# Messenger

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# Local veterans working to build resource center, housing community for women veterans and their families

**By Lindsey Frazier**
**News Editor**




After the closure of the Victory Center at Jacksonville State, four women veterans made it their mission to establish a regional resource center for veterans in Etowah County, with a long-term vision of creating a community where women veterans and their children can access housing and multiple support services in one location.

In May 2026, after a year and five months of operation, the Victory Center at Jacksonville State University lost its grant funding. The college made the decision to close the center, which had provided services to veterans across 15 counties.

“We are talking 53,000 that we know of with no support whatsoever,” Dr. Shirley E. Johnson said.

So, before the envisioned residential community can become a reality, the organization decided to put all its focus on establishing its first major project: a regional veterans resource center.

The proposed center would serve veterans of all genders and, where appropriate, their families. Organizers hope it will provide a centralized location where veterans can learn about available benefits, connect with resources and receive assistance navigating the systems designed to help them.

The women are working with Three Notch Engineering to develop plans for the resource center. They are also considering a modular building as a way to begin providing services sooner while working toward a more permanent facility.

They hope to begin construction in early 2027, with the goal of opening around April or May.

The resource center is also expected to serve as a starting point for workforce development initiatives. Organizers are exploring a solar energy project that could include training opportunities in electrical work and other related fields.

Johnson has donated 18 acres for the proposed development, designating four acres for services and the remaining 14 acres for housing.

As the founders researched the needs of the veteran community, they became particularly interested in the challenges facing women veterans, whom they described as an underserved and often overlooked population.

"We found out that the women veterans are the fastest-growing veteran population and the most underserved," Johnson said. “We went together to a conference in D.C. about homelessness. We asked some of the organizations… “what about the females?” “Oh, we don’t do females. They’re too much trouble.” They were serious.”

This is why the foundation

**Veterans - Page A3**




# Davis awarded Legionnaire of the Year



# Etowah High School hosts Veterans Day program, reception in honor of veteran alumni

**By Caylie Moore**
**Features Editor**

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, Etowah High School held its Veterans Day program, which was planned out by teacher Tammy Bean and the Etowah High School history department. Several dozen alumni — upwards of 50 — attended the special program, which centered the school’s very own veterans, honoring them one by one as they stood for their names and gave speeches.

The program even spotlighted current students who had already made a commitment to serve their country after they graduate, emphasizing the connection between the patriotic past and the patriotic present.

A reception was held after the program at the Museum of Attalla and featured light snacks and a cake thanking the veterans for their service.



SCAN ME

## INSIDE THIS EDITION



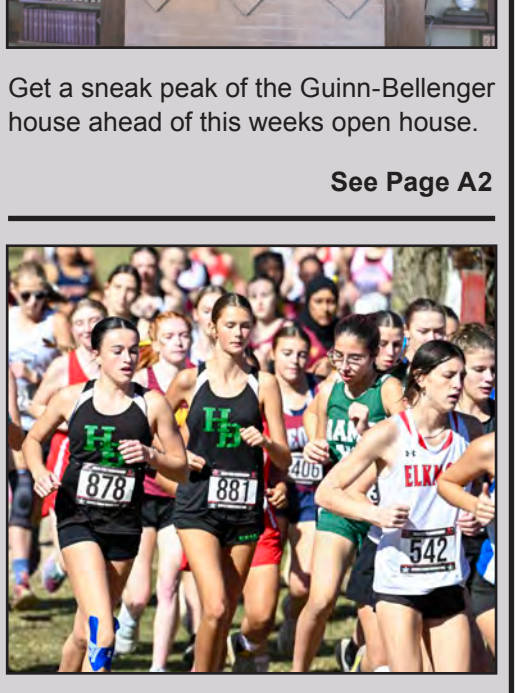
Jesse Battles wins State Senate for District 10.

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Get a sneak peak of the Guinn-Bellenger house ahead of this weeks open house.

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Photos and stats from the 71st AHSAA Cross Country Championship.

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## In & Around SEC

Catch up on SEC football with Cole Fredricks.

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Little Caesars

HOT-N-READY PIZZA



# NEWS

# Breast cancer survivor teaches others how to advocate for themselves

**By Caylie Moore**
**Features Editor**

As a longtime clinical pharmacist and a survivor of stage IV breast cancer, Jenester Crocton knows that navigating the healthcare system in the United States alone is difficult at best and overwhelming more often than not — and that's exactly why she founded Voice and Value Health Advocacy Foundation.

"I started Voice and Value because I've been on both sides of this journey — as a pharmacist and as a metastatic breast cancer survivor. No one should have to face cancer or rare diseases alone," Crocton stated in a sit-down interview with Features Editor Caylie Moore.

Since Feb. 2026, Crocton has done a lot to ensure that anyone who knows of her and what she does leaves with the ability to advocate for themselves and their health.

Through monthly Lunch and Learns (which cover healthcare topics like managing complex regimens over a meal) and free newsletters (which include interviews with other cancer and rare disease survivors, as well as resources for those in need of help), Crocton has been able to guide patients through the complexities of the healthcare system and shine a light on healthcare disparities research.

The end goal, she says, is to empower individuals with cancers and rare diseases and, ultimately, allow them to advocate for themselves.

However, Crocton also emphasized that the resources Voice and Value provide are not only for patients — but the people who care for them, too.

"Everything I do is not only centered around the patient," Crocton cautioned, "but also their families." To her, it's a natural segue; the family puts their all into helping the patient through their journeys to wellness, and oftentimes, they either fail to notice or simply do not possess the means to meet their own needs.

In her discussion with Moore, Crocton explained that United Bikers for Santa was one of the events that her foundation used to address all of these concerns. A self-described community motorcycle ride and toy drive, the event benefits children with pediatric cancer or rare diseases, as well as their siblings and their parents. The children of the affected families get toys and related Christmas gifts; meanwhile, the parents get gas and grocery cards to help them cover the cost of their basic necessities — things that get pushed to the wayside when medical costs start to add up.

This toy drive will take place on Dec. 12, 2026. For more information about the drive, contact Crocton through email at info@voiceandvaluehealthfoundation.org; by phone at (256) 300-4968; or visit voiceandvaluehealthfoundation.org.

Voice and Value hosts Lunch and Learns every month, and different topics are covered in each class. On the first Tuesday of the month, they are held at Gadsden Public Library at 1:30 p.m; seating at this session is limited to 30 seats. On the first Thursday, they are held at Rainbow City Public Library at 12 p.m.; seating here is limited to 15 seats. For December — which is when the next class will be held — the session's topic will be "navigating Etowah County healthcare and resources." Pre-registration is required at least five days before the session is scheduled to take place.

Additionally, Voice and Value will host a Cruise for Cause from April 12 through April 16, 2027, with the help of Wonders of the Caribbean. For more information or to book a spot on the cruise, call (434) 429-2908.

# Historic Gadsden home opens doors Sunday for Bellenger Class Reunion

A historic Gadsden home will open its doors to the community Sunday, Nov. 15, for a special open house honoring Carolyn King Gunn Bellenger, a longtime Gadsden High School English teacher.

The event, called the Bellenger Class Reunion, is intended to give former students who always wondered what Mrs. Bellenger's home looked like an opportunity to see it for themselves. The open house is also open to the general public.

Visitors can tour the home, enjoy refreshments and hear stories about the house and the woman who called it home for nearly 90 years. Admission is free, and the event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Built in 1886 by local merchant Edward Tracy Hollingsworth, the home was sold in 1901 to Dr. Charles Logan Gunn. His daughter, Carolyn, was born there that same year and spent most of her life in the house.

She married William Clinton Bellenger Jr. in 1925, but he died just nine months later following complications from an appendectomy. She never remarried and continued living in the home until her death in 1990.

Bellenger left the home and its contents to the City of Gadsden in her will, with instructions that it be used as a museum or cultural center. The city maintained the property for several years before selling it to its current owners in early 2023.

The current owners have worked to restore the historic property while preserving much of its original character. The home is listed on the Alabama and National Registers of Historic Places, requiring careful attention to its historic integrity.

Much of the original woodwork, fireplaces, tiles, windows and stained glass remains. The owners even researched old photographs and scraped layers of exterior paint to determine the home's original colors, believed to be yellow, green and white with maroon accents.

Some of the home's original furnishings and Bellenger's personal belongings have also been returned, including books containing her handwritten notes.

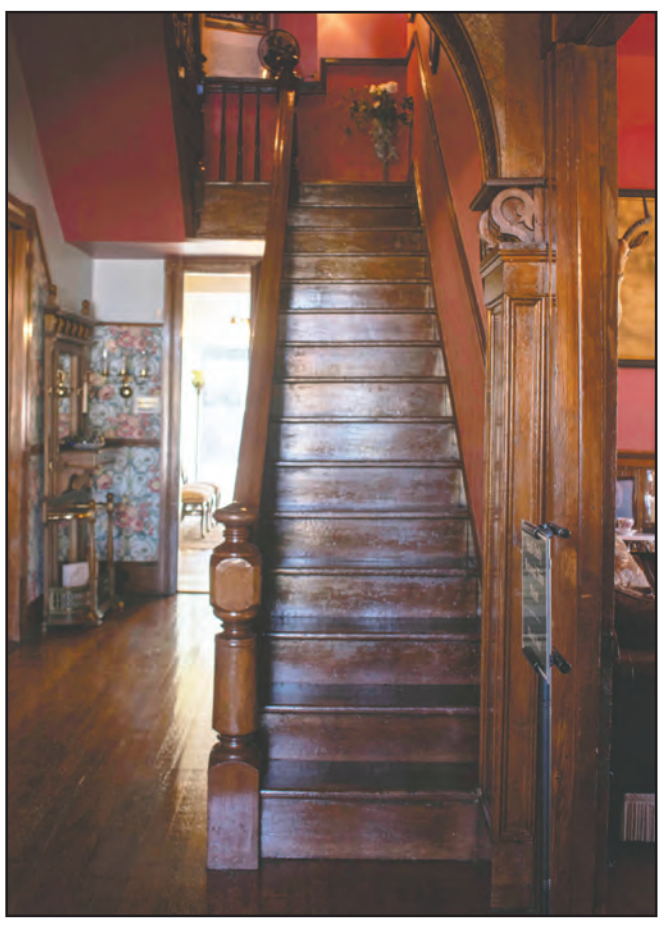
The owners said they hope opening the home to the public will help fulfill Bellenger's wish for the property to serve as a place for the community to gather and experience local history.

The home is also available for private events, including weddings, receptions, showers and holiday gatherings.













Photos by Lindsey Frazier|The Messenger

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# NEWS

## Contract awarded for new ‘Little Bridge’ over Coosa River

A contract has been awarded for the replacement of the Gilbert’s Ferry Bridge, commonly known as the “Little Bridge,” which carries northbound traffic on Alabama 77 over the Coosa River between Southside and Rainbow City.

Transportation Director John Cooper awarded the contract to Scott Bridge Company of Opelika following approval by Gov. Kay Ivey last week. Ivey announced the award Monday.

The project will replace the aging bridge with a new two-lane structure designed to improve traffic flow along the heavily traveled corridor.

“For almost 90 years, the Gilbert’s Ferry Bridge has carried increasing traffic volume across the Coosa River between Southside and Rainbow City,” Ivey said. “Even after the addition of the larger southbound bridge, congestion remains a problem for northbound traffic on the older bridge.”

The existing truss bridge was constructed in 1939 and originally carried traffic in both directions. Following construction of a larger southbound bridge in 1979, the older structure became the northbound bridge.

Contract and project details

The Alabama Department of Transportation opened bids for the project Sept. 25. Scott Bridge Company submitted the lowest of four bids at $22,065,595. The bids ranged up to nearly $35 million.

The project will remove the existing 87-year-old bridge and replace it with a 910-foot-long structure that will stand approximately 30 feet above the Coosa River.

The new bridge will be 36 feet wide, featuring two 12-foot travel lanes and 6-foot shoulders on each side. The existing bridge is 20 feet wide, 868 feet long and stands approximately 10 feet above the river.

ALDOT anticipates construction will begin in early 2027, with completion expected by the end of 2029.

The project is funded through a combination of state and federal funding, including a $3 million appropriation.

State Rep. Craig Lipscomb said he has worked for years to secure funding for the replacement.

“Eight years ago, I promised to find a way to replace the aging SR-77 ‘Southside’ bridge, which had become a safety concern and a major obstacle to traffic and economic growth,” Lipscomb said. “I never wavered in that commitment, and I’m proud to have worked alongside Governor Kay Ivey to make this long-overdue project a reality.”




Photo courtesy of ALDot News

ALDOT will replace the bridge on the same alignment as the old bridge.

