



A library legacy: Remembering Bobby Junkins

By Craig Scott
Gadsden Public Library

Every other week when I sit down to write this column, I usually have a pretty good idea of what I want to share with you about the Gadsden Public Library.

This week was going to be about some of the many programs and activities we have coming up at the Library.

But sometimes life changes the story.

This week, we lost a very special member of the Gadsden Public Library family and someone who meant a great deal to me personally: Bobby Junkins.

For many people in Etowah County, Bobby will be remembered as Judge Junkins. He served our community for more than three decades as Etowah County Probate Judge. Before that, he represented District 30 in the Alabama House of Representatives.

But around the Gadsden Public Library, Bobby was always something else.

He was one of us.

Bobby's relationship with the Library went back to his younger days, when he began working at the Gadsden Public Library while still in school. That early job eventually be-

came a career. Bobby worked his way through the Library and ultimately became Director of the Gadsden Public Library, serving in that position from 1975 until 1988.

Think about that for a moment. The young man who started out working at the Library eventually became the person responsible for leading it.

And even when Bobby's career took him beyond the Library walls, he never really left us.

Beginning in 1982, Bobby served District 30 in the Alabama House of Representatives, serving two terms before being elected Etowah County Probate Judge in 1988. His public service would ultimately span decades, including 31 years as Probate Judge before his retirement in 2019.

During his time in the Alabama Legislature, Bobby remembered where he came from.

He helped secure funding that allowed the Gadsden Public Library to begin developing what would become our outstanding genealogy and local history collection. What had once consisted of only a couple of shelves grew over the years into one of the finest genealogy resources in northeast Ala-



Submitted by Craig Scott

bama.

Today, researchers come through our doors looking for grandparents, great-grandparents, old newspaper stories, military records, cemetery in-

formation and pieces of family history that sometimes have been forgotten for generations.

Every time someone discovers one of those missing pieces,

Legacy - Page A8

Beloved Glencoe educator passes

Marion "Moe" Smith, a longtime Glencoe educator, coach and administrator who played a prominent role in Alabama high school athletics, died Thursday, Oct. 1, at age 79.

Smith's career in education and athletics spanned decades, including 21 years as principal of Glencoe High School and leadership positions with the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Smith began his own athletic career at Boaz High School in 1961, the school's first year. He played quarterback and guard in football and point guard in basketball.

During his senior football season, Boaz finished 6-2-2. The basketball team went 24-8 and advanced to the state tournament, where it lost to Eufaula by two points in the semifinals. Smith was the team captain and was selected to the All-Region Team.

His success as a basketball player led to a coaching career. At Pell City, Smith's teams won consecutive St. Clair County championships in 1975 and 1976.

He became head basketball coach at Glencoe High School the following year. His teams won consecutive Etowah County championships in 1978 and 1979. Smith later served as an assistant football coach and head baseball coach at Glencoe for five years.

In 1988, Smith became principal of Glencoe High School, a position he held until his retirement in 2009.

During his time as principal, Smith became increasingly involved with the AHSAA. He was selected to the association's Legislative Council in 1993 and eventually became president of the AHSAA Central Board of Control.

Smith was the only person to serve two terms as president of the Central Board, according to the AHSAA. During his tenure, the association established major championship events, including the Super 6 football championships and Final 48 basketball championships.

He also served on the State Superintendent's Task Force on eligibility requirements for athletics and extracurricular activ-



ities, the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program and as chairman of the Public School/Private School Relations Committee.

Smith was inducted into the AHSAA Hall of Fame in 2005.

Following his retirement, the Alabama House of Representatives and Alabama Senate approved resolutions honoring Smith's career as an administrator.

A celebration of life was held Oct. 4 at Glencoe Hokes Bluff Funeral Home.

Upcoming country singer Jesselyn James aims to empower others through music

By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

Local singer-songwriter Jesselyn James has stumbled her way through the darkness before, facing domestic violence, addiction and mental illness head-on throughout her teens and 20s. What she most wants people to know, however, is that she is a survivor — and that they can be, too.

The Michigan-raised, Alabama-reborn country musician has no problems sharing details about her past — whether in an interview room with Features Editor Caylie Moore or in a studio booth with Sony Mu-

sic producer JJ Stevens — because she wants her story to inspire other people to keep chasing their dreams, even when they feel like they have the world on their shoulders.

As a domestic violence survivor who stayed with her abuser for a decade and struggled with drug addiction and mental illness for about half of that period, Jesselyn James knows what it's like to feel helpless, especially — and perhaps paradoxically — after the worst parts are over.

"[That abusive relationship] took my life away for 10 years," James stated, be-

fore going on to explain that even when the relationship was ended and justice was served, she was still forced to pick up the pieces of her life. "He went to prison. But I was left wondering: 'What am I going to do with my life?' I was so lost; I didn't know where to start."

In 2016, she made the move from Michigan to Alabama after her grandfather passed away and left their family chicken farm in Albertville to her father. James explained that there were a variety of reasons behind this decision, including the fact that she had lived in Alabama throughout 6th and

7th grade — and loved it.

Around the same year, however, James had become pregnant by her abuser, and being young and scared, she thought it would be best to stay close to her own parents while she figured out how to move forward in her own life.

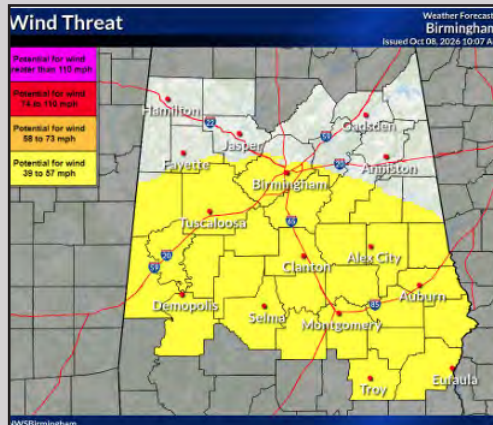
But to figure this question out, James had to reflect on her short but complicated life and determine what made her her — who Jesselyn James was a person, what she liked, what she loved. Luckily, she knew exactly what to look to: her childhood.

James - Page A7

SCAN ME



INSIDE THIS EDITION



Potential severe weather threatens the cost and could bring high winds to the area.

See Page A2



Four Girl Scouts create a Calm Kit to support individuals with sensory, communication and accessibility needs.

See Page A4



Broad Street was closed Oct. 2 for Gadsden City's Homecoming parade.

See Page B3

In & Around SEC

Catch up on SEC football with Cole Fredricks.

See Page B3

INDEX

NEWS	- PAGE A2
MOVIE LISTINGS	- PAGE A6
GOVERNMENT	- PAGE A3
EDUCATION	- PAGE A4
COMMUNITY CALENDAR	- PAGE A6
ARTS CORNER	- PAGE A7
LIFESTYLE COLUMNS	- PAGE A8
DEVOTIONAL COLUMNS	- PAGE A9
LEGAL NOTICES	- PAGES B5-B9
CLASSIFIEDS	- PAGE B9



Little Caesars



NEWS

Gadsden State to host Mental Health Conference

Gadsden State to host 9th annual Mental Health Conference with community health partners.

Gadsden State Community College will host its ninth annual Mental Health Conference from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23 in the Helderman Hall Auditorium.

The conference is presented by Gadsden State's Continuing Education & Workforce Development Department in partnership with Gadsden Regional Medical Center and the East Central Alabama AHEC Statewide Program. The organizations share a commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of communities throughout the region.

The conference will bring together healthcare professionals, educators, counselors, social service providers, students and community members for a day focused on mental health education, awareness and collaboration.

Attendees will participate in expert-led sessions addressing a range of mental health topics, including:

- Loneliness and sense of Belonging
- Children's mental health
- Grief, trauma and survival
- COVID-related PTSD in nursing
- Alcohol and drug substance abuse
- The 10 deadly sins of mental

health

Through the conference, participants will have opportunities to expand their knowledge, connect with other professionals and learn strategies to strengthen mental health support across Northeast Alabama.

"We are honored to partner with Gadsden Regional Medical Center and the East Central Alabama AHEC Statewide Program to provide this important educational opportunity," said Baisha Woody, director of Skills Training at Gadsden State. "Together, we share a commitment to improving access to mental health resources, increasing awareness and supporting healthier communities."

Participants will have the opportunity to earn continuing education units (CEUs), and lunch will be provided through the support of the East Central Alabama AHEC Statewide Program. Attendees will also have opportunities to network with professionals and advocates dedicated to promoting mental wellness.

Registration is \$25 per person.

To register online, visit ce.gadsdenstate.edu and scroll down to NC Mental Health Awareness NNUR4005.

For more information, contact Continuing Education & Workforce Development at (256) 549-8652 or jorr@gadsdenstate.edu.

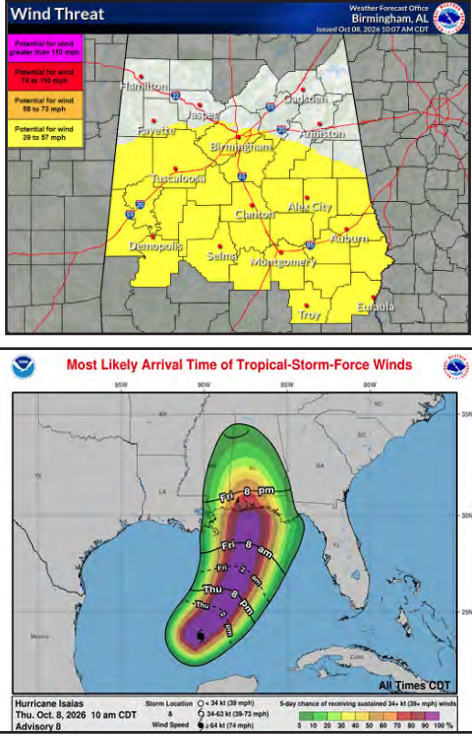
Weather Alert

According to the National Weather Service Hurricane Isaias is expected to make landfall around 7 p.m. today. The latest forecast tracks the storm slightly farther west, increasing the potential impacts for Central/Northeast Alabama. Heavy rain, strong winds and isolated tornadoes remain possible across the eastern portion of the state.

