Messenger

Volume 48, Issue 42 | October 16, 2026 | 50 cents

Gaston's science department launches rock collecting project

By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

Caylie Moore|The Messenger

Since the beginning of the school year, Gaston High School students have been working on a pen pal project — but don't underestimate the point of this assignment, Features Editor Caylie Moore cautions. This project is no ordinary exchange of simple letters, nor unnecessary busywork for a drawn-out English class, nor yet another school lesson that will have no bearing on real life. This project has purpose beyond putting a pencil to paper, and that purpose is one that science teacher Jeff Sharpton hopes students will remember and carry with them for years to come.

Because while it is fundamentally a pen pal project, it's also a rock collecting one. And if that alone doesn't stir something inside of any given Messenger reader, just know that it has excited the hearts of many national rock collectors.

"Once we got the Facebook ad [requesting pen pal partners for the students] posted," Sharpton explained, "there were so many people [volunteering] that I had to actually shut it down eventually. So many people wanted to be a part of it."

Sharpton, who spent all summer finding a mix of amateur and professional volunteers, said that his original goal was to get just one or two people from each state. Instead, he found upwards of eight and nine from some states, totaling 125 volunteers from 49 different states, including two from Alaska.

The project is broken into two phases: the collection phase and the report phase.

In the collection phase, which has already begun, Gaston students will individually gather different Alabaman rock specimens and mail them to rock collectors in other states. In turn, these rock collectors will mail back stones and gems from their own states to the Gaston students, functioning in the way a bare-bones pen pal project would.

During the report phase, which will take place in the second quarter period, students will write a report on what was sent to them and mail a copy of their report to their pen pal, along with a thank you letter.

One goal, Sharpton said, was for his students to continue mailing back and forth with their partners like "true pen pals." Another is for students to gain an understanding of the geological differences between Alabama and other states.

They are, however, far from the only goals, and Sharpton is not the only person putting in a helping hand.

"The geography teacher is benefiting from this because the kids are learning a little bit more about the geography of the United States," Sharpton stated. "The English teachers and special education teachers, they've supported some of the kids who needed help

Gaston - Page A2

LWCDC opens seventh Blessing Box on Springfield Avenue

By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

Caylie Moore|The Messenger

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, the Leonard Williams Community Development Corporation (or LWCDC) held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its seventh Blessing Box, located at 1214 Springfield Avenue next to Green Pasture Park. Blessing Boxes act as a free hub for food, essential items, and hygiene products. Donzella Williams, founder of the LWCDC, gave a welcoming speech and discussed her desire to give back to the community.

"I grew up in Green Pasture. My grandparents, my parents, aunties, uncles, cousins, we've all grown up in Green Pasture," stated Williams, adding that this particular Blessing Box had a special reveal to honor its special location. The reveal, as the audience would quickly discover, included various signs honoring Williams' family members who had lived in Green Pasture and passed away: Laura Mae Robertson, William "Big Ray" Kyle, Vicki Pearl

Blessing - Page A9

Gallery 808 opens for business

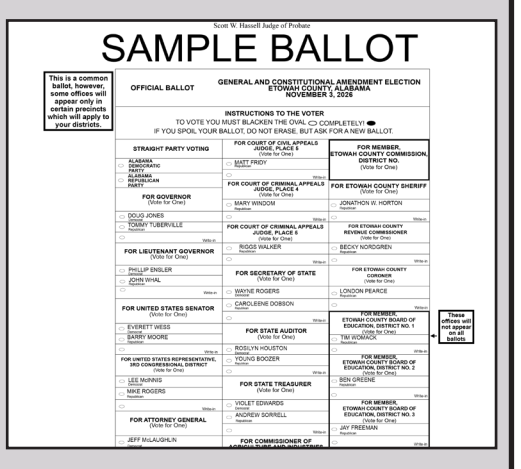
By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

On Thursday, Oct. 8, Gallery at 808 celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony that featured wine, snacks, and contemporary art made by local artists, including owner Nanda Patel, Craig Reynolds, Lynette Hesser, Steve Loucks, Syndee Isbell and William Darby. The gallery will not only exhibit artwork in its halls but also act a space for purchasing art, with prices ranging from $1,500 to as little as $10 and pieces ranging from ceramic pottery to acrylic and oil paintings and more. Gallery at 808 also features event space and a dedicated classroom for teaching various art mediums.

Gallery 808 - Page A9

SCAN ME

INSIDE THIS EDITION


Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate
SAMPLE BALLOT
This is a common ballot, however, some offices will appear only in certain precincts which will apply to your districts.
OFFICIAL BALLOT
GENERAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 3, 2026
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER
TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL ⬭ COMPLETELY!
IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.
STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING
ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY
FOR GOVERNOR (Vote for One)
DOUG JONES Democrat
TOMMY TUBERVILLE Republican
Write-in
FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for One)
PHILLIP ENSLER Democrat
JOHN WHAL Republican
Write-in
FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One)
EVERETT WESS Democrat
BARRY MOORE Republican
Write-in
FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for One)
LEE McInnis Democrat
MIKE ROGERS Republican
Write-in
FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for One)
JEFF McLAUGHLIN
FOR COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 5 (Vote for One)
MATT PINDY Republican
Write-in
FOR COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 4 (Vote for One)
MARY WINDOM Republican
Write-in
FOR COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 5 (Vote for One)
RIGGS WALKER Republican
Write-in
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for One)
WAYNE ROGERS Democrat
CAROLEENE DOBSON Republican
Write-in
FOR STATE AUDITOR (Vote for One)
ROSLYN HOUSTON Democrat
YOUNG BOOZER Republican
Write-in
FOR STATE TREASURER (Vote for One)
VIOLET EDWARDS Democrat
ANDREW SORRELL Republican
Write-in
FOR COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES
FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. (Vote for One)
FOR ETOWAH COUNTY SHERIFF (Vote for One)
JONATHON W. HORTON Republican
Write-in
FOR ETOWAH COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Vote for One)
BECKY NORDGREN Republican
Write-in
FOR ETOWAH COUNTY CORONER (Vote for One)
LONDON PEARCE Republican
Write-in
FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 1 (Vote for One)
TIM WOMACK Republican
Write-in
FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 2 (Vote for One)
BEN GREENE Republican
Write-in
FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 3 (Vote for One)
JAY FREEMAN Republican
Write-in
These offices will not appear on all ballots

Take a closer look at what's on the ballot in November.

See Page A4-A7

Glencoe wins 3A Area 12 volleyball tournament on Wednesday.

See Page B1

Photo gallery of the ribbon cutting of Gallery 808.

See Page A9

In & Around SEC

Catch up on SEC football with Cole Fredricks.

See Page B3

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NEWS

Blessing

- From A1

Whittaker, Kenneth William "Sandyman" Moore, "Pete" Andy Demetrius and Ceceil Robertson Hale.

Williams also added that the eight Blessing Box's location would be at New Destiny Church in North Gadsden, with a ninth location pending.

The ribbon cutting also featured short speeches from Gadsden councilman-elect LaMont Kyle, who thanked the crowd for coming to honor his cousin Donzella Williams' endeavors with the Blessing Boxes, and Ceandra James of Saving Our Sons, who discussed the ninth box's location and her own charity about saving children from gun violence, mental illness, peer pressure, and suicide.

A representative from Emblem Credit Union donated a check to the LWCDC and Williams due to her passion for her Blessing Boxes. "We want to give back to our community, and she is doing that," the representative stated.

To conclude the celebration, members of the Gadsden Line Dancers danced for the attendees, adding to the excitement of the new Blessing Box.

Alabama Arise announces 2027 legislative priorities

Group renews call to eliminate state grocery tax, raise minimum wage and expand county authority over data centers

Alabama Arise members have selected seven legislative priorities for 2027, including eliminating the state sales tax on groceries, raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour and giving counties more authority to address concerns about data center developments.

Nearly 500 members voted last week on the organization's legislative agenda, according to Alabama Arise.

The seven priorities are health equity, hunger relief, inclusive democracy, adequate state budgets, justice reform, tax reform and worker power.

The priorities include closing Alabama's health coverage gap for adults with low incomes, protecting access to maternity care, preserving funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and ensuring every public school can provide free breakfast to students.

The organization also supports no-excuse early voting, removing barriers to restoring voting rights for disenfranchised Alabamians, equitable public education funding, public transportation funding and affordable housing.

Other priorities include changes to the state's sentencing and parole systems, retroactive application of Alabama's ban on judicial override of jury sentencing decisions in death penalty cases, eliminating the state sales tax on groceries and expanding paid parental leave protections.

"Alabama Arise heard from hundreds of people across our state about the issues that matter most, and this agenda reflects those concerns," executive director Robyn Hyden said. "From not having enough money to afford basic needs to demanding the power to shape decisions that impact their communities, Alabamians are asking policymakers to take up real solutions to everyday problems."

Group renews push to eliminate grocery tax

Alabama Arise members have renewed their long-standing effort to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries.

The state tax rate on groceries fell from 4% to 3% in 2023 and to 2% in 2025. Alabama Arise plans to advocate for eliminating the remaining state tax in 2027.

The organization says the tax places a greater burden on people with low incomes and adds hundreds of dollars a year to the cost of food for families. According to Alabama Arise, Alabama is one of nine states that continue to tax groceries.

The group supports replacing the lost revenue by capping or eliminating the state income tax de-duction for federal income taxes. Alabama Arise says the deduction primarily benefits higher-income households.

"Reducing the state grocery tax was an important step toward repairing Alabama's upside-down tax system," Hyden said. "By ending the state grocery tax and limiting the federal income tax de-duction, legislators can help families keep food on the table while protecting funding for public schools. Our lawmakers should act quickly to end the state grocery tax forever in 2027."

Alabama Arise seeks greater county authority over data centers

Alabama Arise also plans to advocate for legislation allowing counties to establish safeguards for data center developments.

Data centers house computer servers used for artificial intelligence and data storage. According to the Alabama Rivers Alliance, 15 data centers already exist in Alabama, while 22 others have been proposed or are under construction.

The organization says residents have raised concerns about the potential effects of data centers on local economies, the environment and utility costs.

Athens, Birmingham and Hoover have passed local ordinances intended to address potential im-pacts, according to the release. Cullman and Homewood have approved one-year moratoriums to allow additional time to evaluate how to proceed.

Alabama Arise says counties have fewer home rule powers than cities under state law, limiting their ability to establish safeguards for data centers in unincorporated areas.

The organization plans to support statewide legislation to give counties more authority to respond to community concerns and promote public involvement in evaluating and regulating data center projects.

Organization supports $15 minimum wage

Alabama Arise members also expressed strong support for raising the state's minimum wage to $15 an hour.

Alabama follows the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour, which has remained unchanged since 2009. The organization says rising costs for food, health care, housing and other necessities have increased the financial pressures on workers and their families.

Alabama Arise argues that a higher minimum wage would help families move out of poverty and increase consumer spending and tax revenue in communities across the state.

The organization says Alabama is one of five states without a state-level minimum wage law. In 2016, state lawmakers passed legislation preventing local governments from establishing their own minimum wages after Birmingham pursued a local wage increase.

Alabama Arise also points to Florida, where the minimum wage is $15 an hour and adjusts annually for inflation.

The organization plans to advocate for Alabama to establish a higher minimum wage as part of its 2027 legislative agenda.

Alabama Arise is a statewide, member-led nonprofit organization that advocates for public policies intended to improve the lives of Alabamians affected by poverty. Its membership includes faith-based, community, nonprofit and civic groups, grassroots leaders and individuals across the state.

Gaston

- From A1

writing their letters, since they're not allowed to use a computer and have to handwrite them."

By killing two (or several) birds with one stone, Sharpton ultimately hopes to prepare his students for life after high school. And since his students range from 10th to 12th graders in different classes — some from Earth and Space, some Environmental Science, some Chemistry — they'll have many paths to navigate with just as many obstacles to face, some of which may be universal.

"I love the fact that it's old school stuff. It's stuff that kids should have as a backup — if technology ever fails, they'll know how to write a letter to somebody."

The most precious thing for Sharpton, however, isn't necessarily the fact that they'll learn how to tell one mineral from another, or how to write a proper greeting in their letters, though those are important and irreplaceable skills — but the impact this has had on both the students and their pen pals psychologically.

"I've been keeping in touch with the pen pals, and the stuff they're saying is so amazing," Sharpton stated. "One woman was saying that she didn't get to talk to her daughters that much, and to have another young lady send her a handwritten letter — it's crazy."

And for Sharpton, the personal touch of the handwritten letters — in the students' and pen pals' own words and not ChatGPT's — and the raw stones from the places people call home make the whole experience even crazier.

In addition to connecting with other people, Sharpton also hopes that his students will connect with nature, too.

"The end goal is for kids to see how beautiful nature is — to see the things that nature can create that mankind cannot."

Readers interested in donating funds to the rock collecting project to help Gaston students with postage costs can reach out to Amy Noakers, Secretary of Gaston High School and a fellow rock collector, through email at amy_noakers@ecboe.org or by phone at (256) 547-8828. Donations will only go towards the shipping cost for the high school students' packages, which range between $12 and $15. The packages sent by the pen pals are paid for out-of-pocket by the pen pals themselves.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that the Public Testing of the voting machines to be used in the 2026 General Election on November 3, 2026 in Etowah County, AL, will be held on October 26, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

The location is the Old Etowah County Health Department 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35901

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

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NEWS

American Legion News

By Ken Davis

During the months of August and September, members of the Legion sold raffle tickets for a 22-caliber Henry survival rifle. The drawing was held during our monthly meeting on October 10th with the winner being Joy Peterson of Southside. Pictured presenting the rifle to her are the Post Commander Danetta McCurley and First Vice Mike Jones. The Legion wishes to thank everyone who participated in this event. The money raised will go to benefit the Veterans Honor Wall.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF GADSDEN, AL

PUBLIC REVIEW OF A DRAFT COPY OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN'S2025 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE & EVALUATION REPORT

VIRTUAL PUBLICATION: MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026
NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026
15-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: OCTOBER 16, 2026 – OCTOBER 31, 2026
PUBLIC COMMENTS DUE BY: OCTOBER 31,2026 – 5:00 P.M.

The City of Gadsden will solicit comments on its 2025 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report at a Public Hearing held at **10:00A.M. on Thursday, October 29, 2026** at the City of Gadsden, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. This Notice will commence the City's 15-day public comment period beginning on **Friday, October 16, 2026** and ending on **October 31, 2026.**

The City is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to annually submit a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). This report provides an assessment of the City's progress in carrying out its five-year strategic plan and its one-year action plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The purpose of this notice is to make the CAPER report available to the public for comments prior to its submittal to HUD.

Draft copies of the 2025 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report will be available for examination and comment by the public during the virtual public hearing scheduled **Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 10:00A.M.** The required public review ends **October 31, 2026**. The City will receive written comments until **5:00 P.M. on October 31, 2026.**

No displacement will occur as a result of the activities described herein. Should displacement occur, the City of Gadsden implements the provisions as required by CFR 570.606 (Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance). The City of Gadsden does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission of, access to, or treatment of, or employment, the programs and activities described herein. An interpreter is available upon request to assist persons with limited English proficiency. Any requests for reasonable accommodation required by an individual to fully participate in any open meetings, programs, or activities of the City of Gadsden's CDBG Office at 256-549-4537 or via email at areaves@cityofgadsden.com.

DE GADSDEN, AL

REVISIÓN PÚBLICA DEL BORRADOR DEL INFORME ANUAL CONSOLIDADO DE DESEMPEÑO Y EVALUACIÓN DE 2025 DE LA CIUDAD DE GADSDEN

PUBLICACIÓN VIRTUAL: LUNES, 5 DE OCTUBRE DE 2026
FECHA DE PUBLICACIÓN EN EL PERIÓDICO: VIERNES, 9 DE OCTUBRE DE 2026
PERIODO DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS DE 15 DÍAS: DEL 16 AL 31 DE OCTUBRE DE 2026
FECHA LÍMITE PARA COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS: 31 DE OCTUBRE DE 2026 – 5:00 P. M.

La Ciudad de Gadsden solicitará comentarios sobre su Informe Consolidado Anual de Desempeño y Evaluación (CAPER) de 2025 durante una audiencia pública que se celebrará a las 10:00 a. m. el jueves 29 de octubre de 2026, en las instalaciones de la Ciudad de Gadsden, ubicadas en 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. Este aviso marca el inicio del periodo de comentarios públicos de 15 días de la Ciudad, el cual comienza el viernes 16 de octubre de 2026 y finaliza el 31 de octubre de 2026.

El Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EE. UU. (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés) exige a la Ciudad presentar anualmente un Informe Consolidado Anual de Desempeño y Evaluación (CAPER). Este informe ofrece una evaluación del progreso de la Ciudad en la ejecución de su plan estratégico quinquenal y de su plan de acción anual para el Programa de Subvenciones en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG). El propósito de este aviso es poner el informe CAPER a disposición del público para recibir comentarios antes de su presentación ante el HUD.

Los borradores del Informe Consolidado Anual de Desempeño y Evaluación de 2025 estarán disponibles para su examen y comentarios por parte del público durante la audiencia pública virtual programada para el jueves 29 de octubre de 2026 a las 10:00 a. m. El periodo obligatorio de revisión pública finaliza el 31 de octubre de 2026. La Ciudad aceptará comentarios por escrito hasta las 5:00 p. m. del 31 de octubre de 2026.

No se producirán desplazamientos como resultado de las actividades aquí descritas. En caso de que ocurriera algún desplazamiento, la Ciudad de Gadsden aplicará las disposiciones requeridas por la norma CFR 570.606 (Medidas contra el desplazamiento residencial y asistencia para la reubicación). La Ciudad de Gadsden no discrimina por motivos de discapacidad en la admisión, el acceso, el trato o el empleo relacionados con los programas y actividades aquí descritos. Se ofrece servicio de intérprete previa solicitud para ayudar a las personas con dominio limitado del inglés. Para cualquier solicitud de adaptación razonable necesaria para participar plenamente en las reuniones abiertas, programas o actividades, comuníquese con la Oficina de CDBG de la Ciudad de Gadsden al 256-549-4532 o por correo electrónico a areaves@cityofgadsden.com.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

This is to inform that the 2026 General and Constitutional Amendment Election will be held on November 3, 2026.
The offices to be voted on are listed below.
Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

SAMPLE BALLOT

This is a common ballot, however, some offices will appear only in certain precincts which will apply to your districts.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

GENERAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION
ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER
TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL ⬭ COMPLETELY! ⬬
IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.

STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING

- ⬭ ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
- ⬭ ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY

FOR GOVERNOR
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ DOUG JONES Democrat
- ⬭ TOMMY TUBERVILLE Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ PHILLIP ENSLER Democrat
- ⬭ JOHN WHAL Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ EVERETT WESS Democrat
- ⬭ BARRY MOORE Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ LEE McINNIS Democrat
- ⬭ MIKE ROGERS Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ JEFF McLAUGHLIN Democrat
- ⬭ KATHERINE ROBERTSON Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT NO. 10
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ ANDREW JONES Republican
- ⬭ JESSE BATTLES Independent
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT NO.
(Vote for One)

FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE 7
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ BRAD MENDHEM Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE 8
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ ASHLEIGH MEYER DUNHAM Democrat
- ⬭ GREG SHAW Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 4
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ BENJAMIN M. BOWDEN Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 5
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ MATT FRIDY Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 4
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ MARY WINDOM Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 5
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ RIGGS WALKER Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ WAYNE ROGERS Democrat
- ⬭ CAROLEENE DOBSON Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR STATE TREASURER
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ ROSILYN HOUSTON Democrat
- ⬭ YOUNG BOOZER Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR STATE AUDITOR
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ VIOLET EDWARDS Democrat
- ⬭ ANDREW SORRELL Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ RON SPARKS Democrat
- ⬭ COREY HILL Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, PLACE NO. 1
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ JAMES O. GORDON Democrat
- ⬭ MATT GENTRY Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, PLACE NO. 2
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ SHEILA D. McNEIL Democrat
- ⬭ JIM ZIG ZEIGLER Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 6
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ ANGELA MORGAN Democrat
- ⬭ CATHI BRADFORD Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO.
(Vote for One)

FOR ETOWAH COUNTY SHERIFF
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ JONATHON W. HORTON Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR ETOWAH COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ BECKY NORDGREN Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR ETOWAH COUNTY CORONER
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ LONDON PEARCE Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 1
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ TIM WOMACK Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 2
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ BEN GREENE Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 3
(Vote for One)

- ⬭ JAY FREEMAN Republican
- ⬭ Write-in

These offices will not appear on all ballots

CONTINUE VOTING ON BACK

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1:

(1) The text of the statewide ballot measure, including sponsors, cosponsors, and the text of the question that will appear on the statewide ballot: Proposed by Act No. 2026-341 (Senate Bill 271, 2026 Regular Legislative Session) Bill Sponsor: Senator Givhan "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to provide for the election of a Lieutenant Governor if the Office of Lieutenant Governor becomes vacant during the first two years of a term, to authorize the Legislature to set the salary of the Lieutenant Governor and officers of the Legislature, and to require any expenditure of legislative funds for travel to be approved by a legislative officer. Proposed by Act 2026-341." This description shall be followed by the following language: "Yes ( ) No ( )."

(2) A summary of and the text of any implementing legislation directly related to the statewide ballot measure: There is no implementing legislation directly related to this statewide ballot measure.

(3) The placement of the statewide ballot measure on the statewide ballot: This proposed Constitutional Amendment will appear on the Ballot after election of federal, statewide, and local offices, and will be the first constitutional amendment for voter consideration. The proposed Constitutional Amendment will be listed as "Statewide Amendment 1."

(4) A plain language summary of the statewide ballot measure, which shall include, at a minimum, the legal or constitutional authority for its passage, the effect of the statewide ballot measure if it is passed, including its cost and source of funding, and the effect of the statewide ballot measure if it is defeated. Current law generally provides that if the office of Lieutenant Governor becomes vacant during a term of office, the vacancy remains until the next regular election for that office. The Alabama Constitution also sets the pay of the Lieutenant Governor and certain legislative officers. If approved, this amendment would require an election to fill the office of Lieutenant Governor for the remainder of an unexpired term if the office becomes vacant more than 60 days before the next general election in which state officers are elected. The amendment would also authorize the Legislature to set the pay of the Lieutenant Governor and officers of the Legislature by joint resolution. In addition, the amendment would require expenditures of legislative funds for travel by members of the Legislature to be approved by an officer elected by the members of that legislative chamber. If the majority of voters vote "yes" on Amendment 1, the Alabama Constitution will be changed. If the majority of voters vote "no" on Amendment 1, the Alabama Constitution will not be changed. There are no costs or taxes associated with Amendment 1. The Constitutional authority for passage of Amendment 1 is set forth in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws of the State of Alabama.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

This is to inform that the 2026 General and Constitutional Amendment Election will be held on November 3, 2026.
The offices to be voted on are listed below.
Scott W. Hassell Judge of Probate

SAMPLE BALLOT

THESE OFFICES RUN BY DISTRICT

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO. 28
(Vote for One)

- ROBERT LOUIS HUNTER (Democrat)
- MACK N. BUTLER (Republican)
- Write-in

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO. 29
(Vote for One)

- MARK A. GIDLEY (Republican)
- Write-in

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT NO. 30
(Vote for One)

- CRAIG LIPSCOMB (Republican)
- Write-in

FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. 1
(Vote for One)

- MIKE POWELL (Republican)
- Write-in

FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. 4
(Vote for One)

- TIM F. RAMSEY (Republican)
- JOHNNY COOK (Independent)
- Write-in

FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. 5
(Vote for One)

- JEFFERY WASHINGTON (Democrat)
- Write-in

FOR MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. 1
(Vote for One)

- Write-in

"Shall the following Amendments to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?"

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to provide for the election of a Lieutenant Governor if the Office of Lieutenant Governor becomes vacant during the first two years of a term, to authorize the Legislature to set the salary of the Lieutenant Governor and officers of the Legislature, and to require any expenditure of legislative funds for travel to be approved by a legislative officer. (Proposed by Act 2026-341)

- **Yes**
- **No**

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 2

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to provide a process for the creation of a consolidated county school system by merging two or more contiguous county boards of education; to require the State Board of Education to conduct an impact study on the potential effects of the consolidation; to require publication of the impact study; to provide a procedure for protesting a proposed consolidation of two or more county school systems; and to require the State Board of Education to adopt rules. (Proposed by Act 2026- 378)

- **Yes**
- **No**

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 3

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to require local boards of education to adopt policies requiring each public K-12 school to recite The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag at the beginning of each school day; and to require local boards of education to adopt a policy authorizing student-initiated and student-led prayer. (Proposed by Act 2026-379)

- **Yes**
- **No**

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 4

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to require local boards of education to adopt policies requiring each public K-12 school to broadcast or sanction the performance of the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner at least once per week during school hours. (Proposed by Act 2026-424)

- **Yes**
- **No**

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF LOCAL APPLICATION TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT IN ONLY THE COUNTY OF APPLICATION

LOCAL AMENDMENT 1

Relating to Etowah County, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to repeal Section 28-11.20 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, requiring voter approval before annexing any territory within the county into a municipality not located wholly within the boundaries of the county before January 1, 1986. (Proposed by Act 2026-276)

- **Yes**
- **No**

END OF BALLOT

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 2:
(1) The text of the statewide ballot measure, including sponsors, cosponsors, and the text of the question that will appear on the statewide ballot: Proposed by Act No. 2026-378 (House Bill 380, 2026 Regular Legislative Session) Bill Sponsor: Representative Collins "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to provide a process for the creation of a consolidated county school system by merging two or more contiguous county boards of education; to require the State Board of Education to conduct an impact study on the potentia1 effects of the consolidation; to require publication of the impact study; to provide a procedure for protesting a proposed consolidation of two or more county school systems; and to require the State Board of Education to adopt rules. Proposed by Act 2026-378." This description shall be followed by the following language: "Yes ( ) No ( )."
(2) A summary of and the text of any implementing legislation directly related to the statewide ballot measure: There is no implementing legislation directly related to this statewide ballot measure.
(3) The placement of the statewide ballot measure on the statewide ballot: This proposed Constitutional Amendment will appear on the Ballot after election of federal, statewide, and local offices, and will be the second constitutional amendment for voter consideration. The proposed Constitutional Amendment will be listed as "Statewide Amendment 2."
(4) A plain language summary of the statewide ballot measure, which shall include, at a minimum, the legal or constitutional authority for its passage, the effect of the statewide ballot measure if it is passed, including its cost and source of funding, and the effect of the statewide ballot measure if it is defeated. Currently, each county has a board of education that operates independently. A process allowing the merger of two or more county boards of education does not currently exist in the Alabama Constitution. If approved, this amendment would allow two or more neighboring county boards of education to agree to merge their county school systems into one multi-county school system by formal resolution of the affected county school boards. Before a merger could occur, the State Board of Education would be required to conduct a study of the proposed merger, including its potential effects on students, families, educational programs, transportation, finances, taxes, and school operations. The study must be published before the merger could be finalized. If at least 25 percent of the qualified voters in any of the affected county school systems submits a written protest, the proposed merger could not take effect unless it is approved by a majority of the voters in each of the affected counties at the next general election. In addition to a majority of voters in each county, the amendment also requires that the merger be approved by an overall majority of the votes cast in all the affected counties. The amendment would also require the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the merger process. The Legislature could pass laws to implement approved mergers. If the majority of voters vote "yes" on Amendment 2, the Alabama Constitution will be changed. If the majority of voters vote "no" on Amendment 2, the Alabama Constitution will not be changed. There are no costs or taxes associated with Amendment 2. The Constitutional authority for passage of Amendment 2 is set forth in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws of the State of Alabama.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 3:
(1) The text of the statewide ballot measure, including sponsors, cosponsors, and the text of the question that will appear on the statewide ballot: Proposed by Act No. 2026-379 (House Bill 511, 2026 Regular Legislative Session) Bill Sponsor: Representative Ingram "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to require local boards of education to adopt policies requiring each public K-12 school to recite The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag at the beginning of each school day; and to require local boards of education to adopt a policy authorizing studentinitiated and student-led prayer. Proposed by Act 2026-379." This description shall be followed by the following language: "Yes ( ) No ( )."
(2) A summary of and the text of any implementing legislation directly related to the statewide ballot measure: There is no implementing legislation directly related to this statewide ballot measure.
(3) The placement of the statewide ballot measure on the statewide ballot: This proposed Constitutional Amendment will appear on the Ballot after election of federal, statewide, and local offices, and will be the third constitutional amendment for voter consideration. The proposed Constitutional Amendment will be listed as "Statewide Amendment 3."
(4) A plain language summary of the statewide ballot measure, which shall include, at a minimum, the legal or constitutional authority for its passage, the effect of the statewide ballot measure if it is passed, including its cost and source of funding, and the effect of the statewide ballot measure if it is defeated. Currently, the Alabama Constitution does not require local boards of education to adopt policies requiring each public K-12 school to conduct the Pledge of Allegiance each school day or to adopt policies allowing student-initiated and student-led prayer. If approved, this amendment would require each local board of education to adopt a policy requiring each public K-12 school to conduct the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag at the beginning of each school day and give students the opportunity to voluntarily recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The amendment would also require each local board of education to adopt a policy allowing student-initiated and student-led prayer in public K-12 schools. No student could be required to participate in the prayer, and students would have the right to opt out of participating in the Pledge of Allegiance or the prayer based on their own beliefs. Reported violations would be reviewed by the local superintendent of education. If the majority of voters vote "yes" on Amendment 3, the Alabama Constitution will be changed. If the majority of voters vote "no" on Amendment 3, the Alabama Constitution will not be changed. There are
no costs or taxes associated with Amendment 3. The Constitutional authority for passage of Amendment 3 is set forth in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws of the State of Alabama.

BALLOT STATEMENT FOR STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 4:
(1) The text of the statewide ballot measure, including sponsors, cosponsors, and the text of the question that will appear on the statewide ballot: Proposed by Act No. 2026-424 (Senate Bill 5, 2026 Regular Legislative Session) Bill Sponsor: Senator Allen "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to require local boards of education to adopt policies requiring each public K-12 school to broadcast or sanction the performance of the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner at least once per week during school hours." Proposed by Act 2026-424." This description shall be followed by the following language: "Yes ( ) No ( )."
(2) A summary of and the text of any implementing legislation directly related to the statewide ballot measure: There is no implementing legislation directly related to this statewide ballot measure.
(3) The placement of the statewide ballot measure on the statewide ballot: This proposed Constitutional Amendment will appear on the Ballot after election of federal, statewide, and local offices, and will be the fourth constitutional amendment for voter consideration. The proposed Constitutional Amendment will be listed as "Statewide Amendment 4."
(4) A plain language summary of the statewide ballot measure, which shall include, at a minimum, the legal or constitutional authority for its passage, the effect of the statewide ballot measure if it is passed, including its cost and source of funding, and the effect of the statewide ballot measure if it is defeated. Currently, the Alabama Constitution does not require local boards of education to adopt policies requiring each public K-12 school to broadcast or allow the performance of the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner during school hours. If approved, this amendment would require each local board of education to adopt a policy requiring each public K-12 school to broadcast the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner at least once each week during school hours. A local board of education could instead allow the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner to be performed during school hours by a school-approved band, choir, vocal group, or vocalist using the version archived by the Library of Congress. If the majority of voters vote "yes" on Amendment 4, the Alabama Constitution will be changed. If the majority of voters vote "no" on Amendment 4, the Alabama Constitution will not be changed. There are no costs or taxes associated with Amendment 4. The Constitutional authority for passage of Amendment 4 is set forth in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, and the election laws of the State of Alabama.

THE BALLOT EXPLAINED: POSITIONS

LEGISLATIVE

U.S. States Congress.
Create laws.
Comprised of U.S. House and Senate.

UNITED STATES SENATOR - 6-YR TERM

- Represents the entire state in the federal government.
- Writes and votes on federal laws.
- Reviews and votes on federal budgets and appropriations.
- Exclusive authority to approve, or reject, presidential nominations.
- Advise on treaties negotiated by the executive.
- Conducts impeachment trials.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE - 2-YR TERM

- Represents a specific congressional district in Alabama.
- Travels to Washington D.C. for congressional sessions, votes, committee hearings and other official duties.
- Approves federal spending.
- Bring the concerns of district residents to the federal government.
- Investigates alleged misconduct and votes on whether to initiate an impeachment.

ATTORNEY GENERAL - 4-YR TERM, LIMIT OF TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS

- Serves as the state's chief legal officer.
- Represents Alabama in lawsuits and civil and criminal appeals.
- Enforces state laws and protects the state's interests.
- Oversees certain criminal prosecutions.
- Advises state officials on state law.
- Investigates and takes action on certain consumer-product matters and unlawful business practices.
- Leads an office with attorneys, investigators and other staff who handle criminal, civil, consumer-protection and other legal matters.

STATE SENATOR - 4-YR TERM

- Consists of 35 senators.
- Represents residents in a specific area.
- Introduces bills, debates proposed legislation and votes to pass or reject bill.
- Approve state budget.
- Debates and votes on laws involving state taxes, revenue and public funding.
- Votes on appointments made by the governor when applicable.
- Reviews proposed legislation in areas such as education, health care, transportation and criminal justice.
- Examine state operations and can raise questions about how public funds and programs are managed.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 4-YR TERM

- Consists of 105 representatives.
- Represents residents in a specific region.
- Introduces bills, debates proposed legislation and votes to pass or reject bill.
- Reviews and votes on the state budget and government funding.
- Proposes and votes on taxes and revenue.
- Addresses local concerns and advocate for district priorities.
- Oversees how state agencies administer programs and public spending money.

EXECUTIVE

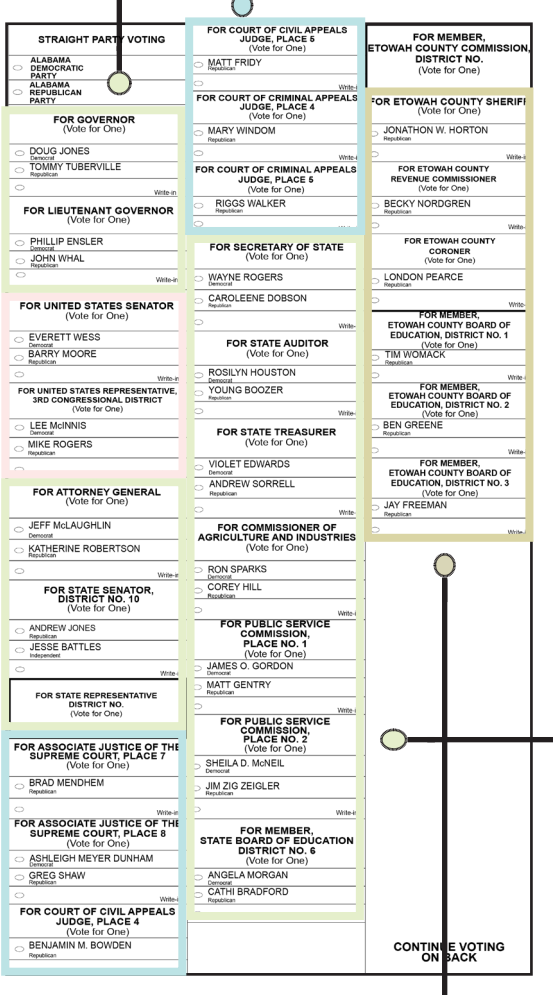
Enforces laws enacted by the legislative branch.

GOVERNOR - 4-YR TERM, LIMIT OF TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS

- Serves as the state's chief executive.
- Enforces state laws.
- Approves or rejects bills passed by Alabama House and Senate.
- Submits a prosed budget for legislature to consider.
- Declare state of emergency and enact the Alabama National Guard.
- Appoints members of many state boards and commissions and fills certain government vacancies.
- Grants pardons, reprieves and commutations.
- Calls special legislative sessions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR - 4-YR TERM, LIMIT OF TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS

- Presides over the Alabama Senate and helps oversee its processing.
- Tie breaker for the senate.
- Takes over as governor if the position becomes vacant.
- Performs governor's duty if the governor applicable.
- Plays a role in senate committee appointments.
- Serves on state boards and commissions.



MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION - 4-YR TERM

- Consists of eight elected board members.
- Represents a certain district.
- Sets statewide education policy.
- Approves academic standards.
- Sets teacher requirements.
- Oversees the State Department of Education.
- Works with the state superintendent to establish education policies and implement them.
- Represents a certain district.

JUDICIAL

Interprets the law and administers judgment.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT - 6-YR TERM HIGHEST COURT OF ALABAMA

- Eight associate justices and one chief justice in Alabama.
- Hears appeals from lower courts.
- Helps decide how state laws should be understood and applied.
- Participates in cases involving significant issues of state laws.
- Shares the Supreme Courts responsibility for supervising Alabama's lower courts.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS - 6-YR TERM

- The court consists of five judges.
- Review's convictions and appeals.
- Reviews post-conviction petitions.
- Uphold or change lower-court decisions.

COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS JUDGE - 6-YR TERM

- Consists of five judges.
- Reviews civil court cases.
- Handles family law cases.
- Reviews workers' compensation cases.
- Reviews financial disputes of $50,000 or less.
- Reviews government agency decisions.
- Uphold or reverse lower-court decisions.

SECRETARY OF STATE - 4-YR TERM, LIMIT OF TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS

- Oversees state elections.
- Maintains election records.
- Provides voter information.
- Maintains campaign finance records.
- Keeps official state records.
- Registers businesses.
- Maintains the Great Seal of Alabama and certifies documents.

STATE AUDITOR - 4-YR TERM

- Oversees state elections.
- Maintains election records.
- Provides voter information.
- Maintains campaign finance records.
- Keeps official state records.
- Registers businesses.
- Maintains the Great Seal of Alabama and certifies documents.

STATE TREASURER - 4-YR TERM, LIMIT OF TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS

- Receives money owed to the state and deposits it appropriately.
- Pays authorized state expenses.
- Manages state investments.
- Handles state debt payments.
- Oversees systems designed to protect state funds.
- Manages unclaimed property.
- Oversees savings programs that help families save for college and disability support.
- Serves on state boards.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

- Consists of three members.
- Regulates utility companies.
- Revies utility rates.
- Protects utility customers.
- Holds public hearings.
- Regulates certain transportation services.
- Enforces regulation on companies.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES - 4-YR TERM

- Oversees the state agriculture department.
- Supports farmers.
- Oversees programs that inspect and regulate certain food products and agricultural commodities.
- Helps identify and manage plant diseases, pests and other threats.
- Oversees livestock and poultry health, disease prevention and veterinary diagnostic services.
- Enforces agricultural regulations involving pesticides, seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural products.
- Oversees inspection of commercial weighing and measuring devices.
- Supports agricultural and industrial development.