**Intersection improvements**

The project also includes changes to intersections near the bridge.

At the north end, where SR-77 meets Lakeshore Drive and Whorton Bend Road, the project will include a new traffic signal and turn lanes.

ALDOT initially proposed a Restricted Crossing U-turn (RCUT) intersection during its public involvement process. However, after further evaluation, engineers determined that a traffic signal is warranted and that projected traffic volumes would make one necessary in the near future.

South of the bridge, the traffic signal at Fowler’s Ferry Road will be removed, along with the crossover between the northbound and southbound roadways.

Traffic impacts during construction

For most of the construction period, northbound traffic will be diverted onto the existing southbound bridge. The southbound bridge will carry one lane of traffic in each direction.

## Gadsden Rotary Club donates $16,000 to E2 Program

The Gadsden Rotary Club donated $16,000 to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama's E2 Program following its annual Little Black Dress Fundraiser held Sept. 17.

The donation was presented during the club's Oct. 1 meeting. The E2 Program, funded by the Stringfellow Health Fund, takes a two-generation approach to breaking the cycle of poverty by helping local parents pursue education and career training through Gadsden State Community College while providing direct job placement support.

"Investing in our families is the most powerful way to build a stronger community. The Gadsden Rotary Club is proud to support the E2 Program, empowering local parents with the education and career opportunities needed to create lasting financial stability for the next generation," said Jonathan Roland, the club's president.

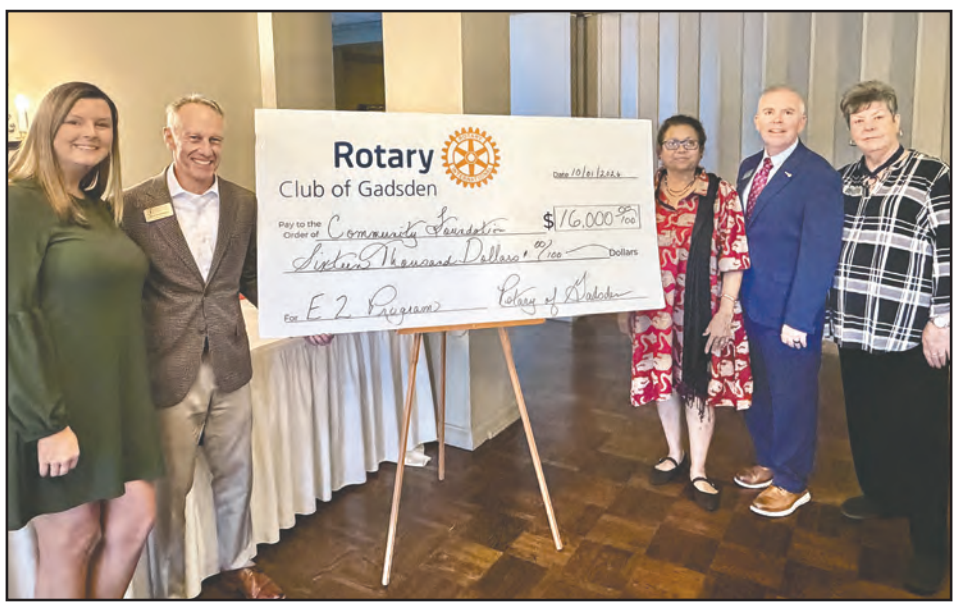
The fundraiser sold out and drew a record turnout, with proceeds designated to support local students and schools.

"Our members are honored to support this program, which has proven to make a difference in creating brighter futures for the next generation."

The club thanked those who attended and contributed to the fundraiser, as well as the Rotarians who organized the event. The donation will help support the E2 Program's efforts to provide local families with resources and opportunities.

The Gadsden Rotary Club is part of Rotary District 6860 and Rotary International, a global service organization focused on community service, integrity and goodwill under the motto "Service Above Self."

The club plans to continue the annual fundraiser tradition, with the date for the 2027 event to be announced.




Submitted photo

## Veterans

- From A1

is so important, according to Dr. Beth A. Vivaldi, vice president of housing.

“Too many organizations cannot figure out the issues for women,” Vivaldi said. “We’re women. We know.”

“We know,” Johnson added.

“We know the issues,” Vivaldi said. “We know before they walk in the door. We know what they need… Certainly, our focus is on them is totally different from any other veteran organization that is run by the government.”

Vivaldi helped develop the name Sonaga, which the group said represents coming together and gathering as a community. The founders also wanted the organization to have a Christian foundation.

The foundation's leadership team also includes Ritter who is the vice president of services, and Kamarie N. Cunningham, director of information and communications technology.

The planned program would provide transitional housing for one to two years, giving residents time to regain stability and work toward independence.

Organizers envision offering child care, workforce development, entrepreneurship opportunities and equine-assisted therapy, among other services. They also want to establish a business incubator to help residents develop business plans, explore funding opportunities and pursue entrepreneurship.

"We are bringing up a business incubator," Vivaldi said. "The business incubator is to teach them how to do a business plan, how to bring a business up, entrepreneurship."

The group hopes the project could eventually help generate income to support the center's operations while creating employment opportunities for veterans and other members of the community.

Although the organization is still in its development stages, its founders said they have been accumulating equipment and working to establish relationships with other organizations that can help move the projects forward.

They are now seeking community partnerships, particularly with veteran-owned businesses, local employers and organizations that can help connect veterans with services. Their hope is to build relationships with veterans organizations throughout the region to spread awareness of available benefits and resources.

The founders emphasized that they are not asking businesses to make an immediate financial commitment but would welcome conversations about collaboration and potential ways to help.

"There's no centralized resources for anything out there," one organizer said. "A lot of veterans don't even know what's available to them."

The group wants the resource center to help veterans identify the assistance they need, even when those services are not offered directly through the organization.

"If our resource center does not have what they need, we're going to be able to tell them where they can go," Vivaldi said. "We're not sending them home."

For the founders, the ultimate goal is to create a place where veterans feel supported and have the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

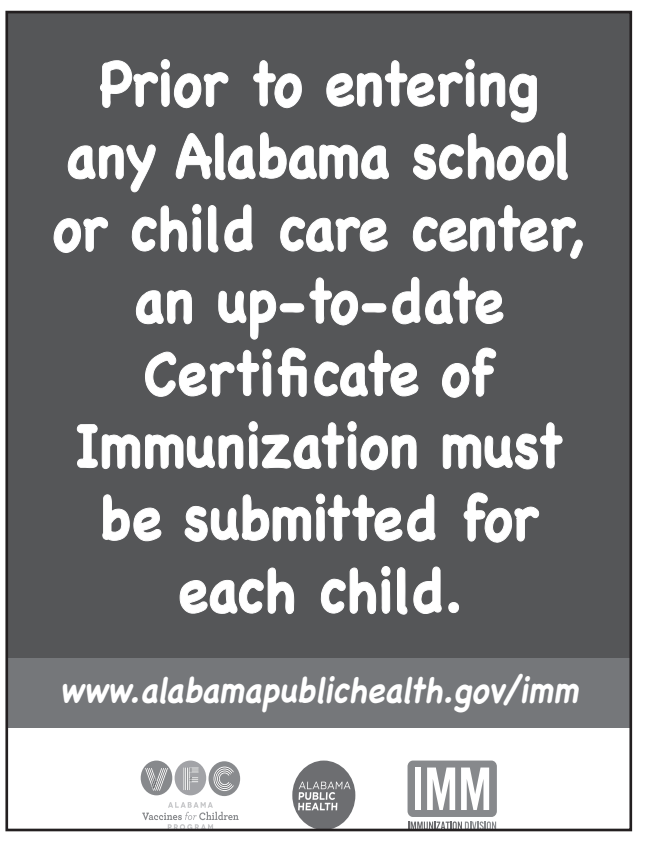
They hope Sonaga Village will eventually welcome women veterans from beyond Alabama, offering a place to establish a new beginning while building connections with others who understand their experiences.

In the meantime, organizers are asking the community to learn more about the initiative, share its mission and consider opportunities to become involved as the projects develop.









NEWS

# Woman's Club to host 63rd Holiday Tour of Homes

The Woman's Club of Gadsden will host its 63rd annual Holiday Tour of Homes on Sunday, Dec. 6, featuring two homes, two loft apartments and the historic Woman's Club clubhouse at 862 Chestnut St.

The annual event has showcased festively decorated homes for more than six decades and has previously been featured in Alabama Magazine.

Advance tickets are $15 and may be purchased online at www.thewomansclubofgadsden.com or at Alabama Gift Company, Johnson's Giant Foods, Family Savings Credit Union, Peppermint Pony, 1971 Clothing or from a club member. Tickets also will be available for $20 on the day of the event at any tour location.

The tour runs from 1 to 5 p.m., and participants may begin at any of the featured locations. Tickets list all tour stops and must be presented at each location. Light refreshments will be served at the Woman's Club.

Visitors touring the homes are asked to wear flat shoes, as heels will not be permitted inside.

Proceeds benefit the Woman's Club scholarship fund and the preservation of its historic clubhouse on Chestnut Street.

Woman's Club President Kathy Milam said the club appreciates the homeowners, sponsors and volunteers who make the annual event possible.

"The Tour of Homes time-honored holiday tradition will not disappoint our loyal attendees this year," Milam said.

Event Chair Amy Clough encouraged residents to attend and support the club's mission.

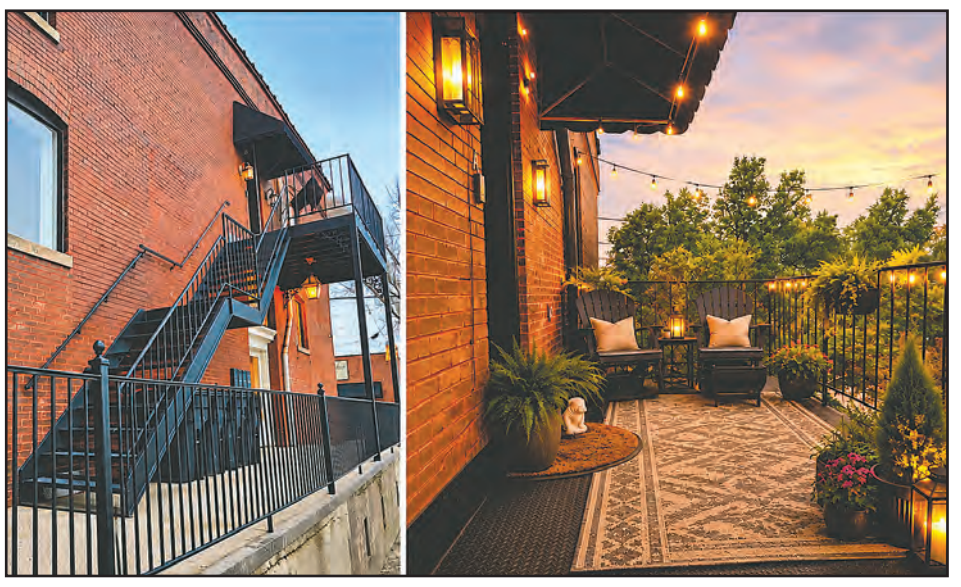
"This event will be one you will not want to miss; your support is paramount to the success of our mission and scholarship program," Clough said.

The Woman's Club also recognized its event sponsors, including Hampton Inn, platinum plus sponsor; Moonrise Farms, platinum sponsor; Family Savings Credit Union, gold sponsor; Marge Blaurock and Valerie Pugliese, silver sponsors; and Alabama Gift Company, Alfa Insurance Arthur Ellen Agency, Exchange Bank, Fidelity, GKL Companies, Johnson's Giant Foods and People's Bank, bronze sponsors.

In-kind sponsors include Alabama Gift Company, Peppermint Pony, 1971 Clothing, Dowdy Office Supplies and Johnson's Giant Foods.




Woman's Club Historic House
862 Chestnut St., Gadsden. Built in 1905, the clubhouse is listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage and the National Register of Historic Places. The building features period furnishings and is available for event rentals throughout the year.
This year's decorations will feature a Williamsburg-inspired theme, with greenery accented by velvet and plaid. The traditional president's tree will feature blue decorations and photographs of former Woman's Club presidents. Upstairs rooms, often used by wedding parties, also will be decorated, and the library will feature a Christmas tree made of books.



The Delozier Home
116 A South Second St., Gadsden. Michael and Pennie Delozier live in a loft apartment in the former Gadsden Hardware building. Constructed in 1910, the apartment features a blend of rustic and traditional styles with European industrial influences.
The open floor plan includes two bedrooms, two bathrooms, an office, a kitchen and combined dining and living areas.