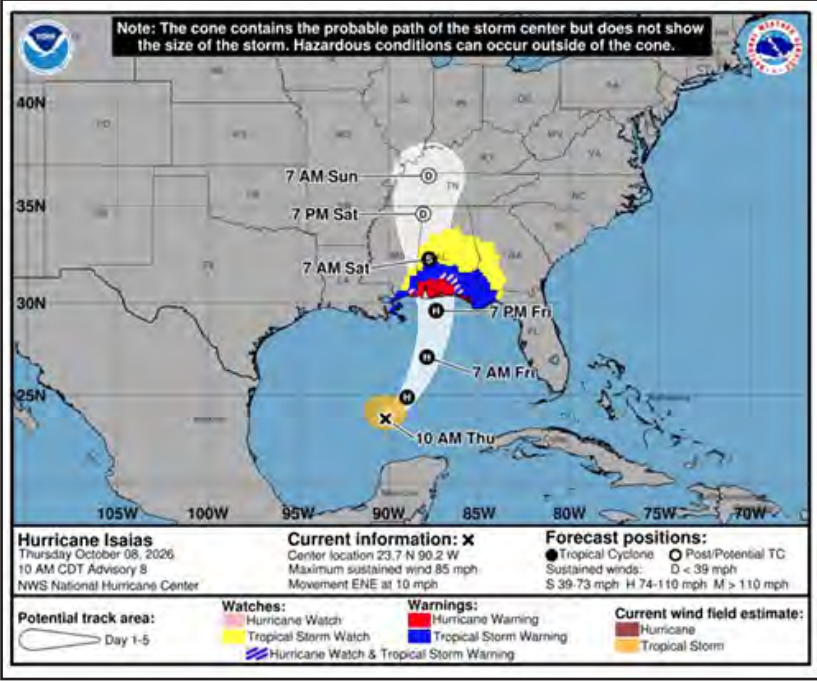
WHEN:
Friday Night – Saturday Afternoon

THREATS:

- Damaging winds between 35–50 mph
- Potential for brief, isolated tornadoes
- Heavy rainfall leading to localized flash



The forecast map was updated Thursday at 10:14 a.m. by the National Weather Service



Maps: Etowah County Emergency Management Agency • Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

American Legion News

By Ken Davis

The American Legion News Post 71 in Attalla will host the 7th annual rodeo on oct 16 and 17.

This year the rodeos feature event including Maddie McCallie, a professional trick rider, barrel racing, calf roping, bronc riding and bull riding.

The rodeo is part of the Southeastern Professional Rodeo Association and the Double Creek Rodeo Company. This event is sponsored by the Greater Gadsden Area Tourism association, the City of Attalla and several local businesses.

The gates will be open a 5 p.m. and the rodeo starts a 7 p.m.

7th Annual
American Legion Post 71
RODEO
October 16th & 17th 7:30 PM
Etowah County Fairgrounds
Attalla, AL

Greater Gadsden
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Double Creek Rodeo Company
205-457-5242
www.sprzrodeo.net

Magnolia Farm
www.magnoliafarm.com

The Etowah County Local Emergency Planning Committee will be held at Spire Gas on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 11 a.m.

The LEPC works in conjunction with the Etowah County EMA to prepare for, respond to and recover from any emergency chemical response to local companies doing business in Etowah County that store and use hazardous chemicals. The LEPC will meet semi-annually at a location to be determined each time. The meeting will last approximately one hour, and the topic will be new membership as well as LEPC officers and the Etowah County Hazard Mitigation Plan presented by the Etowah County EMA. This meeting is open to the public and they are welcome to attend. Spire Gas is located at 1508 Owens Street in Gadsden.

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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

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GOVERNMENT

CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA
EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STAND-
ARD DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN

To: All Interested Federal, State, and Local Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Gadsden, as Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58, has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, and the City of Gadsden will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20, Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

The following project is subject to the eight-step decision-making process in 24 CFR 55.20:

The following project is subject to the eight-step decision-making process in 24-6A-05-020:

East Gadsden Community Aquatic Center – The City of Gadsden proposes to construct a new outdoor aquatic facility on the existing East Gadsden Community Center campus located at 921 Wilson Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35903. The project will expand the recreational amenities available at the existing community center and provide additional opportunities for recreation, physical activity, aquatic and water-safety programming, and youth, family, and community activities.

The proposed project will include an outdoor recreational swimming pool with zero-entry access and integrated aquatic/recreational features. The project will also include construction of a pavilion and support building containing ADA-accessible restrooms, pool equipment areas, chemical storage, janitorial and maintenance areas, and shaded space for facility users.

Associated site improvements will include sidewalks and pool decking; parking improvements; demolition, grading, and retaining walls; electrical, telecommunications, sanitary sewer, stormwater, and water utility improvements; perimeter fencing and gated access; security cameras and lighting; signage; landscaping and irrigation; site furnishings; and stormwater management/detention improvements necessary to support the aquatic facility. The final configuration of individual aquatic features and site improvements will be based on final design and engineering.

The project is proposed to be assisted with approximately \$4,500,000 in CDBG Section 108 Loan Guarantee funds. The preliminary total project cost is approximately \$5.87 million, subject to final design, bidding, and approved project scope.

FLOODPLAIN:

The project site is located within FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) Zone AE, as shown on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel 01055C0213E, effective March 16, 2016. Zone AE represents an area subject to the 1-percent-annual-chance flood for which Base Flood Elevations have been established. Because the proposed project includes new construction and associated site improvements within the floodplain, the City of Gadsden is completing the floodplain management decision-making process required by 24 CFR 55.20.

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2-percent annual-chance flood approach. The proposed activity may affect approximately two acres of the FFRMS floodplain. The floodplain provides natural and beneficial functions that may include floodwater storage and conveyance, moderation of stormwater flows, erosion control, water-quality maintenance, groundwater recharge or discharge, and habitat for flora and fauna. The area also has recreational, and community value associated with the existing municipal community-center campus. The City will evaluate potential effects of the proposed development on these functions and values as part of the eight-step review and will incorporate measures to minimize adverse impacts to the extent practicable.

The City will evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts associated with development within the floodplain, including potential effects on flood levels and flood risk, stormwater runoff and drainage, water quality, natural floodplain functions, public safety, property, and surrounding land uses. The City will also evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the proposed improvements within the floodplain, including alternative locations, alternative project designs or configurations that may reduce floodplain impacts, and the no-action alternative.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION:

Potential floodplain impacts associated with the proposed project may include changes in impervious surface area, stormwater runoff, grading and drainage patterns, temporary soil disturbance and erosion during construction, and the placement of new structures and site improvements within the floodplain.

As part of the eight-step review, the City will identify measures to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to the floodplain to the extent practicable. The final project design will incorporate applicable floodplain protection, stormwater management, drainage, erosion and sediment-control, and water-quality measures. Newly constructed structures within the FFRMS floodplain will be elevated to the applicable FFRMS floodplain elevation or floodproofed where permitted and applicable. Flood-sensitive electrical, mechanical, pool-operating, chemical-storage, and other equipment and building systems will be located or protected to minimize potential flood damage and the release of hazardous or pool-related chemicals during a flood event.

Final grading and drainage plans will be designed to minimize adverse effects on flood storage, drainage patterns, and surrounding properties. Construction practices will include appropriate erosion and sediment controls and measures to prevent sediment, construction debris, fuels, chemicals, and other pollutants from entering stormwater systems or downstream waters. Final stormwater management/detention, grading, drainage, utility, and pool-discharge plans will also incorporate measures to prevent sediment, chlorine, pool chemicals, or other pollutants from adversely affecting downstream water quality and aquatic habitat.

All applicable floodplain mitigation requirements resulting from the eight-step decision-making process will be incorporated into the final project plans, specifications, construction documents, contractor requirements, and project implementation.

COMMENTS ON FLOODPLAIN ACTIVITIES:

There are three (3) primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by an activity in a floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Gadsden, Community Development Department, Gadsden City Hall – 3rd Floor, 90 Broad St, Gadsden, AL, 35901 by October 26, 2026, or fifteen (15) days from the date of the publication of this notice. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday at City of Gadsden, Community Development Department. Comments may also be submitted via email at areaves@cityofgadsden.com.

Date: October 9, 2026

Hunter nationally endorsed in House District 28 race

Gadsden community organizer Robert Hunter has received an endorsement from Run for Something, a national organization that recruits and supports candidates for state and local office.

Hunter is running for Alabama House District 28. The endorsement was announced as part of Run for Something's 2026 slate of candidates, which includes candidates from across the country.

"Run for Something is committed to changing what leadership looks like in communities across the country, and Robert Hunter is at the forefront of that movement," said Amanda Litman, co-founder and president of Run for Something, in a press release to the Messenger. "This election is about bringing in a new class of leaders who are focused on delivering real results for their

neighbors.”

Hunter is a community organizer based in Gadsden. He is known locally for his work organizing Gadsden's Pride events and for operating the Gadsden Free Store, a mutual-aid storefront.

This endorsement is Hunter's third national endorsement. He has also received endorsements from DSA National and Organize For Peace.

Run for Something was founded in 2017 to support young, diverse candidates seeking state and local office. According to the organization, it has helped elect more than 1,600 candidates nationwide since its founding.

More information about Hunter's campaign is available at vote4robert-hunter.com.

Red Cross offers bonus rewards for donors

The American Red Cross asks people to book a time to give blood or platelets to help keep the blood supply as strong as possible this fall.

The seasons may change, but the need for blood is constant. Donors of all blood types are being called on to roll up a sleeve and give hope to hospital patients who rely on transfusions.

While October can be a shoulder season between severe summer and winter weather, it is often unpredictable. When the blood supply is stable, blood products can be moved wherever and whenever they are needed — even in the face of natural disasters. A single appointment could help provide hope and healing for patients in your community and across

the country.

Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App to schedule a donation appointment. Those who come to give Sept. 21-Oct. 18, 2026, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice. See [RedCrossBlood.org/Fall](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/Fall) for details.

All who come to give Oct. 19-Nov. 22, 2026, will get up to \$20 in Gift Cards — that's a \$10 Amazon Gift Card by email and 500 bonus points, which can be redeemed for a \$10 e-gift card through Blood Donor Rewards! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Maze for details.

The Red Cross will be at the Gadsden Mall, 1001 Rainbow Drive, Oct. 16 and Oct. 30 from 1 to 6 p.m.



Nana's Attic

OPEN

419
Ewing
Avenue

Illustration of the storefront of Nana's Attic Consignment Shop. The building is orange with a red and white striped awning. A sign above the door reads "Nana's Attic". The door has a black sign that says "OPEN". To the left of the door is a window displaying hanging clothes, and to the right is a window displaying shelves of books. The address "419 Ewing Avenue" is written on the door.

An advertisement for "Refrigerator Doctor" featuring the company name in large red letters, the text "Ice Maker Specialist" in blue, and the phone number "205-862-2384" in red with a black outline. Below the phone number is the name "Oscar Huey, R.D." in black. To the left is an image of a refrigerator, and to the right is an image of an ice maker.

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EDUCATION

Alabama amendment 2 would authorize county school board mergers if passed in November

**By Ralph Chapoco
Alabama Reflector**

Voters next month will decide whether to approve a constitutional amendment that would give county school boards the option to consolidate.

HB 380, sponsored by Rep. Terri Collins, R-Decatur, passed the House of Representatives 96-2 and unanimously in the Senate this spring. The measure would give two or more county school boards the opportunity to merge should voters approve it.

Collins said in an interview Tuesday that the board could

explore consolidation to save money

“What this would allow them to do is not to lose their system, it would allow them to combine their board with other county boards, particularly some of our small counties that are less than 1,000 students in the whole county,” Collins said in an interview Tuesday. “Therefore, they could put less money in administration.”

Lawmakers approved a separate bill that applied the same principle to schools within a city. A constitutional amendment is needed to allow consolidation of school boards outside municipalities.

If two county boards of education wanted to merge, each would approve merger resolutions, with details of consolidation — such as debt obligations, timelines and operations — left to the boards.

At least 30 days before the county school board votes on the consolidation, the State Board of Education would publish the results of a study that evaluates its impact on students, families, programming staff and the different operations of the school district at least 30 days before the resolution is adopted. Under the bill, the Board would not have any other powers on consolidation.

