought a bus load of students to cheer their side on. Hokes Bluff won the first set 25-22, but Oneonta took the second and third set 26-24 and 25-18 respectively. In the fourth set, Hokes Bluff rallied back to get the win 25-22. In the final and game-making set, the crowd was on the edge of their seats, cheers still ringing loud and clear. Ultimately, though, the Hokes Bluff girls fought through the distractions, getting a good lead and winning by a margin of 15-8. Thus, Hokes Bluff won the match, taking home an important win.



By Caylie Moore, Features Editor

On Thursday, Sept. 10, Sardis celebrated its Homecoming Week with a parade that featured football players, cheerleaders, marching band players, majorettes and student government leaders — all the way from the peewee leagues to the high school ones.



Last Week's Scores

High School Sports

Volleyball

Sept. 12
Glencoe Volleyball went 4-0 on the weekend beating Ashville, Sardis, White Plains, and John Carrol. Stats for Glencoe: ia Talbot had 39 kills, Katy Talbot had 22 kills, Avery Barkley had 48 assists, Kinlee Montgomery had 32 assists, and Gracyn Bunt had 7 aces.

Sept. 14
Hokes Bluff defeated Oneonta 25-22, 24-26, 18-25, 25-22 and 15-8

College Sports

Volleyball

Sept. 11
Gadsden State defeated Frontier Community 25-19, 25-15, and 25-13.
Gadsden State defeated Clark State 25-14, 25-12, and 25-11.

Sept. 12
Gadsden State defeated Vincennes University 11-25, 25-16, 25-15, and 25-20.
Gadsden State defeated Missouri State 25-10, 25-17, 23-25, and 25-17.

Sept. 14
Gadsden State defeated Southern Union 25-19, 25-10, and 25-16.

Sept. 16
Gadsden State lost to Beville State Community College 3-1.

This Week in Sports

High School Sports

Volleyball

Sept. 19
West End Junior Varsity Invitational at home
Glencoe Varisty, Sardis at Supreme Courts
Sardis Junior Varsity at Plainview
Etowah Middle at Glencoe Tournament

Sept. 21
West End Junior High at Ider
Westbrook vs Jacksonville Christian
Westbrook Junior High vs Lincoln and Ashville
Sardis vs Etowah and Crossville

Sept. 22
West End at Southeastern
Glencoe vs White Plains
Etowah at Hokes Bluff

Sept. 24
Westbrook at Coosa
Westbrook Junior High at Gadsden City
West End vs Brindlee Mountain and Ider
Glencoe vs Hokes Bluff and Plainview
Etowah and Cleburne County at Ashville
Sardis at Cherokee County
Etowah and Westbrook Middle School at Gadsden City

College Sports

Volleyball

Sept. 18 and 19
Gadsden State at Wallace State Hanceville

Sept. 21
Gadsden State vs. Northwestern Shoals

Sept. 23
Gadsden State at Snead State

SPORTS

Local teams compete for top place in 2026 Southside - Rainbow City Invitational

Photos by Alex Chaney



Girls XC Placings

On Sept. 10, local cross-country teams faced off in the 2026 Southside-Rainbow City Invitational race at the Vivian Maddox Sports Complex in Rainbow City. The rankings for the girls were as follows:

11th - Sarah Ponder, SR at Hokes Bluff (22:40.64)

12th - Sara Davis, 7th grader at Southside-Rainbow City (22:58.37)

13th - Khloe Bujan, 7th grader at Southside-Rainbow City (22:58.71)

14th - Kylee Noles, FR at Hokes Bluff (23:40.79)

16th - Madelyn Chandler, SR at Southside-Rainbow City (24:04.07)

17th - Emma Franklin, SO at West End High School (24:14.35)

20th - Lee Miller, 8th grader at Hokes Bluff (24:23.82)



Boys XC Placings

On Sept. 10, local cross-country teams faced off in the 2026 Southside-Rainbow City Invitational race at the Vivian Maddox Sports Complex in Rainbow City. The rankings for the boys were as follows:

5th - Conner Christopher, SO at Southside-Rainbow City (17:24.67)

6th - Joseph Minkin, SR at Westbrook Christian School (17:29.54)

8th - Carson Thacker, 8th grader at Southside-Rainbow City (17:40.21)

9th - Colton Mickle, SO at Southside-Rainbow City (17:48.27)

12th - Levi Kay, JR at Southside-Rainbow City (18:18.22)

13th - Alex Melo, SR at Southside-Rainbow City (18:18.40)

14th - Mark Valentine, FR at Southside-Rainbow City (18:29.60)

15th - Dakota Ensminger, SR at Glencoe High School (18:33.04)

17th - Pedro Salvador, JR at Gadsden City (18:42.57)

19th - Liam Steen, SR at Southside-Rainbow City (18:55.46)

20th - Keegan Sherrell, SO at Southside-Rainbow City (19:01.67)



SPORTS



In & Around SEC
Cole Frederick

Week three review of SEC football

Alabama Week 2 Review
After an abysmal first half on the road, Alabama pulled away from Kentucky with a dominant second half to earn its first conference victory of the season. The Wildcats led 17-13 at the break after a plethora of Crimson Tide mistakes, including a pick-six, another interception, and a fumble, but Alabama flipped the script in the second half en route to a 45-17 win. Russell settled in during the second half, and he finished with 188 yards passing with one touchdown and two interceptions, while Daniel Hill added 104 yards on the ground and a score. Alabama improves to 2-0 overall and 1-0 in conference play, and they return home on Saturday (Sept. 19) to take on Florida State.