The Cunningham Home
1161 Lake Forest Drive West, Southside. Rodney Cunningham, vice president of Surveying & Engineering Design Group, and Cammie Cunningham, owner and broker of Rivertown Real Estate Group, live in a European-inspired traditional home built in 2002.
The home features a combination of brick and cedar shake, dramatic rooflines and an arched entryway. It includes four bedrooms, three bathrooms, an open-concept living, dining and kitchen area, and a keeping room with a fireplace that the couple uses as a home office.
The property also features a large back porch and a swimming pool. The home's decor reflects a blend of the couple's individual preferences.




The Butler Home
116 O South Second St., Gadsden. Mack Butler purchased the historic building, formerly home to Gadsden Hardware, in 2023. Built in 1908, the more than 30,000-square-foot property had been condemned before the Butlers began restoration efforts.
A large portion of the building is being converted into loft apartments. One apartment, which is not yet furnished, will belong to Mack and Connie Butler and will feature a collection of historical artifacts gathered by the couple.
The building also houses what is described as the oldest operating elevator in Alabama.



The McMichael Home
2576 White Oak Drive, Southside. Chad and Erica McMichael, owners of McMichael's Waste Services, have lived in their home with their four children since 2022.
Built in 1993, the home blends traditional ranch and modern farmhouse styles. It features six bedrooms, four bathrooms and an open-concept kitchen and living area. The couple's favorite space is the large back porch overlooking the pool. The home was decorated by Gadsden Lighting.

# Wednesday third Quarter Mah Jongg

Submitted by Gwen Bonner.

The Wednesday Mah Jongg sends our condolences to Anne Komoroski's family.

Anne was one of the original 2005 players. Please continue to pray for her family and friends.

Condolences to Wendy Jardet who lost her uncle, and Gwen Bonner who lost her great nephew. Thoughts and prayers for the families.

Prayers for a speedy recovery for Donna Spraggins during her procedures.

Birthdays:
- Aug. 17 Eva Timmons
- Aug. 24 Gwen Bonner
- Sept. 27 Jean Watson

August winners:
- 1st place, Wendy Jardet – 1,660 points
- 2nd place, Connie Cooley – 1,460 points
- 3rd place, Barbara Russell – 1,335 points

Congratulations, ladies.

In August Donna Spraggins made the 2026 Mah Jongg hand worth 75 points, congratulations.

September winners:
- 1st place, Donna Spraggins – 1,130 points
- 2nd place, Wendy Jardet – 1,100
- 3rd place, Genni Arledge – 985 points

Congratulations, ladies.

In September, Donna, Wendy, Genni, Connie, Gwen, Susan, Diana, Gail, Penny and Lea went to Gainesville, Georgia to play in the Mah Jongg Dragon Tournament.






# GOVERNMENT

## Battles sworn in as senator, recount pending

Jesse Battles was sworn into office Tuesday afternoon at the Etowah County Courthouse following the counting of provisional and write-in ballots. He was surrounded by friends, constituents and new colleagues.

Battles ran as an independent after being removed from the Republican primary ballot in April. The Alabama Republican Party's steering committee removed him over his previous support for candidates outside the party.

Battles defeated Republican incumbent Andrew Jones by a narrow margin. Battles' campaign reported a 74-vote lead following Tuesday's count, while Jones said he trailed by 72 votes. Because the margin is within .5% of the votes cast, Alabama law requires an automatic recount unless the defeated candidate submits a written waiver to the Secretary of State within 24 hours of certification. Jones has said he intends to wait for the recount before making a final statement about the election.

The District 10 state senator received an additional 28 votes from provisional ballots and 13 from write-in votes in Etowah County. However, Etowah is not the only county in the district. Provisional ballots are a backup option cast when there is a question about a voter's eligibility.

Battles said one of his first priorities in office will be bringing Etowah County's mayors and legislative delegation together to work toward moving the area forward.



Hokes Bluff Mayor, Scott Reeves (left), and Gadsden City Mayor, Craig Ford (right) with Battles.

"The first thing I want to do is take all of our mayors down to Montgomery and work on getting the 759 (extension) completed," Battles said. "I know that's been in the works for a long time."

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation among municipalities and the area's legislative delegation, Battles said he believes a rising tide raises all boats.

"I want to make sure that all of our mayors here have a voice, that they can see that we're unified," he said. "I want to bring unification to this area."

Gadsden Mayor Craig Ford expressed optimism about working with Battles, describing his election as an opportunity for stronger communication between state and local governments.

"It's a great day for Etowah County, the surrounding counties. We finally have a senator that will work with municipalities," Ford said. "Government works from the bottom up, not from the top down."

Ford said having a state senator who listens to local communities and participates in local government can make a difference in bringing new ideas to the area.

He pointed out that Battles attended a Gadsden City Council meeting the day before, describing it as an encouraging sign of a good working relationship between the city and state.

"It's very refreshing to see that someone that ran a positive campaign win an election," Ford said. "Negative politics is a thing of the past. Let's talk about your record. You talk about who you are and what you're going to do to help the people."

Write-in ballots were also counted for Etowah County Commission District 6, where incumbent Commissioner Craig Inzer Jr. was left off the Nov. 3 ballot because of what officials described as a clerical error.



Jesse Battles (left) and Craig Inzer Jr. (right) at the Etowah courthouse for Tuesday's provisional and write-in ballot count.



Mack Butler (left), Melissa Battles, Jesse Battles and Mark Gidley (right).

**Photos by Lindsey Frazier|The Messenger**

## Alabama voters approve four constitutional amendments by varying margins

**By Andrea Tinker**
**Alabama Reflector**

Alabama voters approved four statewide amendments last Tuesday, though some had an easier time of passage than others.

**Amendment 1**

Amendment 1 sets guidelines for lieutenant governor vacancies. Under the amendment, the state could hold an election for lieutenant governor if the office becomes vacant within the first two years following an election.

Should the lieutenant governor's seat become vacant more than 60 days before the 2028 election, an election for the office could be set. Prior to passage of the amendment, voters would not choose a new lieutenant governor until 2030.

The measure also allows the Legislature to set the lieutenant governor's salary by resolution and requires travel funds expended by legislators to be approved by officers elected by the House and Senate.

According to the Alabama Secretary of State's Office, the amendment passed with 987,299 (65.4%) votes in unofficial returns.

Jerome Dees, Alabama policy director at Southern Poverty Law Center, said in an interview Thursday afternoon his concern with the amendment came from the salary piece of the amendment.

"I think that just kind of goes to sort of a broader concern amongst the sort of electorate about just accountability of the Legislature and potential for pettiness if any sort of grievances arise between that part of the executive branch and the legislature," Dees said.

**Amendment 2**

Amendment 2, which allows for public county school boards to consolidate, passed with just 50.2% of the vote in unofficial returns.

Under the measure, two or more county school boards of education can begin a merger process if all the boards agree. Should 25% of qualified voters in the counties object to the merger, it would be placed on the ballot. It could only go forward if a majority of voters in the affected counties approve it.

Allison King, government relations manager for the Alabama Education Association, said in an interview Thursday the organization has not heard of any school boards looking to consolidate.

"We're not aware right now of any school systems, county systems that are planning to consolidate, and it's a permissive option only with buy-in from school boards and constituents," King said.

Dees said one area of concern for the amendment could be a lack of resources, including funding for all of the schools under the consolidated districts, particularly with the state CHOOSE Act, which extends income tax credits to families to pay for nonpublic education, including private school tuition.

"I think some of those fears are grounded in reality, particularly in light of the increased siphoning of funds that we will continue to see over the next couple of years as a result of the CHOOSE Act," he said.

Transportation and childcare arrangements could also pose a problem if schools consolidate.

**Amendment 3**

Amendment 3 mandates public school boards in the state to require schools to have policies for daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and for student-led prayer.

The amendment passed with 62.6% of the vote according to unofficial election data.

Alabama law has required schools to conduct the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the day in K-12 schools since 1976, and federal law prevents schools from forcing students to recite the Pledge. Students are already allowed to conduct prayer on school grounds. Students could not be required to participate in prayer and could opt out.

King said teacher protections being in place were important for AEA when the bill was moving through the Legislature.

"When we were watching that piece of legislation, what's permissible for the students is fine, but we want to protect our employees in making sure that they're not at risk," she said.

Dees said Amendment 3 is "dangerously close" to violating the First Amendment.

"If I am somebody who is not of a Christian faith, and my child is in a school where there is mandatory sort of prayer, what does that look like for my child?" Dees said. "Is my child allowed to pray in whatever faith tradition they may have, or if my family is of no faith tradition, is that prayer that's now mandatory in school going to be in violation of my right to not have any particular faith? So I think we're going to potentially see some real issues with that."

Dees also said the amendment's opt-out provision was likely "the Legislature's effort to try and kind of circumvent any sort of First Amendment violations.

"What does it look like if I am a student and I am the only one who is opting out?" he said. "I think there's going to be real discussion and debate over sort of what that sort of government interference and government sponsorship of one particular religion over another, even if you are allowing others to sort of opt out, you are now having a child removed from the sort of learning space so that you can engage in religious activity."

**Amendment 4**

The last statewide amendment, Amendment 4, requires school boards to broadcast or perform "The Star-Spangled Banner" once a week in public schools.

The amendment passed with 58.6% of the vote according to unofficial election results.

Dees, who worked on amendment language when the bill was moving through the Alabama Legislature, said the national anthem should be performed in its entirety. The rarely-sung third stanza of "The Star-Spangled Banner" has been seen as a defense of slavery.

"We are all patriotic, but I think again, kind of hearkening back to 2024 and the passage of anti-CRT (critical race theory), anti-DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) legislation. I think that we have to be clear about what the history of the country is, so that we can truly work towards making it better," Dees said

Both Dees and King said during interviews that these amendments don't address larger problems in schools.

"We're fine with them passing, but we need to be realistic about these are not things that are going to move the needle for public education in the state of Alabama," King said. "Protecting instructional time, supporting teachers when these kids have major discipline issues and are beating them up, making sure that we are helping kids with reading and math, making sure that we're protecting planning time so that teachers can adequately get done all the paperwork they need to get completed."

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# EDUCATION

## Gadsden State recognizes four employees with Chancellor's Awards

Gadsden State Community College has recognized four employees with its 2026 Chancellor's Awards, honoring their contributions to student success, leadership and service to the college.

The annual awards recognize employees in four categories: Academic Faculty, Technical Faculty, Administrator and Staff Member. Recipients are selected for their dedication to excellence and their impact on students and the Gadsden State community.

**Academic Faculty:**
**Danny Wilborn**

Danny Wilborn, a mathematics instructor with more than 26 years of service to Gadsden State, received the Chancellor's Award for Academic Faculty.

Throughout his career, Wilborn has taught students across multiple Gadsden State campuses and instructional sites, earning a reputation for his dedication to teaching and student success.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Jacksonville State University, an Educational Specialist degree from The University of Alabama and a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration.

A former student credited Wilborn with changing their perspective on mathematics and providing the encouragement needed to complete their education.

"He genuinely cares about his students and their success. He truly strives for excellence," the former student said.

Wilborn said he is motivated by the opportunity to use his talents to serve students. Outside the classroom, he is an award-winning photographer and lifelong singer.

**Technical Faculty:**
**Wesley Beecham**

Wesley "Wes" Beecham, an electrical instructor and Technical Division chair in Workforce Development, received the Chancellor's Award for Technical Faculty.

During his seven years at Gadsden State, Beecham has focused on connecting classroom instruction with hands-on learning to prepare students for careers in the electrical industry.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Career and Technical Education from Athens State University. His professional credentials include Alabama electrical contractor licenses, NCCER Instructor certification and NC3 Greenlee Trainer certification.

Beecham said some of his most rewarding moments come when students master a new skill and begin to recognize their potential. He also values hearing from former students about how their education helped them succeed in the workforce.

A colleague praised Beecham for consistently going above and beyond to support students academically and personally, contributing to strong retention, completion and job placement outcomes.

**Administrator:**
**Lynn Patterson**

Lynn Patterson, director of Student Life, received the Chancellor's Award for Administrator.

During her four years at Gadsden State, Patterson has become known for her enthusiasm, student-centered leadership and commitment to creating a positive campus experience.

A graduate of Athens State University with a degree in management, Patterson approaches her work with a passion for helping students feel connected and supported throughout their college experience.

"I pull into this campus every day smiling because I cannot believe I get paid to do this job," Patterson said.

A colleague described Patterson as an employee who consistently demonstrates Gadsden State's core beliefs of service, excellence and integrity, noting her willingness to go above and beyond to support students and improve the college experience.