ETOWAH COUNTY CORONER

- Investigates violent, sudden or suspicious deaths to help determine the cause of death.
- Coordinates with police and sheriff's investigators when a death involves a crime.
- Coordinates autopsies.
- Helps arrange transportation of the deceased.
- Documents required death-related records.

MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION - 4-YR TERM

- Sets policies and guidelines for Etowah County schools.
- Approves the school's budget.
- Establishes education goals.
- Make decisions about personnel.
- Oversees the superintendent and evaluates progress.
- Approves programs and policies.
- Monitors school performance.

MEMBER, ETOWAH COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER

- Assesses property value.
- Administers property tax.
- Processes tax exemptions.
- Collects delinquent taxes.
- Maintains property records.
- Oversees business and personal property assessments.
- Manages mapping and parcel information.
- Handles mover vehicle tags.
- Manages employees related to property assessment, tax collection, records and related services.

ETOWAH COUNTY SHERIFF - 4-YR TERM

- Investigates criminal activities.
- Operates the county jail.
- Serves court papers and orders.
- Makes arrests and executes warrants.
- Oversees specialized units such as drug enforcement, school resource officer, aviation, water patrol, dive teams and tactual operations.
- Coordinates with other local law enforcement.
- Manages the budget and personnel.

THE BALLOT EXPLAINED: AMENDMENTS

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1

If passed, this Amendment would make three changes to the Alabama Constitution.

1. It would allow an election to be held for the Office of Lieutenant Governor if the position becomes vacant in the first two years of a term. Current legislation does not detail what happens, so the position remains unfilled. An election for the position would be held at the next general election.
2. It would allow Alabama House and Senate to set the salaries of the lieutenant governor and certain legislative officers, rather than following the current guidelines in the constitution.
3. It would require travel expenses to be approved by an officer elected by the members of their chamber. Currently, the senate president and house speaker approve the travel reimbursement request.

Pros

- Allows voters to elect a replacement if the Lt. Gov. position becomes vacant early.
- Gives legislature flexibility to adjust the salary of Lt. Gov. without changing the constitution.
- Establishes a requirement for reimbursing legislative travel.

Cons

- Combines three issues into one amendment, preventing voters from approving some but not others.
- Gives lawmakers greater control over certain salaries.
- Does not detail how travel approvals will be documented or transparent to voters.
- Does not guarantee an election to fill the Lt. Gov. position; depending on when the vacancy occurs.

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 2

If passed, this Amendment would allow two neighboring counties to combine their school systems under one multi-county board. The Alabama State Board of Education would be required to study the potential effects on the communities and publish a study 30 days prior to the finalization of the school systems. However, if at least 25% of eligible voters in the affected area submit a written protest within 30 of the finalization, a public referendum would be required. The consolidation could only take place if the majority of voters are in favor of the merger.

It would also require the State BOE to adopt rules for mergers.

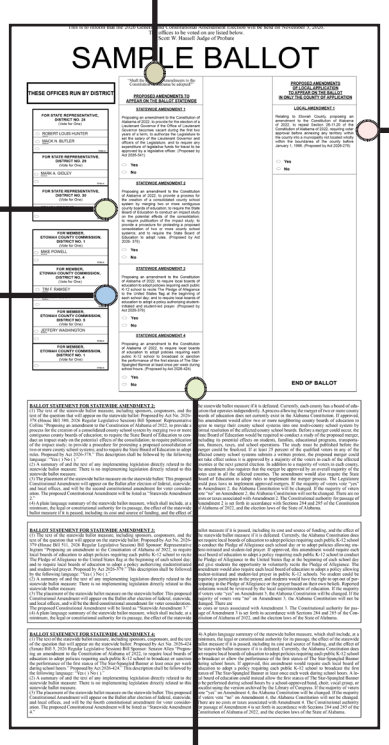
For example: Etowah Board of Education could merge with Blount County Board of Education to consolidate to possibly reduce costs.

Pros

- Could reduce administrative costs by combining leadership and other administrative functions.
- Could allow smaller schools to share resources.
- Could create opportunities to share educational programs, personnel and services.
- Requires a study before consolidation.
- Gives residents a way to trigger a public vote if enough voters object.

Cons

- Could reduce local control.
- Could create disagreements over how funding, facilities, transportation and programs are distributed among counties.
- Could affect administrative positions if overlapping positions are eliminated.
- Differences in enrollment, tax revenue and existing debt could complicate a merger.
- A public referendum is not automatic and requires a written protest of 25% or more.



LOCAL AMENDMENT 1

This Amendment pertains specifically to Etowah County.

If approved, it would repeal Section 28-11.20, an amendment passed in 2022, which requires voter approval before annexing any territory within a county into a municipality not wholly located within the boundaries of that county prior to Jan. 1, 1986. Currently, the constitution requires voter approval before the territory withing Etowah County can be annexed into a municipality that is not located within the county, subject to provision's terms and exceptions.

Pros

- Could remove a special constitutional obstacle to annexation involving a municipality that crosses county boundaries.
- Could province more flexibility for municipalities seeking to annex eligible territories.
- Would eliminate the need to follow this particular constitutional approval requirement.

Cons

- Residents could have less direct say.
- Changes to municipal boundaries can affect local services, taxes, representation and planning.
- Voter may want clarification about which municipalities or areas could be affected and how annexation safeguards would apply.

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 3

If approved, this amendment would make two changes to Alabama legislation:

1. It would require public K-12 school to conduct the pledge of allegiance each morning. Students can choose to whether or not to recite it.
2. It would require school boards to adopt policies allowing student-led prayer.

Alabama law currently requires schools to conduct the pledge each school day and allows student-led prayers; however, this would place requirement and protections in the state constitution and require local boards to adopt policies for them. Violations would be reviewed by the local superintendent. The amendment does not state the penalty for violations and students are not required to participate in the pledge or prayer.

Pros

- Establishes a constitutional requirement for daily recital of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools.
- Requires school boards to adopt clear policies allowing student-initiated and student-led prayer.
- Explicitly protects students' right not to participate in either based on their beliefs.

Cons

- Students who opt out could feel singled out.
- Schools and districts would need to determine how to accommodate students who choose not to participate.
- It raises questions about how schools can permit student-led prayer while protecting students from pressure to participate.

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 4

If approved, this amendment would require public K-12 schools to play or perform the first stanza of the national anthem at least once a week. Schools could broadcast a recording or arrange a live performance by a school-approved band, choir, coal group or vocalist. The performance would have to be the version archived by the Library of Congress. The local school board would be required to adopt policies for implementation of the requirement. The amendment does not specify a penalty for violations.

Pros

- Establishes a statewide requirement for a regular recognition of the national anthem in public schools.
- Gives schools flexibility to use a recording.
- Could provide opportunities for student musicians and vocalists to participate in school activities.

Cons

- Schools would need to schedule the anthem and establish procedures for meeting the weekly requirement.
- Districts may need to address logistical issues, including access to audio equipment of arranging live performances.
- Questions may arise about how student participation and how schools handle students who don't wish to participate.

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Your CALENDAR Community

Featured Events
Oct. 16-Oct. 23

Dry Creek Greenhouse's Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival
- **Where:** Dry Creek Greenhouse - 8536 Centre Road, Gadsden
- **When:** Every Friday in Oct., 7 to 11 p.m.; every Saturday in Oct., 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; every Sunday in Oct., 1 to 6 p.m.

Knitting for Beginners
- **Where:** Walnut Gallery - 806 Walnut St., Gadsden
- **When:** Every Saturday in Oct., 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Aladdin Jr. Hosted by Theatre of Gadsden
- **Where:** Ritz Theatre - 310 Wall St., Gadsden
- **When:** Oct. 16-17, 23-24, at 7 p.m.; Oct. 18, 25, at 2 p.m.

Attalla Heritage Day
- **Where:** Fourth Street NW, Attalla
- **When:** Oct. 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Loblolly Fest at The Bluff Amphitheatre
- **Where:** The Bluff Amphitheatre and Campground - 1820 US-278, Hokes Bluff
- **When:** Oct. 17, 5 to 10 p.m.

18th Annual "A Walk Through Time"
- **Where:** Forrest Cemetery - 700 S 15th St., Gadsden
- **When:** Oct. 18, 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Southside Fall Festival
- **Where:** Southside City Hall - 2255 AL-77, Southside
- **When:** Oct. 22, 5 to 8 p.m.

Recurring Events

Weekly

Gadsden Duplicate Bridge Club
- **Where:** 623 Broad St., Gadsden, 2nd Floor
- **When:** Mondays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Bingo Night at AJ's Neighborhood Bar and Grill
- **Where:** AJ's Neighborhood Bar and Grill - 1582 Highway 77, Southside
- **When:** Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Open Mic Night at Blackstone Pub
- **Where:** 525 Broad St., Gadsden
- **When:** Wednesdays, 7 to 10 p.m.

Useless Trivia at Back Forty
- **Where:** Back Forty - 200 N. Sixth St., Gadsden
- **When:** Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Friday Evening Wine Down at Wills Creek Winery
- **Where:** Wills Creek Vineyards and Winery - 10522 Duck Springs Road, Attalla
- **When:** Fridays, 6 to 8 p.m.

Bingo Night at Pique Nique
- **Where:** River Rocks Landing Resort - 1 River Road, Gadsden
- **When:** Fridays at 7 p.m.

Monthly

Taste of the Town Food Truck Festival
- **Where:** Southside City Hall - 2255 Alabama 77, Southside
- **When:** Second Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Music Trivia Night at Baja Rainbow City
- **Where:** Baja California Grill - 110 Sutton Bridge Road, Rainbow City
- **When:** Second Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m.

North East Alabama Genealogical Society Meeting
- **Where:** Nichols Memorial Library - corner of Dwight Avenue and Cabot Avenue, Alabama City
- **When:** Second Saturday at 10 a.m.

Third Thirsty Thursday at the Stone Market
- **Where:** The Stone Market - 120 Chestnut St., Gadsden
- **When:** Third Thursday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

All Events
Oct. 16-Oct. 30

Oct. 16

American Legion Pro Rodeo (Day 1)
- **Where:** American Legion 71 - 201 Griffin St. SE, Attalla
- **When:** 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Oct. 17

2026 Harvest Howls FallFest (Day 1)
- **Where:** Tigers for Tomorrow at Untamed Mountain - 708 County Road 345, Attalla
- **When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pretty in Pink Brunch
- **Where:** Antioch Baptist Church - 2001 E Broad St., Gadsden
- **When:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HARVEST & HUE: Paint, Plant & Sip
- **Where:** The Coffee Bar - 532 Broad St., Gadsden
- **When:** 12 to 2 p.m.

River Rocks Landing Youth Fishing Tournament
- **Where:** River Rocks Landing Resort - 1 River Road, Gadsden
- **When:** 12 to 2 p.m.

American Legion Pro Rodeo (Day 2)
- **Where:** American Legion 71 - 201 Griffin St. SE, Attalla
- **When:** 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Oct. 18

2026 Harvest Howls FallFest (Day 2)
- **Where:** Tigers for Tomorrow at Untamed Mountain - 708 County Road 345, Attalla
- **When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

18th Annual "A Walk Through Time"
- **Where:** Forrest Cemetery - 700 S 15th St., Gadsden
- **When:** 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 20

Sunset Sips on the Memorial Bridge
- **Where:** 100 Broad Street Bridge
- **When:** 5 to 7 p.m.

Oct. 22

Candy with the Cardinals
- **Where:** Wallace Drive Campus - 1001 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden
- **When:** 3 to 6 p.m.

Oct. 24

Trick-or-Treat Village
- **Where:** Noccalula Falls Park - 1500 Noccalula Road, Gadsden
- **When:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Altoona Harvest Festival and Car Show
- **Where:** City of Altoona - 3315 Main St., Altoona
- **When:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hounds of Harvest Fest
- **Where:** Etowah County Animal Shelter - 12071 US Highway 278, Piedmont
- **When:** 12 to 4 p.m.

Fall on the Block
- **Where:** Carver Community Center - 1030 Tuscaloosa Ave., Gadsden
- **When:** 3 to 7 p.m.

RainBOO City Fall Festival
- **Where:** Vivian Lee Maddox Sports Complex - 4573 Rainbow Drive, Rainbow City
- **When:** 5 to 7 p.m.

Freedom Church Fall Festival
- **Where:** Freedom Church - 2610 Sansom Ave., Gadsden
- **When:** 5 to 7 p.m.

Trunk or Treat
- **Where:** New Harmony Baptist Church - 109 Church Road, Attalla
- **When:** 5 to 7 p.m.

Fright Night at the Falls
- **Where:** Noccalula Falls Park - 1500 Noccalula Road, Gadsden
- **When:** 6 to 10 p.m.

Oct. 25

Downtown Gadsden Ghost Tour
- **Where:** Nola's Clover - 124 Court St., Gadsden
- **When:** 5 to 7 p.m.

Gallery 808

- From A1

Photos by Caylie Moore|The Messenger

River Clay launches student art competition using recycled plastics

Art students at five North Alabama high schools will receive an unusual supply for their next projects this fall: pallets of recycled industrial plastic.

The materials will be used in "The Art of Recycling," a student art competition launched by Plastic Recyclers Southeast Inc. (PRSEI), the presenting sponsor of the River Clay Fine Arts Festival. The competition aims to promote arts education while encouraging students to explore creative ways to reuse materials.

Based in Decatur, PRSEI collects, sorts and processes post-industrial plastic waste from manufacturers in and around Morgan County. The materials include trim, scrap and excess plastic from production lines, rather than consumer items such as bottles or packaging.

Each participating high school will receive a pallet of mixed plastic materials to use in its artwork. Students may use as much or as little of the material as they choose, including the packaging in which it arrives. Unused materials can be recycled again.

"I have spent more than 20 years around plastic that would be headed to a landfill if not collected and recycled," said Grant McKelvey, president of PRSEI. "Plastics will be a new and challenging medium for these students. They won't find this material at a craft store, and most of them may never use it in art projects again after this."

McKelvey said he expects students to use the unfamiliar materials to explore new forms of artistic expression.

The competition also honors McKelvey's mother, Patti McKelvey, who taught art at Austin High School in Decatur.

"Art programs are usually one of the first things cut and the last things funded," McKelvey said. "My mother spent a career making a lot out of a little in an art classroom in this city. Our goal is to put something in front of these students that they have never worked with before, and to put financial support into the programs that made it possible."

Students will work in teams to create their pieces. Each entry must fit on a 3-by-5-foot board, and no other requirements apply.

Entries will be judged during the festival weekend in downtown Decatur. A PRSEI representative and River Clay Board President Holly Whitt will present the awards, with prize money going directly to the winning school's art program.

"River Clay exists to put art in front of people and resources behind the people who teach it," Whitt said. "PRSEI could have written a check and stopped there. Instead, they are going into art rooms with a material nobody in the building has worked with before, and they are doing it in honor of a Decatur art teacher."

Since its founding, the River Clay Fine Arts Festival has invested more than $65,000 in arts education across North Alabama through classroom grants, student programming and community arts initiatives.

In August, the festival awarded $15,700 in classroom grants through 17 awards to teachers at Decatur City Schools, Morgan County Schools, Decatur Heritage Christian Academy and Hartselle City Schools.

PRSEI is in the second year of a three-year presenting sponsorship, the first presenting sponsorship in the festival's history.

Participating schools include Priceville High School, Hartselle High School, Decatur Heritage Christian Academy, Decatur High School and Austin High School.

The River Clay Fine Arts Festival will return to the grounds of Decatur City Hall on Oct. 24-25, featuring more than 75 juried artists from across the country, live music, food and family activities.

The weekend will begin with the Rendezvous preview party on Friday evening, Oct. 23. Tickets are $60 and include a weekend pass.

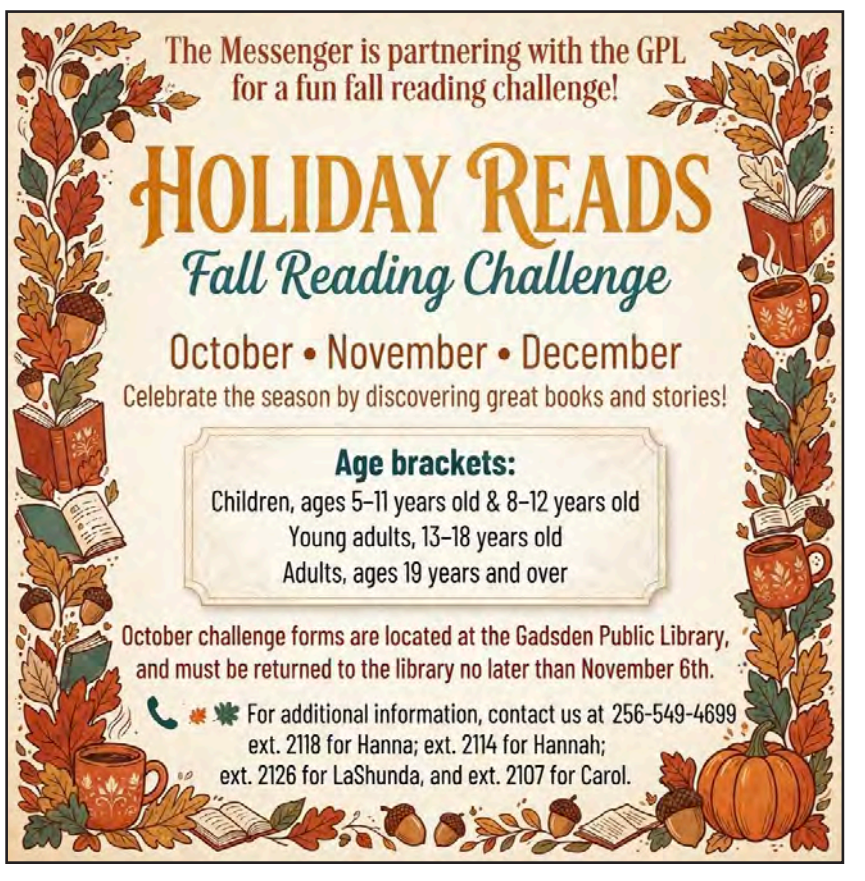
Festival details, patron packages and sponsorship information are available at riverclay.org.

About River Clay Fine Arts Festival

The River Clay Fine Arts Festival is a juried fine arts festival held each October in downtown Decatur. Now in its 11th year, the festival welcomes artists from across the country for a weekend of original artwork, live music, food and family activities. Proceeds support arts education in North Alabama through classroom grants, student programming and community arts initiatives.

About PRSEI

Plastic Recyclers Southeast Inc. is a post-industrial and commercial plastics recycler and compounder headquartered in Decatur. Founded in 1991, the company operates facilities in Alabama, Tennessee and Wisconsin and processes an average of 50 million pounds of material annually. Learn more at prsei.com.



LIFESTYLE

Codependency: What it looks like in real life

The word codependency gets thrown around a lot. Sometimes it is used to describe anyone who is especially close to a partner or family member. But caring deeply about someone, helping them through difficult times or making sacrifices for people you love does not automatically make you codependent.

Codependency is more about what happens when caring for someone else begins to come at the expense of yourself.

In real life, it often doesn't look dramatic. It may look like a woman who constantly monitors her husband's mood because she cannot relax unless she knows he is OK. It may be the parent who repeatedly rescues an adult child from the consequences of poor decisions. It can be the friend who is always available to everyone else but feels guilty asking for help herself.

Sometimes it sounds like, "If they're upset, I have to fix it."