Auburn Week 2 Review
Auburn gained over 600 yards of offense in Alex Golesh's debut at Jordan-Hare Stadium, and they dominated an overmatched Southern Miss team 43-8. Byrum Brown threw for 223 yards and two touchdowns, and he added another 88 yards on the ground. Omar Mabson rushed for 108 yards and a touchdown, and the Tigers rushed for 343 yards on the night as they improved to 2-0 on the year. Auburn begins conference play on Saturday night as Florida visits the Plains.

Week 3 Previews and Predictions (week 2: 15-0; season: 31-0)
LSU at Ole Miss (+3)
Lane Kiffin's return to Oxford is arguably the most anticipated game of this college football regular season. Kiffin infamously left Ole Miss before the Rebels' playoff journey began for rival LSU, and he poached several Ole Miss players and coaches. Pete Golding took over for Kiffin and led the Rebels to the semifinals, and now Kiffin returns to Oxford less than a year later for a top-10 matchup. LSU quarterback Sam Leavitt's status is up in the air for the game, but it's the Tiger defense that is the standout unit in the game versus

Heisman hopeful Trinidad Chambliss.. Prediction: Ole Miss 27, LSU 24.
Georgia at Arkansas (+25)
The beginning of the Ryan Silverfield era in Fayetteville is off to a rocky start after the Hogs were demolished at Utah 43-10, and now they have the top program in the SEC visiting on Saturday morning. Georgia has breezed through two inferior opponents to start the season, and while this is the first road game of the season, expect a similar result on Saturday morning. Prediction: Georgia 41, Arkansas 10.

NC State at Vanderbilt (-3.5)
Five-star freshman quarterback Jared Curtis has earned his first start of the season for the Commodores as they welcome in ACC opponent NC State. Curtis is the highest-rated quarterback in Vanderbilt history, and he is looking to help the Commodores get to 3-0. Prediction: NC State 23, Vanderbilt 19.

Kentucky at Texas A&M (-16.5)
The Wildcats held a halftime lead against Alabama before crumbling in the second half, and now Will Stein is tasked with leading his team into a hostile environment in College Station against another playoff contender. Texas A&M pulled away from Arizona State in the second half last week, and the Aggies are going to be difficult to beat at home. Prediction: Texas A&M 34, Kentucky 16.

Florida State at Alabama (-19.5)
A season ago, Alabama started its season with a shocking upset loss in Tallahassee. The Tide went on to make the playoffs despite the loss, and the Seminoles struggled for the remainder of the year. Florida State head coach Mike Norvell needs another big win as his seat has warmed substantially, but the Alabama defense should dominate this matchup. Prediction: Alabama 38, Florida State 10.

SEC Week 3 Rankings

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

Mississippi State at South Carolina (-4)
Two of the most dynamic quarterbacks in the country square off on Saturday in one of the most intriguing matchups of the weekend. South Carolina quarterback LaNorris Sellers has proven himself to be an elite playmaker who might go in the first round of the next NFL Draft, and Mississippi State quarterback Kamario Taylor has been a revelation since taking over as a starter midway through last season. Expect some fireworks in Columbia on Saturday. Prediction: South Carolina 34, Mississippi State 31.

Troy at Missouri (-26.5)
The Tigers handled rival Kansas in the Border War last week, and they get one final tune-up in nonconference play before they travel to Starkville next weekend. Prediction: Missouri 52, Troy 17.

Florida at Auburn (+2.5)
The first conference game for both Alex Golesh and Jon Sumrall is a pivotal matchup for both programs and their 2026 outlook. While it's unlikely either

team will contend for a playoff berth in Year 1, this is still a game that can spearhead a successful debut season for either coach. While Auburn has one of the best home field advantages in college football, they have struggled as a program over the last 5 years in these big home games. If Golesh and the Tigers can find a way to win this game, it sets up the Tigers to have a very successful season. Prediction: Auburn 23, Florida 20

New Mexico at Oklahoma (-22.5)
A year ago, the Sooners boasted one of the top defenses in the country, but an inconsistent offense led to Brent Venables' team losing in round one of the playoffs to Alabama. If Saturday's loss at Michigan is any indication, this season will be very similar for Oklahoma. The defense held its own in the 17-10 loss, but John Mateer struggled, and the Sooners still couldn't run the ball. Oklahoma can't afford to overlook a talented New Mexico team with Georgia on deck. Prediction: Oklahoma 31, New Mexico 10.

Kennesaw State at Tennessee (-35.5)
Tennessee passed its first real test of the season with a resounding road win at Georgia Tech, and they return home this weekend for one final tune-up before SEC play begins next weekend against Texas. Prediction: Tennessee 48, Kennesaw St 9.