Submitted photo

(From left to right) Wesley Beecham, electrical instructor and Technical Division chair; Alan Smith, president of GSCC; Lynn Patterson, director of student life; Misti Morgan, administrative assistant IV in student services and Danny Wilborn, mathematics instructor.

**Staff Member:**
**Misti Morgan**

Misti Morgan, administrative assistant IV in Student Services, received the Chancellor's Award for Staff Member.

With 18 years of service to Gadsden State, Morgan supports student services, recruitment efforts, student life activities and campus events.

Morgan said one of the most rewarding parts of her job is participating in commencement ceremonies, where she gets to see students celebrate their accomplishments alongside family and friends.

Although much of her work takes place behind the scenes, Morgan recognizes the importance of providing dependable support that contributes to student success. Her personal motto, "Be someone others can count on," reflects the approach she brings to her work.

"If there is one individual who exemplifies excellence, commitment, and impact at the highest level, it is Misti," a colleague said. "Her work makes this institution better every single day."

The Chancellor's Awards recognize employees whose service and commitment support Gadsden State's mission of providing accessible, quality education and opportunities for student success.

## Republicans win two open Alabama State Board of Education district seats

Two Republicans won open Alabama State Board of Education seats last week, maintaining GOP holds on the districts.

The board, which determines policies for public schools in the state, is composed of nine members. The governor also serves as a member of the board.

In State Board of Education District 8, Republican candidate Emily Jones defeated Democratic candidate Shatika Armstrong. According to unofficial election results, Jones received 123,654 (53.7%) votes to Armstrong's 106,282 (46.2%) votes. District 8 covers Madison, Limestone, Jackson and DeKalb counties.

Jones thanked voters in a statement posted to social media last week.

"This campaign has always been about putting students first, strengthening academic excellence, and ensuring parents have a voice in their children's education," the statement said. "I'm excited to get to work, and I promise to serve the families of District 8 with dedication, integrity, and a commitment to making a meaningful difference over the next four years."

Jones campaigned on school counseling reform and transparency in communication with parents.

Armstrong said in a social media statement last week that despite the loss, her work "continues without a title."

"Give me a minute to readjust my crown, tighten my laces, and catch my breath because I'm not done," the statement said.

Armstrong campaigned on looking into the needs of rural schools, increasing teacher salaries and improving mental health access for students.

Jones will succeed Wayne Reynolds, who decided not to run for re-election to the board.

In District 6, Republican nominee Cathi Bradford bested Democratic candidate Angela Morgan with 137,123 (71.3%) votes to Morgan's 54,834 (28.5%) votes. District 6 covers Cullman, St. Clair and Etowah counties and a majority of Talladega County.

Bradford said in a statement last week her campaign was "about something much bigger than winning an election."

"It has been about standing up for our children, respecting the rights of parents and making sure our teachers have the support they need to do what they do best — educate. The people of District 6 have spoken, and I intend to work every day to honor the trust they have placed in me," the statement said.

Bradford ran on school counseling reform and instilling patriotism in students.

Morgan said in a social media post last week while she didn't win, the support she got "is a strong foundation to build upon. So, let's build upon it anyway."

"I will use this experience and all that I have learned to continue to help improve public education for ALL children in Alabama and to better love ALL my neighbors. I will do it with a glad heart anyway," the statement said.

Morgan campaigned on student well-being, ensuring clear communication from schools to parents and safe and welcoming schools

Board member Tracie West won reelection to State Board of Education District 2 with 115,373 (61.5%) votes. Her opponent, Democratic nominee Jamie McCurry, received 72,056 (38.4%) votes.

West said in a statement last week she was "very grateful to everyone that supported our campaign!"

West's priorities included seeking safeguards on artificial intelligence and continuing to make gains in literacy.

McCurry, a student at Auburn University, thanked voters in a social media statement last week.

"Over 72,000 votes is something I never would have expected and it means a lot. I enjoyed running this campaign and being able to meet so many wonderful people," the statement said.

McCurry ran on advocating for complete and accurate textbooks and funding for neglected schools.

In the only non-contested race, Board Member Yvette Richardson won re-election with 98% of the vote.

Richardson said in a social media post Tuesday "it is an honor to continue serving District 4 on the Alabama State Board of Education and advocating for our children."






# EDUCATION

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- From A1








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# Your CALENDAR Community

## Featured Events

### Nov. 13-Nov. 20

### Imagination Place's Let It Snow

- **Where:** Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts - 501 Broad St., Gadsden
- **When:** Nov. 2 to Feb. 27, Mondays through Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.; Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Christmas at the Falls

- **Where:** Noccalula Falls Park - 1500 Noccalula Road, Gadsden
- **When:** Nov. 13-15, Nov. 20-Dec. 23 and Dec. 26-Jan. 2, 4 to 10 p.m.

### Christmas on the Coosa

- **Where:** 344 First St., Gadsden
- **When:** Nov. 19-Jan. 2, 4:30 to 10 p.m.

### Dearly Departed, Presented by Gadsden State Theatre

- **Where:** Gadsden State Community College Black Box Theatre - 119 Naylor Circle, Gadsden
- **When:** Nov. 12-14 at 7 p.m.

### Mistletoe Market

- **Where:** The Venue at Coosa Landing - 201 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden
- **When:** Nov. 13-14, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Southside Christmas Village

- **Where:** Southside Community Center - 142 Highway 77, Southside
- **When:** Nov. 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### 4th Annual One Way Out Chili Cook-Off

- **Where:** 331 Pleasant Valley Road, Rainbow City
- **When:** Nov. 14, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Recurring Events

### *Weekly*

### Gadsden Duplicate Bridge Club

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

### Bingo Night at AJ's Neighborhood Bar and Grill

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

### Open Mic Night at Blackstone Pub

- **Where:** 525 Broad St., Gadsden
- **When:** Wednesdays, 7 to 10 p.m.

### Useless Trivia at Back Forty

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

### Friday Evening Wine Down at Wills Creek Winery

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

### Bingo Night at Pique Nique

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

### *Monthly*

### Voice and Value's Lunch and Learn

- **Where:** Gadsden Public Library - 254 S. College St., Gadsden
- **When:** First Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

*AND*

- **Where:** Rainbow City Public Library - 3702 Rainbow Drive, Rainbow City
- **When:** First Thursday at 12 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

### Nov. 13-Nov. 27

### Nov. 21

### City of Champions Half Marathon, 10K and 5K

- **Where:** Back Forty Beer Company - 200 N. Sixth St., Gadsden
- **When:** 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### A Night Among Stars: Special Needs Prom

- **Where:** The Venue at Coosa Landing - 201 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden
- **When:** 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### An Evening with Author Ty Landers

- **Where:** Noccalula Falls Park - 1500 Noccalula Road, Gadsden
- **When:** 5 to 6 p.m.

### Downtown Dance Conservatory's Nutcracker Princess (Day 1)

- **Where:** Wallace Hall - 1001 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden
- **When:** 6 to 8 p.m.

### City of Gadsden's Tree Lighting for the Tallest Christmas Tree in Alabama

- **Where:** 344 First St., Gadsden
- **When:** At 6:30 p.m.

### Nov. 22

### Downtown Dance Conservatory's Nutcracker Princess (Day 2)

- **Where:** Wallace Hall - 1001 George Wallace Drive, Gadsden
- **When:** 2 to 4 p.m.

### Nov. 26

### Lights On the Landing Opening

- **Where:** River Rocks Landing Resort - 1 River Road, Gadsden
- **When:** 5 to 10 p.m.

### Nov. 27

### Black Friday at the Mall

- **Where:** Gadsden Mall - 1001 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden
- **When:** 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Downtown Gadsden's Plaid Friday

- **Where:** Downtown Gadsden - Broad Street, Gadsden
- **When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.




PREMIERE CINEMAS

New This Week

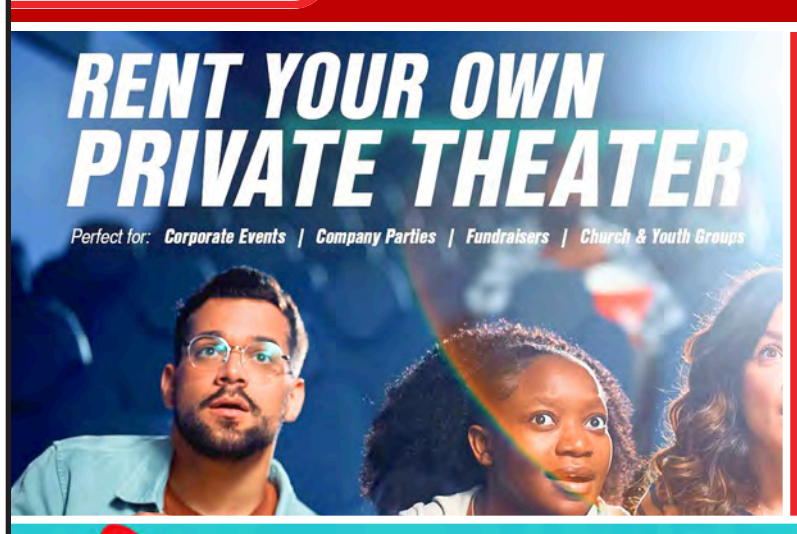
Ebenezer

Wild Horse Nine

How to Rob a Bank

Flashback Cinema: White Christmas




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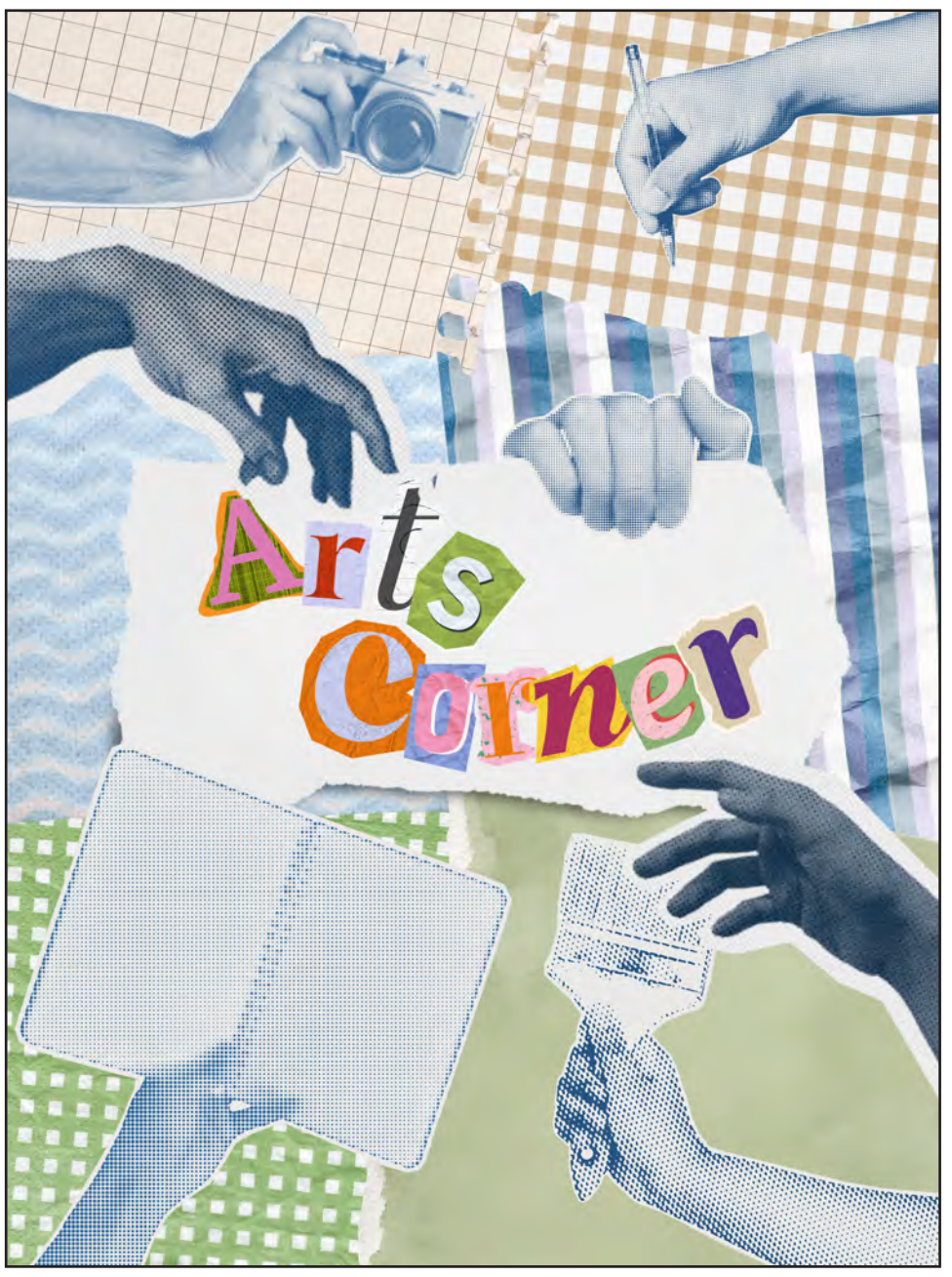
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## Fall Reading Challenge

# Holiday Reads

November challenge forms are available at the main GPL branch, located at 254 S. College Street. Adult challenge forms may be obtained from the main circulation desk, while Children's and Teen challenge forms are found in their respective departments. All forms must be returned to the library no later than Dec. 4.