If 25% of registered voters submit a written protest within 30 days of the school boards authorizing the merger, then the affected districts will convene a referendum.

In that situation, a consolidation could take place if a majority of voters in each county approve it, as well as an overall majority of voters in the affected counties.

Two education groups have declined to take a public position on the amendment.

“I think if there was not the local decision-making in the process, we might have a stronger position one way or another on that, but the parameters are in place only

to allow that to happen if it is in the best interest of the local area, and that would have to involve several entities agreeing that is what is in their best interest before that would happen,” said Allison King, government relations manager with the Alabama Education Association.

The Alabama Association of School Boards is also staying neutral on the proposal.

“We are not aware of any county school system that is currently considering consolidation,” said Chad Holden, executive director with the Alabama Association of School Boards.

Holden said consolidation

could reduce administrative costs, but other expenses should also be considered.

“Things like transportation costs might actually increase,” Holden said. “Whereas you might save money on one hand, but there could be increased costs for others. All those costs would have to be taken into consideration.”

The League of Women Voters of Alabama opposes the amendment, citing the high threshold to set a referendum.

“The threshold is 25% of electors, which many times, you don’t even have that many people come out to

Nia Jones advancing to improve rural healthcare

An Etowah County student is among a new group of scholars participating in The University of Alabama’s rural health programs designed to prepare future health care providers to serve rural communities.

Nia Jones of Gadsden is one of three students who recently joined the Rural Community Health Scholars Program at UA’s College of Community Health Sciences. Abbi Calhoun of Chilton County and Erica Doss of Covington County also joined the program.

The college welcomed its 31st class of Rural Medical Scholars and fourth class of Rural Dental Scholars this fall as part of its Rural Health Leaders Pipeline, an effort aimed at

addressing shortages of primary care physicians and dentists in rural Alabama.

The Rural Community Health Scholars Program is designed for college graduates from rural Alabama who are interested in pursuing careers in health care. Scholars complete a year of study alongside students in the Rural Medical Scholars Program and receive a master’s degree in rural community health.

Calhoun is completing her second year in the program.

The Rural Medical Scholars Program is a five-year medical education program for rural Alabama students who plan to become physicians and practice in rural communities. The program includes a year of study at UA’s

College of Community Health Sciences, followed by medical education through the UAB Heersink School of Medicine.

This year’s Rural Medical Scholars are Chloe Cater of Calhoun County, Rebecca Chancey of Houston County, Jake Dueland of Cullman County, John Harrell of Walker County, Jake Hays of Colbert County, Zachary Love of St. Clair County, Tevi Pauley of Colbert County and Christy Xie of Chilton County.

The Rural Dental Scholars Program provides a similar pathway for rural Alabama students interested in dentistry, including a year of study and a master’s degree in rural community health before entering the UAB School of

Challenger Center receives \$150,000 grant

Students in Etowah County and eight other Northeast Alabama counties will have expanded access to simulated space missions and hands-on STEM activities through a \$150,000 grant awarded to the Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama.

The grant, from the Phillip A. and Elise A. Sanguinetti Scholarship Fund through the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, will help fund programs for Title I schools during the 2026-27 school year.

Eligible schools in Etowah, St. Clair, Calhoun, Talladega, Clay, Randolph, Cherokee, DeKalb and Cleburne counties will be able to receive discounted rates for Challenger’s simulated space missions and STEM activities.

The programs are available to students in grades five through eight. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a simulated space mission and hands-on STEM activities regardless of their school’s budget.

One grade level per school may apply, with schools registering in

groups of up to 40 students. Challenger can accommodate up to 80 students, or two groups, each program day.

“We’re deeply grateful to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama and the Sanguinetti family for investing in the future of our region’s students,” said Dr. Farrah Hayes, executive director of Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama.

The Community Foundation has supported Challenger since its early development, serving as the center’s fiscal sponsor during its building and establishment phase.

Title I schools in the nine eligible counties interested in participating can apply through Challenger’s website or contact the center at info@challengeral.org.

Located in Rainbow City, Challenger Learning Center of Northeast Alabama is Alabama’s only Challenger Learning Center. The center offers NASA-inspired simulated space missions along with hands-on science, engineering and technology activities for students throughout Northeast Alabama.

Local Girl Scouts prepare for year of learning and service

Four girls from Girl Scout Troop 30279 completed their Silver Award project through the development of a Calm Kit, a resource designed to support individuals with sensory, communication and accessibility needs.

The project was inspired by the belief that everyone deserves opportunities to participate fully and comfortably in group activities, regardless of ability. The Calm Kit includes sensory supports such as noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools, communication boards, calming resources and other items intended to create a welcoming and inclusive environment.

The team dedicated more than 50 hours to researching disabilities and accessibility needs, identifying appropriate resources, developing educational materials, creating project documentation and assembling the Calm Kit.

Throughout the process, the girls learned about autism, ADHD, anxiety, low vision, hearing impairments, communication



challenges and the importance of providing accommodations that help individuals succeed and feel included.

In addition to creating the kit itself, the team developed educational materials explaining who can benefit from the Calm Kit, how it can be used, recommended guidelines, maintenance procedures, communication support and additional disability-awareness resources. Their goal was not only to provide helpful tools but also to promote understanding, acceptance and inclusion within the community.

The Silver Award is one of the highest awards a Girl Scout in sixth through eighth grade girl can receive. To qualify, the team must have completed the Bronze Award or a Cadette Leadership Award, according to the Girls Scouts’ website.

Through research, collaboration and community engagement, the girls gained a greater understanding of accessibility and the ways small accommodations can

make a meaningful difference in the lives of others, the girls said in an email to the Messenger. Their work demonstrates a commitment to creating environments where all individuals feel welcomed, respected and supported.

The team would like to acknowledge local organizations that contributed guidance and educational support during the project’s development. Laura Catoe, ADA Coordinator, and Ashley Hawk, Clerk, with the Office of Disability Services and Resources at Gadsden State Community College, helped expand the team’s understanding of accessibility, accommodations, and disability awareness, according to the email.

Troop 30279 hopes the Calm Kit project will encourage greater awareness of accessibility needs and inspire others to create inclusive spaces where everyone has the opportunity to participate, learn, and thrive.

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CALENDAR

Community

Featured Events*

Oct. 9-Oct. 16

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.

Coosa River Irish Session

- Where: River Rocks Landing Resort - 1 River Road, Gadsden
- When: Oct. 9, 5 to 8 p.m.

Downtown Gadsden Ghost Tour

- Where: Nola’s Clover - 124 Court St., Gadsden
- When: Oct. 11, 5 to 7 p.m.

Smoke-neck Acoustic Society

- Where: Southside Community Center - 2142 Highway 77, Southside
- When: Oct. 12, 6 to 8 p.m.

Artoberfest

- Where: Wall Street, Gadsden
- When: Oct. 15, 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. 6th 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. 9-Oct. 23

Oct. 9

Allis-Chalmers 18th Annual ‘G’ Roundup Tractor Show (Day 1)

- Where: Hokes Bluff Community Center - 5981 Gilliland St., Hokes Bluff
- When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Oct. 10

2026 Noccalula Falls Duathlon

- Where: Noccalula Falls Campground - 1600 Noccalula Road, Gadsden
- When: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Allis-Chalmers 18th Annual ‘G’ Roundup Tractor Show (Day 2)

- Where: Hokes Bluff Community Center - 5981 Gilliland St., Hokes Bluff
- When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fall Fest at Tillison Bend

- Where: Tillison Bend Campground - 341 Riverview Drive, Gadsden
- When: 3 to 10 p.m.

Sunset Tour at Untamed Mountain

- Where: Tigers for Tomorrow at Untamed Mountain - 708 County Road 345, Attalla
- When: 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 12

Front Porch Pickin at Bama Bucks

- Where: Bama Bucks Wildgame Restaurant - 292 Bryant Road, Sardis City
- When: 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Attalla Heritage Day

- Where: 4th Street NW, Attalla
- When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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.

Loblolly Fest at The Bluff Amphitheatre

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

Southern Gothic: Appalachian Requiem

- Where: Gunn-Bellenger House - 872 Chestnut St., Gadsden
- When: 6:30 to 8 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.

Southside Fall Festival

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

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James

- From A1

“I remembered that when I was a little girl, the one thing that made me happy... was singing. So, I said, ‘You know what? I’m going to try to be a singer.’”

James, who dusted the lifelong dream off and started writing music and singing soon after, put her feet to the ground for about two years. “I dedicated everything into music,” she stated, adding that she had to balance her career with her life as both a single mom of two children and a chicken farmer.

Still, things were shaky at best for a long time. The then-pop singer even almost gave up on music entirely about three years ago, when her career was remaining stagnant and no audience seemed to develop around her music. It wasn’t until she put out an ad on one particular day that things started to make a turn for the better.

“I was looking for a guitar player to come play with me live at writers’ rounds in Nashville, so I put out an ad on Facebook, and out of nowhere, this man right here — JJ Stevens — sends me a message,” stated James. “He said he listened to my music and told me that he thought I could really... be something.”

Stevens, who helped Clever — another musician from Gadsden who has worked with Post Malone, Justin Bieber, Juice WRLD and even Jesselyn James herself on the 2026 song “Reckless Sin” — reach stardom, suggested James make the switch to country on



Submitted photos

account of her voice and the tones within it.

James was thrilled about the recommendation; she loved country, having developed a taste for it on the long drives between Michigan and Alabama when visiting her father during her youth, and had no problem returning to it.

And since returning to her roots in the past year, she has been “taking off,” as Stevens described it, gaining thousands of lis-

teners on streaming platforms. She now works with a variety of professionals — including Kim Sandusky, Beyonce’s vocal coach, and Karlin Bankz, videographer for the music video for “Reckless Sin.” Things are looking up in so many ways in James’ life.

But for Jesselyn James, it’s not the fame that dictates what she does — it’s the fact that she gets to spread her message and potentially help thou-

sands of other people who might not be able to get help otherwise. All of her songs, which feature real-life stories of her own

struggles with domestic violence, addiction and mental illness, are written with the express purpose of supporting others

going through the same things.

“Everything I write is something that I’ve been through,” she emphasized.

She really just wants one thing — to be able to help people like her get through situations like hers.

In her final thoughts, James added one last tip for future listeners: “Don’t let your past define you. Chase your dreams.”

Having performed at Christmas on the Coosa and Freedom Fest in 2025, Jesselyn James hopes to reach more locals through various upcoming events this year, too. She can be found on TikTok at @JesselynJames_, on YouTube at @Jesselyn_James, and on Instagram at @JesselynJames. Her music is available to stream on all major streaming platforms, including YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Music.

The Messenger is partnering with the GPL for a fun fall reading challenge!

HOLIDAY READS

Fall Reading Challenge

October • November • December

Celebrate the season by discovering great books and stories!

Age brackets:

Children, ages 5-11 years old & 8-12 years old

Young adults, 13-18 years old

Adults, ages 19 years and over

October challenge forms are located at the Gadsden Public Library, and must be returned to the library no later than November 6th.

For additional information, contact us at 256-549-4699 ext. 2118 for Hanna; ext. 2114 for Hannah; ext. 2126 for LaShunda, and ext. 2107 for Carol.