UTSA at Texas (-30.5)
Steve Sarkisian earned arguably the biggest win of his head coaching career after his Longhorns stormed back from a three-score deficit to knock off Ohio State 24-23 last weekend. Texas struggled offensively for most of the game, but Arch Manning on the offense found a rhythm in the second half, while the defense shut down the Buckeye offense. The Road Runners are good enough to make Texas work this weekend before the Longhorns hit the road at Tennessee next Saturday. Prediction: Texas 41, UTSA 17.

 SCHEDULE 2026 SEASON			
WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/SCORE
1	SEPT 5	VS. EAST CAROLINA	W. 48-10
2	SEPT 12	AT KENTUCKY	W 45-17
3	SEPT 19	VS. FLORIDA STATE	2:30 PM ABC
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	3:30 PM ABC
2	SEPT 12	VS SOUTHERN MISS	7:30 PM
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



er, 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 part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expense of foreclosure. The successful bidder must tender certified funds by noon the next business day to Law Office of Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Certified funds must be in the form of a wire transfer, bank or credit union's cashier's check, or bank official check payable to Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the total amount due. If sale is voided, Mortgagee/Transferee shall return the bid amount to the successful purchaser and the Mortgagee/Transferee shall not be liable to the purchase for any damages. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the purchaser at the sale shall be only entitled to a return of the deposit and bid amount, if paid. The Mortgagee/Transferee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation. Important Notice to Potential Bidders: Federal law administered by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, requires certain residential real estate transactions to

be reported to the federal government. If you are the winning bidder at auction, you may be required to provide identifying information about yourself and, if applicable, any entity or trust purchasing the property. This information is required by federal law and must be provided to complete the sale. Failure to provide required information after the sale may delay or prevent issuance of the foreclosure deed.
United States of America, acting through the Rural Housing Service, United States Department of Agriculture ("Transferee")
Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C.
3000 Riverchase Galleria, Suite 705
Birmingham, AL 35244
Phone: (801) 355-2886
September 11, 18, and 25, 2026
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE
Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on January 9, 2015 by Emory Burns and Habida Burns (spouse of Emory Burns) to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Instrument Number 3412589, in the Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said Etowah County, in Gadsden, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on October 9, 2026:
All that certain lot or parcel of land situated in the County of Etowah, State of Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southeast corner of the Southwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼, Section 12, Township 11 South, Range 4 East of the Huntsville Meridian, Etowah County, Alabama, and run North 04 degrees 30 minutes 03 seconds West, along the East line thereof 313.85 feet to a point; thence run North 87 degrees 36 minutes 59 seconds West, leaving East said line, 609.14 feet to the point of beginning of the property described herein; thence continue North 87 degrees 36 minutes 59 seconds West 626.73 feet to a point; thence run North 00 degrees 16 minutes 24 seconds East 347.80 feet to a point; thence run South 87 degrees 36 minutes 27 seconds East 626.73 feet to a point; thence run South 00 degrees 16 minutes 24 seconds West, 347.71 feet to the point of beginning. Said property being a portion of the Southwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼, Section 12, Township 11 South, Range 4 East, Etowah County, Alabama and contains 5 acres (more or less).
There is a 20.00 feet access easement to said property, the centerline being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southeast corner of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 12, Township 11 South, Range 4 East of the Huntsville Meridian and run North 01 degrees 30 minutes 03 seconds West, along the East line thereof, 313.85 feet to a point; thence run North 87 degrees 36 minutes 59 seconds West, leaving said East line, 1235.87 feet to a point; thence run North 00 degrees 16 minutes 24 seconds East, 171.73 feet to the point of beginning said access centerline; thence run the following chord bearings and distances along the said centerline, South 84 degrees 06 minutes 09 minutes 15 seconds West, 51.27 feet; North 60 degrees 01 minute 36 seconds West 77.87 feet, North 41 degrees 39 minutes 57 seconds West, 74.50 feet; South 69 degrees 23 minutes 35 seconds West, 80.84 feet; North 78 degrees 04 minutes 58 seconds West, 262.77 feet and South 78 de-

grees 12 minutes 14 seconds West 266.53 to a point in the centerline of Toney Drive (60 foot right of way) and the end of said easement.
Subject to and including all easements of record.
THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS-IS, WHERE-IS" BASIS, SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, ENCUMBRANCES, AND EXCEPTIONS REFLECTED IN THE MORTGAGE AND THOSE CONTAINED IN THE RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE OF PROBATE OF THE COUNTY WHERE THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SITUATED. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED AS TO TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERETO. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.
Federal law requires that certain residential real estate transactions purchased with all cash or without institutional lender financing, where at least one buyer/transferee is a legal entity, LLC, Corporation, Partnership, trust, trustee or other non-natural person, be reported to the United States Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by mortgage as well as the expenses of foreclosure, including a reasonable attorney's fees and other purposes set out in said mortgage.
The successful bidder may be required to provide identifying information/documentation successful bidders must tender funds and a fully completed FinCEN form before noon of the next business day after the sale or the property will be reverted to the next highest bid.
EvaBank, Mortgagee
Jacquelyn H. Wesson
Attorney for Mortgagee
1330 21st Way South, Suite 300
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
September 11, 18, 25, 2026
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by a certain Mortgage made by Robert M. McElroy, Jr. And Sidney Clark McElroy Husband and Wife, (the "Mortgagor"), in favor of Redstone Federal Credit Union dated March 13, 2012, and filed for record on March 20, 2012, in Instrument Number 3364174, in the Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama (the "Mortgage"), the undersigned, Redstone Federal Credit Union (the "Mortgagee"), as Mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in the Mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash in front of the main entrance of the Etowah County, Alabama, Courthouse in the City of Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, on the 9th day of October, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:
Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot 12, Block "B", in Cove Lake Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book "H", Page 61, in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, Alabama, thence S 59°59'59" W 199.81 feet along the South line of said Lot 12 to a point in the Northeast