*Age brackets:*

- Children, ages 5-11 years old and 8-12 years old
- Young adults, 13-18 years old
- Adults, 19 years old and over



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.

Got an arts-related story you'd like to share? Email cmoore@gadsdenmessenger.com today!



Photo by Ethan Parris

# Ghost Light Theatre Company performs Newsies

On Thursday, Nov. 5, the Ghost Light Theatre Company presented its first performance of Newsies — a musical about a ragged band of teenage newsboys in New York City in 1899 and their massive strike against powerful newspaper publishers — at the Ritz Theatre in Gadsden. The showings of the musical lasted until Sunday, Nov. 8.

Newsies follows Jack Kelly (played by Noah Kelly, a 17-year-old senior who has been performing for over a decade). The charismatic newsboy leads a group of teenage "newsies" in a strike against newspaper tycoons Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst, who unfairly raised distribution prices. The musical highlights themes of social justice, workers' rights and the power of youth activism.

The Ghost Light Theatre Company is a regional performing arts organization aiding youth as they step in the world of theatre. For more information, visit ghostlighttc.com.







Photos (above) by Meagen Cardy

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# LIFESTYLE




Looking at the History

Danny Crownover

## About the growth of phone systems in Gadsden

At midnight on Nov. 20, 1948, Southern Bell Telephone Company cut in its new dial system, located inside the company's handsome new building on Forrest Avenue, between Seventh and Eighth Streets. At that exact moment, Gadsden reached an important milestone in its history.

The first telephone in Gadsden was installed in 1883. During that time, people predicted that the enlarged facilities, new buildings and upgraded systems would still be too small for this bustling and growing city.

On that night of 1948, the company cut in 11,000 phones, and it still had 3,000 more applications for service. With the city expanding on all sides, applications were being filed rapidly, and the new building was built to accommodate telephone service for 15,000 customers.

Within no time at all, however, it would be serving more than 14,000 people. As such, it wasn't long before this two-story building with a full basement went up three more stories.

Since 1883, the city of Gadsden had put up with all kinds of telephone service — from very good to very bad — but the customers had been patient, understanding the handicaps under which the company had operated since 1929.

The system was first installed in 1883, but just as it was cut in on July 4 of that year, the big fire came along and reduced more than half of Gadsden to ashes, practically ruining the telephone lines.

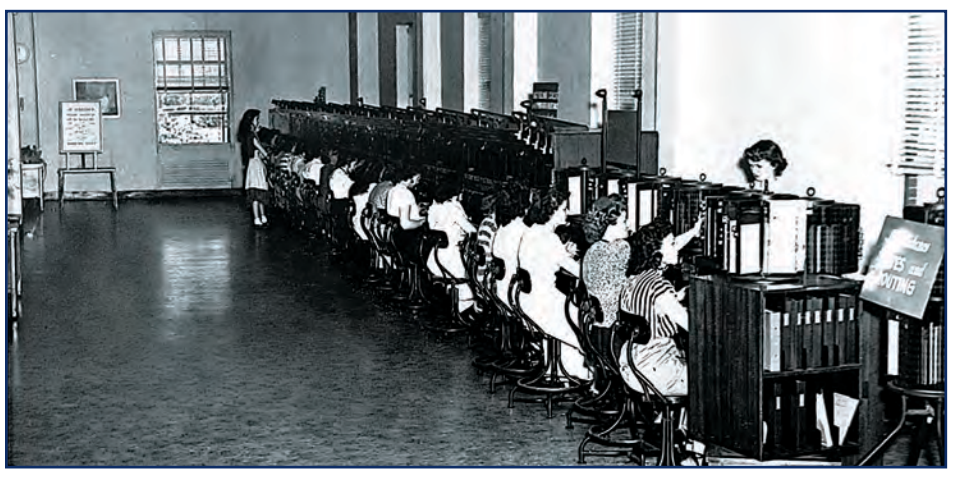
F.L. Woodruff was manager of the company then, and he and his company never faced a more hopeless outlook. They, however, still went to work and rebuilt the lines. At that time, the company had only 26 subscribers.

The Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis lines had the same number — 1 — that they were given in 1883. James Young, Robert Hughes, Tom Hardy and Wesley Hardy were the only operators back in the early 1880s.

The first local manager was Mr. Woodruff, who had the upstairs exchange in the old Gadsden National Bank building at Broad and Fourth Streets.

The next manager was R.L. Adams, who built the Adams Building just south of the adjoining Hotel Printup on Fourth Street. He used the first floor, or part of it, for joint offices of the telephone company and the Western Union Company.

At the time there were only two switchboards, but soon afterward the telephone company moved upstairs, and two additional switchboards were installed. They also changed from the magnets to the manual system.



*Early telephone switchboard operators at South Central Bell. Photo submitted by Danny Crownover.*

Miss Tennie Crowe, Miss Mollie McCormick and Will McCormick were operators. Miss Crowe had been with the company since she was 13 years old and was then the oldest employee in Gadsden. She had been chief operator for the past thirteen years.

Other managers were W. Ganford, Edgar R. Crews, Crenshaw Chamberlain, John M. Therrill, D.H. Cockcroft, R.E. Todd, W.E. Bare, Jack Abbott, T.H. Giles, C.H. Gordon and R.B. Centerfit. Centerfit was the manager, a position he held from 1929 onward.

Mr. Sanford was the second manager. He moved the exchange downstairs to occupy the store room, which was later occupied by the Palace Barber Shop.

The third manager, Mr. Adams, moved to his own building. In 1929, Mr. Bare moved to the Gadsden building on Broad Street.

Since the 1880s, the phone system has evolved through the use of computers, and fewer humans are needed to operate the lines.

*Contact The Vagabond at dkcrown@bellsouth.net.*

## On the uncertainty of changing seasons



Arranging the Pieces

Tabitha Bozeman

The past week has been very full for our family: there were bowling matches and theatre competitions; my husband was named Teacher of the Month; my oldest daughter drove further distances on bigger, busier roads; my middle daughter turned 14; my granddaughter is growing and smiling and bouncing with excitement to see us now; and I snuck in a weekend trip to the woods with my nearest and dearest friends.

I love the woods. I could sit and stare at the leaves, listen to the birds and squirrels and breathe in this fall air for days on end and never grow bored. This season reminds me to take inventory of the things, ideas, habits, relationships in my life, and that it is okay to let go of those which no longer serve a healthy, edifying purpose in my life.

That is one purpose of the autumnal season — to remind us of the necessity and beauty of letting go of the now in order to make room for the future. Not everything has to be tossed or forgotten, of course. We keep reminders and special items, continue building healthy habits and relationships and ask the questions that help us move into the next season better prepared than the last time we circled round.

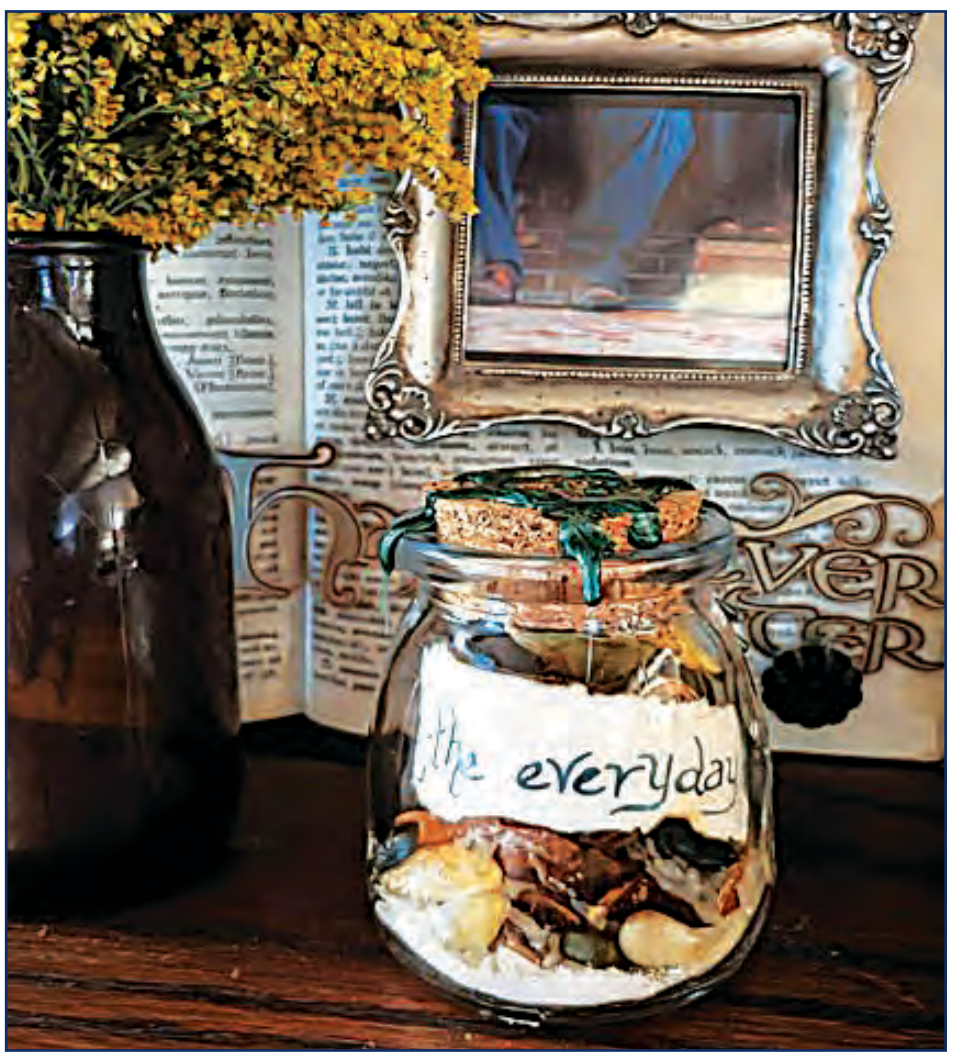



**Photo by Tabitha Bozeman**

The questions are often considered only something to be answered, researched, found out. I know I find myself determined to figure things out before moving forward sometimes, only to move forward into a new season full of new questions. The uncertainty of unanswered questions can be uncomfortable.

This semester, I have spent a lot of time with my students encouraging them to sit with the discomfort of not immediately knowing the answer to a question. Instead of immediately knowing, we consider all the elements and connections that can help us answer a question about, for example, exactly what it means throughout American literature to "be American." There are often questions without immediate, easy answers in school and life, and often we cannot wait until they are all answered before we move forward.

As Rilke said, "Live the questions now." Not ask them. Live them. Live through and aside and because and in spite of the questions. Loving our people, raising our families, encouraging others and maintaining relationships even in the midst of the questions creates meaning in our lives that continues across seasons and generations.

It's the little things that help me balance the questions and uncertainty of busy, changing seasons with the inescapable continuity of everyday life. The intention jars filled with reminders of place and people and priorities. The rituals of daily planning and habits with my family. The beauty of a poem that articulates a moment perfectly. The sometimes stomach-churning uncertainty of "What next?" is tamed when we pay attention to the small things that are part of our everyday.

Jane Hirshfield, a poet, describes this process in her poem "I am asked a question":

*My life asks me a question.*

*I suggest a better question,*
*one I like more the sound of,*
*with more pleasing grammar.*

*My life humors me.*
*My life asks me that.*

*I don't know an answer.*

*Life is stubborn and clever.*
*Life says: you must choose.*

*I can't choose.*
*I leave the question.*
*I go into the garden and weed.*
*My life weeds with me.*
*The knees of my pants are stained.*

Sometimes the seasons are overwhelming in their swiftness. Sometimes, they seem to drag on and on. The questions will always be there, and we can live through them and alongside them, or we can let them stymie our journey. Throughout each season, we can choose to continue living and learning and growing, appreciating the beauty in the uncertainty of change.

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



Mindful Moment

Carrie Halladay

## Here they come: When the holidays are hard

Here they come.

Ready or not, the holidays are coming.