Haunted Book Sale returns

It has been whispered over the years that the Gadsden Public Library is haunted, and since everyone is welcome there — as long as they behave — we thought we would honor our most talked about, but least seen patrons, our ghosts.

The GPL was not always located at 254 College St. It used to be on Seventh Street and Forrest Avenue. The new facility was built in 1964, but before that it was the site of the old Striplin Elementary School. And even before that, in the 1800s, it was the site of the Gadsden Female Institute for young women, later it was renamed the Gadsden Normal School.

Over the years, people have been known to hear and see things that led them to believe that the GPL was haunted.

Initially, people thought the ghost was the founder and first librarian, Lena Martin — sister to Gadsden Times columnist and historian Will I. Martin — however, after a medium from Pascagoula, Mississippi visited the library, it was deter-

mined that the ghost was actually that of Minnie Lay — sister of W.P. Lay, inventor of hydroelectric power and the founder of Alabama Power.

Lay was an educator at the Gadsden Normal School and her classroom would have been located right about where the locked stacks are on the third floor in the present-day library, which happens to be where the ghost of a lady dressed all in black has been heard and seen most often.

Standing on the second floor near the door to the stairwell, a faint sounds of typewriters and laughter can be heard coming from that area.

Most recently, over the past decade, it appears that a new spirit has taken up residence at the GPL. The late librarian, Margaret McGuire.

McGuire worked at the library for many years before she retired and sadly passed away. One night, McGuire mischievously made her identity known by leaving her personal coffee mug in the middle of the floor in the children’s department to be

found by a staff member who knew her before her passing.

On multiple occasions, McGuire has been seen casually walking through the library in the early morning hours before opening, or peeking around the corner of the stairwell on the fourth floor when it served as the reference department.

So, what does all this have to do with the Friends of the GPL hosting a Haunted Book Sale? Well, the Friends of GPL host the sale once each year to honor those who still love the library as much in the afterlife as we do today.

The Friends of the GPL Haunted Book Sale will be open to the public Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The first day of the sale is open to members only for a Preview Sale, with membership available on-site.

Submitted by Carol Wright of GPL.



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LIFESTYLE



Welcome to the Library

Craig Scott

there is a little bit of Bobby’s legacy in that discovery.

His interest in preserving our local history was so important that in 2006 the Library named its local history room in his honor: the Bobby Junkins Alabama Room.

Then, in January 2020, we took another major step. Our genealogy collection was moved from the Main Library to our Alabama City location, creating an entire branch devoted largely to genealogy, family history and local history.

It was only fitting that Bobby’s name went with it.

Today, visitors to 2700 West Meighan Boulevard will find the Hoyt Warsham-Bobby Junkins Alabama City Genealogy Branch

Legacy

of the Gadsden Public Library. I am particularly glad that we were able to honor Bobby during his lifetime. Too often we wait until someone is gone to tell them what they meant to us. Bobby knew how much this Library appreciated him, and he knew that his name would remain connected to an institution that had been such an important part of his life.

But my memories of Bobby are much more personal.

Long after he had been Library Director, state representative and Probate Judge, Bobby remained a frequent visitor to the Library.

And Bobby didn’t necessarily come through the front door.

As a former Library Director—and somebody who was certainly part of the family — Bobby knew the back way in.

Every so often, my office door would open and there would be Bobby.

He would sit down, and we would talk “shop.”

We talked about libraries, Gadsden, what I and my GPL staff members were doing, what we were planning and occasionally what

Bobby thought we ought to be doing.

I valued those conversations more than he probably ever knew.

Bobby was a confidant and a mentor to me. He had spent years sitting in the same Director’s chair that I now occupy, and there aren’t many people who completely understand what comes with that responsibility. Bobby did.

He remained interested in everything happening at the Gadsden Public Library, and I especially enjoyed getting his “thumbs up” when he liked the direction we were taking.

Fortunately, I received that thumbs up quite often.

Bobby believed in libraries. He believed in preserving history. He believed in public service. And he believed in the Gadsden Public Library.

His career took him from the stacks of our Library to the Alabama Legislature and eventually to the Probate Judge’s office, but throughout it all, the Library remained part of who he was.

There will be many deserving tributes to Bobby Junkins in the days ahead. People will

remember the Judge, the legislator, the civic leader and the public servant.

At the Gadsden Public Library, we will remember all of those things, too.

But I also remember my friend coming through the back door, walking into my office, sitting down and asking:

“So, what’s going on at the Library?”

I will miss those conversations.

And I will miss Bobby.

But every day that the doors open at the Genealogy Branch bearing his name, and every time someone discovers another piece of their family’s story within the collection he helped build, Bobby Junkins will still be part of the Gadsden Public Library.

And I think he would be very proud of that.

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

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

Craig Scott is the director for the GPL.

The “I should handle it” myth

“I should be able to handle this myself.” It’s a sentence I hear often as a counselor. Sometimes people say it out loud. More often, it’s the quiet thought that keeps them from asking for help.

They tell themselves other people have it worse. They believe they should be stronger. They think that because they have survived difficult things before, they shouldn’t be struggling now.

But needing help isn’t evidence that you are incapable. It’s evidence that you are human.

Most of us learn the value of independence early. We are praised for being responsible, figuring things out and not depending too much on other people. Those are valuable qualities. The problem comes when independence turns into the belief that needing support is a personal failure.

We rarely apply that standard to other areas of life. If your car starts making a terrible noise, you take it to a mechanic. If your roof

leaks, you call someone who knows how to repair it. If you don’t understand your taxes, you might hire an accountant.

Yet when it comes to our emotional lives, many of us suddenly believe we should already know how to fix everything ourselves.

We expect ourselves to instinctively know how to navigate grief, anxiety, depression, trauma, marriage problems, parenting struggles, difficult family relationships and major life transitions. When we can’t, we may decide something is wrong with us.

Sometimes the problem isn’t that you aren’t strong enough. Sometimes you have simply been carrying too much for too long.

There is also an important difference between surviving something and dealing with it.

Human beings can function under tremendous amounts of stress. We go to work. We take care of our families. We pay the bills. We answer, “I’m fine,” when someone asks how we’re doing.

From the outside, everything may look normal.

Inside, however, we may be exhausted, angry, anxious, disconnected or overwhelmed.

That is where support can matter.

Counseling isn’t about having someone solve your problems for you. A good counselor doesn’t take over your life or tell you what decisions to make. Instead, counseling gives you a place to slow things down, recognize patterns, understand what you are feeling and develop healthier ways of responding.

And counseling isn’t the only form of support. Sometimes we need a trusted friend. Sometimes we need our spouse, our family, our faith community, a support group or a physician. Often, healthy coping involves allowing more than one person to help carry the load.

There is strength in independence.

There is also strength in recognizing



Mindful Moment

Carrie Halladay

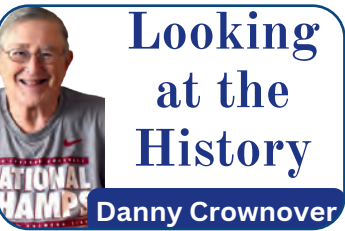
when independence has become isolation.

Maybe the better question isn’t, “Why can’t I handle this myself?”

Maybe it is, “Why have I decided that I have to?”

You were never meant to navigate every difficult season of life alone. Asking for help doesn’t erase your strength. Sometimes, it is one of the ways you use it.

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



Looking at the History

Danny Crownover

1890 courthouse building on 4th and Broad Streets

Old 1890 courthouse cornerstone - many articles found

To make room for the current Etowah County Courthouse on Forrest Avenue, the previous courthouse building on Broad Street was demolished.

The 1890 courthouse was voted to be torn down by county residents earlier in 1946. When the building was demolished, more than 100 articles were found inside its cornerstone, contributed by various citizens of the community.

Among the items were several Confederate bills, a bird’s-eye view of Gadsden contributed by the Gadsden Land & Improvement Company, various coins and business cards, and copies of the local newspapers, The Gadsden Leader and The Attalla Comet.

The cornerstone also contained Pope’s map of the city of Gadsden; a list of the members and officers of the Etowah Ri-

fles; a business card belonging to Dr. George S. Vann with a tooth attached; a contract with Gwin, Hicks & Lane for construction of the courthouse; Civil War relics; and a printer’s imposing rule belonging to Charles E. Meeks.

Other items included a list of members of the Gadsden Board of Trade; a roll of members of the Knights of Honor by S.W. Riddle; a letter to prosperity by John C. Pugh; a photograph of President Grover Cleveland and Mrs. Cleveland by Joshua Turrentine; a prayer book from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter; and the constitution of the Farmers Alliance, along with a sample of jute bagging.

The cornerstone also contained a statement from the First National Bank, a copy of The Birmingham Age-Herald and a photograph of Mack Commins, an African American barber who died in 1945 at age 92.

The cornerstone was officially laid Oct. 25, 1890, with Grand Master W.E. Brown of the Alabama Grand Lodge of Masons conducting the ceremony. Hundreds of citizens from across the county attended.

A large parade preceded the

ceremony, led by the Attalla Silver Cornet Brass Band. Members of the Etowah Rifles, the Board of Trade, the Farmers Alliance and many others followed.

Brown was assisted by James A. Bilbro, Benjamin F. Pope, J.P. McDuffie, W.T. Alexander, J.E. Whaley, M.L. Hicks, the architect, and R.O. Randall.

J.S. Stewart served as marshal of the day, with W.H. Denson, H. Herzberg, E.G. Lafollette, J.H. Disque and J.T. Brooks serving as mounted assistants.

Members of Gadsden Masonic Lodge No. 236 who took part in laying the cornerstone were J.C. Salck, P.H. Sims, H.J. Hallock, T.W. Gilmore, J.H. Letson, S.A. Lane, R.F. Tinsley, B.S. Sizemore, G.W. Vann, Charles Smith, John Flynn, H.L. Foster, W.L. Hendon, Edgar Welsh, J.S. Rogers, J.W. Jeffries, J.W. Randall, A.L. Woodliff, A.D. Simpson, W.S. Lovins, J.M. Bevans, J.T. Barret, G.E. Christopher, L. Zimmerman, M.E. Lane, A. Burns, J.A. Amberson, J.T. Bazemore, J.T. Barret, J.C. Salck, J.B. Richards and H. Mendel.

Contact The Vagabond at dk-crown@bellsouth.net.



1890 courthouse building on 4th and Broad Streets. Submitted by Danny Crownover

Old 1890 courthouse cornerstone

Rooted in one another

I came across a photo this week of two trees growing together. I have seen many trees twisted together or leaning against one another. What stood out in this picture was how one tree was completely missing its bottom half. No roots, no trunk, nothing in contact with the ground. It just hovered in the air, a partial trunk and leafy branches held up by another tree beside it. At first, it looked like a doctored photo, but as I read further, it turned out that it was, in fact, an actual photo of two trees engaged in a process called inosculation. The internet helpfully defined this term for me as “the natural phenomenon where the trunks, branches, or roots of two or more trees grow together and fuse, similar to grafting.”