line of Lot 5, thence N 64°00'15" W 119.82 feet along the north-east lines of lots 5 and 6 to a point in the South line of Lot 9, thence N 59°35'34" E 67.29 feet to the Southwest corner of Lot 11, thence N 30°07'28" W 50.37 feet along the West line of Lot 11, thence N 59°59'59" E 199.90 feet to a point on the West line of Cove Circle, thence S 30°00'01" E 150.0 feet along the West line of Cove Circle to the point of beginning; embracing portions of Lots 11 and 12 and the reserved parcel immediately West of Lot 12; all in Block "B", Cove Lake Subdivision, Plat Book "H", Page 61, as recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, Alabama.
This property will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the Mortgage and those contained in the records of the Office of the Judge of Probate of the County where the above-described property is situated. This property will be sold without warranty or recourse, 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 the Mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.
The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate.
This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation; contact GRISHAM CUMMINS, LLC, at the phone number shown below prior to attendance at sale.
REDSTONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Mortgagee
GRISHAM CUMMINS, LLC
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Post Office Box 5585
Huntsville, AL 35814-5585
(256) 837-5100
September 18, 25, and October 2, 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 Keith Pitman Toney, a married man and, Rita Lynn Toney to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for USAA Federal Savings Bank, its successors and assigns dated February 26, 2010; said mortgage being recorded on March 2, 2010 as Instrument No. 3328332 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to U.S. Bank National Association by assignment recorded as Instrument No. 3397536 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

GREEN MOUNTAIN LAKE HOMES AS RECORDED ON PLAT BOOK "H", PAGE 117, IN THE PROBATE OFFICE OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.
Said property is commonly known as 2095 Broughton Springs Road, Southside, AL 35907.
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 the confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258, if applicable.
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
as holder of said mort-

gage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 22-02543AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net
The Messenger
02/06/2026,02/13/2026,02/20/2026,05/01/2026,06/12/2026,08/07/2026,09/18/2026
AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until July 8, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.
The Messenger, June 12, 2026
AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until August 19, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.
The Messenger, August 7, 2026
AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until September 30, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.
September 18, 2026
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
Default having being made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage dated June 14, 2022 executed by Laquanda Sade Jones and James Dean wife and husband, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., solely as a nominee for Trustmark National Bank, said Mortgage being recorded June 17, 2022, in Inst. # 3542205, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama; having later been assigned to Trustmark Bank f/k/a Trustmark National Bank by instrument recorded in Inst. # 2026081536, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said default continues and notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Trustmark Bank f/k/a Trustmark National Bank, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash or certified funds at the main entrance to the County Courthouse, Etowah County, Alabama on 10/15/2026, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:
Lots 72, 73, 74, and 75 in block "J" of Southmont, as recorded in Plat Book "E", Pages 230-233, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.
For informational purposes only, the property address is: 604 Brown Ave SE, Atalla, AL 35954. Any property address provided is not part of the legal description of the property sold herein and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description referenced herein shall control.

OF THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE OF PROBATE OF THE COUNTY WHERE THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SITUATED. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED AS TO TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERETO.
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.
This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by mortgage as well as the expenses of foreclosure, including a reasonable attorney's fees and other purposes set out in said mortgage.
Trustmark Bank f/k/a Trustmark National Bank
Paul K. Lavelle, Esq.
Attorney for Mortgagee
Spina, & Lavelle, P.C.
One Perimeter Park South-Suite 400N
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
(205) 298-1800
40-FC-26-01335
September 18, 25, and October 2, 2026
POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Tony David Battles and Veda Evelyn Battles, husband and wife and David Earl Battles, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee as nominee for Family Savings Credit Union, its successors and assigns, on July 23, 2025, said mortgage being recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, on July 29, 2025 at Book 2025, at Page 3595491. Renasant Bank, the current holder, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Etowah County Courthouse, in Gadsden, Alabama, on September 9, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:
To reach the point of beginning, commence at the point of intersection of the Northwest right of way of Highway #11 and the Northerly right of way line of the Old Crudup Road and run in a Southwesterly direction along the Northwest right of way of Highway #11 a distance of 373.7 feet to a point, said point being the point of beginning; and being the Southernmost corner of the property described in Deed Book 1437, Page 253, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama. From the point of beginning run Northwesterly and along the Southwesterly line of said "1437-253" tract and 211 feet to the Westernmost corner of said tract, thence Southwesterly along the line parallel with the Northwestern right of way of Highway #11 to a point in the centerline of a ditch, said point, also being in the Northeasterly line of the Ray Woodard property, thence Southwesterly of centerline of said ditch and along the line of the Ray Woodard property to the Northwest line of Highway #11, thence Northeasterly along the line of the Ray Woodard property to the Northwest line of Highway 411, thence Northeasterly along the line of Highway 411 to the point of beginning, and embracing a portion of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section Four (4) of Township Eleven (11) South, Range Six (6) East and a portion of the Northwest Quarter