People struggling with codependent patterns often feel overly responsible for other people's emotions, choices and problems. They may have difficulty saying no because disappointing someone feels unbearable. They might agree to things they don't want to do, loan money they cannot afford to lose or tolerate behavior that repeatedly hurts them.

Then resentment begins to build.

That's one of the confusing parts of codependency. A person may appear incredibly giving on the outside while feeling exhausted, unappreciated or even angry on the inside.

They may think, *After everything I do for everyone, why doesn't anyone do the same for me?*

Often, nobody asked them to carry quite as much as they are carrying.

Codependency can also involve trying to control situations in ways that don't necessarily look controlling. Constantly giving advice, reminding someone what they need to do, preventing them from making mistakes or stepping in to solve their problems can all come from genuine love and concern.

But helping becomes unhealthy when we begin taking responsibility for things that belong to someone else.

Healthy relationships allow two people to remain separate people.

I can love you without fixing you. I can care that you're disappointed without changing my decision. I can support you while still allowing you to experience the consequences of your choices. I can say no and still be a caring person.

For someone accustomed to codependent relationships, those ideas can feel uncomfortable at first.

The goal isn't to stop caring. It is to learn the difference between supporting someone and carrying them.

One of the most helpful questions you can ask yourself is, "Is this actually mine to handle?"

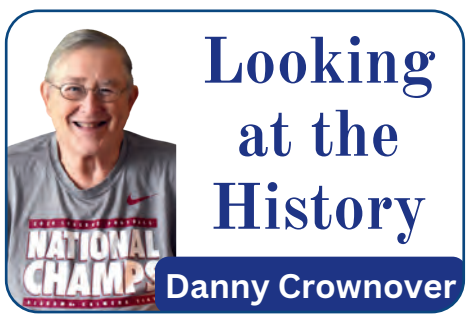
Your emotions, choices, boundaries and behavior belong to you. Other adults' emotions, choices and behavior belong to them.

Learning where you end and another person begins can change relationships dramatically.

And sometimes the healthiest thing you can do for someone you love is to step out of the way and let them carry what belongs to them.

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

Bilbro first in U.S to open court with prayer



When James A. Bilbro, a distinguished Gadsden lawyer, became judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in 1898, he gained national attention on the first day he held court by opening the session with prayer.

Each morning, he invited a local or visiting preacher to offer a prayer. According to historical accounts, this was the first time a judge in America had done so.

He followed that policy in all the counties of his circuit, and there was always a religious air about his courtroom.

Whenever he was required to pronounce a sentence following a jury's verdict, he invariably reminded the defendant of the solace and comfort to be found in a Christian life.

That practice was unique in those days. Those who lived here then knew Bilbro as a familiar figure in the city for many years.

Although he was not a pioneer, he played an important role in the development of his adopted city after having established himself as a leading lawyer in South Alabama early in life.

Both Judge Bilbro and his wife, Francina Mason Bilbro, were descended from old Virginia families.

His father's ancestors were prominent politicians and businessmen in Peterboro, Virginia. His mother, Ann Rutledge, was descended from the Rutledge family of Charleston, South Carolina.

She was a highly educated woman and an accomplished musician. Her father, Judge Wylie Wellington Mason, who was prominent in Tuskegee and Montgomery, was descended from George Mason of Gunston Hall, Virginia, who played a prominent role in the early colonial history of the state.

Gunston Hall is preserved as a historic home associated with George Mason.

Judge Bilbro's sister, Mrs. Ida Bilbro Cassels, widow of the late Thomas Cassels, a leading Gadsden merchant and miller for many years, taught in local public schools before her marriage. She operated a private school offering tutoring to students of various ages.

One daughter, Mathilde Bilbro, was widely known as a composer of music, much of it written for textbooks. She had been interested in music since early childhood. She pursued piano and concert work before turning to music composition and teaching piano and harmony.

Thirteen of the nation's largest music publishers, based in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Chicago and Dayton, published her works, which were known nationally.

She also taught a large class in piano and harmony and had a reputation as one of the best teachers in the country.

Judge Bilbro was in a class by himself as a lawyer. He was active in the Methodist Church and deeply religious. He believed that divine guidance was always needed in the legal work of a judge or jury.

He was a 32nd-degree Mason and would soon have been elevated to the 33rd-degree had death not intervened. He served as grand master of the Grand Lodge of Masons and as grand master of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows.

Contact The Vagabond at dkcrown@bellsouth.net.

The friendships we keep through many seasons

This past week it felt like fall finally arrived. I have enjoyed looking at the turning leaves, and watching the wind blow them around like autumnal confetti. (Cue Melissa McCarthy lip syncing "The Colors of the Wind" on The Tonight Show.)

Every year, the falling leaves remind me that it is ok to let go of the things we no longer need, have outgrown or no longer serve us. I practiced that last weekend, going through my closet and pulling out clothes and other items I no longer need and passing them on. Some things serve their purpose until we no longer need them.

We shift and change, our needs and lives shift and change, and that is okay. Just like the trees each fall, we have to release what we no longer benefit from whether they are clothes, situations or relationships. Sometimes that is a challenge because these things bear witness to the person we have been, and the person we are becoming.

Like the trees, though, shedding what no longer serves us makes room for new growth. As my oldest daughter turns 17 this coming week, I've thought a lot about her future and the seasons she has ahead of her. I will love her fiercely through every version of herself, and I hope she has the same joys of friendship through each season the way I have. As Kate Hudson puts it, romance comes and goes, but "it's the girl that's sitting next to you, that's going to get you through everything."

Things like old clothes or knick-knacks might remind us of who we have been and help us imagine who we are becoming, but friends are a more reliable and meaningful way to celebrate all the versions of ourselves we have been, as well as the new versions we are continuously creating.

This past week, my best friend of over 30 years celebrated a birthday. We have seen one another as teens, young adults, new mothers and professionals. We have celebrated, grieved and planned together. She has known each previous version of me, and kept space for future versions of me. Together, we have listened, laughed, cried and crafted our way through the unknown.

"I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light," Hellen Keller mused, and Jenn and I have done just that — sometimes from literal miles away, often with months between visits, but always together. Our friendship has been a constant throughout the many seasons we have weathered.

First, we hunkered down together through adolescence.

From becoming more than just big sisters and babysitters, to hiding in bathrooms to escape boys, to beach trip photo shoots to document our dresses flowing through the wind and surf, we survived the teen years with tears and laughter, melodrama and mixed emotions.

Then, we made it through our college years in close proximity, parallel-play adulting through hard lessons and bittersweet moments. Marriage, motherhood and careers came next, full of celebration, disappointment and perseverance. Now, we are toeing the threshold of another life phase: still mothers and caregivers, balancing career and daily family life, watching the ones we love grow up, age and experience new seasons of their own.

In this season, though, we are also rediscovering what brings us joy, what can be stripped away and how we find and build and craft a fulfilling second half of our lives. I am glad we will do this together.

Through it all, we will laugh and cry and support one another because that's what women do, and we are blessed to be part of a larger tribe of soul sisters who have helped us power through and relish all our seasons. As Jane Fonda described it, "women's friendships are like a renewable source of power" — and she is absolutely right. One coffee date, one group chat at a time, we renew and encourage, laugh and listen, each of us navigating our own challenges alone but together. Happy birthday to this friend of my heart — may she always know how much joy and strength she brings to the world just by being in it.

This is what I know my daughter, my sweet Adeline, is building at this stage of life, even without really knowing it. The friendships she has now, the friendships yet to come, the friendships rediscovered years from now — the women in her life who are girls, young women with her now, but who will become the ones to rely on, to laugh and cry with, to remind her who she is and who she wants to be through every life season — she is building her tribe. Happy 17th birthday to this firecracker, this determined, beautiful, crazy-smart daughter of mine.

Tabitha Bozeman is an instructor at GSCC. Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of GSCC. Contact Tabitha at tabithabozeman@gmail.com.

DEVOTIONALS

Now playing, "God's Good Cause"

This past Sunday, I dropped my husband off at church to begin worship practice while I embraced my inner Proverbs 31 woman and fetched our food from afar.

On my way, I heard one of the radio personalities on WayFM pose a question she had recently come across: "If your early life was a movie, what would the audience be screaming at the screen?" She described a theater filled with excited moviegoers watching a scene in which a prowler lurks behind a bush, yelling at the girl NOT to open the door.

I listened as callers chimed in with gems like "Don't cut your own bangs!"; "Put down the Cheetos!"; and "Don't shave off the beard!" They were all funny and relatable. (Except the beard, of course. Although, there is that one chin hair. But I digress.)

The question instantly sent me down memory lane, imagining what the audience in my theater might be yelling.

My first stop was middle school, where the drama was high and the maturity was low. My omniscient theater audience could see right through my brave face to how deeply I took every random hallway insult to heart, letting those words live rent-free in my head. I could practically see them, frustrated by my total lack of perspective, throwing popcorn at the screen as they shouted, "Don't listen to them! Half of them can't even open their own lockers!"

High school was stop No. 2, and it was a welcome relief. I had finally managed to fly under the bullies' radar and rebuild my social standing through student council and various clubs. Being a band nerd was actually pretty cool by then, too.

However, I was first chair, which frequently landed me right on the 50-yard line under the Friday night lights with a trumpet solo. Naturally, this was my cue to choke.

Almost every time I stepped up to hit that glorious high G, what came out sounded more like a dignified cry for help as my trumpet's spirit left its body. I'm convinced anyone watching my life from the future at that point would have hurled insults at my poor band director: "What are you doing? Put her back in the middle of the third-trumpet section, where it's safe!"

Looking back, middle school was where I started learning to stop taking random insults to heart, and that high-G fiasco was my first real lesson in surviving public failure with a smile on my face — or at least an awkward grin. Every time my trumpet cracked and the Earth failed to open up and swallow me whole, Monday morning arrived with nobody giving it so much as a second thought.

Learning not to take myself — or anyone else — too seriously turned out to be a wonderful safety net for all the unexpected plot twists that lay ahead.

I let my mind travel to a few more stops before I was interrupted by the voice at the drive-thru asking for my order. It wasn't until today that I circled back to those lessons.

I heard a song by Austin Ludwig called "Suffering Saints." Ludwig wrote the song after searching for the goodness of God when he aged out of foster care. The lyric that grabbed my heart says, "You don't cause the bad things, but you'll give 'em good cause."

It reminded me of a conversation I had this week with a sweet young mom who seems to be going through one fiery trial after another. I realized how desperately she needed to know that her current chapter isn't the end of the story. When you're standing in the middle of a hard season, it can feel as though the plot has completely gone off the rails and God is nowhere to be found.

But those lyrics carry a profound truth: God is not the author of our pain, but He is the absolute master of turning it into something purposeful. The awkward middle school years, the public halftime stumbles and even the heavy, agonizing trials of adulthood are all being woven into something durable and beautiful.

I realized that if all the difficult parts of my life had been projected on a screen before they actually happened — especially the ones where I had a choice — I might have been tempted to join the audience in begging my younger self to avoid the hallways with bullies and skip that solo. But those very broken, hard and scary moments — the ones we might never choose for ourselves — are the ones God can use to reveal His faithfulness, giving every trial a good, holy purpose in the end.

As Romans 8:28 promises, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (ESV).

We don't have to watch our lives unfold in fear or anxiety over what lies behind the next door. When we love God and walk with Him, we can rest with confidence, knowing that the ultimate Director is actively weaving every misstep, plot twist and difficult scene into a story that shapes us into His image — giving every bad thing a good cause.

So grab your popcorn, rest easy in the Director's hands and trust Him through whatever scene comes next.

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

Built for the storm

There are some things that are built to look good, and there are some things that are built to last. When I think about Noah and the ark, I'm reminded that God did not tell Noah to build something just for show. He gave him instructions to build something that could survive what was coming.

The ark was not built to avoid the storm. It was built to withstand the storm.

That matters because sometimes we think faith means God will keep every storm away from us. We pray that nothing goes wrong. We ask God to remove every problem, disappointment and difficult season. But that is not always how faith works. Sometimes God does not stop the rain. Sometimes He prepares us to survive it.

In Genesis 6, God gave Noah instructions to build the ark before the first drop of rain fell. Noah did not know everything that was coming, but God did.

That is a word for someone today. There are things God has been building in you that you may not fully understand yet. There are lessons He has taught you, doors He has closed, relationships He has placed around you and strength He has developed in you. You may have wondered why you had to go through some of those things. Maybe God was preparing you.

Noah did not build the ark because he knew the storm was coming. He built it because he trusted the God who did. Sometimes that is what faith looks like. You do not have to know everything that is coming. You just have to trust the One who does.

Genesis 7:17 tells us that as the waters increased, they lifted the ark above the earth. Think about that.

The same water that brought destruction around the ark was the water that lifted it.

That means the storm did not have the final word. What looked as though it might destroy Noah became the very thing God used to carry him.

Maybe you can look back over your own life and say the same thing. There were seasons you thought would take you out. There were losses you did not think you would recover from. There were financial struggles, family problems, health scares and moments when you did not know how you were going to make it.

But you are still here.

Your testimony is not that it never rained. Your testimony is that the rain never took you out. The storm came, but you are still here. The pressure came, but you are still standing. The flood rose, but somehow God kept lifting you. And if God kept you through what was behind you, you can trust Him with what is ahead.

But the ark was not built only to protect Noah. Noah brought his family with him. God was not just preserving one man; He was preserving a future.

That is where this story becomes bigger than us. Sometimes we ask, "God, how are You going to bless me? How are You going to protect me? How are You going to bring me through?" But maybe the greater question is, "Who is God calling me to carry with me?"

Your faith is not only about you. Your children are watching. Your grandchildren are watching. Your family is watching. The people around you are watching how you respond when the rain starts falling.

What you build today may be what carries someone else tomorrow.

Here is something else we should remember: The ark was probably not always comfortable. There were animals inside. There was noise. There was work. And yes, there was probably some mess. But Noah and his family did not jump out of the ark because everything inside was not perfect.

Why? Because even with the mess, the ark was still the safest place to be.

Sometimes we are too quick to abandon what God has assigned us because it is not perfect. The family is not perfect. The church is not perfect. The people around us are not perfect. We are not perfect.

But do not confuse imperfection with the absence of God. Sometimes it is better to work through the mess in the place God has assigned you than to jump ship looking for somewhere without any mess.

The question is not whether storms will come. The question is whether you are prepared to withstand them. If your life is built on faith, prayer, obedience and trust in God, you can stand through things that should have taken you out.

You were not built just for sunny days. You were built for the storm.

So keep building. Keep believing. Keep trusting. Keep carrying the next generation. And when the rain starts falling, remember this:

The God who told Noah how to build the ark already knew what was coming. And He knows what is coming for you, too.

Let's pray

Father, thank You for being the God who sees what I cannot see. When storms come, help me trust that You have already prepared me for what lies ahead. Give me the strength to withstand the rain, the faith to keep standing and the wisdom to protect what You have placed in my care. Help me not to abandon what You have assigned me just because things are difficult or imperfect. Use my faith to bless my family and the generations coming behind me. Remind me that the storms of life do not have the final word. You do. In Jesus' name, amen.

Pastor Shawn Blackmon serves as the Lead Pastor of UNITY Church in Attalla, Alabama, where his preaching is real, relevant and rooted in the unchanging Word of God. Beyond the pulpit, he serves as CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama, leading life-changing mentoring initiatives that empower young people across five counties. His leadership bridges the gap between the Church and the community, inspiring collaboration, compassion and lasting transformation.

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IN THE Bakery

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LIMIT 3

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Smithfield Bacon
22 Oz.
5.99 With Card

LIMIT 2 EACH

Selected Varieties, Optimum Nutrition High Protein Shake (4 Ct.), Vegetable or Canola
Crisco Oil
Gallon
11.99 With Card

LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Spam (12 Oz.) or
Kinder's BBQ Sauce
15.1-16.1 Oz.
2/$6 With Card

LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Sliced (6-8 Oz.) or
Food Club American Singles
16 Slices, 12 Oz.
1.79 With Card

LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Frozen White Castle Sliders (16 Ct.), Cafe Bustelo Espresso or
Folgers Coffee
22-25.9 Oz.
9.99 With Card

LIMIT 8 EACH

Frozen, Selected Varieties, Mega Bowls or
Banquet Mega Meals
11.5-16.95 Oz.
2/$5 With Card

LIMIT 6 EACH

Selected Varieties, Pillsbury Biscuits, Crescents or Sweet Rolls (8 Ct.) or
Little Debbie Snack Cakes
6-16.2 Oz.
2/$5 With Card

LIMIT 4

Selected Varieties
Brownie Mix (18.4 Oz.) or
Pillsbury Cake Mix
15.25 Oz.
4/$5 With Card

LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Food Club Deluxe Mac & Cheese (12-14 Oz.), Crav'n Flavor Saltine Crackers (16 Oz.) or
Food Club Hearty Soup
18.8-19 Oz.
2/$3 With Card

LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, Pirq Protein Shakes (4 Ct.) or
Food Club Fruit Snacks
40 Ct.
6.99 With Card

LIMIT 4 EACH

Selected Varieties, General Mills Treat Bars (6.8-8.48 Oz.), Mott's Soft Baked Bars (5.76-6.55 Oz.), Nature Valley Granola Bars (5-8 Ct.), Frozen, Smart Ones Meals (6.49-11.5 Oz.), Red's Single Burritos (4.5-5 Oz.) or
Lily's Toaster Grills
2 Ct.
1.99 With Card

LIMIT 12 EACH

DIETITIAN'S PICK

Selected Varieties, Starkist Chunk Tuna (5 Oz.) or
Food Club Corn, Peas or Green Beans
14.5-15.25 Oz.
80¢ With Card

Buy 3 SAVE MORE

Selected Varieties, Chips Ahoy! (9.5-13 Oz.) or
Nabisco Oreo Cookies
9.21-14.3 Oz.
2.99 With Card

LIMIT 3 TOTAL ITEMS

When you buy 3 in the same transaction. Lesser quantities are ValuCard price each. Limit 1 transaction (3 total items). Discount applied as a coupon. Customer pays sales tax.

LIMIT 2 EACH

Selected Varieties, Bounty (6 Double Rolls), Tide Liquid (73-92 Oz.), Tide Pods (25-42 Ct.) or
Charmin Bath Tissue
8 XL or 12 Mega Rolls
11.99 With Card

LIMIT 2 EACH

Paws Dog Pads (100 Ct.) or
Defender Dog Food
40 Lb.
14.99 With Card

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Selected Varieties
Each

ValuCard Price.....15.00
Digital Coupon.....-2.50

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COUPON EFFECTIVE OCT. 16 - OCT. 17

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9-10.75 Oz.

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SPORTS

Glencoe wins 3A Area 12 volleyball championship

By Alex Chaney
Sports Correspondent

Glencoe won the Class 3A, Area 12 volleyball championship Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Glencoe High School, defeating Oneonta in straight sets in the championship match.

The Lady Yellow Jackets opened the tournament with a 3-0 victory over Etowah in the semifinals. Glencoe won the first set 25-9, the second 25-14 and the third 25-15.

In the other semifinal, Oneonta defeated Hokes Bluff 3-2 in a five-set match. The teams traded set victories through the first four sets, with Oneonta winning the first 25-21, Hokes Bluff taking the second 25-18, Oneonta winning the third 25-20 and Hokes Bluff edging Oneonta 27-25 in the fourth set. Oneonta secured the match with a 15-8 victory in the fifth set.

Glencoe then faced Oneonta for the area championship and swept the match 3-0. The Lady Yellow Jackets won the first set 25-10 and took the next two sets by identical 25-15 scores.