Intrigued, I looked into this some more. I knew that there were plants that depend on trees for support and nutrients in sometimes symbiotic, sometimes parasitic tradeoffs, and that this is often bad for the trees. In fact, our landscaper has repeatedly had to trim back and pull down English ivy, kudzu and “blaspheme vines.” I know that the gorgeous wisteria I look forward to every spring isn’t necessarily good for the trees it attaches itself to. And recently, I’ve seen articles about English ivy being banned in some areas. In nature and humanity alike, there are relationships that benefit one party but harm another. This is nothing new. However, there are many give-and-take relationships that bene-

fit all involved.

As children, we learn about plants and animals in very basic, black-and-white, good-and-bad, circle-of-life terms. Even beloved Disney cartoons we grew up singing along to teach us about the harsh realities of nature and life. There are predators, and there are prey. There are terrified gazelles and hungry lions. There are scared deer and determined hunters. There are wily snakes and oblivious little boys. The examples go on and on. These stories serve many purposes: They are engaging and capture our imaginations, and they scratch the itch our brains have for solid story structure. There are good guys, bad guys, suspense, loss, lessons learned and a neat resolution. We need these stories to make sense of the unknown and the uncomfortable in the midst of the sheer scariness of life. But what about the stories that don’t fit those molds? What about the apparent pointlessness of the altruistic tree holding up a neighbor and sustaining it just because it is there, someone chopped it off from its root system, and it would die without support?

I’ve written before about how trees can communicate with one another using networks of mycorrhizal fungi, electrical signals and a fungal network called the “wood-wide web,” but inosculation to the extent seen in the photo was new to me. I think it really stood out because of the chapter we universally experienced that demand-

ed many work altruistically, knowing they could experience negative effects. Many needed help but were unable to do anything about it without the care of others.

During this time, our family also experienced coming together to care for my grandmother in her last years, and that was hard but also wonderful in unexpected ways. My sister and I grew closer, and my children helped take care of someone purely out of love, not expecting to receive anything in return. Often, it felt like our family and extended friend-family communicated much like the trees, intuiting needs, sending deliveries and checking on one another. It was a rough chapter for, quite literally, the entire world, but there was an odd comfort in seeing how many people were willing to pull together, too.

I think this is why the tree captured my attention this week. There is so much division around us right now. More than I have ever experienced or witnessed in my life before. It is easy to dehumanize those with different ideas, beliefs and priorities. It is easy to live in a bubble of bias-confirmation and like-mindedness. It is easy to identify those we disagree with based on bumper stickers, tattoos, T-shirts, social media posts and vehicle choices. It is easy to imagine that those cartoons we grow up with have it right in regard to predator vs. prey. It is much easier to see differences instead of similarities. But



Arranging the Pieces

Tabitha Bozeman

even the trees know when nothing else matters besides helping out a neighbor.

The definition of inosculation went on to explain the process: When two trees are in close proximity, they can injure one another, rubbing raw spots, exposing and damaging living tissue. Rather than drawing away and identifying the other as an enemy, the trees cover one another’s injuries, both healing by coming together. One tree might provide the root system for stability and nutrients, while another tree provides a robust leaf canopy. But they aren’t keeping tabs. They are offering what they have, supporting one another, healing and growing together.

How much more beautiful would our lives be if we emulated the trees a little more?

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 tabithabozeaman@gmail.com.

DEVOTIONALS



ROOTED IN THE WORD

Shawn Blackmon

Have you ever had somebody ask you to give something back that already belonged to them?

Maybe they left a dish at your house. Maybe they loaned you something, and you kept it so long that you almost forgot it wasn't yours. Then one day they show up and say, "Hey, can I get my stuff back?"

And your first reaction is, "Your stuff? What stuff?"

The funny thing is, sometimes that's exactly how we are with God.

We say, "My money. My paycheck. My house. My car. My savings."

Then we turn around and ask, "God, how much of my money do You want?"

But maybe we're starting with the wrong question.

Whose money is it anyway?

In 1 Chronicles 29, David is preparing for the building of the temple. David won't be the one to build it; his son Solomon will. But David has prepared resources, he has personally given, the leaders have given and the people have responded generously.

Understand something, though: David isn't fundraising because God is broke.

God doesn't need their money. In fact, David is about to remind them that the God they are giving to is the same God who gave it to them in the first place.

David prays in verse 11, "All that is in heaven and in the earth is Yours."

Before David celebrates what the people have given, he establishes ownership. And if everything comes from God, then I'm not really the owner. I'm the steward.

Walk in grace. Stand in truth. Live blessed.

That changes everything. Stewardship doesn't begin when the offering plate comes around. Stewardship begins when I recognize that it was His before it ever reached my hands.

My ability to work came from God. My opportunities came from God. My resources came from God. The possessions I have ultimately belong to God.

So the question is no longer, "God, how much of my money do You want?"

The better question is, "God, what do You want me to do with what already belongs to You?"

David continues in verse 14, "For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You."

In other words, David is saying, "God, what we're giving You came from You!"

It's like giving your child money to buy you a birthday present. They may hand you the gift, but you know where the money came from.

That's what giving looks like when we understand biblical stewardship.

We aren't doing God a favor. We aren't rescuing God's church. Again, David isn't fundraising because God is broke.

Giving is an act of worship. It is our way of saying, "God, I recognize that You are my Source."

And that word Source is important.

Think about your phone. You can unplug it from the charger and it will continue working for a while. It may look perfectly fine. But eventually, the battery begins to drain because it has been disconnected from its source.

The same can happen to us.

We can become so impressed with what is in our hands that we forget the One who put it there.

Never become so attached to the resource that you forget the Source.

David says in verse 16, "All this abundance

... comes from Your hand and is all Your own."

It came from God. It belongs to God. But God placed some of it in your hands.

And whatever God places in your hands, you become responsible for managing.

That's stewardship.

And stewardship isn't only about what you give on Sunday. It's about what you do with everything God has entrusted to you.

It's how you give. How you spend. How you save. How you plan. How you manage debt. And, yes, sometimes it's about recognizing when you need to stop spending.

Because some of us worship at the Church of Amazon. Some of us worship at the Church of TikTok Shop. Some of us worship at the Church of Walmart.

And some of us have been extremely faithful members of the Church of Waffle House!

But if it all belongs to God, then God cares about what we do with all of it, not just the portion we bring to church.

That's where the difference between ownership and stewardship becomes important.

Ownership asks, "What do I want?"

Stewardship asks, "What does God want?"

Before we talk about budgets, saving, debt or even giving, we have to settle the issue of ownership.

Am I treating what God entrusted to me like I own it, or like I'm responsible for it?

Because you manage something differently when you know it belongs to somebody else.

If somebody loans you their car, you tend to be a little more careful with it. You don't want to scratch it. You don't want to damage it. You want to return it in good condition because you know it isn't yours.

What would happen if we approached our finances the same way?

What if every paycheck reminded us, "God trusted me with this?"

What if every financial decision became an

opportunity to practice stewardship?

That doesn't mean you can never enjoy what God has provided. It means you remember who provided it.

So here's your assignment.

Before you spend it, before you swipe it, before you tap it, before you order it and before you call it "my money," ask one question:

"God, what do You want me to do with what You have entrusted to me?"

Because it came from Him. It belongs to Him. He placed it in your hands.

And now you're responsible for how you steward it.

So, whose money is it anyway?

Maybe the answer to that question can change the way we handle everything else.

Let's pray

Father, thank You for everything You have entrusted to me. Forgive me for the times I have treated Your provision as though it belonged only to me. Help me remember that You are my Source and that everything I have ultimately comes from You. Give me wisdom in how I give, spend, save, plan and manage what You have placed in my hands. Teach me to be generous, disciplined and faithful. May the way I handle my finances become an act of worship that honors You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Walk in grace. Stand in truth. Live blessed.

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

When the teacher gets taught

I am a teacher. I've been a teacher for almost 30 years — longer if you count the years teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. And let's not forget the stuffed-animal scholars on my childhood bed who patiently endured my early lesson plans.

Teaching isn't just what I do; it is a calling. It comes as naturally to me as breathing. I love it. I may not always enjoy everything today's educational profession requires, but I truly can't imagine doing anything else.

Right now, I teach special education online. You know — navigating virtual classrooms with pet cameos and muted microphones. Over the years, I've taught students from age three to twenty-one across public, private, and homeschool settings. Some of my students have had profound disabilities, while others graduated in the top ten percent of their classes. I've had the privilege of teaching athletes, thespians, and artists. I've also been challenged by students who didn't just "buy in" — the ones who asked tough questions and occasionally pushed a few buttons.

Currently, I am enjoying a precious group of students in a local homeschool co-op. It's a volunteer gig that pays my heart in treasures no salary could ever match.

Five students bless me every Tuesday in our World Literature class. We only get 50

minutes a week, but the light in their eyes and the connections they make inspire my teacher's heart for the entire week!

This week, we were learning how to craft a "killer" thesis statement. During our guided practice, we browsed hot topics on a national student discussion platform, which sparked a lively debate on whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be completely banned or not. (Sorry, Gemini!)

Watching their inspired minds come alive was the stuff teacher-dreams are made of. It was so refreshing to hear how informed they were and witness their critical thinking skills firsthand.

But as I listened, alongside facts from solid articles, I caught a trickle of information straight from TikTok reels and unsourced memes — quoted with the kind of unshakeable confidence only a teenager can pull off!

It prompted me to put on my "Mamma Bost" hat and interject. I reiterated the difference between misinformation and disinformation, reminding them to carefully weigh what they consume on social media. As believers, I cautioned them to pray for wisdom and discernment. (Having the freedom to speak THAT Truth in this class is everything.)

I told them — with full conviction — that when we pray according to God's will, He an-

swers every single time. I could feel the fire in my eyes and the power behind those Words as I paraphrased James 1:5 for them.

Then it hit me: Am I doing that?

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (ESV).

James addresses this letter to Jewish Christians scattered across the ancient world, encouraging them in the middle of severe trials — social rejection, financial exploitation, poverty, and community strife.

As a wise shepherd, James doesn't offer empty pity or shame them for their struggles. Instead, he tells them to "consider it pure joy" because of the character adversity produces in them. He then points them to the vital asset every believer need during trying times: Wisdom.

Biblical Wisdom (sophia) isn't just an accumulation of facts — that's knowledge. Wisdom is knowing how to live rightly and make God-honoring decisions under pressure. Recognizing that human nature tends to cave under stress, James urges us to ask God for Wisdom. He emphasizes The Giver's generous nature using the Greek adverb haplōs, which translates to "generously," "sincerely," or "unconditionally." God gives openhanded-



Memoir Musings

Sandra Bost

ly, without shaming us for asking.

God's posture toward believers in James's day is the exact same posture He holds toward us today when we face trials and need direction. He responds with immediate Grace, pouring out Wisdom in abundant measure without holding back.

The condition? We simply must ask in faith, believing He will do it.

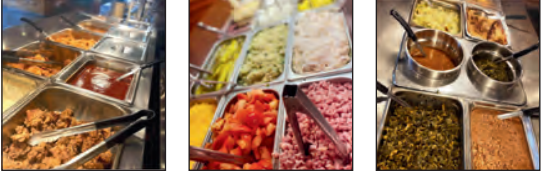
I whole-heartedly believed what I told my students this week. Sometimes, though, it's so much easier to have faith for other people! But the same God who longs to make those five students wise and discerning, is the same God who longs to give me that Wisdom haplōs — openhandedly, wholeheartedly, and without a single reservation.