purporting to be in the Last Will and Testament of Mary L. Mardis, deceased, and a petition in writing and under oath praying for the admission to probate and record in this Court of said instrument as the true Last Will and Testament of the decedent.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 10th day of November, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the instrument filed with said petition and purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Mary L. Mardis, deceased, should not be admitted to probate and recorded in this Court as the true Last Will and Testament of said decedent.

Scott W. Hassell
JUDGE OF PROBATE

September 18, 25, and October 2, 2026

**NOTICE
OF
HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FORREST M. MARDIS, DECEASED

Case No.: 2024-00705

TO: DORIANNA KASK and KATLYNN MARDIS; whereabouts unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in this Court an instrument purporting to be in the Last Will and Testament of Forrest M. Mardis, deceased, and a petition in writing and under oath praying for the admission to probate and record in this Court of said instrument as the true Last Will and Testament of the decedent.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 10th day of November, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the instrument filed with said petition and purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Forrest M. Mardis, deceased, should not be admitted to probate and recorded in this Court as the true Last Will and Testament of said decedent.

Scott W. Hassell
JUDGE OF PROBATE

September 18, 25, and October 2, 2026

**PUBLICATION
NOTICE**

IN THE PROBATE COURT ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL LOREN BROWN, DECEASED.

CASE NO: 2026-00523

TO: Noah Brown, Trinity Brown, Preston Brown, and Harrison Brown, whose whereabouts are unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in this Court an instrument purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Michael Loren Brown, deceased, and a petition in writing and under oath praying for the admission to probate and record in this Court of said instrument as the true Last Will and Testament of said decedent.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 28th day of October, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the instrument filed with said petition and purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Michael Loren Brown, deceased, should not be admitted to probate and recorded in this Court as the true Last Will and Testament of said decedent.

Scott W. Hassell

Judge of Probate

September 11, 18, and 25, 2026

**NOTICE
OF
COMPLAINT**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY ALABAMA

NOLAN HOLLAND and KEELIE HOLLAND, PLAINTIFFS
v.
CV - 2026 - 900442
MICHELE STORY SMITH, ET AL., DEFENDANTS

Defendant Michele Story Smith and any persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, possession, or other interest in the lands described below must answer Plaintiff's Complaint filed in the above referenced court and case number within thirty (30) days of the completion of the newspaper publication or thereafter a judgment of default may be rendered against you in the above-styled case.

The subject property is described as follows: Commence at an existing 3/8" rebar marking the SW corner of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 4, Township 12 South, Range & East; thence N 3 degrees 00 minutes 38 seconds East 30.06 feet to a 1/2 capped rebar (LS#21183) on the Northern R/W of Beaird Road 60' R/W; thence along said R/W N 89 degrees 21 minutes 42 seconds East 2,317.57 feet to a 1/2" capped rebar (LS#21183) also being the point of beginning; thence leaving said R/W N 00 degrees 09 minutes 13 seconds West 660.00 feet to a 1/2" capped rebar (LS#21183); thence N 3 degrees 09 minutes 13 seconds East 660.00 feet to a 1/2 capped rebar (LS# 21183) on Northern R/W of said road; thence along said R/W S 89 degrees 21 minutes 42 seconds West 200.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 3.03 acres, more or less.

Said tract also contains a 50 feet access easement 30' each side of the following described lines. Commence at an existing 3/8" rebar marking the SW corner of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 3, Township 12 South, Range & East; thence North 3 degrees 00 minutes 38 seconds East 30.06 feet to a 1/2" capped rebar (LS# 21183); thence N 89 degrees 21 minutes 42 seconds East 2,348.43 feet to a calculated point being the point of beginning; thence along the centerline of said easement N 12 degrees 57 minutes 19 seconds East 302.39 feet to a calculated point; thence N 05 degrees 21 minutes 21 seconds East 167.57 feet to a calculated point; thence N 18 degrees 13 minutes 54 seconds East 109.15 feet to a calculated point; thence N 53 degrees 25 minutes 29 seconds East 61.12 to the end of said easement.

The address of the Property is 0 Beaird Road, Hokes Bluff, AL 35903. The PIN for the Property is 82729. Done the 21st day of August, 2026.