Glencoe's Mia Talbot was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Photos by Alex Chaney

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Last Week's Scores

College Sports

Volleyball

Oct. 12
Gadsden State defeated Calhoun Community College 25-20, 23-25, 18-25, 26-24 and 15-12.

Oct. 14
Gadsden State lost to Wallace State-Hanceville 22-25, 14-25 and 15-25.

This Week in Sports

High School Sports

Volleyball

Oct. 19
Sub Regionals

Oct. 21-23
3a Super Regionals at Hoover Met

College Sports

Volleyball

Oct. 19
Gadsden State at Northwest Shoals Community College

Oct. 21
Gadsden State vs. Central Community College

Oct. 22
Gadsden State vs. Chattanooga State

SPORTS

Hokes Bluff Holds Off Vinemont for 29-28 Victory

By Alex Chaney
Sports Correspondent

Photos by Alex Chaney

Hokes Bluff rallied from a 14-point deficit to defeat Vinemont 29-28, stopping a two-point conversion attempt with 12 seconds remaining to preserve the win. The Eagles then recovered an onside kick to seal the victory.

Vinemont used its wing offense and clock management to limit Hokes Bluff's possessions in the first half. After taking the opening kickoff, Vinemont methodically moved down the field, using nearly eight minutes before scoring the game's first touchdown. The two-point conversion failed, leaving Vinemont with a 6-0 lead.

Vinemont continued to find success on the ground, scoring its second touchdown with 1:39 remaining in the first half. This time, the two-point conversion was successful, giving Vinemont a 14-0 advantage.

Hokes Bluff responded with a strong kickoff return by Javin Norman, who carried the ball past midfield. With 45 seconds left in the half, quarterback Dean Morgan connected with Norman on a long touchdown pass. The extra point was good, cutting Vinemont's lead to 14-7 at halftime.

The Eagles wasted little time tying the game after halftime. On Hokes Bluff's opening possession of the second half, Jace Hanks ran around the right end for a touchdown with less than 30 seconds elapsed. The extra point tied the score at 14-14.

Vinemont regained the lead late in the third quarter, scoring with 2:11 remaining. A successful two-point conversion put Vinemont ahead 22-14.

Hokes Bluff answered early in the fourth quarter with another touchdown by Hanks. Morgan ran around the right end on the two-point conversion, squeezing the ball just inside the pylon to tie the game at 22-22.

With 4:55 remaining, Hokes Bluff took its first lead of the night when Morgan connected with freshman Norman for another touchdown. The extra point was good, putting the Eagles ahead 29-22.

Late in the fourth quarter, Hokes Bluff intercepted a Vinemont pass just outside the Eagles' goal line, stopping a scoring opportunity. However, Hokes Bluff could not move the ball and was forced to punt from its own end zone. The short punt gave Vinemont another chance to score.

Vinemont capitalized with a touchdown pass with 12 seconds remaining. The team lined up for a two-point conversion and ran the ball up the middle, but Hokes Bluff stopped the runner just short of the goal line, preserving the Eagles' 29-28 lead.

With no timeouts remaining and only seconds on the clock, Vinemont attempted an onside kick. A Hokes Bluff player recovered the ball, and the Eagles took a knee on the next play to run out the clock.

The victory improved Hokes Bluff's record to 3-4 overall and 3-2 in region play.

The Eagles will return to Cullman County on Thursday night to face region opponent Hanceville. A victory would secure Hokes Bluff a spot in the 2026 playoffs. The Eagles' only remaining region game after Hanceville is an Oct. 23 matchup against rival Glencoe.

Last Week's Scores

High School Sports

Football

Oct. 9
Gadsden City defeated Huntsville 34-14
Glencoe defeated Holly Pond 49-6
Southside lost to Pell City 12-27
Sardis lost to Cherokee County 14-49
Hokes Bluff defeated Vinemont 29-28
Westbrook defeated Trinity 27-0
West End lost to Wellbourn 12-50
Etowah defeated Hanceville 56-0
Gaston defeated Vincent 36-26
Coosa defeated Decatur Heritage 41-7

This Week in Sports

High School Sports

Football

Oct. 16
Gadsden City at Buckhorn
Glencoe vs. Vinemont
Southside at Oxford
Sardis at Hayden
Hokes Bluff at Hanceville
Westbrook at Shoals Christian
West End at Ohatchee
Etowah at Oneonta
Gaston vs. Wellborn
Coosa at Lindsey Lane

Girls Flag Football

Oct. 20
Gadsden City and Springville at Leeds Tri-Match
Oct. 22
Gadsden City vs. James Clemens

SPORTS

Week six review of SEC football

Alabama Week 6 Review

The Crimson Tide dropped its first game of the season against the visiting Georgia Bulldogs in a 20-17 slugfest. Alabama was held to only three points in the second half, and the defense allowed Georgia to convert over 50 percent of its third downs, including a handful of third-and-longs. Keelon Russell threw for 185 yards and a touchdown, and he added 41 yards on the ground. The Bulldogs outgained the Crimson Tide 455-346. Alabama dropped to 5-1 on the season and 3-1 in conference play, and they travel to Knoxville on Saturday (Oct. 17) to take on Tennessee.

Week 7 Previews and Predictions (week 6: 3-4; season: 55-10)

Game of the Week

Alabama at Tennessee (+8.5)

After a tough loss, an old coaching adage is not to let that loss beat you twice. Alabama can't afford a hangover game this weekend as they travel to rival Tennessee, especially since they have lost two straight games in Neyland Stadium. This Tennessee offense is the weakest Josh Heupel has had in Knoxville, but the home field advantage will still give the Vols a chance. Prediction: Alabama 26, Tennessee 16.

Florida at Texas (-11)

Both the Gators and the Longhorns are coming off of surprising losses last weekend. Florida suffered its second straight loss, and they were blown out at home to a reeling South Carolina team. Texas was upset by Oklahoma in the Red River Rivalry, and the Longhorn offense struggled for the third time against a major opponent. Facing the porous Florida defense presents a good opportunity for Arch Manning and the Texas offense to get back on track. Prediction: Texas 38, Florida 24.

Mississippi State at LSU (-14)

Perhaps one of the most shocking results thus far in the SEC is LSU losing to Kentucky. After LSU dominated Clemson the season opener, the Tigers were being discussed like a potential juggernaut. Now, a month later, LSU has two losses and likely needs to win out to make the playoffs. The Tigers will be challenged by Kamario Taylor and the Bulldog offense, especially off a bye, but this is a good opportunity for Lane Kiffin's squad to get back on track. Prediction: LSU 31, Mississippi State 20.

The Citadel at Texas A&M

This season has been a disaster for the Aggies, and they are probably eliminated from playoff contention after only six games. They have a chance to right the ship on Saturday before traveling to Tuscaloosa next weekend. Prediction: Texas A&M 48, The Citadel 6.

Missouri at Ole Miss (-6)

Austin Simmons makes his return to Oxford for a highly-anticipated top 15 matchup on Saturday afternoon. Simmons started at quarterback last season for the Rebels before he was injured and replaced by Trinidad Chambliss, and Chambliss took over the starting job and never gave it back. Now, Simmons and the Tigers are a potential playoff team, and they can firmly cement themselves as a playoff contender with a road win over Ole Miss. Chambliss and the Rebels easily handled Vanderbilt a week ago, but they will have a more difficult task on Saturday. Prediction: Ole Miss 41, Missouri 34.

Auburn at Georgia (-20.5)

The Bulldogs now have the best win of the season after they went into Bryant-Denny Stadium and knocked off Alabama, and now they return home to take on rival Auburn. The Tigers are off a bye week, and Georgia might be flat after the Alabama win, but Auburn doesn't have the team to go into Athens and pull off the upset. Prediction: Georgia 30, Auburn 13.

Arkansas at Vanderbilt (-6)

Both the Razorbacks and the Commodores are struggling in conference play, and Saturday is the best chance for either team to pick up a conference win this season.

Vanderbilt 27, Arkansas 24

Both the Razorbacks and the Commodores are struggling in conference play, and Saturday is the best chance for either team to pick up a conference win this season. Prediction: Vanderbilt 27, Arkansas 24.

Kentucky at Oklahoma (-7)

The Wildcats have won back-to-back overtime games over South Carolina and LSU, and now they hit the road for another pivotal SEC matchup. If Kentucky can upset the Sooners on the road, then they will need to be taken seriously as a playoff contender. Oklahoma has two losses and likely needs to win out to make the playoffs, but last weekend's win over Texas salvaged their season. Prediction: Oklahoma 23, Kentucky 20.

Week 6 SEC Rankings

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

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	W 50-36
4	SEPT 26	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA	W 49-18
5	OCT 3	AT MISSISSIPPI STATE	W 56-23
6	OCT 10	VS. GEORGIA	L 17-20
7	OCT 17	AT TENNESSEE	2:30 P.M ABC
8	OCT 24	VS. TEXAS A&M	TBA
9	OCT 31	OFF	
10	NOV 7	AT LSU	TBA
11	NOV 14	AT VANDERBILT	TBA
12	NOV 21	VS. UT-CHATTANOOGA	1:00 PM
13	NOV 28	VS. AUBURN	3:30 PM

SCHEDULE 2026 SEASON

WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/SCORE
1	SEPT 5	VS. BAYLOR AT MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM, ATLANTA GA	W. 17-16
2	SEPT 12	VS. SOUTHERN MISS	W 43-8
3	SEPT 19	VS. FLORIDA	L 39-44
4	SEPT 26	VS. VANDERBILT	21-15
5	OCT 3	AT TENNESSEE	L 14-24
6	OCT 10	OFF	
7	OCT 17	AT GEORGIA	3:30 P.M ESPN
8	OCT 24	VS. LSU	TBA
9	OCT 31	AT OLE MISS	TBA
10	NOV 7	VS. ARKANSAS	TBA
11	NOV 14	AT MISSISSIPPI STATE	TBA
12	NOV 21	VS. SAMFORD	TBA
13	NOV 28	AT ALABAMA	TBA

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF ETOWAH

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Gary Clanton, Cherry Wright to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for MORTGAGEAMERICA INC, its successors a nd assigns dated October 12, 2006; said mortgage being recorded on October 20, 2006 as Instrument No. 3257700 as having been modified by an agreement recorded as Instrument No. 3583774 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST by assignment recorded as Instrument No. 3558324 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on November 9, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

Commencing at a 3/8 inch rebar at the Southeast corner of Section 13, Township 10 South Range 4 East. Thence North 02 degrees 28 minutes 33 seconds West 999.87 feet to a point on the West right-of-way of Pleasant Hill Church Road BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Thence South 88 degrees 24 minutes 00 seconds West 342.18 feet to a one half inch rebar set Cap No. CA-0078. Thence North 01 degree 06 minutes 43 seconds East 45.30 feet to a one half inch rebar set Cap No. CA-0078. Thence North 75 degrees 54 minutes 31 seconds East 354.19 feet to a one half inch rebar set Cap No. CA-0078 on the West right-of-way of Pleasant Hill Church Road. Thence South 01 degree 06 minutes 43 seconds West 121.99 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Property being in Etowah County, Alabama and containing 0.66 acres, more or loss. Property subject to all existing rights of way and or easements that are recorded or unrecorded. ALSO: A Non Exclusive Easement for ingressegress being Twenty feet in width and lying North of and parallel to the North line of the above described property.

Said property is commonly known as 634 Pleasant Hill Church Rd, Boaz, AL 35956.

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

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

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

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, went into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and the source of funds used in the reportable transaction, if applicable.* The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements, if applicable. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

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

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

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST
as holder of said mortgage
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October 2, 9, and 16, 2026

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Jonathan Garner, a married man and Allison Garner, originally in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC., its successors and assigns, on November 18, 2021, said mortgage recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, in Instrument Number 3531271; the undersigned Guild Mortgage Company LLC, as Mortgagee/Transferee, 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 Courthouse at Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, on December 9, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, all of its rights, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit: Beginning at a 1/2 inch capped rebar (LS#21183) on the Eastern Right-of-Way of Taylor Road (35 foot R/W) and also marking the Southwest corner of Lot Fifty-Nine (59), Block Two (2), Taylor Subdivision Addition to Glencoe, as recorded in Plat Book "C", Page 401, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama; thence along said Right-of-Way North 00 degrees 26 minutes 29 seconds East 111.67 feet to a 1/2 inch capped rebar (LS#21183); thence leaving said Right-of-Way North 80 degrees 34 minutes 28 seconds East 139.86 feet to a 1/2 inch capped rebar (LS#21183); thence South 00 degrees 25 minutes 42 seconds West 111.67 feet to a 1/2 inch capped rebar (LS#21183); thence South 80 degrees 34 minutes 28 seconds West 139.88 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said property being all of Lots Fifty-Nine (59), Sixty-One (61), Sixty-Three (63), Sixty-Five (65) and a portion of Lot Sixty-Seven (67), all in Block Two (2) of Taylor Subdivision Addition to Glencoe, as recorded in Plat Book "C", Page 401, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and also being Lot Five (5) of Taylor Trails, an unrecorded subdivision.. Property street address for informational purposes: 900 Taylor Road , Glencoe, AL 35905. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED AS TO TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERETO. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The successful bidder must tender certified funds in the amount of the winning bid made payable to Tiffany & Bosco, P.A. at the time and place of the sale. The sale will be conducted subject to: (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) final confirmation with the Mortgagee/Transferee, and if applicable, (3) collection of purchaser information needed to comply with the reporting requirements under the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's Residential Real Estate Reporting Rule (31 C.F.R. Part 1031) and reimbursement of any fees and expenses incurred as a result of the collection of such information. The Mortgagee/Transferee and Tiffany & Bosco, P.A shall not be liable for any damages whatsoever. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the purchaser at the sale shall be only entitled to a return of the bid amount. 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 the indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation. Guild Mortgage Company LLC, ("Transferee") Tiffany & Bosco, P.A., 2501 20th Place South, Suite 300, Homewood, AL 35223 www.tblaw.com TB File Number: 25-12061-GM-AL

October 2, 9, and 16, 2026

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by ERIC MARTIN, an unmarried man, to SAMUEL LEE ROY HILL dated September 20th, 2019 and recorded in Instrument No.: 3491675 in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, Alabama, and the Mortgagee, by reason of such default having declared all the indebtedness secured by said mortgage due and payable and said mortgage subject to foreclosure, and said default continuing, notice is hereby given that, acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the Mortgagee will sell at public outcry, for cash, to the highest and best bidder in front of the Courthouse door of the Etowah County Courthouse, during the legal hours of sale on the 30th day of October, 2026, the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama:

Lot Number Ten (10), Block "B", according to the survey of Lincoln Park, as recorded in Plat Book "C", Page 291, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The property will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the records of the Probate Court. The property will be sold without warrant, or recourse, express or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment, and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the property and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the property.

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

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

October 9, 16, and 23, 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.

The undersigned, U.S. Bank National Association, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on March 18, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

LOT NO. 10 OF THE FIRST ADDITION TO 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 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 mortgage
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
02/06/2026,02/13/2026,02/20/2026,05/01/2026,06/12/2026,08/07/2026,09/18/2026,10/16/2026

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until May 27, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.
The Messenger, May 1, 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.
The Messenger, September 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 November 9, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.

October 16, 2026

FIL CLAIMS

William Paul Bradford and Roy Patrick Bradford was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/08/2026 to the Estate of Donald Ray Bradford, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 9, 16, and 23, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Jimmy Hasse was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/08/2026 to the Estate of Patricia Bohannon, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all per-sons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 9, 16, and 23, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Paula Bruce was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/08/2026 to the Estate of Patricia Ann Willis Jolley, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 9, 16, and 23, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Latalia Riley was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/09/2026 to the Estate of Larry Dawayne Riley, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 9, 16, and 23, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Brenda Logan was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/21/2026 to the Estate of Lillie Mae Logan, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all per-sons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 9, 16, and 23, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Wendy Miller was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/20/2026 to the Estate of John M. Miller, II., deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 9, 16, and 23, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Randy Box was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/21/2026 over the Estate of Glenna Boyd Caldwell, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 16, 23, and 30, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Sharon Russell Hall and Robert L. Posey was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/22/2026 to the Estate of Joyce Lorraine Woods Posey, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 16, 23, and 30, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Brad Jackson Addison was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/20/2026 over the Estate of Trula Faye Addison, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 16, 23, and 30, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Stephen Craig Teague was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/16/2026 to the Estate of Chilton O. Teague, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 16, 23, and 30, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Michael Berry McMillan was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/14/2026 to the Estate of Jan Wynn McMillan, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 16, 23, and 30, 2026

NOTICE OF ESTATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID WAYNE GARRETT, DECEASED

CASE NO: 2026-00614

A Petition for Summary Distribution of the Estate of David Wayne Garrett, Deceased, having been submitted to the Honorable Scott W. Hassell, Judge of Probate, by Petitioner, Charley Stanfield on the 9th day of October, 2026; Notice is hereby given that a hearing has been scheduled for December 1, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. All persons contesting said Petition shall file a response thereto with the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, P.O. Box 187, Gadsden, AL 35902, within 30 days of the date of this publication.
Done this 10th day of October 2026

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 16, 2026

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DAVID MICHAEL SIMS, DECEASED.
Case No.: 2025-00553

TO: Any and all persons interested in the Estate of David Michael Sims, deceased

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Daniel J. Sims, as an heir of the Estate of David
Michael Sims, filed a Petition to Declare Presumption of Death and for Letters of Administration on the 15th day of September, 2026.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 16th day of
November, 2026 at 3:00 p.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the petition should be denied.

DONE THIS THE 7th DAY OF October 2026

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2026

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICHARD ERIC HUNTER, DECEASED.

Case No.: 2025-00302

TO: Alabama Medicaid Agency, USDA, Sherry Hutt, Tony Hunter, Christina Gardner, Jimmy Hunter, Jr., Stephen Hunter, Amanda Smith, Deanna Pruitt, Denise Pollard, Christopher Alford, Thomas Alford, Michael Alford, Cathy Lankford, Kristionna Meeks, Traci Sims, Misty Smith, Adam Hunter, C.H. and Kaylee Hunter, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in this Court a Petition for Final Settlement and to Sell Real Property in the Estate of Richard Eric Hunter, deceased.
You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 17th day of Novem-ber, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the said Petition for Final Settlement and to Sell Real Property in the Estate of Richard Eric Hunter, deceased, should not be granted.
DONE THIS THE 14th DAY OF October 2076.

Scott W. Hassell
JUDGE OF PROBATE

October 16, 23, and 30, 2026

LEGAL PUBLICATION NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Rainbow City, Alabama's Appropriate Municipal Official, pursuant to Ordinance No. 565, has made a finding that a building located on the following described property is a dangerous building because it is unsafe to the extent that it is a public nuisance and is subject to demolition:

STREET ADDRESS:
404 Williams Avenue, Rainbow City, AL 35906

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
Lot Number Three (3), and the South 5 feet of Lot Number Four (4), Block 4, First Addition to Rainbow Estates, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "F", page 335, Probate Office, Etowah County, lying and being in Rainbow City, Alabama.
PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:
15-09-30-0-001-181.000, PPIN 47913
All persons interested in said property are hereby notified that if the unsafe or dangerous condition is not remedied by demolition of said building on said property within 45 days of October 2, 2026, the demolition will be accomplished by the City and the cost thereof assessed against said property. In the meantime, it is ordered that said building and said property be and remain vacated.