And for some people, the first Christmas song doesn't bring joy. It brings a knot in the stomach.

Because along with the decorations, family gatherings and traditions come the things we don't put on Christmas cards: grief, loneliness, family conflict, financial pressure, exhaustion and the expectation that, somehow, we're supposed to be cheerful through all of it.

We call it the most wonderful time of the year.

But sometimes it isn't.

For many people, the holidays bring complicated emotions. You can love Christmas and still dread parts of it. You can be grateful for the people in your life while deeply missing someone who is no longer here. You can enjoy giving gifts while worrying about how you're going to pay for them.

Joy and sadness can exist at the same time.

The holidays also have a way of magnifying whatever is already happening in our lives. Family tensions don't magically disappear because there's a Christmas tree in the room. Estranged relationships can feel more painful. Grief can become sharper. Loneliness may feel heavier when it seems like everyone else is surrounded by family and friends.

Then there are the expectations.

We tell ourselves we should decorate the house, attend the party, buy the perfect gifts, cook the traditional meal, visit everyone and create magical memories.

That's a lot of pressure for a few weeks.

Sometimes we aren't even trying to create the holiday we want. We're trying to recreate the holiday we remember.

Traditions can be wonderful, but they can also become obligations. Just because your family has always done something doesn't mean you have to keep doing it exactly the same way forever. Families change. Finances change. Relationships change. Energy levels change.

You're allowed to change, too.

Maybe this is the year you simplify Christmas dinner. Maybe you decline an invitation instead of squeezing one more event into an already packed weekend. Maybe you set a spending limit and stick to it. Maybe you decide not to engage in the same family argument you've had for the last fifteen years.

And if you're grieving, give yourself permission to experience the holiday differently. There is no correct way to celebrate while missing someone. You may want to continue every tradition, or you may want to change everything. Both are okay.

Most importantly, stop comparing your real holiday to someone else's highlight reel.

Behind many of those beautiful family photos are complicated relationships, tired parents, financial worries, empty chairs and people doing their best to get through the season.

So, here they come.

Before the holidays arrive in full force, ask yourself one question:

What would make this season feel manageable for me?

Not perfect. Not magical. Not Instagram-worthy.

Manageable.

Choose the traditions that matter. Spend what you can afford. Protect some empty space on your calendar. Say no when you need to. Let other people be disappointed sometimes. Make room for grief if it comes and enjoy the good moments when they arrive.

The holidays don't have to be perfect to be meaningful.

Sometimes a peaceful holiday is a much better goal than a perfect one.

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

# DEVOTIONALS



Memoir Musings

Sandra Bost

## Faith, family and forever

*The following column is a reprint from Nov. 19, 2025's newspaper issue.*

November is National Adoption Month. It began as a week-long initiative in 1976 and grew into a month-long observance in 1995 under President Clinton. When I looked into how adoption has changed over the decades, I was struck by what I found. Adoptions have actually declined since 1970, when about 175,000 children — mostly infants — were adopted. Today, the majority of the more than 90,000 adoptions involve older children in foster care. The reasons behind this shift are complex and often heartbreaking — from legalized abortion to changes in international adoption policies. And yet, the need remains urgent: at the end of 2024, more than 70,400 children were still waiting for a forever family nationwide.

Adoption carries a tension that is hard to ignore. It is both beautiful and broken — a picture of hope born out of loss. Every adoption story begins with a fracture, a separation that leaves a mark. And yet, in that brokenness, love steps in and creates something new, something redemptive. That reality can feel overwhelming, even scary, because it means stepping into pain as well as joy.

My family has experienced that tension.

As I sat in my daughter's living room watching her (then) four-year-old make a hair-style tutorial with me as her customer, I couldn't help but think of the story beneath the funny faces of this little, lioness-hearted one. She's the one who wears a ballet tutu with boxing gloves. The one who is always a half-step ahead of her older (by 9 months) sister in pranks and making friends. She is fierce — a gift we prayed for and welcomed through adoption. Filled with resolute fire, carrying a wound she cannot name — but feels on the deepest, most primal level.

Adoption is beautiful, but it begins with brokenness. Watching her navigate the questions of belonging — why she doesn't look like her siblings — I'm reminded of a deeper truth: we all want to belong. And, in Christ, God answers that longing by adopting us into His family, calling us His own. Yet, even as we rejoice in that truth, we live in the tension Paul describes in Romans 8:23. We are fully His, even though we wait for the fullness of what adoption means.




*Bost's family. Photo submitted by Sandra Bost.*

Just as earthly adoption begins with loss — a child separated from birth parents — our spiritual adoption begins with a void created by the reality of sin. We are estranged from God, carrying wounds we cannot name but feel the consequences of. This sin separates us from our Heavenly Father. But He does not leave us in that brokenness. His Love steps in to create something new — something redemptive.

Our granddaughter belongs to her family completely, yet she still feels the ache of difference — the questions of identity. In the same way, Christians belong fully to God, yet we groan inwardly, longing for complete redemption. This is the "already/not yet" of the Gospel: we are adopted, but we await the day when every wound is healed and every question answered.

Adoption, both earthly and spiritual, is a picture of redemption. It reminds us that beauty and brokenness can — and do — coexist. We celebrate the joy of belonging while acknowledging the ache of waiting. And as believers, we cling to the promise: one day, the groaning will end, and we will stand whole before our Father.

Let us thank Jesus for the gift of family and the miracle of adoption. Remember the parents who open their hearts and homes and the children who bring joy and teach us resilience. But never forget that adoption begins with loss. Pray for the healing and hope of Jesus to cover every wound — in every heart.

Father, wrap Your loving arms around every child who wonders where they belong, and remind them that they are fearfully and wonderfully made, chosen and deeply loved



*Bost's granddaughters. Photo submitted by Sandra Bost.*

by You. And for parents navigating hard questions and tender moments, we ask that You grant wisdom, patience and grace. Fill their homes with Peace that passes understanding. Give them strength in the struggles, joy in the journey and faith that Your redemption story is still unfolding.

If you are considering foster care or adoption. You can contact www.alabamachild.org or www.dhr.alabama.gov/foster-care. There are more than 6,000 children waiting for foster care in Alabama, and over 1,500 are awaiting their forever family.

Jesus be near.

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



Rooted in the Word

Shawn Blackmon

## Don't forget to give thanks

Have you ever had somebody call you, and before you even answer the phone, you already know what they want? They are not calling to ask how you are doing. They are not checking on your family. They are not calling just to say hello. They need something. And once they get what they need, you may not hear from them again until they need something else.

If we are not careful, we can treat God the same way. We know how to call Him when we need something. We know how to pray when the pressure is on. We know how to ask for healing, provision, direction and breakthrough. But do we remember to thank Him after He answers?

In Luke 17, Jesus encounters ten men with leprosy. In biblical times, leprosy described several skin conditions that could cause a person to be declared ceremonially unclean under the Mosaic Law. That did not simply affect their bodies. It affected their relationships, their worship and their everyday lives. They could be separated from family, restricted from certain aspects of worship and forced to live apart from the community.

That helps us understand why Luke says they "stood at a distance." They could see Jesus, but they could not get close. So they cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus responded by telling them to go show themselves to the priests.

And here is the part I love. Luke says, "As they went, they were cleansed."

THEY STARTED WALKING BEFORE THEY COULD SEE ANYTHING CHANGING!

Sometimes faith means moving before you have visible evidence. Sometimes God tells you to go before you understand how everything is going to work out. Sometimes you have to obey while you are still waiting to see the result.

They went before they could see it. All ten obeyed. All ten received mercy. All ten were cleansed. But only one came back.

When he realized he had been healed, he turned around praising God with a loud voice and fell at the feet of Jesus, giving Him thanks. Think about that. All ten received mercy. Only one returned to give him glory.

Jesus then asked, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?" He was not asking because He suddenly forgot how to count to ten. Jesus was making a point about gratitude. It is possible to receive the blessing and forget the One who blessed you. It is possible to pray for the job and then become too busy working to thank God for it. It is possible to pray for the house and then become so busy maintaining it that you forget the God who provided it. It is possible to pray for the breakthrough and then immediately start looking for the next breakthrough.

Sometimes we become so focused on what is our next that we forget what God has already done.

But there is something else beautiful in this story. The man started the story standing at a distance. He ended it at the feet of Jesus. His circumstances changed when he was cleansed, but his gratitude brought him back to Jesus.

And maybe that is the question we need to ask ourselves during this Thanksgiving season: When was the last time I stopped asking God for something long enough to thank Him for what He has already done?

We live in a world that always wants the next thing. The next opportunity. The next blessing. The next breakthrough. The next answered prayer. But gratitude forces us to stop and remember.

Thank God for the big things. Thank Him for the little things. Thank Him for the doors He opened. Thank Him for the doors He closed. Thank Him for what He gave you. Thank Him for what He kept from you. Thank Him for dangers seen and unseen. And even when life is not exactly where you want it to be, you can still find a reason to say, "God, thank You."

Do not become so accustomed to the blessing that you forget the Blesser. Do not become so focused on what you still need that you overlook what God has already done.

This week, take some time to return. Return to prayer. Return to worship. Return to the feet of Jesus. And before you ask Him for anything else, simply say: "Thank You."

Let's pray.

Father, thank You for who You are and for everything You have done. Forgive me for the times I have been quick to ask but slow to return and give thanks. Help me recognize Your hand in the big things and the small things. Keep me from becoming so focused on what is next that I forget what You have already done. Give me a grateful heart that always finds its way back to Your feet. 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.*

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- Psalm 27:1

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**Margaret Holmes Seasoned Vegetables**
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**Kay's Ice Cream**
48 Oz.
2/$5 With Card

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**Glad Trash Bags**
25-40 Ct.
5.00 With Card

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**Country Crock Spread**
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5.00 With Card

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Food Club Sugar (4 Lb.) or Selected Varieties, Food Club Chunk Light Tuna (12 Oz.), Food Club Chicken (12.5 Oz.), Food Club Whipped Topping (16 Oz.) or
**Food Club Oil**
40 Oz.
2/$5 With Card

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**Edwards Pie**
24-37 Oz.
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# SPORTS

## Two of five Etowah teams advance to round 2 of AHSAA playoffs

**Cole Frederick**

Two teams from the Gadsden area advanced to Round 2 of the AHSAA state playoffs, and they will both take on their Round 2 opponents on Friday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. Etowah defeated Wilson 21-14, and Westbrook breezed past Victory Christian 52-14 in their respective playoff openers.

For the Blue Devils, it was their first playoff victory since 2022, and first-year head coach Davin Hawkins said he was impressed with his team's maturity in the win over Wilson.

"The most impressive aspect of our performance was our ability to maintain our composure throughout the ups and downs of the game," Hawkins said. "Our players remained focused, handled adversity well, and continued to compete regardless of the circumstances. That level of maturity is critical as we move deeper into the playoffs."

Hawkins added that his team has grown in all three phases of the game over the course of the season, and their commitment to execution has allowed them to become a more complete football team.

"Last week's victory should reinforce the confidence we have in ourselves and the way we prepare and play," he said. "Our players need to understand that when we execute our game plan, play with discipline, and compete at the level we are capable of, we can compete with anyone. Our focus is on carrying that confidence forward while continuing to improve each day."

The Blue Devils face a significant challenge this Friday as they travel to take on Class 3A, No. 1 Plainview. The Bears are undefeated this season, and head coach Dale Pruitt is seeking his first state championship in his 40th season as head coach.

Despite the difficulty of the opponent, Hawkins said his team must continue focusing on themselves and eliminating distractions.

"Our biggest challenge is maintaining our focus on ourselves and not becoming distracted by our opponent," Hawkins said. "We believe in preparing to the best of our ability, controlling the things within our control, and executing our assignments. If we remain committed to that approach, we will put ourselves in a position to be successful."

Hawkins added that his team must eliminate self-inflicted mistakes and have more attention to details and assignments. He also said that advancing to the quarterfinals would represent another step toward "restoring the standard and tradition of excellence that Etowah football has always been known for."

"This program has a long history of success, and we want our players, school, and

community to take pride in that tradition," Hawkins said. "Our goal is to establish the expectation that competing at this level is where Etowah belongs, and that it is time to bring that standard back."

Westbrook takes on a familiar foe in Round 2 of the playoffs. The Warriors host Class A Region 4 opponent Whitesburg Christian this Friday night, and they defeated the opposing Warriors 31-21 on Oct. 23.

Steve Smith's team improved to 11-0 with the rout over Victory Christian, and they are three wins away from completing the perfect season and winning a state title.