/s/Jason Knowles
Jason Knowles, Attorney for Plaintiffs
Knowles & Sullivan, LLC
413 Broad Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
jason@kkslawgroup.com

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

**NOTICE OF
COMPLAINT TO
FORECLOSE THE
RIGHT TO REDEEM
AND TO QUIET TITLE**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY ALABAMA

CV-2026-900135

DONALD BERKEY and JUANITA BERKEY, PLAINTIFFS,
v.
WILLIAM TAYLOR, CITY OF GADSDEN, STATE OF ALABAMA, TYLER LEE HUGHES and those fictitious defendants whose identities and whereabouts are unknown, and all

other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the lands described herein DEFENDANTS.

The Defendant, William Taylor, whose whereabouts are unknown, and any other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the lands described below, must answer Plaintiffs' Complaint filed in the above referenced court and case number within thirty (30) days of the completion of the publication or thereafter a judgment of default may be rendered against you in the above-styled case. The subject property is described as follows: Lot 6, Block 2 of the Goodwater Heights Addition as recorded in Plat Book B, Page 279 as recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, Alabama. The address of the subject property is 2220 Clayton Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35904. The PIN for the subject property is 18928.

Done the 20th day of March, 2026.
/s/ SONNIE J. STEEN
CIRCUIT JUDGE

Joshua B. Sullivan
Knowles & Sullivan, LLC
413 Broad Street
Gadsden, Alabama 35901
Phone (256)547-7200
Fax (256)467-6322

September 18, 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY STATE OF ALABAMA

CIVIL ACTION NO.: CV-2026-900126

BECKY NORDGREN, REVENUE COMMISSIONER OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA, IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY V. TERESA A. SMITH, et al., AND A PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE SITUATED IN ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

NOTICE OF IN REM ACTION PURSUANT TO ALABAMA CODE § 6-6-564 AND OTHER CONTROLLING LAW

To: Teresa A. Smith, Amanda Leigh Edmonson, Jessica Paige Martin, Amy Nicole Martin, Jeremy Smith, Lane Sorensen, and all individuals 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, Alabama, in civil action no.: CV-2026-900126, styled as Becky Nordgren, Revenue 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 MCCLAIN 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 ownership or interest in the subject real estate, whose identities are currently unknown. Teresa A. Smith, Amanda Leigh Edmonson, Jessica Paige Martin, 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 publication of this notice, or judgment may be entered affecting your ownership and/or interest in said parcel of real estate. Your answer must be filed with the undersigned Circuit Court Clerk and copied to Bradley W. Cornett, attorney for Etowah County Revenue Commissioner, 140 South 9th Street, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. Done this the 27th day of August 2026

Cassandra Johnson
Circuit Court Clerk of Etowah County, Alabama

bama
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 COMMISSIONER, Plaintiff,
v. SKG QRP et al, Defendants.

TO: BECKY NORDGREN, ETOWAH COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER; ANTHONY E. GRIGSBY; CHRISTY M. GRIGSBY; WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING, INC.; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS, HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, OR ENTITIES WHO MAY CLAIM ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST, LIEN, OR RIGHT OF REDEMPTION IN THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED BELOW, WHOSE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN AND CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED AFTER REASONABLE DILIGENCE.

You are hereby notified that on the 21st day of June 2026, SKG QRP LLC filed a Verified Complaint for Judicial Foreclosure of Alabama Ad Valorem Tax Liens, Quiet Title in Rem, and Ejectment in the Circuit Court of Etowah County, Alabama, 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 Section Thirty two (32), Township Ten (10), Range Four (4) East of Huntsville Meridian in Etowah County, Alabama, less all that part lying North of the New Highway, containing herein conveyed 32 acres, more or less, lying and being situated in Etowah County, Alabama, together with all improvements located thereon. Subject to a right of way for ingress, 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, encumbrance, or right of redemption in the above described property are required to plead, answer, demur, or otherwise respond to the Complaint filed June 21st 2026 within 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 August 2026.
Clerk of the Circuit Court Etowah County, Alabama

STANLEY & ASSOCIATES, 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 Testamentary on the Estate of Carl Weaver, deceased, having 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 present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred. Furthermore, notice is hereby 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 Estate:

Any and all stock ownership or other interest in Techtrix, Inc., an Alabama corporation in which the deceased was a shareholder. Any and all interest in the real estate located at 525 Plainview Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 (Parcel #10-09-32-4-000-172.000 and 10-09-32-4-000-259.000). Any unknown heirs, interested parties, or persons claiming any right, title, or interest in the above-described assets, or who may have an objection to the administration or disposition of said assets by the Personal Representative, 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 Representative 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

**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.

0 5th 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

**ORDINANCE
NO. O-25-26**

Authorizing Emergency Abatement

WHEREAS, the City of Gadsden Building Official inspected a structure located at 907 SPRUCE STREET, GADSDEN, ALABAMA 35901;

WHEREAS, the Building Official observed that a tree had fallen on the structure and the structure is leaning towards a house on an adjacent property; and

WHEREAS, the Building Official has determined the structure to be unsafe and its location to the adjacent house poses an imminent threat to the health and welfare to the adjoining property and it's occupants; and

WHEREAS, §11-53B-15 Code of Alabama provides "Notwithstanding any other pro-

visions of this chapter, a municipality shall have authority to enact, and may by ordinance authorize, the appropriate city official to initiate immediate repair or demolition of a building structure when, in the opinion of the official so designated, such emergency action is required due to imminent danger of structural collapse endangering adjoining property, the public right of way, or human life or health."; and

WHEREAS, as required by the Code of Ordinances, notice of the September 8, 2026 public hearing has been given to MARNOL MARTINEZ, 1041 Morgan Drive, Gadsden, AL 35901, OCCUPANT, 907 Spruce Street, Gadsden, AL 35901.

Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, as follows:

1. The Council finds that an emergency as defined by §11-53B-15, Code of Alabama exists for the demolition of the building located at 907 SPRUCE STREET, GADSDEN, ALABAMA 35901 without public advertisement.

2. The Building Official is authorized to have Public Works immediately begin demolition of the building.

Adopted by the City of Gadsden on September 8, 2026.
Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

September 18, 2026

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

Adopting Fiscal Year 2027 Budgets
Whereas, in compliance with §11-43B-10, 1975 Alabama Code, after proper notice given by publication, a hearing has been held to receive public comment on the proposed budgets for fiscal year 2027;

Now, Therefore, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, as follows:

Section 1. The budget document entitled General Fund Budget, filed with the City Clerk-Treasurer, together with all schedules and exhibits thereto, is hereby adopted as the General Fund Budget of the City of Gadsden, Alabama, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027.

Section 2. The FY2027 General Fund Budget provides for total anticipated income in the amount of \$74,814,340.

Section 3. The FY2027 General Fund Budget appropriates the amount of \$70,920,137 to the Departmental Budgets and the Non-Departmental Budget.

Section 4. The FY2027 General Fund Budget appropriates the amount of \$1,285,000 to Outside Agency Appropriations. The Mayor on behalf of the City is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with each organization for the performance of a public purpose in the amount authorized in the budget.

Section 5. The FY2027 General Fund Budget appropriates the amount of \$1,609,203 to Transfers to Other Funds.

Section 6. The FY2027 General Fund Budget appropriates the amount of \$210,000 to Council Discretionary Funds. The Mayor on behalf of the City is hereby authorized to enter into a contract in the amount and with each organization for the performance of a public purpose as authorized by each Council Member.

Section 7. The budget document entitled Special Revenue Funds, filed with the City Clerk-Treasurer, is hereby adopted as the Special Revenue Funds Budget of the City of Gadsden, Alabama, appropriating \$12,750,930 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027.

Section 8. The budget document entitled Debt Service Funds, filed with the City Clerk-Treasurer, is hereby adopted as the Debt Service Funds Budget of the

City of Gadsden, Alabama, appropriating \$12,321,367 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027.

Section 9. The budget document entitled Enterprise and Internal Service Funds (Airport, Golf Course, Residential Garbage and Employee Insurance), filed with the City Clerk-Treasurer, is hereby adopted as the Enterprise and Internal Service Funds Budget of the City of Gadsden, Alabama, appropriating \$18,989,039 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027.

Section 10. The budget document entitled Capital Projects Fund, filed with the City Clerk-Treasurer, is hereby adopted as the Capital Projects Fund Budget of the City of Gadsden, Alabama, appropriating \$10,825,900 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027.

Section 11. The budget document entitled Capital Projects Fund II, filed with the City Clerk-Treasurer, is hereby adopted as the Capital Projects Fund II Budget of the City of Gadsden, Alabama, appropriating \$10,391,995 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027.

Section 12. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), encumbrances outstanding as of September 30, 2026, shall be closed to the fund balance and re-established at the beginning of the new fiscal year as a reduction to the prior year's budget and as an increase to the new fiscal year's budget.

Section 13. The Director of Finance and the City Clerk-Treasurer will maintain true and correct copies of the official budgets in their offices at all times during this fiscal year and make it available for public inspection during normal business hours.

Adopted by the City of Gadsden on September 8, 2026.

Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

September 18, 2026

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

Sealed bids will be received by the Director of Transportation at the office of the Alabama Department of Transportation, 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 Removal, and Traffic Signals) on SR-77 (Northbound Roadway) over the Coosa River in Rainbow City. Length 1.353 mi.

The total amount of uncompleted work under contract to a contractor must not exceed the amount of his or her qualification certificate. The Entire Project Shall Be Completed By December 31, 2029.

A Bidding Proposal may be purchased for \$5.00. Plans may be purchased for \$81.00 per set. Plans and Proposals are available at the Alabama Department of Transportation, 1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Room E-108, Montgomery, AL 36110. Checks should be made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation. Plans and Proposals will be mailed only upon 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 advertised specifications. This project is subject to the contract work hours and Safety Standards Act and its implementing regulations.