A public hearing as provided for by Section 8(a) set forth in Ordinance No. 565 will be held on this matter in the Council Chambers at the Rainbow City Hall, 3700 Rainbow Drive, Rainbow City, Alabama, on December 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Anyone interested in the status of these proceedings should inquire with the Rainbow City Clerk at (256) 413-1217 or at 3700 Rainbow Drive, Rainbow City, Alabama.

October 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2026

LEGAL PUBLICATION NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Rainbow City, Alabama's Appropriate Municipal Official, pursuant to Ordinance No. 565, has made a finding that a building located on the following described property is a dangerous building because it is unsafe to the extent that it is a public nuisance and is subject to demolition:

STREET ADDRESS:
4504 Rainbow Drive, Rainbow City, AL 35906

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
A lot or parcel of land being 150' x 300' x 245.67' x 300' being a portion of Lot Number Nine (9) in Block "B" in the R.R. Yeats Subdivision, according to map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "C", Pages 26-27, Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being in Rainbow City, Etowah County, Alabama.

Also being described as: A lot or parcel of land being the northern 300 feet of Lot Number Nine (9) in Block "B" in the R.R. Yeats Subdivision, being 150' x 300' x 245.67' x 300', according to map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "C", Pages 26-27, Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being in Rainbow City, Etowah County, Alabama.

Further identified in the records of the Revenue Office, Etowah County, Alabama, as Pin #57169 and as parcel # 20-01-01-0-001-018.000.

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:
20-01-01-0-001-018.000, PPIN 57169
All persons interested in said property are hereby notified that if the unsafe or dangerous condition is not remedied by demolition of said building on said property within 45 days of October 2, 2026, the demolition will be accomplished by the City and the cost thereof assessed against said property. In the meantime, it is ordered that said building and said property be and remain vacated.

A public hearing as provided for by Section 8(a) set forth in Ordinance No. 565 will be held on this matter in the Council Chambers at the Rainbow City Hall, 3700 Rainbow Drive, Rainbow City, Alabama, on December 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Anyone interested in the status of these proceedings should inquire with the Rainbow City Clerk at (256) 413-1217 or at 3700 Rainbow Drive, Rainbow City, Alabama.

October 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2026

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

Plumbers Wholesale Supply Co., Inc., Plaintiff
V.
William Charles, Defendant

Case No. DV-2025-900981.00

A complaint has been filed in the District Court of Etowah County, Alabama, styled Plumbers Wholesale Supply Co., Inc., Plaintiff vs. CHARLES WILLIAMS, Defendant, bearing case # DV2025-90000981, claiming the sum of $8,439.26 plus cost of court.
Publication of this notice in a newspaper of general circulation in Etowah County, Alabama, once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks shall constitute service upon the defendant. If defendant wishes to contest this action, he must file a written answer within thirty (30) days from the date of service with the District Clerk of Etowah County, Alabama, with a copy of said answer being served upon DANA L. RICE, Attorney for Plaintiff, at P. O. Box 129, Gadsden, AL 35902, or thereafter a judgment by default may be entered against said defendant.
Done this 2nd day of September 2026

Matthew P. Skelton
District Judge

Dana L. Rice,
TURNBACH, WARREN, RICE, FREDERICK & SMITH, P.C.
P. O. Box 129
Gadsden, AL 35902
256-543-3664

September 25, October 2, 9, and 16, 2026

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL: ALEA STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION REGION F TASK FORCE,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO:
CV-26-900418-CDR

PLAINTIFF
VS.
2020 Dodge Durango SRT
VIN# 1C4SDJGJ6LC224054
DEFENDANTS

Interested Party:
GEICO
One Geico Plaza
Washington, D.C. 20076
Attn: Claims/Salvage Department

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described vehicle. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 27th day of November 2026. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said property.
DONE this the 21st day of September, 2026

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

September 25, October 2, 9, and 16, 2026

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL: ETOWAH COUNTY DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO:
CV-26-900426-CDR

PLAINTIFF
VS.
$1,553.00 U.S. Currency

DEFENDANTS
In Re: David Isaiah Coats

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED CURRENCY:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described currency. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 27th day of November 2026. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.
DONE this the 28th day of September, 2026

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

October 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2026

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL: ETOWAH COUNTY DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO:
CV-26-900425-BTC

PLAINTIFF
VS.
$2,934.00 U.S. Currency,
Glock 43 9mm Pistol SN# ACW160,
2013 Cadillac XTS VIN: 2G61U5S37D9182422,
2015 GMC Yukon
VIN: 1GKS2CKJ6FR289551
DEFENDANTS
In Re: Demetrie Deshaun Borden
Owner: Sonja Borden
316 Castle Drive
Rainbow City, AL. 35906

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED CURRENCY, VEHICLES AND FIREARM:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described currency, vehicles, and firearm. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 27th day of November 2026. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.
DONE this the 28th day of September, 2026

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

October 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2026

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL: ETOWAH COUNTY DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO:
CV-24-25-GCD

PLAINTIFF
VS.
$5,894.00 U.S. Currency,

DEFENDANTS
In Re: Lester Casina Smith

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED CURRENCY:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described currency. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 27th day of November 2026. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.
DONE this the 28th day of September, 2026

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

October 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2026

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL: GADSDEN STREET CRIME/NARCOTICS UNIT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

PLAINTIFF
CIVIL DIVISION
V.S.

CASE NO:
CV-26-900506-CDR

$1,611.00 U.S. Currency
Glock 21 SN# WHR480
Smith & Wesson 38 Special
SN# DJZ6165

DEFENDANTS
In Re: Eddie Ricardo Lowery

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED CURRENCY AND FIREARMS:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described currency. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 1st day of December 2026. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.

DONE this the 30th day of September, 2026

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

October 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2026

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL: GADSDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT STREET CRIMES/NARCOTICS UNIT,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

PLAINTIFF
CIVIL DIVISION
V.S.

CASE NO:
CV-26-900503-SJS

$3,366.00 U.S. Currency
Glock 19 SN# 30623
Ruger P89 SN# 315-57789
Mercedez C250
VIN # WDDGJ4HB8CF926954
American Tactical Omni Hybrid
SN# NS344647

DEFENDANTS
In Re: Larry Dwan Smith, Jr.

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED CURRENCY, FIREARMS, AND VEHICLE:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seeking condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described currency, firearms, and vehicle. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 30th day of November 2026. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.

DONE this the 29th day of September, 2026

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

October 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2026

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION-FORFEITURE ACTION

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL: ETOWAH COUNTY DRUG ENFORCECMENT UNIT,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

PLAINTIFF
CIVIL DIVISION
V.S.

CASE NO:
CV-26-80-BTC

$1,117.00 U.S. Currency

DEFENDANTS
In Re: Justin Jamale Brewster

TO ANY PERSON, CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTITY CLAIMING AN OWNER'S BONA FIDE INTEREST IN THE HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED CURRENCY:

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has filed its complaint in the above-described action seek-ing condemnation, forfeiture, and ultimate disposition of the above-described currency. You are hereby notified that you must answer said Complaint by the 30th day of November 2026. Failure to file such answer shall result in your loss of any claimed owner's or other interest in said currency.

DONE this the 29th day of September, 2026

Cassandra Johnson, Circuit Clerk
Etowah County, Alabama

October 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known that John Blackwell, Jhonathan De La Cruz, Richard Kuhn and Carlos & Vixtoria Majano being the owners of property abutting Higgenbotham Road hereby request the Etowah County Commission to vacate said a portion of said road described as follows:
A prescriptive right-of-way lying in the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 and the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 11, T-10-S, R-7-E and shown on the Etowah County tax map as being 30' in width and lying 15' left and right of a centerline being further described as follows.
Commence at a point being the Northeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 11, T-10-S, R-7-E. From said Point of Commencement run south along the east line of said quarter section to a point of intersection with the southern right-of-way line of Antioch Road, said point also being the northeast corner of Parcel 02-01-11-0-000-011.009, PIN 72057 as described in Instrument No. 3436367 and record in the Judge of Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama. From said point run westerly along the northern boundary of said parcel and said southern right-of-way line of Antioch Road to the point of intersection with the southeast right-of-way line of Higgenbotham Road as shown on the Etowah County tax map. Thence continue westerly along said southern right-of-way line of Antioch Road, departing from said parcel boundary to the point of intersection with the centerline of Higgenbotham Road and the Point of Beginning.
From said Point of Beginning run along the centerline of Higgenbotham Road S 61°4'24" W a distance of 213.366'; thence S 62°34'27" W a distance of 101.626'; thence S 60°9'43" W a distance of 85.610'; thence run along a curve to the left having a Radius = 3869.922', Curve Length = 213.086', Chord Length = 213.059', Delta = 03°09'17"; thence S 54°26'33" W a distance of 222.002'; thence S 52°58'53" W a distance of 162.707'; thence S 54°46'59" W a distance of 301.555'; thence run along a curve to the right having a Radius = 809.661', Curve Length = 123.473', Chord Length = 123.356', Delta = 8°44'15"; thence S 69°2'15" W a distance of 89.911' to the intersection with the eastern right-of-way of Higgenbotham Road and the end of said centerline.
This matter will be considered at the 10-20-2026 Etowah County Commission meeting at 9:00 am at the Etowah County Commission Office, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901.

September 25, October 2, 9, and 16, 2026

PUBLICATION NOTICE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF: ETHAN TODD HILL.

CASE NO.:2026-00512

TO: Unknown father Address unknown

Please take notice that a petition for adoption of a child born to Jackquline Nicole Hill has been filed in said Court by the Petitioner(s) named above alleging that the identity and/or whereabouts of the biological father of said minor child are unknown and have not been disclosed to the Court. The minor child's date of birth is 07/24/2018. As a notified party, you may appear in the adoption proceeding to contest or support the attached petition. Please be advised that if you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of service of this notice with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below and with the Clerk of the Probate Court at the following address: P.O. Box 187, Gadsden, AL 35902. If you fail to respond within thirty (30) days and appear at the hearing, the Court may construe that failure as an implied consent to the adoption and waiver of a right to appear and of further notice of the adoption proceedings. If the adoption is approved, your parental rights, if any, will be considered terminated.
Attorney for Petitioner:
Joseph Andrew Jones, Esquire
600 Broad Street, Suite 101
Gadsden, AL 35901

Given under my hand this the 29th day of September 2026.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
K.W., A MINOR CHILD
CASE NO.: JU-2025-63.02

TO: Quintarius Lavontay Swann

You are hereby given notice that a petition has been filed by the Etowah County Department of Human Resources requesting that your parental rights be terminated to K. W. born 11/15/2025 to Ayana Samiria Willliams. You are hereby given notice that you are required to file an Answer with the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Etowah County, Alabama and with the Petitioner's attorney, Sheri W. Stallings, Assistant Attorney General, STATE OF ALABAMA DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES 204 South River St., Centre, AL 35960, within fourteen (14) days of the date of the last publication of this notice or a default judgment can be entered against you. A parent has the right to representation of an attorney in a dependency or a termination of parental rights trial, and, if indigent, the Court may appoint an attorney if requested. Should the parent desire a court-appointed attorney, application should be made immediately upon receipt of notice of the action by contacting the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Etowah County, Alabama on or before the 12th day of November 2026.

Cassandra Johnson
Circuit Clerk of Etowah County, Alabama

Attorney for Petitioner:
Sheri W. Stallings
Assistant Attorney General
Etowah County Department of Human Resources
204 South River Street
Centre, Alabama 35960

October 16, 23, 30, and November 6, 2026

JOB COMPLETION

Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction, LLC hereby gives notice of completion Patching, Leveling and Resurfacing designated areas within the City of Southside, Etowah County, Alabama. This notice will appear for three consecutive weeks beginning on October 16, and ending on October 30, 2026. All claims should be filed at Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction, LLC P.O. Box 1890, Gadsden, Alabama, 35902 during this period.

Vulcan Materials Asphalt & Construction, LLC
PO. Box 1890
Gadsden, AL. 35902

October 16, 23, and 30, 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 Parking Lot Lighting at Southside Athletics, at Etowah County, 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

October 16, 23, 30, and November 6, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Owner: The Water Works & Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden
Locality: Gadsden, Alabama 35901
Engineer: Three Notch Group, Inc.

The Water Works & Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
6th Street, Gray Road, Burns Park and Walnut Park Area Sewer Rehabilitation
CWSRF Project No.: CS011044-01

A mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at the offices of the Water Works & Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden located at 515 Albert Rains Boulevard, Gadsden, Alabama 35901 on Tuesday, October 27 at 10:00 AM local time. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.
Bids for the construction of the Project will be received in person from properly licensed contractors at the board's offices located at 515 Albert Rains Boulevard, Gadsden, Alabama 35901 until Tuesday, November 3 at 10:00AM local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

Gravity Sewer Main Cleaning and CCTV Inspection, Gravity Sewer Main CIPP Lining, Service Lateral CIPP Lining, Manhole Rehabilitation with Multi-Component Liner, and related ancillary work (Schedule 1). Also includes further Manhole Rehabilitation and CIPP Lining of Existing Service Laterals and related ancillary work at various locations as determined and directed by the Owner (Schedule 2).
The Owner requires the Project to be Substantially Completed within 150 Calendar Days after the date when the Contract Time commences to run, and completed and ready for final payment within 180 Calendar Days after the date when the Contract Time commences to run.
Copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Agent, Three Notch Group, Inc (Michelle Wilson – michelle.wilson@3notch.com). Printed copies are available for a non-refundable fee in the amount of $200.00 per set. Copies in .pdf format are available via email at no cost to the bidder.
Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be issued. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Agent.
The attention of bidders is called to the provisions of State Law Governing General Contractors, as set forth in Title 34, Chapter 8, Article 1, Code of Alabama of 1975, as amended; and the provisions of said law shall govern bidders insofar as applicable. The above-mentioned provisions of the Code make it illegal for the Owner to consider a bid from anyone who is not properly licensed under such code provisions. In addition, bidders must carry the MU classification as listed in the latest edition of the Roster of the State Licensing Board for General Contractors, Montgomery, Alabama. The Owner will not consider any bid unless the bidder produces evidence that they are so licensed. All nonresident contractors preparing bids shall submit with their bid evidence of proper registration with the Alabama Secretary of State as a foreign corporation, and a Certificate of Good Standing as a Foreign Corporation from the State of Alabama Department of Revenue.
The attention of nonresident bidders is called to the provisions of Alabama Law, Title 39, Chapter 3, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, whereby In the letting of public contracts in which any state, county, or municipal funds are utilized, except those contracts funded in whole or in part with funds received from a federal agency, preference shall be given to resident contractors, and a nonresident bidder domiciled in a state having laws granting preference to local contractors shall be awarded Alabama public contracts only on the same basis as the nonresident bidder's state awards contracts to Alabama contractors bidding under similar circumstances; resident contractors in Alabama, are to be granted preference over nonresidents in awarding of contracts in the same manner and to the same extent as provided by the laws of the state of domicile of the nonresident.
Issued by:

Owner: The Water Works & Sewer Board of the City of Gadsden
By: Chad Hare, P.E.
Title: General Manager

October 16, 23, and 30, 2026

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. STP-SU-2815(258) 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 November 06, 2026 and at that time publicly opened for constructing the Micro-Milling, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on Randall Street from the junction of Haralson Avenue to the junction of South 6th Street in Gadsden. Length 0.338 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 In Thirty (30) Working Days.
A Bidding Proposal may be purchased for $5.00. Plans may be purchased for $9.00 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 $232,712 To $284,426 .
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

October 16, 23, and 30, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

The following units will be auctioned or otherwise disposed of on October 15, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the premises of Stock It N Lock It Mini Storage located at 3403 Rainbow Parkway, Rainbow City, AL. 35906.

Malijah Brown
Unit 461-N

Alexis Calloway
Unit 148-F

Lauren Fowler
Unit 310-K

Kelli Kellen
Unit 19-A

Calvin Sumpter
Unit 201-H

Cindy Mitchell
Unit 431-M

Stock It N Lock It Mini Storage
3403 Rainbow Parkway
Rainbow City, AL. 35906

October9 and 16, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

The following units will be auctioned or otherwise disposed of on November 1, 2026 on the premises of 77 Storage LLC., 2800 Forestdale Road, Southside, AL. 35907.

Unit B1 - Andrew Hill

Unit B15 - Matthew Copeland

77 Storage LLC
2800 Forestdale Road
Southside, AL 35907

October 16 and 23, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Contents of the following storage buildings will be SOLD by Off Campus Storage on October 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at 474 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden, AL. 35903.

Dexter Harrell
Unit 53 and 71

Antwon Powell
Unit 70

Othay Rutledge
Unit 76

Jerome Threatt
Unit 172

Off Campus Storage
474 George Wallace Drive
Gadsden, AL. 35903

October 16 and 23, 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 11/13/2026 at 8:00 a.m.

2008 GMC Env.
VIN: GK-DT13S882171126

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

October 9 and 16, 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 11/13/2026 at 8:00 a.m.

2008 Nissan Armada
VIN:
5N1BA08D78N630069

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

October 9 and. 16, 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 11/13/2026 at 8:00 a.m.

1996 Toyota T100
VIN:
JT4TN12D6T0022271

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

October 9 and 16, 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 2009 Buick ENCLAVE Vin# 5GAER23D69J114745 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 B 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am 11/13/2026

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.

October 9 and 16, 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 11/23/2026 at :00 a.m.

2007 Jeep Commander
VIN: 1J8HH-48K17C599338

1997 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGE-J6445V105995

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

October 9 and 16, 2026

STATE OF ALABAMA PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS the Alabama Legislature at its 2026 Regular Session enacted Act No. 2026- 276 (HB508), which ordered an election to be held on a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022 relating to Etowah County, Alabama; and
WHEREAS notice of this election, together with the proposed amendment, is required by law to be given by proclamation of the Governor, to be published once a week for four successive weeks preceding the date appointed for the election in each newspaper qualified to run legal notices in the county affected;
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, as Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby give notice, direct, and proclaim that on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, an election will be held in Etowah County, Alabama, in the manner and form provided by law upon the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of 2022 of the State of Alabama:
AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY ACT NO. 2026-276
Section 28-11.20 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, relating to Etowah County and requiring voter approval to annex any territory within the county into any municipality not located wholly within the boundaries of the county before January 1, 1986, is repealed.
FURTHER, I proclaim and direct that this proclamation shall be published once a week for the four successive weeks immediately preceding Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in each newspaper qualified to run legal notices in Etowah County, Alabama.