And Friend, His heart toward you is haplōs. He will hold back nothing that brings you closer to Him.

Count on it, and count it ALL Joy.

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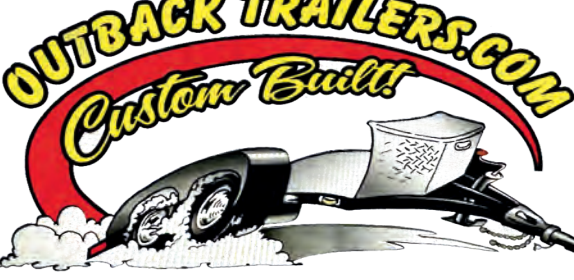


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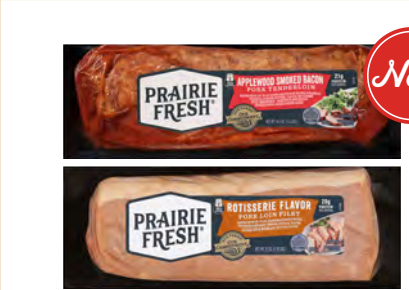
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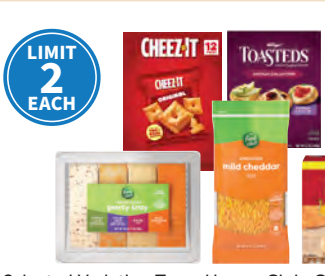
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SPORTS



Glencoe squeezes out win against Southside in Etowah County volleyball tournament

By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

On Saturday, Oct. 3, Etowah County high schools competed against one another in an all-day volleyball tournament at West End High School to determine who would take home the title of reigning county champion this year. Ultimately, Glencoe won the tournament, marking the first time the Yellow Jackets had ever received the county title.

The day started off with a series of intense games, with Sardis sweeping Hokes Bluff and West End sweeping Gaston in the best 2 out of 3 sets.

In the third game, Southside faced off against Sardis in a close match that had the audience riled up. Southside took the win in the first set and managed to put a double-digit lead between the two teams in the second — but Sardis quickly reignited their fire and not only closed the gap



but also reversed it, securing the Lions' win in the second set. By the third set, both teams were hungry for the match win, and no one was certain who would pull ahead until the very end, when Southside scored a series of points and ended the game 15-10.

In the fourth game, Glencoe swept West End, setting up the match-ups in the losing bracket: Sardis vs. Gaston and West End

vs. Hokes Bluff.

In the fifth game, Sardis swept Gaston, pushing them out of the tournament; similarly, in the sixth game, West End swept Hokes Bluff, ending their bid for the title, too.

The two winning teams — Glencoe and Southside — played one another in game 7, with Glencoe sweeping Southside.

In game 8, the remaining losing teams — West End and Sardis — competed in yet another close match against each other, a match which ultimately saw the West End Patriots defeat the Sardis Lions after 3 sets.

In the winning bracket — which consisted of Glencoe, Southside, and West End — Southside swept West End in game 9, the semi-finals, cementing the final and especially competitive matchup as Glencoe vs. Southside.

Southside swept Glencoe in game 10. With the match scores between the

two now being 1-1, officials called for an 11th game to determine the final rankings.

In that game, Glencoe swept Southside — defending champions and winners of 15 of the previous 16 tournaments — in the best of 2 out of 3 sets.

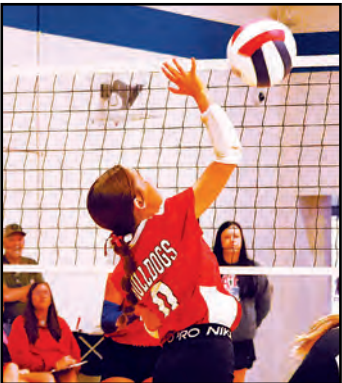
With that, Glencoe won the 2026 Etowah County Volleyball Tournament, and Southside took second place. West End placed third.

The MVP was Katy Talbot of the Glencoe Yellow Jackets. Glencoe's stats were as follows: Mia Talbot had 33 kills, 7 aces, 24 digs and 3 blocks; Katy Talbot had 20 kills and 22 digs; Kaedy Smith had 18 kills; Millies Chambless had 18 kills and 4 blocks; Gracyn Bunt had 7 aces and 29 digs; Avery Barkley had 5 aces and 46 assists; and Kinlee Montgomery had 20 digs and 50 assists.

Photos by Alex Chaney and Caylie Moore

The all-tournament team included:

- Katy Talbot, Glencoe
- Gracyn Bunt, Glencoe
- Malee Ellis, Sardis
- Lilly Ford, Southside
- Makinna Garab, West End
- Marley Hughes, Southside
- Bailey Kitchens, Southside
- Haylen Marbut, Hokes Bluff
- Kinlee Montgomery, Glencoe
- Kennedi Nix, West End
- Collins Reeves, Southside
- Kaedy Smith, Glencoe
- Mia Talbot, Glencoe
- Khloe Walker, Gaston
- Ansley Wallace, Sardis
- DaLeigha Wheeler, West End



Last Week's Scores

College Sports

Volleyball

Oct. 2
Gadsden State lost to Pearl River Community College 25-23, 21-25, 23-25, 25-23 and 12-15.

Gadsden State lost to Jones College 22-25, 23-25 and 24-26.

Oct. 3
Gadsden State lost to Northwest Mississippi Community College 23-25, 20-25 and 17-25.

Gadsden State lost to Meridian Community College 23-25, 20-25 and 17-25.

This Week in Sports

High School Sports

Volleyball

Oct. 10
Glencoe Tournament at Glencoe High School

College Sports

Volleyball

Oct. 12
Gadsden State vs Calhoun Community College

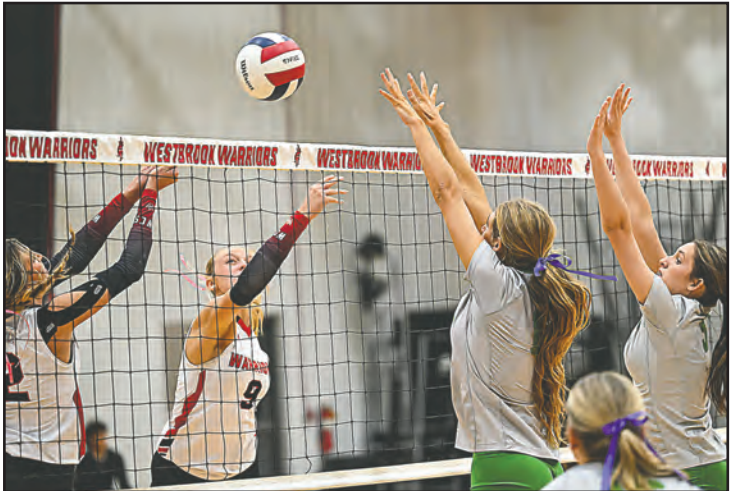
Oct. 14
Gadsden State at Wallace State-Hanceville

SPORTS



Westbrook vs. Faith Christian

Westbrook vs. Faith Christian volleyball match played on Oct. 6. This was a Private A – Area 6 matchup between the second and third place teams in the area. The two teams split the first two sets. Set three went into extended play with Westbrook getting the win 28-26. Faith Christian came back to take the 4th set 25-20 to force the match deciding set number 5. In this set Westbrook dominated and took the win 15-6.



Photos by Alex Chaney

Hokes Bluff vs. Westbrook

Westbrook won the first set 25-15. Hokes Bluff took the second set 25-18. In the tie breaker the teams battled back and forth and took the set into extended play. Westbrook Christian got the victory at 17-15.



Gadsden City Schools celebrate Homecoming with Broad Street parade

By Caylie Moore
Features Editor

At 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2, Gadsden City Schools celebrated the conclusion of their Homecoming week with a parade that stretched along Broad Street. The parade featured students from a variety of schools in the school system, including the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior Homecoming Court members from Gadsden City High School; the marching band from Litchfield Middle School; and even a fifth-grade class from Eura Brown Elementary School. Throwing candy and waving pom-poms, the students were bright smiles as they marched down the road, in spite of the relentless sun and heat, and en-

thused crowds on either side of the street cheered them on as they went past. Children ran to gather candy strewn across the ground, while adults waved back to those part of the procession. Ultimately, however, the high school students stole the show with their creative floats, one of which featured a cartooned model of a dead tiger and the phrase “Hunt the Tigers!” in all capital letters, and another, a giant film reel reminiscent of Hollywood and themed after the Roaring ‘20s. All in all, the parade made for a fun event that kicked off the last First Friday of the year and hyped everyone — students, coaches, teachers and football lovers alike — up for the Homecoming football game.



Photos by Caylie Moore|Messenger



Hokes Bluff’s Homecoming parade delights crowd

By Alex Chaney
Sports Correspondent

Hokes Bluff also held its Homecoming parade on Oct. 2, where students of all ages and all groups — including football, cheer, and Homecoming Court — participated.



Photos by Alex Chaney



SPORTS



Gaston conquers Saks 72-42



Photos by Lindsey Frazier|Messenger

Hokes Bluff defence defeats Holly Pond

By Alex Chaney
Sports Correspondent

Oct. 2 saw an intense football game between the Hokes Bluff Eagles and the Holly Pond Broncos at Hokes Bluff High School. Holly Pond's run game gave Hokes Bluff fits most of Friday night, but Hokes Bluff's defense was able to limit what Holly Pond could put on the scoreboard. Because of this, Hokes Bluff ultimately managed to pull away with a 37-12 win.

In the first quarter, Hokes Bluff got off to a lead with a run by their star running back #2 Brenton Hale, who scored a touchdown with 7:04 left on the clock. After that touchdown, the scoreboard read Hokes Bluff 7 to Holly Pond's 0, and no other points were added throughout the quarter.

Early in the second quarter, Hokes Bluff had a good drive going, but they stalled out in the red zone after Hale went out with an injury. Despite this setback, Hokes Bluff kicker #24 Allen Cox was able to put the ball through the uprights to give the Eagles a 10-0 lead with 10:17 remaining in the second.

Holly Pond answered with a series of good runs, and penalties against Hokes Bluff only aided them. In a

short yardage situation, Holly Pond's #4 Hunter Tolbert powered in and put the Broncos on the scoreboard. The 2-point attempt, however, failed, and the score was left at 10-6.

With Hale out of the game, Hokes Bluff had to rely on senior quarterback Dean Morgan and junior running back Jace Hanks to keep the offense moving. With 4:21 left in the half, Morgan connected with freshman receiver Javin Norman on a long pass, and Norman ran it in for a touchdown. The point after touchdown kick was good, and the score ran up to 17-6.

With the clock at less than a minute remaining, Hokes Bluff quarterback Morgan ran around right end and outran the defense to add a late quarter touchdown. The point after touchdown kick was good yet again, pushing the score to 24-6.

Holly Pond took the ensuing kickoff and added to their score before the half expired. Another 2-point attempt failed, and the half ended with Hoke Bluff 24 to Holly Pond's 12.