Cashier's check or bid bond for 5% of bid (maximum - \$50,000.00) made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation must accompany each bid as evidence of good faith. The bracket range is shown only to provide general financial information to contractors and bonding companies concerning the project's complexity and size. This Bracket should not be used in preparing a bid, nor will

this bracket have any bearing on the decision to award this contract. The Bracket Estimate On This Project Is From \$14,726,184 To \$17,998,669 . The proposed work shall be performed in conformity with the rules and regulations for carrying out the Federal Highway Act. Plans and Specifications are on file in Room E-108 of the Alabama Department of Transportation at Montgomery, Alabama 36110.

In accordance with the rules and regulations of The Alabama Department of Transportation, proposals will be issued only to prequalified contractors or their authorized representatives, upon requests that are received before 10 AM., on the day previous to the day of opening of bids. The bidder's proposal must be submitted on the complete original proposal furnished him or her by the Alabama Department of Transportation. The Alabama Department 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 Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of The Secretary, Part 21, nondiscrimination in federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business 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 national origin in consideration 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 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 Education

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Staley Technologies, 6101 S. Shackelford Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, has completed work consisting of the installation of an IP Intercom System for the Etowah Schools New Intercom Systems project at Etowah County Schools, Etowah County, Alabama. 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. Shackelford Road
Little Rock, AR 72204
This notice is published pursuant to applicable Alabama law.

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

JOB COMPLETION

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, Bob Smith Construction, Inc. hereby give written notice of the completion of a contract with the City of Gadsden, Alabama, for 2024 City of Gadsden Annual Drainage & Concrete Work, project no. 3524, and has made request for final settlement of said Contract. This notice is to appear for four consecutive weeks beginning August 28, 2026 and ending 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 Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that A & S Electrical Contractors, Inc., Contractor, has completed the contract for Construction of Foodball Stadium Lighting Renovations for Southside and Hokes Bluff High School, at Etowah Couty, Alabama for Etowah County Board of Education, Owner, and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify B. Craig Lipscomb Architect 422 Chestnut Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. A & S Electrical Contractors, Inc. 906 Nuckolls Street Gadsden, AL 35903

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

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction, LLC hereby gives notice of completion of Resurfacing Paving at Carlisle Elementary School in Etowah County, Alabama. This notice will appear for three consecutive weeks beginning on September 4, 2026 and ending on September 18, 2026. All claims should be filed at Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction, LLC, P.O. Box 1890, Gadsden, Alabama, 35902 during this period.

September 4, 11, and 18, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that GKL Companies, Inc., Contractor, has completed the Contract for Renovation of Reroofing of Southside Elementary 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 having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify B. Criag Lipscomb - Architect, LLC, 436 Chestnut Street, Gadsden AL 35906

GKL Companies, Inc. 2323 East Greenview Avenue Rainbow City, AL. 35906

September 4, 11, and 18, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 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 having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify: B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect at PO Box 1518, Gadsden, AL. 35902, 256-390-5657.

Greer Building Contractors, LLC 110 Thomas Dr. Gadsden, AL 35904

September 11, 18, and 25, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, DV DPHQGHG notice is hereby given Bob Smith Construction, Inc., has completed the Contract for construction of: Connector 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 having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify: McKee & Associates, 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

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Contents of the following storage buildings will be SOLD by Off Campus Storage on September 25, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at 474 George Wallace Drive , Gadsden, AL. 35903.

Victoria Trammell Unit 61 and 135

Antwon Powell Unit 70

Sheland Frazier Unit 152

Shon Kidd Unit 154

Zana Spears Unit 149 and 150

September 18 and 25, 2026

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on 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 abandoned motor vehicles:

2003 Ford F-150 VIN: 1FTRW08693KB20239

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 public auction.

September 11 and 18, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

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

1995 CHEVROLET TAHOE VIN: 1GNEK13K4SJ446918

2011 CHEVROLET MALIBU VIN: 1G1ZB5E12BF171504

2010 DODGE CHARGER VIN: 2 B 3 C A 3 CVXAH206914

2009 PONTIAC G6 VIN: 1G2ZG57N294106929

The public auction will be held at Kelton Wrecker LLC located at 1625 Forrest Ave Gadsden AL 35901 at 8:00 AM on 10/24/2026. The seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low and may postpone the public auction until another time and place. In addition, the seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

September 11 and 18, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Please take NOTICE that Matt's Towing will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicle 2006 Scion XA Vin# JTK-KT624960165713 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 B 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am 10/24/2026

The Seller shall have

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

September 18 and 25, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Please take NOTICE that Noah's Garage will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicle

2005 Mazda Tribute VIN: 4F2CZ061X-5KM43321

2011 Ford Escape VIN: 1fmu0d78bkb35223

2014 Scion FR-S VIN: JF1ZNA19E9705815

The public auction will be held at Noah's Garage, 2871 Shady Lane South at 10:00am 10/16/26 There is a reserve that must be met. The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

September 18 and 25, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Please take NOTICE that Thacker Towing will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the following abandoned motor vehicles: 2000 Chevrolet Silverado VIN: 2GCEC-19T6Y1119851 The public auction will be held at Thacker Towing, 927 5th Ave NE, Attalla, AL 35954 on October 23, 2026. The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

September 18 and 25, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

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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.

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car. because
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simple human sense.**



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cfordinsurance.com 256-413-7611

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