October 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2026

STATE OF ALABAMA PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS the Alabama Legislature at its 2026 Regular Session enacted Act No. 2026-341 (SB271), Act No. 2026-378 (HB380), Act No. 2026-379 (HB511), and Act No. 2026-424 (SB5), proposing amendments to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022;
WHEREAS, in conformity with Section 284 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, as amended, the Legislature has ordered an election by the qualified electors of the state upon such proposed amendments; and
WHEREAS notice of this election, together with the proposed amendments, is required by law to be given by proclamation of the Governor, which shall be published once a week for at least four successive weeks immediately preceding the day appointed for the election;
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, as Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby give notice, direct, and proclaim that on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, an election will be held in the State of Alabama in the manner and form provided by law upon the following proposed amendments to the Constitution of 2022 of the State of Alabama:

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY ACT NO. 2026-341

PART I.
Section 127 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, is amended to read as follows:
"Section 127
(a) ~~In case of the governor's removal from office, death or resignation~~ If a vacancy occurs in the office of the governor, the lieutenant governor shall become governor.
(b) If ~~both~~ a vacancy occurs in the office of the governor and the office of the lieutenant governor ~~be removed from office, die or resign~~ more than ~~sixty~~60 days prior to the next general election, at which any state officers are to be elected, a governor and lieutenant governor shall be elected at such election for the unexpired term., ~~and in the event of a vacancy in the office, caused by the removal from office, death or resignation of the governor and lieutenant governor, pending~~ During such vacancy and until their successors shall be elected and qualified, the office of governor shall be held and administered by either the president pro ~~tem~~.tempore of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, attorney-general, state auditor, secretary of state, or state treasurer in the order herein named.
(c) In case of the impeachment of the governor, his or her absence from the state for more than twenty days, ~~unsoundness of mind, or other disability~~or incapacity to serve, the power and authority of the office ~~shall~~, until the governor is acquitted, returns to the state, or is ~~restored to his mind, or relieved from other disability~~no longer incapacitated, shall devolve in the order ~~herein named,~~described in subsection (b) upon the lieutenant governor, president pro tem.tempore of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, attorney-general, state auditor, secretary of state, and state treasurer. If any of these officers ~~be~~ are under any of the disabilities herein specified, the office of the governor shall be administered in the order named by such of these officers as ~~may be~~ are free from such disability.
(d) If the governor ~~shall be~~ is absent from the state over twenty days, the secretary of state shall notify the lieutenant governor, who shall enter upon the duties of governor; if both the governor and lieutenant governor ~~shall be~~ are absent from the state over twenty days, the secretary of state shall notify the president pro ~~tem.~~ tempore of the senate, who shall enter upon the duties of governor, and so on, in case of such absence, he or she shall notify each of the other officers named in ~~their~~ the order of succession herein provided, who shall discharge the duties of the office until the governor or other officer entitled to administer the office in succession to the governor returns.
(e) If the governor-elect fail or refuse from any cause to qualify, the lieutenant governor-elect shall qualify and exercise the duties of governor until the governor-elect qualifies.; ~~and in the event both~~ If both the governor-elect and the lieutenant governor-elect ~~from any cause~~ for any reason fail to qualify, the president pro ~~tem.~~ tempore of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the attorney-general, state auditor, secretary of state, and state treasurer, shall, in like manner, in the order named, administer the office until the governor-elect or lieutenant governor-elect qualifies.
(f) If a vacancy occurs in the office of the lieutenant governor more than 60 days before the next general election at which any state officers are to be elected, a lieutenant governor shall be elected at such general election for the unexpired term."
PART II.
The following provision is added to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022 to read as follows:
Notwithstanding any other provision of the constitution:
(1) The Lieutenant Governor and officers of both houses of the Legislature shall be paid an amount set by joint resolution; and
(2) Any expenditure of funds appropriated for use by members of the Legislature for travel shall be approved by an officer of the Legislature elected from the full membership of the respective chamber.

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY ACT NO. 26-378

(a) Whenever two or more contiguous county boards of education deem it advisable to consolidate the administration of their respective county school systems under one remaining controlling multi-county board of education, each county board of education shall adopt and record within the minutes of each board an agreement providing for the consolidation. A formal resolution adopted by all members of the agreeing boards shall detail and provide for the payment of their respective indebtedness, specify how the consolidation will take place, identify how the remaining controlling multi-county board of education will operate, provide for the roles and duties of the resulting multi-county board members, and designate the time frame during which the consolidation will be implemented. Subject to subsection (c), the consolidation shall be finalized as designated in the formal resolution.
(b) Before a consolidation may occur, the State Board of Education shall conduct an impact study on the potential effects of the proposed consolidation, including, but not limited to, the impact on students, families, educational quality, educational programs, staff, facilities, transportation and operations, finances and taxes, community identity, and governance. At least 30 calendar days before adopting the formal resolution finalizing the consolidation, the State Board of Education shall post a copy of the impact study on the public website of the State Department of Education.
(c)(1) If, within 30 days after the adoption of the formal resolution, 25 percent of the qualified electors residing within the boundaries of any of the school systems proposing consolidation submit a protest, in writing, to any of the affected county boards of education, the consolidation may not occur unless the consolidation is approved by a majority of the qualified electors residing in each county or counties wherein all affected county school systems are located who vote in a referendum election as provided in this subsection.
(2) The consolidation shall become operative only if approved by a majority of the qualified electors who reside within the combined territory of the affected county school systems who vote in a referendum election to be held on the date of the next regularly scheduled general election. The order setting the election shall be entered by the judge of probate of each affected county within one month after the expiration of the 30-day time period provided in subdivision (1). Notice of the election shall be given by the judge of probate of each county, and the election shall be held, conducted, and the results canvassed in the manner as other county elections. The ballots shall have printed at the top a statement of the purpose of the referendum election and directly underneath, in plain type and on different lines, the words, "For Consolidation," and "Against Consolidation." If a majority of the qualified electors voting in the combined territory of the affected county school systems vote to approve the consolidation, the consolidation shall be finalized as designated in the formal resolution.
(d) The consolidation shall not operate to relieve any board of education, or other governing body, of liability for obligations previously incurred, or to impair rights existing before the consolidation. The agreement and formal resolution shall be binding on the combining county boards of education. If a consolidation occurs, the remaining controlling multi-county board of education shall have the right to compel the execution of contractual obligations made to any of the boards before the consolidation.
(e) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as necessary to provide for the implementation of this section.
(f) The Legislature, by general or local law, may enact legislation to implement approved board consolidations pursuant to this section.

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY ACT NO. 2026-379

(a) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy requiring each public K-12 school under its jurisdiction, at the beginning of each school day, to conduct The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and give all students the opportunity to voluntarily recite The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.
(b) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy requiring each public K-12 school under its jurisdiction to allow a prayer to be conducted, provided that:
(1) The prayer must be initiated by and led by a student; and
(2) No student may be required to participate in a prayer.
(c) Any policy adopted by a local board of education pursuant to this section shall ensure that students have the right to opt out of participation in the Pledge of Allegiance or the prayer based on their own beliefs.
(d) Violations of this section may be reported to the local superintendent of education. The local superintendent of education shall review the violation

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY ACT NO. 2026-424

(a) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy requiring each public K-12 school under its jurisdiction to broadcast The Star-Spangled Banner during school hours, at least once per week.
(b)(1) A local board of education shall select for broadcast, pursuant to subsection (a), any recording of the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner that is archived within the Library of Congress and available on the Library of Congress website.
(2) A local board of education, alternatively, may adopt a policy allowing, during school hours, for the performance of the first stanza of The Star-Spangled Banner from original sheet music, archived within the Library of Congress and available on its website, by a school-sanctioned band program, choral program, vocal group, or vocalist.
FURTHER, I proclaim and direct that this proclamation shall be published once a week for the four successive weeks immediately preceding Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in every county as required by law.

Kay Ivy, Governor

Wes Allen
Secretary of State

October 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. O-30-26

Amending City Code Section. 74 Regarding Licenses and Taxation

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 11, Chapter 51, Article 2 of the Code of Alabama 1975, municipalities are granted the authority to license and tax businesses operating within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Code of Alabama, Section 28-12-1, et seq., consumable hemp products are eligible for sale in the state by retailers licensed by the Alabama Alcohol Beverage Control Board ("ABC Board") upon approval by the local governing body of the county or municipality in which the licensee's facility is located; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gadsden desires to establish rules, regulations, license fees and operational regulations for businesses engaged in the sale of consumable hemp products;

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

Section 1.Section 74 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Gadsden is amended to add the following:

ARTICLE XII. – CONSUMABLE HEMP PRODUCTS
SEC. 74-305. Authority.
This article is enacted pursuant to the authority granted in Code of Ala., §§ 28-12-1 et seq., as amended. Any federal or state law that comes into effect after the effective date of this article that conflicts with a provision of this article shall supersede the conflicting provision of this article.

SEC. 74-306. Definitions.

Words and phrases used in this article which are not herein specifically defined, but which are specifically defined in Code of Alabama, Sec. 28-12-2, shall be given the meaning ascribed to them in said Section 28-12-2. Further, for purposes of this article, the following words shall have the following meanings:

1. "City" shall mean the City of Gadsden, an Alabama municipal corporation.

2. "Person" shall include every individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, association, limited liability partnership, or other form of business organization engaged in any for-profit or not-for-profit activity.

3. "Consumable Hemp Product" shall mean:

a. A finished product that is intended for human or animal consumption and that contains any part of the hemp plant or any compound, concentrate, extract, isolate, or resin derived from hemp. The term includes, but is not limited to, products that contain cannabinoids. The term does not include seeds or seedderived ingredients that are gen-

erally recognized as safe by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

b. The term excludes both of the following, which are strictly prohibited in the state:

1. Any smokable hemp product. Smokable hemp products include, but are not limited to, any plant product or raw hemp material that is marketed to consumers as hemp cigarettes, hemp cigars, hemp joints, hemp buds, hemp flowers, hemp leaves, ground hemp flowers, or any variation of these terms to include any product that contains a cannabinoid, whether psychoactive or not.

2. Any product that contains psychoactive cannabinoids that are created by a chemical synthesis, modification, or chemical conversion from another cannabinoid, utilizing non-cannabis materials. This does not include a cannabinoid produced via decarboxylation of naturally occurring acidic forms of cannabinoids, such as tetrahydrocannabinol acid, into the corresponding neutral cannabinoid, through the use of heat or light, without the use of chemical reagents or catalysts, and that results in no other chemical change.

4. "Consumption" shall mean ingesting or topically applying to skin or hair.

5. "Retailer" shall mean any person or business entity who sells consumable hemp products to individual consumers or to the enduser, whether from a storefront or online, within the corporate limits or police jurisdiction of the City.

6. "CHP License" shall mean an annual license issued by the City for the privilege of selling consumable hemp products.

7. "CHP Licensee" shall mean a person who has received a license to sell consumable hemp products from the City.

SEC. 74-307. CHP License - Required for each place of business.

No person may sell, or engage in business as a retailer of, a consumable hemp product in the corporate limits of the City, without first obtaining a CHP License from the City. A separate CHP License is required for each business location.

SEC. 74-308. Application and Background Verification.

Utilizing the same method outlined in Section 6-45 of the City of Gadsden code of Ordinances, upon receipt by the Revenue Department of a completed application for a CHP License and notification to the appropriate departments, the City Clerk shall set down the application for hearing not more than twenty (20) days after receipt of the application from revenue.

Any materially false or fraudulent information provided during the application process, or discovered later throughout the duration of the CHP License, is grounds for denial or revocation of the CHP License, subject to the procedures set forth in Section 74-86. Incomplete applications shall not be processed until the missing information is provided; applicants shall be given written notice of any deficiency and fourteen (14) days to cure. The City reserves the right to verify the veracity of all information submitted in a CHP License application, which may include personal interviews and criminal background checks.

SEC. 74-309. City Council Action on CHP License Applications

At a regularly scheduled City Council meeting, the City Council will take up the matter of the CHP License application and, if necessary, the applicant's corresponding request for the City's consent in connection with their ABC Board application to sell consumable hemp products. The City Council shall approve the application unless it finds one or more of the following grounds for denial:
Aiding, abetting, countenancing or encouraging the use of the premises by person who violate the criminal laws of this state and city of the premises
Being delinquent in payment to the city of any license fee or tax of any kind or nature levied upon and due by the licensee.
The applicant or any person with a ten percent (10%) or greater proprietary or profit interest has been convicted of a felony involving fraud or controlled substances within the preceding ten (10) years;
The applicant's proposed premises do not comply with applicable zoning, building, fire, or health codes
The applicant has had a CHP License or any City License revoked within the preceding two or less years
The applicant is not in compliance with all applicable state licensing requirements.
Violating an ordinance of the city.
Creating a nuisance to the community.

Any denial shall be in writing and shall state the specific grounds therefor.

SEC. 74-310. CHP Licenses nontransferable; separate CHP License; display of CHP License.

CHP Licenses are non-transferable. Any successor in title or new tenant to the licensed premises must apply for their own CHP License. Each place of business shall require a separate CHP License. No CHP License will be issued to mobile businesses like food trucks. CHP Licenses are required to be posted in a conspicuous place at or in the place for which the same was issued and must be made available for review and inspection by City personnel and all law enforcement agencies.

SEC. 74-311. CHP License fees imposed.

The annual CHP License fee for each person desiring to engage in the retail sale of consumable hemp products is $500.00 per licensed place of business in the corporate limits of the City. This CHP License fee is in addition to any and all other business licenses, sales taxes, and other sums owed to the City by the CHP Licensee or the business.

CHP License fees are not prorated for partial years, and they are not refunded, rebated, or prorated due to voluntary surrender of such CHP License before the expiration thereof. In the event of revocation or suspension that is subsequently overturned on appeal, the CHP Licensee shall be entitled to a prorated refund of the license fee for the unexpired portion of the license term.

Renewals of CHP License fees are due and payable annually as and when annual business licenses are renewed, and they are subject to the same provisions as business licenses for penalties and interest.

SEC. 74-312. Age Restrictions and Signage.

Prior to initiating any sale of consumable hemp products to a customer, an employee of the CHP Licensee must verify that the customer is at least 21 years of age. Proof of age may be established only by one of the following: (1) a valid driver license of any state; (2) a valid United States Uniformed Service Identification card; (3) a valid passport; or (4) a valid identification card issued by any agency of a state for the purpose of identification, bearing a photograph and date of birth of the individual in question.

700- Specialty Retailer:

The licensed premises are restricted to those 21 years of age or older, including all employees. The CHP Licensee shall sell only consumable hemp products and related accessories unless the CHP Licensee also holds an applicable retail liquor license. Sales shall be restricted to offpremises consumption only. The CHP Licensee shall maintain a minimum of five hundred (500) square feet of dedicated sales and service area, which shall not include offices, storage areas, or areas not open to customers or not used for the sale or display of products authorized under this CHP License.

A sign no less than 8½ by 11 inches with letters at least two inches in height must be posted on or inside the door, stating: "It is illegal for anyone under 21 years of age to enter this li-censed location".

710-Pharmacy:

A pharmacy CHP Licensee may sell topical and sublingual consumable hemp products only, in a pharmacy licensed by the Alabama Board of Pharmacy and the ABC Board. Products must be placed in an area not accessible to the general public.

Individuals under 21, but at least 18 years, of age may sell consumable hemp products only under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist and only if the CHP Licensee is certified in the State's Responsible Vendor Program.

720-Retail Food Store:

A sign (8½ by 11 inches, font no smaller than 2 inches) must be posted on the glass stating: "These products contain hemp derived compounds. Must be 21 years of age or older to purchase." All consumable hemp beverages shall be placed behind glass or a clear plastic or acrylic material in an area dedicated only to consumable hemp beverages.

Consumable hemp beverages shall not be visible from any area that contains candy, toys, or other products intended for, or primarily of interest to, children.

SEC. 74-313. Record Keeping and Audits.

No CHP Licensee shall offer for sale or sell any consumable hemp product that does not comply with the requirements of Code of Alabama § 28-12-20, including: (1) a corresponding certificate of analysis from an independent testing laboratory; (2) being in the original sealed container as packaged by the producer; (3) meeting the serving size and total THC content requirements of § 28-12-23; and (4) meeting the labeling requirements of § 28-12-25. Each CHP Licensee shall maintain and make immediately available for inspection a copy of the certificate of analysis for each consumable hemp product offered for sale on the licensed premises.

CHP Licensees shall retain all records and receipts for hemp product purchases, including certificates of analysis, for three (3) years from the date of purchase.

Records must be immediately available for inspection by authorized personnel and may be maintained electronically if they are immediately transferable.

SEC. 74-314. Right of Entry and Inspection.

As a privilege of holding a CHP License, the CHP Licensee agrees and consents that it shall, at all times during business hours, allow authorized City code enforcement and law enforcement officers to enter and inspect those portions of the licensed premises used for the storage, display, sale, bookkeeping, or record keeping of consumable hemp products, including locked areas, locked cabinets, and locked facilities located thereon. Failure or refusal to comply shall constitute grounds for revocation of the CHP License by the City Council following the procedures set forth herein.

SEC. 74-315. Operational Prohibitions.

Consumption: No person may consume a consumable hemp product on the licensed premises.

Staffing: A CHP Licensee must have an employee present in the sales and service area of the licensed premises at all times the premises is open to customers. All purchases of consumable hemp products must take place inside and within the licensed premises.

Inventory: No CHP Licensee shall have any consumable hemp products on the premises that are not intended for legal sale, except for items being held for return to a distributor or for quality control purposes.

Sales to Impaired Persons: No person may sell or provide a consumable hemp product to any person who exhibits clearly visible signs of intoxication from alcohol or controlled substances, such as slurred speech, inability to maintain balance, or loss of consciousness.

SEC. 74-316. Revocation of CHP License

The City Council may revoke a CHP License upon their finding of the CHP Licensee's violation of this article or of any County, State or Federal laws or regulations pertaining to the sale of consumable hemp products. Further, the City Council may revoke a CHP License upon their finding that any criminal conduct is occurring on the licensed premises by an employee, agent, owner, or representative of the CHP Licensee.

Prior to revocation, the City shall provide the CHP Licensee with written notice specifying the grounds for revocation and shall afford the CHP Licensee an opportunity to appear and be heard before the City Council at a properly called meeting no fewer than fourteen (14) days after the date of such notice. The CHP Licensee may present evidence and testimony in their defense at this meeting. The City Council's decision shall be rendered in writing, and the CHP Licensee may appeal the decision to a court of competent jurisdiction within thirty (30) days.

SEC. 74-317. Post-Revocation Bar.

In the event of a revocation of a CHP License, no renewal or reissuance of such CHP License shall be issued to permit the sale of consumable hemp products by the same business enterprise, its owners, officers, directors, or any person who held a ten percent (10%) or great-er proprietary or profit interest in the revoked licensee's business at the time of the violation, until after the expiration of two (2) years from the date any such revocation becomes final and effective. The two-year period will be extended for any period of time that the former CHP Licensee continues to violate this article.

SEC. 74-318. Penalties and Violations.

ABC Board Violations: The rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Alabama ABC Board, in effect as of the date of adoption of this article, are hereby adopted as laws and ordinances of the City to the extent they pertain to the sale of consumable hemp products. The City Council may, by resolution, adopt subsequent amendments to ABC Board rules and regulations as they are promulgated.

Any violation of this article shall be a misdemeanor and, if found guilty, may result in a fine up to $500.00, imprisonment for up to six months, or both. If the violation relates to the unauthorized sale of consumable hemp products, then each day the activity occurs, or each unauthorized sale, shall constitute a separate offense.

Any violation of this article may result in the revocation of the CHP License. The City reserves the right to consider violations of this article in connection with any other licensing decisions involving the CHP Licensee, subject to the applicable procedures governing such other licenses.

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

Adopted by the City Council of Gadsden on October 6, 2026.

Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

October 16, 2026

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

10/16/2026
City of Attalla
612 4th St NW
Attalla, AL 35954
256-538-9986

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:
These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Attalla.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS
On or about 11/3/2026 the City of Attalla will submit a request to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for the release of ARC funds under the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA), to undertake a project known as Attalla Sewer Improvements Project # AL-23068 for the purpose of sewer system improvements in the following 3 areas: 1. Trenchless (cured in place and/or pipe bursting) sewer main rehabilitation for approximately 1,500 LF near Interstate 59 exit # 181, central coordinates 33.989331 & -86.091888; 2. Trenchless (pipe bursting) sewer main rehabilitation of approximately 1,000 LF in the Wilson st. and Bartlett circle area, central coordinates 33.992622 & -86.096319; and 3. Installing 1,400 LF of new 12" sewer main in the E.R. Ballard Dr road right of way. central coordinates 33.994506 & -86.095054. Total project $1,000,000 with $500,000 ARC funds and $500,000 local funds.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
The City of Attalla has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Attalla City Hall, 612 4h St NW, Attalla, AL 35954 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 AM to 4 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Attalla. All comments received by 11/2/2026 will be considered by the City of Attalla prior to authorizing submission of a Request for Release of Funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.
ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION
The City of Attalla certifies to ADECA that Larry Means in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. ADECA's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Attalla to use Program Funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS
ADECA will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Attalla certification for a period of 15-days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or the City of Attalla; (b) the City of Attalla has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CRF part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR part 58 before approval of a Release of Funds by ADECA; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFRR part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the State at: Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Community and Economic Development Division, PO Box 5690, Montgomery, AL 36103. Potential objectors should contact ADECA to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Larry Means, Mayor

October 16, 2026

OFFICIAL LIST OF POLLWORKERS FOR THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026

ABSENTEES
CHIEF INSPECTOR
JENNIFER CAIN

INSPECTOR
TINA SEWELL

CHIEF CLERK
ALANNA
LANKFORD

CLERK
KENDRA
STEPHENS

CLERK
ANN
MARIE BETHUNE

CLERK
TRACI MCCARVER

NOCCALULA KIWANIS PAVILLION MACHINE 1

CHIEF
INSPECTOR
PEGGY DAVIDSON

INSPECTOR
KAREN DEAIBES

CHIEF CLERK
PAMELA MICHELL

CLERK
DOUG DAVIDSON

CLERK
ELAINE WAGNON

NOCCALULA KIWANIS PAVILLION MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
GLENELL GRANT

CHIEF CLERK
ANNETT BURNS

CLERK
JILL GARDNER

CLERK
DEBBIE LEMONS

CLERK
BETTY SUE
COVINGTON

GADSDEN SR WELLNESS CTR MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
GINA CHASTAIN
INSPECTOR
RICKEY HUNTER

CHIEF CLERK
TRACI SHARP

CLERK
PEGGY TILLEY

CLERK
LINDA
TAYLOR HICKS

CLERK
TAMALA FOMBY

GADSDEN SR WELLNESS CTR MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
PATRICIA
STRICKLAND

CHIEF CLERK
LINDA KING

CLERK
RHONDA
SPURLING

CLERK
DEBRA ST JOHN

CLERK
DEBORAH REEVES

GADSDEN SR WELLNESS CTR MACHINE 3

INSPECTOR
RENAY
STOKES REEVES

CHIEF CLERK
GRACIE GREEN

CLERK
JOSEPH NICHOLS

CLERK
SHELLEY
FREEMAN

CLERK
JANICE POLEATE

CARVER COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
GERALD MAXWELL

INSPECTOR
DONNA GREEN

CHIEF CLERK
CATHY GREEN

CLERK
ROSE RANCHER

CLERK
CEDRIC DUPREE

CLERK
DEBRA P SPEAR

CLERK
DONZELLA
WILLIAMS

CARVER COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
EKRA TOLBERT

CHIEF CLERK
AUDREY
STEWARD

CLERK
WALTINNA GRAY

CLERK
DELMA SMITH

CLERK
JACQUELINE CARR

CLERK
MARTHA HOYETT

DOWNTOWN CIVIC CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
SIMIYIA AARON

INSPECTOR
SHEILA
BILLINGSLEY

CHIEF CLERK
BARBARA RIGGINS

CLERK
JAMES MICHAEL

CLERK
SHAKIRRA DOYLE

CLERK
DELORES ABNEY

DOWNTOWN CIVIC CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
DAVID MICALE

CHIEF CLERK
GLORIA HOPE

CLERK
LUCILLE LLOYD

CLERK
SHARRON
SUTTLES

CLERK
LAURA WELLS

CLERK
ALVIN BOLTON SR

CLERK
RAYMOND MACON
JR

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
SANDRA
PLUMMER

INSPECTOR
FRANKIE
COPELAND

CHIEF CLERK
DEBRA HARKER

CLERK
VALERIE BRYSON

CLERK
JUDY SWAFFORD

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
JAMIE PAYTON

CHIEF CLERK
LESLIE WAYNE PAYTON

CLERK
THOMAS CASH

CLERK
DENISE WELCH

CLERK
ANNA PARKER

CLERK
DANILYA STOUTE

EAST GADSDEN RECREATION CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
PATRICIA WELCH

INSPECTOR
JOSEPH FARMER

CHIEF CLERK
JOHN BRADFORD

CLERK
SHARON A. GREEN

CLERK
LILLIE STOKES

CLERK
LESIA FINISTER

EAST GADSDEN RECREATION

CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
DIANNE
TREADWELL

CHIEF CLERK
ROBBIE MILLER

CLERK
MARY BURSE

CLERK
MABEL
DAVENPORT

CLERK
MICHAEL WITT

CLERK
JENNIFER
CROWLEY

CLERK
MILDRED
HUTCHINSON

EAST GADSDEN RECREATION CENTER MACHINE 3

INSPECTOR
MALINDA EVANS

CHIEF CLERK
MYRA WILLIAMS

CLERK
TOWANNA WILSON

CLERK
DENISE SIMS

CLERK PHYLLIS
MATHEWS

CLERK
CHRIS DANIEL

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
BONNIE CHILDS

INSPECTOR
TERESA
BROTHERS

CHIEF CLERK
PAM WEEKS

CLERK
DAN CHILDS

CLERK
DAVID NELMS

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
JOYCE PONDER

CHIEF CLERK
SHARON ROGERS

CLERK
PEGGY SAMPLES

CLERK
JILL NELMS

CLERK
BEVERLY
LEBOEUF

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 3

INSPECTOR
RACHEL MORGAN

CHIEF CLERK
DOROTHY HAYES

CLERK
ANITA HESTER

CLERK
WILLIAM LEBOEUF

CLERK
DEBORAH
STANDRIDGE

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 4

INSPECTOR
CHERYL
MCELWEE

CHIEF CLERK
CONNIE UNGER

CLERK
DONNA MORGAN

CLERK
DAVID BARNETT

CLERK
LARRY UNGER

GEORGE WALLACE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
REBECCA
HENSON

INSPECTOR
DOT GODFREY

CHIEF CLERK
LORI CLAY

CLERK
PEGGY CASE

GEORGE WALLACE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
SAMMEE DABBS

CHIEF CLERK
SUSAN NOOJIN

CLERK
VERONICA FISH

CLERK
FLORA NALER

GEORGE WALLACE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER MACHINE 3

INSPECTOR
BRIANNA RUDD

CHIEF CLERK
THELMA HODGE

CLERK
GWINETTE
WATSON

HOKES BLUFF COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
TINA SMITH

INSPECTOR
LEIGH ANN
REYNOLDS

CHIEF CLERK
K E N N E T H
MEANS

CLERK
DALE JAKIEL

CLERK
MARSHALL
HALLACK

HOKES BLUFF COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
RODNEY
RYLANDER

CHIEF CLERK
KELLEY MCGINNIS

CLERK
RICKEY YOUNG

CLERK
LARRY
DAVENPORT

CLERK
JO ANN MITCHELL

HOKES BLUFF COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 3

INSPECTOR
TOWANNA FUQUA

CHIEF CLERK
LINDA JOHNSON

CLERK
PATRICIA NANCE

CLERK
CYNTHIA
DAVENPORT

CLERK
MELODY
STROZIER

NORTHEAST ETOWAH COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
RODNEY
EVERETT

INSPECTOR
KEELIE HOLLAND

CHIEF CLERK
JERRY LANE

CLERK
MATEEON
ALLDREDGE

NORTHEAST ETOWAH COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
CONNIE ARNOLD

CHIEF CLERK
MAXINE LANE

CLERK
CHITA KITE

CLERK
AVERY CLARK

NORTHEAST ETOWAH COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 3

INSPECTOR
GREG JOHNSON

CHIEF CLERK
SHIRLEY
GRANGER

CLERK
ROBIN PHILLIPS

CLERK
RENITA STEVENS

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEFC
INSPECTOR
KAREN BRYSON

INSPECTOR
DAVID WILSON

CHIEF CLERK
CHARLES BRYSON

CLERK
MEGAN REESE

CLERK
DONNA HENRY

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
ROSE ANN
WHITLEY

CHIEF CLERK
GLORIS DEERMAN

CLERK
DERANDA HANEY

CLERK
TERRI SMITH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ATTALLA MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
LEONIDAS HICKS

INSPECTOR
GLORIA
BRADBERRY

CHIEF CLERK
EVA THOMPSON

CLERK
RODNEY HICKS

CLERK
ELLA WOODY

CLERK
CARLA
DENISE GREEN

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ATTALLA MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
DEBRA DUPREE

CHIEF CLERK
MARY MOORE

CLERK
MERI RENFROE

CLERK
ANNIE
RENEA
CRUMPLER

CLERK
MARQUAN ROPER

CLERK
YOLANDA
MORAGNE

JANE PHILLPS COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
STACY
THOMPSON

INSPECTOR
KATHY JONES

CHIEF CLERK
JENNIFER BUTTS

CLERK
STEPHANIE
JACKSON

CLERK
BROOKLYN JONES

JANE PHILLIPS COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
MARY BOLEY

CHIEF CLERK
DORIS JACKSON

CLERK
JANET HUGHES

CLERK
SHANNON MUNIZ

CLERK
PERRY
ANDERSON

SARDIS COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
MICHELLE
NELSON

INSPECTOR
ERNESTINE
HODGES

CHIEF CLERK
MARY TRAYLOR

CLERK
MARSHALL
JACKSON

CLERK
THOMAS VAUGHN

CLERK
GUNNER CARR

SARDIS COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
SUSAN ROSS

CHIEF CLERK
PAULINE
BANKSTON

CLERK
DEAN ANDERSON

CLERK
TAMBRA TONEY

CLERK
DEBRA HASWELL

CLERK
ANN HAMRICK

SARDIS COMMUNITY CENTER MACHINE 3

INSPECTOR
MARLA
SELINA SMITH

CHIEF CLERK
SKYLERANN
NAYLOR

CLERK
HENRY TRAYLOR

CLERK
CRYSTAL
CONNELL

CLERK
KATHY VAUGHN

AURORA BAPTIST CHURCH MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
ADA MCDOUGALD

INSPECTOR
CYNTHIA
HANRAHAN

CHIEF CLERK
JEFFERY OWEN

CLERK
MARY HARRIS

CLERK
JUDY ROBERTSON

AURORA BAPTIST CHURCH MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
CONNIE
MCWHORTER

CHIEF CLERK
JOY WILKS

CLERK
ALICIA HARRIS

CLERK
HARRIS WILKS

WALNUT GROVE COMMUNITY CTR; MACHINE 1

INSPECTOR
TERESA BRANNON

CHIEF CLERK
STEPHEN
MCGLATHERY

CLERK
DEBORAH GOSS

CLERK
MARY JANE SMITH

CLERK
PATRICIA LANDIS

WALNUT GROVE COMMUNITY CTR; MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
PAM KEY

CHIEF CLERK
JAMES RHODES

CLERK
TRACY BRAND

CLERK
CRAIG BRANNON

GALLANT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH; MACHINE 1

INSPECTOR
LISA ELDERS

CHIEF CLERK
CARRIE CARVER

CLERK
CHAD CARVER

CLERK
SONYA ISBELL

CLERK
ASHLEY HARE

CLERK
RICHARD SMITH

CLERK
BRANDY
FILMORE

CLERK
JENNIFER
MCCLENDON

RAINBOW CITY RECREATION CENTER; MACHINE 1

CHIEF INSPECTOR
SHEILA FORD

INSPECTOR
DONNA
CHAMBLEE

CHIEF CLERK
DOTTIE KINKADE

CLERK
PHYLLIS GARRETT

CLERK
THOMAS
WOODALL

CLERK
DONNA BADGETT

RAINBOW CITY RECREATION CENTER; MACHINE 2

INSPECTOR
BONNIE FOREMAN

CHIEF CLERK
JAMES
THORNTON JR

CLERK
MADDISON MATHIS

CLERK
CURTIS CONARD

CLERK
KEVIN HATHCOCK

CLERK
SYDNEY GUNTER

RAINBOW CITY RECREATION CENTER; MACHINE 3

INSPECTOR
DIANE MATTHEWS

CHIEF CLERK
JOHN C
COPELAND

CLERK
KEVIN CONKLIN

CLERK
SHARON COKER

CLERK
DONALD
STEPHENS JR

RAINBOW CITY RECREATION CENTER; MACHINE 4

INSPECTOR
JIMMY BOZEMAN

CHIEF CLERK
JANICE
HUMPHREY

CLERK
TERESA CONARD

CLERK
DEREK JAMES

CLERK
KELLY STEPHENS

CLERK
BETH LEE

WHORTON BEND FIRE STATION

INSPECTOR
DELL MACKEY

CHIEF CLERK
GAY NELL YANCEY

CLERK
RANDY WORD

CLERK
BETH PAYNE

CLERK
GREG THOMPSON

CLERK
LYNN TAYLOR

CLERK
REBECCA WORD

CLERK
KEVIN PAYNE

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****
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Election Schools will be held at:
Gadsden State Community College
Beck Conference Center
203 College Drive
Gadsden, AL 35903

On October 22, 2026 at 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm, and 3:00pm

Election School is mandated by law for all Election Officers to attend.

In the event that you are unable to work the November 3, 2026, General Election, please contact the Etowah County Probate Judge's office at (256)549-5342 or (256)549-5341.

October 16, 2026

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Prequalification Proposals from General Contractors shall be submitted and will be re-ceived on behalf of the Owner by Robins & Morton; submit electronically Attn: William Byrd at williamb@robinsmorton.com or delivery to 400 Shades Creek Pkwy. Birmingham, AL 35209; UNTIL 5:00PM LOCAL TIME; ON FRIDAY, November 6, 2026, for:

GADSDEN ATHLETIC CENTER PROJECT – GAC FIELDHOUSE PACKAGE
CITY OF GADSDEN
GADSDEN, ALABAMA

Prequalification proposal requirements may be obtained from Robins & Morton, by written request via email or mailed on the Contractor's company letterhead.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all prequalification and/or proposals, waive technical errors, and/or abandon this process if, in their judgment, the Owner's best inter-ests will be promoted.

Sealed proposals will be received by the City Clerk, City of Gadsden, Alabama, at the City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Room 411, Gadsden, Alabama until 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, November 18, 2026, for the Gadsden Athletic Center Project, Bid Request No. 3654, located in the City of Gadsden, Alabama.

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

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the above time and place. Specifications and con-tract documents are open to the public for inspection at the City Hall. Electronic (pdf) spec-ifications and contract documents can be distributed at no cost through Robins & Morton's Building Connected Platform by requesting the invitation by email at wil-liamb@robinsmorton.com. All bidders must be registered with Robins & Morton in order to submit a bid. Bids received from non-Qualified bidders will be rejected.

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

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

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

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

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

PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at 1420 West Meighan Boulevard, Gadsden, AL 35901; Time & Date 11/9/2026 @ 09:00, to review the project and answer Bidder's questions. At-tendance at the Pre-Bid Conference IS NOT REQUIRED but highly recommended FOR ALL PRIME CONTRACTOR BIDDERS (and any subcontractors) intending to submit a proposal.

This is a tax-exempt contract.

By signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of the agreement, that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the state of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.

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

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

October 16, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

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

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

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.

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

www.alabamapublichealth.gov/imm

VFC Alabama Vaccines for Children Program · Alabama Public Health · IMM Immunization Division

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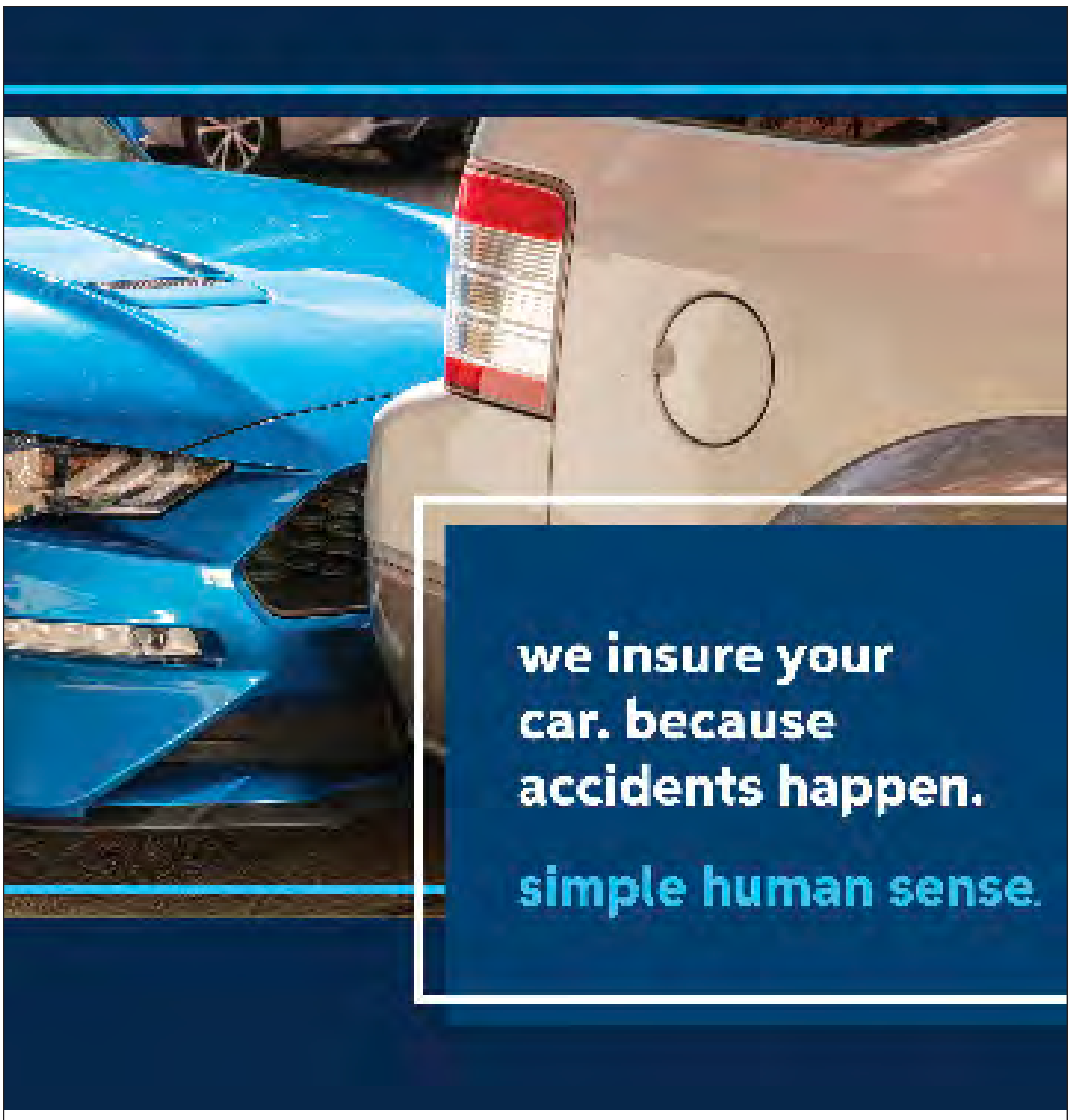

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