In the third quarter, Holly Pond took the second half kickoff, and with their 3 yards and a cloud of dust, offense controlled the ball for nearly a full 10 minutes.

The Broncos were even able to get within the 10-yard line, but the Eagles plugged up the run game. At one point, the Broncos attempted a pass that was intercepted in the endzone by Hokes Bluff's #20 sophomore Bubba Leatherwood. Eventually, the third period ended with no points scored.

In the fourth quarter, Hokes Bluff's quarterback Dean Morgan powered in from short yardage with 9:05 left on the clock. The point after touchdown kick went wide left, leaving the score at Hokes Bluff 30 to Holly Pond's 12.

On Hokes Bluff's kickoff, the kick was short and landed near a player who failed to field the ball, but Hokes Bluff jumped on the ball. This gave an them excellent field position, and on the next play, Morgan found a hole on the right side and ran through the Holly Pond defense, adding a quick score with 8:53 left in the game. The point after touchdown kick was good, bringing Hokes Bluff up to 37 points.

With no other points scored after this play, Hokes Bluff won with a final score 37-12. This win puts Hokes Bluff at 2-2 in region play, with an upcoming trip to Vinemont.



Photos by Alex Chaney

Last Week's Scores

High School Sports

Football

Oct. 2

Gadsden City defeated Grissom 44-21

Glencoe lost to Oneonta 14-31

Southside defeated Springville 50-13

Sardis lost to Good Hope 6-47

Hokes Bluff defeated Holly Pond 35-12

Westbrook defeated Lindsey Lane 50-0

West End lost to Vincent 7-40

Etowah defeated Vinemont 35-12

Gaston defeated Saks 72-42

This Week in Sports

High School Sports

Football

Oct. 9

Gadsden City at Huntsville

Glencoe at Holly Pond

Southside at Pell City

Sardis vs. Cherokee County

Hokes Bluff at Vinemont

Westbrook at Shoals Christian

West End at Wellbourn

Etowah vs. Hanceville

Gaston at Vincent

Coosa vs. Decatur Heritage

Girls Flag Football

Oct. 13

Gadsden City at John Carroll/Smith Station

Oct. 15

Gadsden City vs Hazel Green

SPORTS



In & Around SEC
Cole Frederick

Week five review of SEC football

Saturday's battle between two of the top quarterbacks in the country was lopsided from the opening possession. Alabama quarterback Keelon Russell was sensational for the Tide, and while Mississippi State quarterback Kamario Taylor had moments, it was all Alabama on Saturday afternoon in Starkville. Alabama cruised to a 56-23 victory behind 285 yards and three touchdowns from Russell, and the Tide outgained the Bulldogs 483-302 and turned them over four times. The Crimson Tide improved to 5-0 overall and 3-0 in the SEC, and they return home on Saturday (Oct. 10) to take on Georgia in a pivotal conference showdown.

Auburn Week 5 Review

Another sloppy offensive performance wasted a very solid defensive performance as Auburn fell to Tennessee 24-14 in Knoxville. The Tigers actually outgained the Volunteers 345-323, but they lost the turnover battle 3-2 and had seven more penalties than Tennessee. Byrum Brown threw for 159 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions, and he added 107 yards, one touchdown and a fumble on the ground. Auburn dropped to 3-2 overall and 1-2 in conference play. They have the week off before traveling to Athens to take on Georgia next Saturday (Oct. 17).

Week 5 SEC Rankings

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

Week 6 Previews and Predictions (week 5: 5-2; season: 52-6)

Game of the Week

Georgia at Alabama (-2). The two best programs in the SEC over the last decade have de-veloped one of the most important rivalries in the country. The Bulldogs and Crimson Tide have met nine times since 2018, including twice in the national title game. They split the championship games, and Georgia

won last season's SEC title game. However, Alabama is 7-2 during that stretch, and they haven't lost a regular season matchup against Georgia since 2007. Both teams look like playoff contenders in 2026, and this might not be the last time they play this season. Prediction: Alabama 31, Georgia 27.

Texas A&M at Missouri (-3.5)

The most impressive win in the country last weekend was Missouri's trounc-

ing of previously unbeaten Florida. Jon Sumrall's team entered the matchup as the talk of college football, but the Tigers won 45-17 in a game that was even worse than the final score appeared. Texas A&M was able to right the ship with a win over Arkansas, but it's hard to trust Marcel Reed and the Aggies on the road. Prediction: Missouri 30, Texas A&M 27.

South Carolina at Florida (-13)

After one of the best Sep-

tember's in the country, the brakes have been pumped a little for the Gators. The good news for Jon Sumrall is they return home to take on a South Carolina team with a lame duck coach who might be coaching his last game for the Gamecocks. Shane Beamer's team jumped out to a big lead over Kentucky before ultimately blowing the game in overtime on a successful 2-point conversion by the Wildcats. It could get ugly for the Gamecocks on Saturday, and it wouldn't be surprising if Beamer was relieved of his coaching duties during the ensuing bye week. Prediction: Florida 45, South Carolina 17.

Ole Miss at Vanderbilt (+10)

The Rebels had a week off after being dismantled in Gainesville, and they look to get back on track this weekend in Nashville. Vanderbilt suffered its second consecutive loss as they fell to Georgia, and they return home this Saturday hoping to get star freshman Jared Curtis back in the lineup. Prediction: Ole Miss 27, Vanderbilt 20.

Texas vs. Oklahoma (+8)

While this has been one of the best rivalries in the country historically, three of the last four Red River matchups have been lopsided Texas wins. The Sooners won a thriller in 2023, but the Longhorns won the other three meetings by a

combined 97 points. The two programs are trending in opposite directions this year, and while the Oklahoma defense is good enough to keep them afloat in this game, it's hard to trust John Mateer and the Sooner offense. Prediction: Texas 23, Oklahoma 13.

Tennessee at Arkansas (+13.5)

Josh Heupel kept the Vols' playoff hopes alive by pivoting from freshman quarterback Faizon Brandon and turning to George McIntyre against Auburn, and while McIntyre didn't exactly look like Peyton Manning, he didn't make negative plays, and Tennessee did enough on the ground to slip past Auburn. It's unclear who will start at Arkansas this weekend, but this could be a tricky spot for the Vols if the offense continues to sputter. Prediction: Tennessee 26, Arkansas 17.

LSU at Kentucky (+10).

Will Stein is quickly turning around the Kentucky program, and his Wildcats have another chance to make a big statement as LSU visits Lexington. The Tigers are battling the injury bug on defense, but they still boast one of the top defenses in college football even without Whit Weeks. If Kentucky can keep this close going into the fourth quarter, they will have a chance to pull off the upset. Prediction: LSU 24, Kentucky 17.

 SCHEDULE 2026 SEASON			
WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/SCORE
1	SEPT 5	VS. EAST CAROLINA	W. 48-10
2	SEPT 12	AT KENTUCKY	W 45-17
3	SEPT 19	VS. FLORIDA STATE	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	6:30 P.M. ABC
7	OCT 17	AT TENNESSEE	TBA
8	OCT 24	VS. TEXAS A&M	TBA
9	OCT 31	OFF	
10	NOV 7	AT LSU	TBA
11	NOV 14	AT VANDERBILT	TBA
12	NOV 21	VS. UT-CHATTANOOGA	1:00 PM
13	NOV 28	VS. AUBURN	3:30 PM

 SCHEDULE 2026 SEASON			
WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/SCORE
1	SEPT 5	VS. BAYLOR AT MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM, ATLANTA GA	W. 17-16
2	SEPT 12	VS. SOUTHERN MISS	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	TBA
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



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
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 26-09060AL
www.foreclosure hotline.net

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 suc-

cessors 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 real estate 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 Steven Joseph Lobello, Melinda Lobello, Connie Marie White to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns dated March 9, 2023; said mortgage being recorded on March 14, 2023 as Instrument No. 3554467 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Rocket Mortgage, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2026, Page 3613968 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mort-

gage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on September 23, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

LOTS 4 AND 5 IN BLOCK 2 OF CEDAR HILLS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK "G", PAGE 3, PROBATE OFFICE, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.

Said property is commonly known as 884 Riverside Dr, Gadsden, AL 35901.

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

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

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

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

* 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. Bank-

ruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258, if applicable.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 26-08782AL
www.foreclosure hotline.net
The Messenger
08/21/2026,08/28/2026,09/04/2026,10/09/2026

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until October 23, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.

October 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Linda Diane Bearden was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/10/2026 to the Estate of Jack D. Bearden, a/k/a Jack Donald Bearden, 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

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Perry Anderson was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/06/2026 over the Estate of Suzan Anderson, 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

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Judy Calvert and Diana Pate was/were appointed Co-Personal Representative(s) on 08/20/2026 to the Estate of Ruth Coffey, 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

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Mark Anthony Bishop, Sr. was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/10/2026 over the Estate of Daisy Washington Bishop, 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

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Crimson Sheree Bain was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/03/2026 over the Estate of Deborah Ann Burgess, 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

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Michael Shawn Naylor was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/01/2026 over the Estate of Travis Lavonne Naylor,

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

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Jordan Alford was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/05/2026 over the Estate of Shirley Joan Hill, deceased, Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama notifies all persons that claims not filed within six months will be barred.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Rodrick Clark Boler, II and Leslie Paige Boler Jones was/were appointed Co-Personal Representative(s) on 08/07/2026 to the Estate of Tyrn Charlton Boler, 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

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

John A. Gray was/were appointe Personal Representative(s) on 07/16/2026 to the Estate of Billy Ross Gray, 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

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE CLAIMS

Mai Xuan Martinez was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 08/03/2026 to the Estate of Bruce Filmore Witherspoon, 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

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

FILE 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 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

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 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

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: DAVID MITCHELL, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED
Case #: 2026-569

TO: David Keith Mitchell, Jr., Katherine Mitchell and any unknown family, whose whereabouts are unknown

Please take notice that a PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP & CONSERVATORSHIP of the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 27 day of OCTOBER, 2026 2026 at 1:00 p.m. was appointed a day and time for hearing on said Petition, thereof at which time you may appear and support and/or contest the Petition, if you so choose. DONE THIS THE 23RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

Scott Hassell
Judge of Probate

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: SHARRON BONDS, INCAPACITATED
Case #: 2024-373

TO: Kristin Fox and any unknown family, whose whereabouts are unknown

Please take notice that a PETITION TO REMOVE & REPLACE GUARDIAN AND/OR CONSERVATOR of the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 27TH day of OCTOBER 2026 at 2:00 p.m. was appointed a day and time for hearing on said Petition, thereof at which time you may appear and support and/or contest the Petition, if you so choose. DONE THIS THE 23RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

Scott Hassell
Judge of Probate

September 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

NOTICE OF HEARING

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MARTHA LANE WAGNON, DECEASED.

Case No.: S-9318

TO: PATRICIA ANN BOOKER, TERRY KENNETH LEAGUE, KYLE MATHEW LEAGUE, WILLIAM HOUSTON LO-THRIDGE, where-abouts unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in this Court a Petition for Final Settlement in the Estate of Martha Lane Wagnon, deceased. You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 18th day of November, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the said Petition for Final Settlement in the Estate of Martha Lane Wagnon, deceased, should not be granted.