Three teams from the Gadsden area lost in the first round of the state playoffs last week. Coosa Christian fell to Tuscaloosa Academy 37-7. The Conquerors finished with a 3-7 record in head coach Alaric Williams' first season. Hokes Bluff dropped its first round playoff game to Lauderdale County 49-14, and the Eagles finished the 2026 campaign with a 6-5 record.

Gadsden City lost to Hewitt-Trussville 38-35 in a shootout in Trussville. Titan quarterback Sam Sollie threw for 249 yards and five touchdowns, and Dylan Perry hauled in three passes for 141 yards and three touchdowns. Jakari Harris rushed for 82 yards and added four catches for 37 yards and a score for Gadsden City. Husky quarterback Jack Floyd rushed for 289 yards and four touchdowns, and he added another 124 yards through the air. The Titans finished the season 5-6.



Etowah



Westbrook



Gadsden City



Hokes Bluff



Coosa

## This Week in Sports

### High School Sports

**Boys' Football Playoffs**

**Nov. 13**
Etowah at Plainview at 7 p.m.
Westbrook vs. Whitesburg Christian at 7 p.m.

**Boys' Basketball**

**Nov. 13**
Sardis vs. Douglas at 6:45 p.m.
Glecnoe vs. Southside at 7:15 p.m.

**Nov. 16**
Glencoe vs. Springville at 6:30 p.m.
West End vs. Westbrook at 7:00 p.m.
Gadsden City vs. Trussville at 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 17**
Sardis at Hokes Bluff at 7:30 p.m.
West End vs. Holly Pond at 7:00 p.m.
Gadsden City at Lincoln at 6:00 p.m.

**Nov. 19**
Gaston vs. Hokes Bluff at 7:30 p.m.
Glencoe vs. Gadsden City at 7:30 p.m.
Sardis vs. Oneonta at 7:00 p.m.
West End at Susan Moore at 7:00 p.m.

**Girls' Basketball**

**Nov. 13**
Sardis vs. Douglas at 5:15 p.m.
Glecnoe vs. Southside at 5:45 p.m.

**Nov. 16**
Sardis vs Boaz at 7:00 p.m.
West End vs. Westbrook at 5:45 p.m.

**Nov. 16**
Sardis at Hokes Bluff at 6:00 p.m.
Gadsden City vs. Trussville at 6:00 p.m.

**Nov. 17**
West End vs. Holly Pond at 5:45 p.m.

**Nov. 19.**
Gaston vs. Hokes Bluff at 6:00 p.m.
Glencoe vs. Gadsden City at 6:00 p.m.
Sardis vs. Oneonta at 5:45 p.m.
West End at Susan Moore at 5:30 p.m.

**Bowling**

**Nov. 18**
Gadsden City vs. Oxford and St. Clair at 4:30 p.m.

**Boys' Wrestling**

**Nov. 17**
Southside at Mortimer Jordan at 5:30 p.m.
Glencoe at Springville at 5:15 p.m.

**Nov. 19**
Gaston vs. Hokes Bluff at 6:00 p.m.
Glencoe vs. Gadsden City at 6:00 p.m.
Sardis vs. Oneonta at 5:45 p.m.
West End at Susan Moore at 5:30 p.m.
West End vs. Piedmont at 5:30 p.m.
Gadsden City vs. Pinson Valley, Centre, and Ohatchee

### College School Sports

**Mens' Basketball**

**Nov. 13**
Gadsden State at Gordon State at 4:00 p.m.

**Nov. 14**
Gadsden State Georgia Highlands College at 4:00 p.m.

**Nov. 16**
Gadsden State vs Snead State at 7:00 p.m.

**Nov. 19**
Gadsden State at Marion Military at 7:00 p.m.

**Womens' Basketball**

**Nov. 14**
Gadsden State at Chattanooga State at 1:00 p.m..

**Nov. 16**
Gadsden State vs. Snead State at 5:00 p.m.

**Nov. 19**
Gadsden State vs. Lurleen B. Wallace Community College at 5:00 p.m.

## Last Week's Scores

### High School Sports

**Football**

**Nov. 6**
Etowah defeated Wilson 21-14.
Hokes Bluff lost to Lauderdale County 14-49.
Gadsden City lost to Hewitt-Trussville 35-38.
Coosa lost to Tuscaloosa Christian 7-37.
Westbrook defeated Victory Christian 52-14.

**Girls' Flag Football**

**Nov. 10**
Gadsden City lost to Trussville 0-30.

**Boys' Basketball**

**Nov. 9**
Sardis lost to Albertville 33-90.

**Nov. 10**
West End defeated Crossville at 40-39.
Glencoe defeated Gaston 88-38.

**Nov. 11**
Gadsden City defeated Hoover 69-57.

**Girls' Basketball**

**Nov. 5**
Gadsden City lsot to Vestavia Hills 70-25.

**Nov. 7**
Hokes Bluff lost to Cullman 59-63.
Gadsden City lost to Fairvew at 49-51.

**Nov. 10**
Southside defeated Jacksonville 64-15.
West End defeated Crossville at 75-13.
Glencoe defeated Gaston 66-27.

**Bowling**

**Nov. 9**
Gadsden City lost to Trussville 1452-1633.

## Gadsden City girls basketball team fall to Vestavia Hills, Fairview

The Gadsden City girls basketball team dropped a 70-25 decision to Vestavia Hills on Nov. 5 before falling just short in a 51-49 loss to Fairview on Nov. 7.

Against Vestavia Hills, Ryleigh Bullard led Gadsden City with five points. Londyn Allen and Ma'Liyah Kennon added four points each, while Jadance Poleate and Ziyah Graves scored three apiece. Brooklyn Bullard, Ja-Kayla Orr and Jayda Gaddis each finished with two points.

In the matchup against Fairview, Jac'Keria Woods led the Titans with 14 points. Kennon added eight points, while Gaddis scored six. Ryleigh Bullard contributed five points, and Poleate finished with four. Cylee Williams and Graves each had three points, while Brooklyn Bullard and Allen scored two apiece. Ja-Kayla Orr added one point.

### College School Sports

**Mens' Basketball**

**Nov. 7**
Gadsden State defeated Pellissippi State 85-78.

**Nov. 9**
Gadsden State defeated Snead State 93-88.

**Nov. 11**
Gadsden State defeated . Wallace State 110-79.

**Womens' Basketball**

**Nov. 7**
Gadsden State lost to Pellissippi State 50-55.

**Nov. 9**
Gadsden State lsot to Snead State 39-47.

**Nov. 11**
Gadsden State defeated Wallace State 86-31.

# SPORTS

## Gadsden flag football knocked out in first round playoff




















## Glencoe girls and boys defeat Gaston in high scoring games





On Nov. 10 Glencoe boys' varsity basketball team defeated Gaston Bulldogs 88-38. Glencoe girls' varsity basketball defeated Gaston 66-27. Photos by RMM Stories









# SPORTS

## Etowah schools compete in 71st AHSAA Cross Country Championship

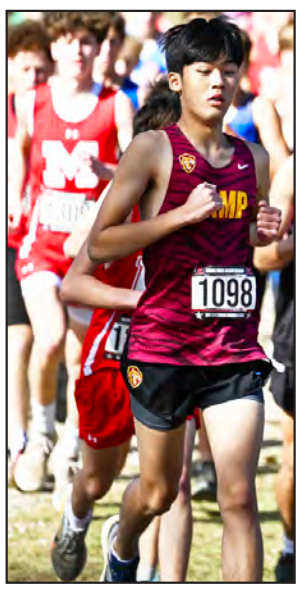



Emma Godfrey of Hokes Bluff placed 7th in the 5,000 meter race.











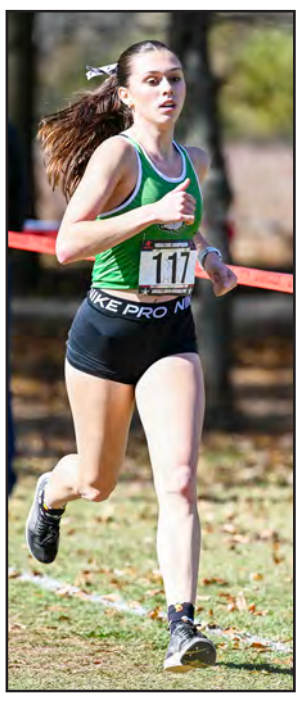


Photos by Alex Chaney










### CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
### November 7, 2026

**Girls 5000m 5A**
49th – Marlee Tucker, Southside, 20:50.5
80th – Khole Bujan, Southside, 21:41.0
84th – Sara Davis, Southside, 24:46.0

**Boys 5000m 5A**
53rd – Conner Christopher, Southside, 17:18.1
54th – Colton Mikle, Southside, 17:18.8
69th – Chase Hall, Southside, 17:36.8
76th- Keegan Sherrell, Southside, 17:42.9
77th – Mark Valentine, Southside, 17:43.3
80th – Carson Thacker, Southside, 17:45.8

**Girls 5000m 3A**
7th – Emma Godfrey, Hokes Bluff, 20:25.8
20th – Sara Pnder, Hokes Bluff, 21:42.4
22nd – Kylee Noles, Hokes Bluff, 21:50.3
26th – Juliana Smith, Hokes Bluff, 22:02.7
62nd – Sadie Brothers, Hokes Bluff, 23:51.5
74th – Crosby Smith, Glencoe, 24:12.0
76th – Lee Miller, Hokes Bluff, 24:17.6

**Boys 5000m 3A**
94th – Will Miller, Hokes Bluff, 20:24.2

**Girls 5000m 1A-2A**
9th – Kate Konkol, West End, 21:18.0
22nd – Karsten Campbell, West End, 22:02.3
65th – Avery Flores, West End, 24:06.4
80th – Emma Franklin, West End, 24:33.3
85th – Tensley Young, West End, 24:40.7
94th – Carolina Rainey, West End, 25:10.7

**Girls 5000m Single A**
86th – Noel Griffin, Westbrook Christian 24:16.0

**Boys 5000m Single A**
62nd – Calvin Gant, Westbrook Christian, 19:01.0
95th – Dominique Cooper, Westbrook Christan, 20:26.1




# SPORTS




# Week 10 review of SEC football

**Alabama Week 10 Review**

With two losses entering November, Kalen DeBoer's team had its back against the wall entering Saturday's contest at LSU. The Tigers have improved over the last month, and they were nearly a touchdown favorite against the visiting Crimson Tide. Alabama built a 10-3 halftime advantage, and LSU eventually took a 13-10 lead in the third quarter. However, the Tide dominated the rest of the game, and the Alabama defense was particularly dominant—espeically when the Tigers entered the red zone. LSU actually outgained Alabama 457-285, but they had two turnovers and forced none, and they were 0-4 on fourth down. Keelon Russell threw for 206 yards and three touchdowns, and he was much more efficient than Sam Leavitt. Alabama improved to 7-2 on the season and 5-2 in the SEC. They travel to Nashville on Saturday (Nov. 14) to take on Vanderbilt.

**Auburn Week 10 Review**

It certainly wasn't the prettiest performance, but Auburn found a way to knock off Arkansas 26-23 to earn its fifth victory of the season. The Tigers trailed 10-3 at halftime and looked lethargic for most of the afternoon, but Byrum Brown played an exceptional second half to help propel the offense to a comeback win. Brown threw for 180 yards and two touchdowns, and he added another 121 yards and a score on the ground. Auburn improved to 5-4 on the season and 3-4 in conference play, and they travel to Starkville on Saturday to take on Mississippi State.

## Week 11 SEC Rankings

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

**Week 11 Previews and Predictions**
**(week 10: 6-2; season: 75-17)**
**Game of the Week**

*Texas at LSU (-4)*

Not many would have predicted two months ago that these two teams would have a combined six losses by the middle of November, and it's possible both teams miss the playoffs. Texas can likely afford one more loss due to its strength of schedule, but that's far from a guarantee. LSU has to win out to have a chance to make the playoffs, and they will need to be much better than they were against Alabama. Prediction: LSU 28, Texas 24.

*Auburn at Mississippi State (+2.5)*

With a win in Starkville, Auburn can clinch a bowl bid and likely a winning season for the first time since 2020. Mississippi State is playing without star quarterback Kamario Taylor for the rest of the season, but this is still a dangerous spot for the Tigers if they are not focused. Prediction: Auburn 31, Mississippi State 27.

*Alabama at Vanderbilt (+17.5)*

Alabama's road win at LSU catapulted them to No. 3 in the playoff rankings, and based on the remaining schedule, the Crimson Tide are a heavy favorite to make the playoffs. Only two conference games remain, and it's against two of the least talented teams in the conference. Vanderbilt upset the Tide two years ago in Nashville, but Diego Pavia is not walking through that door. Prediction: Alabama 38, Vanderbilt 13.