DONE THIS THE 23rd DAY OF September 2026.

Soctt W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

September 25, October2 and 9, 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 ESTATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBIN ELIZABETH EDWARDS, DECEASED

CASE NO: 2026-00599

A Petition for Summary Distribution of the Estate of ROBIN ELIZABETH EDWARDS, Deceased, having been submitted to the Honorable Scott W. Hassell, Judge of Probate, by Petitioner, Timothy Edwards on the 4th day of September, 2026; Notice is hereby given that 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 the 7th day of October 2026

Scott W. Hassell
JUDGE OF PROBATE

October 9, 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

NOTICE OF COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM AND TO

QUIET TITLE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY ALABAMA

CV-2026-900135

DONALD BERKEY and JUANITA BERKEY, PLAINTIFFS, v. WILLIAM TAYLOR, CITY OF GADSDEN, STATE OF ALABAMA, TYLER LEE HUGHES and those fictitious defendants whose identities and whereabouts are unknown, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the lands described herein DEFENDANTS.

The Defendant, William Taylor, whose whereabouts are unknown, and any other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the lands described below, must answer Plaintiffs' Complaint filed in the above referenced court and case number within thirty (30) days of the completion of the publication or thereafter a judgment of default may be rendered against you in the above-styled case.

The subject property is described as follows: Lot 6, Block 2 of the Goodwater Heights Addition as recorded in Plat Book B, Page 279 as recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Etowah County, Alabama. The address of the subject property is 2220 Clayton Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35904. The PIN for the subject property is 18928.

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

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

September 18, 25, October 2 and 9, 2026

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# 1C4SDJG-J6LC224054 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: 1GKS2CKJ-6FR289551

DEFENDANTS In Re: Demetrie De-shaun 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 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, 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 and firearms. 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 Mercedes C250 VIN # WDDGJ4HB-8CF926954 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 ENFORCEMENT 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 seeking 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 & Victoria 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

TO: Unknown father Address unknown

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 Jackquiline 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

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that GKL Companies, Inc., Contractor, has completed the Contract for Renovation of Re-roofing of Rainbow Middle School Cafeteria located at 454 Lumly Road Rainbow City, AL 35906 for the State of Alabama and County of Etowah, Owners, and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify B. Criag Lipscomb - Architect, LLC, 436 Chestnut Street, Gadsden AL 35906
GKL Companies, Inc. 2323 East Greenview Avenue Rainbow City, AL 35906

September 25, October 2, and 9, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

The following storage units will be auctioned on October 14, 2026 beginning at 10:00 A.M. on the business premises of Southtowne Mini Warehouses, Southtowne is located at 199 Woodland Drive, off of Steele Station Road in Rainbow City, AL. 356906.

Jennifer Drummond
Unit 538

Jacqueline Looney
Unit 326

Tabatha Mobuary
Unit 421

Dana Bradley
Unit 1-20

Kodjovi Missika
Unit 391

Lisa Tuck
Unit 184

Deborah Walker
Unit 408

Lisa Tuck
Unit 533

Stacy Kelly
Unit 559

Sheryl Post
Unit 617

Brett Matthews
Unit 793

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

Lanalda Woods
Unit 83-14

David Partiridge
Unit 615

Jacob Cornelious
Unit 717

Marlana Pruitt
Unit 427

Charles Stanley
Unit 595

Annete Barge
Unit 13-23

Brandon Garrard
Unit 162

Sonya Atchison
Unit 361

Tammy Parker
Unit 482

Adam Stinson
Unit 548

Joe Gielarowski
Unit 577

Phillip McGuire
Unit 660

Ayden Rossenberger
Unit 838

Katie Baracomb
Unit 52-17

Justin Cox
Unit 63-767

Carson Riddlespur
Unit M2

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

October 2 and 9, 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

NOTICE OF VEHICLE POSSESSION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will proceed to take possession of the following described abandoned vehicle(s) on November 6, 2026.

2006 Yamaha Road Star Base VIN: JYAVP17E26A015896
UNI AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, LLC
2501 3rd Street SW
Attalla AL. 35954
256-538-6600

October 2 and 9, 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 November 6, 2026.

2005 Yamaha Majesty 400 VIN: JYASH03Y05A001469

UNI AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, LLC
2501 3rd Street SW
Attalla AL. 35954
256-538-6600

October 2 and 9, 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 11/07/2026 at 8 a.m.

2000 Ford Excursion XLT VIN: 1MNU40L1Y-ED00166

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

October 2 and 9, 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 11/17/2026.

2003 MINI Cooper (Red) VIN: WM-WRE33433TD59760

UNI AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, LLC
2501 3rd Street SW
Attalla AL. 35954
256-538-6600

October 2 and 9, 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

PUBLIC NEWS RELEASE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM PUBLIC NEW RELEASE FOR NON-PRICING PROGRAMS

Noccalula Academy, LLC. announces the sponsorship of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Child and Adult Care Food Program

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

Program Information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-260 (Voice) and (TTY) or contact USFA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or 2. Fax: (202)690-7442; or 3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The enclosed "non discrimination" language herein was added pursuant to the May 5, 2022, USDA memorandum. However, although included as currently required for audit compliance by the USDA, the State of Alabama objects to its inclusion, applicability, and the application of this language due to currently pending legal challenges in the matter of The State of Tennessee, et al. v. USDA, Case No. 3-22-cv-00257, and may be

subject to change or removal.

Name of Center(s) or Facility
Noccalula Academy, LLC,
1223 Noccalula Road
Gadsden, AL. 35904
256-442-4960

October 2 and 9, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Attalla Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Attalla City Hall located at 612 4th Street NW, Attalla, AL 35954. The following items will be considered:

A variance requested and filed by Jason Co-field to build a house on the lot located at 638 Dewey Avenue NW, Attalla, AL 35954. The lot is zoned R-2 (Two-Family Residential). The Lot dimensions are smaller than the zoning requirements. The request is a variance on the lot size.

A variance requested and filed by Carla D. Green to reduce the setback requirement on the property located at 313 Hughes Avenue, Attalla, AL 35954. The property is zoned R-1 (Single-Family Residential). The owner is requesting that the setback be reduced to improve a metal building that is currently existing outside the setback requirement.

A variance requested and filed by Brailen Ball to allow a Two-Family Dwelling on the property located at 121 5th Avenue NW, Avenue, Attalla, AL 35954. The property is zoned B-1 (Neigh-borhood Business).

Mandy Cash, City Clerk
October 2 and 9, 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 confor-

mity 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 gover-

nor-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 elec-

tion 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

**ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**
P.O. BOX 301463 (ZIP
36130-1463)
1400 COLISEUM
BOULEVARD (ZIP
36110-2400)
MONTGOMERY,
ALABAMA
(334) 271-7700

CATEGORICAL EX-
CLUSION FROM EN-
VIRONMENTAL RE-
VIEW
ADEM Fund Code 203
SRF Project No.
FS010497-01

Etowah County
The Alabama Depart-
ment of Environmental
Management has made
financial assistance
available to the North-
east Etowah Water Co-
op. In accordance with
State and Federal regu-
lations that govern the
program, the Alabama

Department of Environ-
mental Management
has conducted a review
to assess the potential
impacts upon the envi-
ronment that may result
from implementation of
this project.

The Northeast Etowah
Water Co-op proposes to
replace an obsolete
water main with an es-
timated total project
cost of \$999,313.00.
The project consists of
the replacement of the
failing and functionally
obsolete 3" CL 160
PVC water main with a
new 6" CL 200 PVC wa-
ter main approximately
11,600 linear feet with
potable water service
reconnections, new fire
hydrants, and connec-
tions to existing mains.

The Alabama Depart-
ment of Environmen-
tal Management has
determined that the
project qualifies for a
Categorical Exclusion
(CE) from further envi-
ronmental study under

the guidelines specified
by the State Environ-
mental Review Process
(SERP), which specif-
ically include actions
intended solely for mi-
nor rehabilitation, func-
tional replacement, or
ancillary facilities adja-
cent or appurtenant to
existing facilities. How-
ever, this decision may
be reconsidered if sig-
nificant adverse infor-
mation concerning the
potential environmental
impacts of the project is
discovered.

Comments relative to
this project should be
submitted in writing to
Sitthapong (Vince)
Limpaphanon, SRF
Branch, Permits &
Services Division, Al-
abama Department of
Environmental Man-
agement, P.O. Box
301463, Montgomery,
Alabama 36130, no
later than 30 days after
the date of this notice.
The Alabama Depart-
ment of Environmental
Management will not

take formal action to
proceed with the proj-
ect without carefully
evaluating any public
comments opposing
the project.

Notice is hereby given
this 13th day of Octo-
ber, 2026, by authori-
zation of the Alabama
Department of Environ-
mental Management.

Edward F. Poolos, Di-
rector

**Nondiscrimination
Statement:** The De-
partment does not dis-
criminate on the basis
of race, color, national
origin, sex, religion,
age or disability in the
administration of its
programs.

October 9, 2026

**LEGAL
ZONING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given
that on Thursday, Octo-
ber 29 at 8:30 a.m., the
Board of Adjustment of

the City of Gadsden will
hold a public hearing in
the City Council Cham-
ber, First Floor, at City
Hall, 90 Broad Street,
Gadsden, Alabama to
give all persons who
desire an opportunity to
be heard in opposition
to or in favor of the fol-
lowing request:

"A Request for a Spe-
cial Exception to op-
erate a Child Daycare
Facility on the follow-
ing de-scribed prop-
erty located in a TR,
Traditional Residential
Zoned District in Dis-
trict 3.

Commence at the
southwest corner of
Lot 4, Block 1 of El-
liott Probate Office,
No. 7 as recorded in
Plat Book B, Page 23,
Etowah County also
and run northerly along
the westerly line of Lot
4, distance being of the
80.50 easterly feet right
of way line of Pipe Shop
Alley a to the point
of point of beginning.

From said point along
of beginning the con-
tinue along the previ-
ously described course
and thence westerly
line of Lot 5, 6 and 7
a distance of 87.78
feet; distance deflect
90 degrees 03 minutes
13 seconds right and
run also being of the
189.16 westerly feet to
a point on the easterly
line of Lot 11, thence
deflect right of way line
of North 9th Street;
southerly 92 degrees
00 minutes 47 seconds
right and run westerly
along the easterly line
of Lots 11 and 12; also
being the right of way
line of North 9th Street
a distance of 87.66
feet; thence deflect 87
degrees 56 minutes 00
seconds right and run
a distance of 186.00
feet to a point on the
westerly line of Lot 5
and of Lots the point of
beginning. Said parcel
pa being Lot 6 and por-
tions 5, 7, 10, 11 and
12 and a portion of that
10 foot alley annulled

in Misc. Book Y, Page
441, all in Block 1, El-
liott Addition No. 7, as
recorded in Plat Book
B, Page 23, Etowah
County Probate Office,
being subject to an
easement to Alabama
Power Company for
an existing power line
along the westerly side
of the containing prop-
erty, lying and being
in Gadsden, Etowah
County, Alabama, and
0.38 acre, more or less.
(500 N 9th Street).

October 9 and 23, 2026

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