*Tennessee at Texas A&M (+2.5)*

Tennessee's playoff chances received a major boost after its blowout win over a good Kentucky team. The Vols have LSU next weekend, but they cannot afford to overlook a disappointing but talented Texas A&M team in a sleepy spot on Saturday afternoon. Prediction: Texas A&M 23, Tennessee 20.

*Missouri at Georgia (-15.5)*

The Bulldogs submitted one of the most complete performances of the season by any team as they breezed past Ole Miss 42-7 in Oxford. Georgia looks like the best team in the country, and they can end Missouri's slim playoff hopes on Saturday afternoon in Athens. Prediction: Georgia 38, Missouri 10.

*Ole Miss at Oklahoma (+1)*

A week after firing offensive coordinator Ben Arbuckle, the Sooners went on the road and upset Florida in Gainesville. While interim offensive coordinator Jason Witten's offense didn't exactly light up the scoreboard, they did look more organized, and John Mateer looked more comfortable at quarterback. The schedule gets even tougher this weekend as they welcome in a hungry Ole Miss team whose playoff life is on the line. Prediction: Ole Miss 24, Oklahoma 20.

*Florida at Kentucky (-3.5)*

The Wildcats are still hanging on to a playoff spot in the latest rankings, but they will likely need to win out to have a chance. They are catching Florida at the right time as the Gators are reeling, but Kentucky will need to play much better than it did a week ago at Tennessee. Prediction: Kentucky 24, Florida 20.

*South Carolina at Arkansas (+7)*

Don't look now, but one of the hottest teams in the country resides in Columbia, South Carolina. The Gamecocks have won four straight, and they've put themselves in position to make a playoff push if they win out. That won't be an easy task with Georgia on deck next week, and Shane Beamer's team cannot afford to overlook the Razorbacks on Saturday evening. Prediction: South Carolina 27, Arkansas 23.

## ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE SCHEDULE

2026 SEASON

| WEEK | DATE | OPPONENT | TIME/SCORE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | SEPT 5 | VS. EAST CAROLINA | W 48–10 |
| 2 | SEPT 12 | AT KENTUCKY | W 45–17 |
| 3 | SEPT 19 | VS. FLORIDA STATE | W 50–36 |
| 4 | SEPT 26 | VS. SOUTH CAROLINA | W 49–18 |
| 5 | OCT 3 | AT MISSISSIPPI STATE | W 56–23 |
| 6 | OCT 10 | VS. GEORGIA | L 17–20 |
| 7 | OCT 17 | AT TENNESSEE | L 10–26 |
| 8 | OCT 24 | VS. TEXAS A&M | W 31–20 |
| 9 | OCT 31 | OFF | |
| 10 | NOV 7 | AT LSU | W 31–13 |
| 11 | NOV 14 | AT VANDERBILT | 11:45 A.M SEC |
| 12 | NOV 21 | VS. UT–CHATTANOOGA | |
| 13 | NOV 28 | VS. AUBURN | |

## AUBURN 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 | W 21–15 |
| 5 | OCT 3 | AT TENNESSEE | L 14–24 |
| 6 | OCT 10 | OFF | |
| 7 | OCT 17 | AT GEORGIA | W 27–24 |
| 8 | OCT 24 | VS. LSU | L 17–38 |
| 9 | OCT 31 | AT OLE MISS | L 15–45 |
| 10 | NOV 7 | VS. ARKANSAS | W 26–23 |
| 11 | NOV 14 | AT MISSISSIPPI STATE | 11:00 A.M ESPN2 |
| 12 | NOV 21 | VS. SAMFORD | |
| 13 | NOV 28 | AT ALABAMA | |

# LEGALS

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE**

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF ETOWAH

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Labrena Artessa Brewster, an unmarried woman and Linda C Brewster, an unmarried woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First Federal Bank, its successors and assigns dated November 30, 2011; said mortgage being recorded on December 7, 2011 as Instrument No. 3359124 as having been modified by an agreement recorded as Instrument No. 3420139 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2026, Page 3616772 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Freedom Mortgage Corporation, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on December 9, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot Numbers One (1) and Three (3), in Block Number One (1) of the Glendale Subdivision to East Gadsden, according to the map or plat thereof as the same appears of record in Plat Book "E", Page 53, in the Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama, and lying and being in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 1031 Springfield Avenue, Gadsden, AL 35903.

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

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

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

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

* 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.

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
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. 26-09170AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

October 30, November 6, and 13, 2026

**MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE**

Whereas, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Lee Investment Consultants, LLC, to John Hayes, a married man on the 15th day of February, 2015, said mortgage being recorded in Instrument No. 3384268, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, also that certain mortgage executed by Lee Investment Consultants, LLC, to John Hayes, a married man on the 15th day of February 2019, said mortgage being recorded in Instrument No. 3479887, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and the undersigned, by reason of such default, having declared the entire remaining indebtedness secured by said mortgage to be immediately due and payable, and said mortgage subject to foreclosure, and such default continuing, notice is hereby given, that acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the undersigned, J. Lance Smith, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash in front of the rear Courthouse door Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on the 23rd day of November, 2026, the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:
Commencing at a nail in concrete marking the Northwest Corner, SW 4 of the NW 4, Section 14, Township 12 South, Range 7 East, thence along the North line of said forty North 87 degrees 40 minutes 04 seconds East 308.00 feet to a point; thence South 02 degrees 20 minutes 30seconds East 20.56 feet to a pinch pipe, also being the point of beginning; thence North 87 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds East 220.26 feet to a point; thence Sout 01 degrees 42 minutes 16 seconds East 173.71 feet to a CPF, Walker; thence South 83 degrees 31 minutes 22 seconds West 120.64 feet to the CPF, Walker; thence South 86 degrees 39 minutes 47 seconds West 101.98 feet to a grader blade; thence North 01 degrees 06 minutes 27 seconds West 184.24 feet to the point of beginning.
Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process.
John Hayes, a married man
BY:
J. Lance Smith, his Attorney
Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, PC
P. O. Box 129
Gadsden, AL 35902

October 30, November 6 and 13, 2026

**MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE**

Whereas, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Lee Investment Consultants, LLC, to John Hayes, a married man on the 15th day of February, 2015, said mortgage being recorded in Instrument No. 3479886, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and the undersigned, by reason of such default, having declared the entire remaining indebtedness secured by said mortgage to be immediately due and payable, and said mortgage subject to foreclosure, and such default continuing, notice is hereby given, that acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the undersigned, J. Lance Smith, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash in front of the rear Courthouse door Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on the 23rd day of November, 2026, the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

PIN: 25220; 25219; 25221:
All that part of Tract 13 of the J.T. Morris Farms Tract lying above that certain datum Plane of 512 feet above mean sea level as established by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey as adjusted in January 1955.
Save and Except: any portion thereof contained within the Plat of Riverview Addition Number 2 to Hokes Bluff as same appears of record in Plat Book "F", Page 5, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama and,
Save and Except: any portion thereof which would be either alone or together with other lands entirely surrounded by waters of the Coosa River or its tributaries such river or its tributaries be raised and back up to the 512 datum plane.
Subject to: all rights of the Alabama Power Company as set forth in instruments recorded in Book 7F, Page 321 and Book 1060, page 534, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.

PIN: 92003:
To reach the point of beginning of a tract or parcel of land described herein commence where the North line of North Sibert Street intersects the East R/W line of Main Street and run East along the North line of North Sibert Street a distance of 133 feet to the point of beginning; thence run North and parallel to the East R/W line of Main Street for a distance of 124 feet to a point; thence run East and parallel with the South line of the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 for a distance of 127 feet to a point; thence run South and parallel to the East R/W line of Main Street to a point in the South line of the NW1/4 of the NW1/4; thence run Westerly and along said South line to a point in the Easterly line of North Sibert Street; thence run Westerly and along the East line of said street to the point of beginning. Said description embracing a portion of the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 14, Township 12 South, Range 7 East of the Huntsville Meridian in Etowah County, Alabama.

PIN: 28015; 92004; 84458; 28006:
A part of the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 14 Township 12 South, Range 7 East, Etowah County, Alabama and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a existing axle at the Purported Southeast corner of the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of said Section 14; thence S88°55'33"W, 433.30' to a capped rebar found, (Dowdy); Said point being the point of beginning of the tract of land being herein described; thence run S89°52'18"W, 315.57' to a iron pin found ½" solid rod; thence run N02°47'18"E, 113.42 feet to a ¾" rebar found; thence run S89°52'18"W 125.01 feet to a ¾" rebar found; thence run S02°47'18"W 108.33 feet to a ¾" rebar found, at the North 60' Right of Way (R.O.W) of Sibert Street; thence run, along said North R.O.W N85°20'22"W 139.50' to a point at the intersection of the North 60' R.O.W of Sibert Street and the East Variable R.O.W of Main Street; thence run along the East variable R.O.W of Main Street, North along a curve with a Length of 65.48 and a Radius of 389.36 to a point; thence run along the East variable R.O.W of Main Street, N00°24'38"W, 347.94 feet to a ½" Capped rebar found (Dowdy); thence, leaving said R.O.W. run N87°04'10"E, 100.00' to a ½" capped rebar found (Dowdy); thence run N02°28'15'W, 208.00 feet to a capped rebar found (Dowdy); thence run N88°15'05"E, 611.85 feet to a ½" capped rebar found (Dowdy); thence run S04°54'56"W, 61.24' to a ½" capped rebar found (Dowdy); thence run S88°14'24"W, 77.83 feet to a ½" capped rebar found (Dowdy); thence run S03°41'45"W, 203.06 feet to a ½" capped rebar found (Dowdy); thence run S04°22'32"W, 199.52' to a ½" capped rebar found (Dowdy); thence run S04°10'27"W, 195.70' to a 1/25" capped rebar found (Dowdy); Said point being the point of beginning of the tract of land being herein described.

PIN: 28173:
Commencing at a ½" rebar marking the North West corner of lot 17 Block 1 J.C Morris Subdivision, lying on the Eastern 40' right of way (R.O.W) of Sibert Road, in Section 14, Township 12 South, Range 7 East of the Huntsville Meridian, in Etowah County Alabama; Said point being the point of beginning of the tract of land being herein described; thence, leaving said R.O.W, run S89°53'13"E for a distance of 212.74' to an existing ½" rebar found; thence run N90°00'00"E, for a distance of 50.00' to an existing ½" rebar found; thence run N90°00'00"E, for a distance of 100.00' to an existing 5/8" rebar found at the West 110' R.O.W of Appalachian Road; thence run, along said R.O.W, S07°23'33"W, for a distance of 141.36' to a point at the intersection of the North 50' R.O.W of Third Street and the West 110' R.O.W of Appalachian Road; Said point being the point of beginning of the tract of land herein described; said property being a portion of Section 14, Township 12 South, Range 7 East of the Huntsville Meridian, in Etowah County Alabama and being a portion of lots 10 and 11 J.C Morris Subdivision Block 2 Plat E-59.

PIN: 28174; 28175:
Lots 13, 14, 15 and 16 of Block 2 of the J C Morris Subdivision as same appears of record in Plat Book "E", page 59, Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama.

PIN:97229:
Commence at a 1" pipe marking the NE corner of tract (15), J.T. Morris Farm (AKA NE corner of Fraction "A", Section 10, T-12-S, R-7-E), as recorded in Plat Book "C", Page 120, in the Etowah County Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama, said point on the Westerly R/W of Johnson Road (50' R/W), thence S 04 degrees 56 minutes 45 seconds 49.95 feet along the East line of said tract (15) and along said R/W to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence leaving said East line of said tract (15) and said R/W N 89 degrees 39 minutes 15 seconds West 210.00 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), said point being the point of beginning. Thence South 04 degrees 56 minutes 20 seconds West 170.21 feet to a crimped pipe, thence South 04 degrees 51 minutes 02 seconds West 249.26 feet to a crimped pipe, thence South 89 degrees 37 minutes 37 seconds East 209.55 feet to a pinched pipe on the East line of said tract (15), thence South 04 degrees 56 minutes 38 seconds West 861.43 feet along said East line of said Tract (15) to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence South 89 degrees 24 minutes 54 seconds West 498.62 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS) on the approximate 51; contour, thence along said approximate 512' contour, the following chord bearings and distances: North 13 degrees 57 minutes 08 seconds West 108.59 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence North 03 degrees 38 minutes 53seconds East 145.71 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence North 25 degrees 29 minutes 59 seconds East 94.77 feet to a point, thence North 05 degrees 42 minutes 27 seconds East 53.89 feet to a point, thence North 34 degrees 56 minutes 08 seconds West 53.43 feet to a point, thence North 43 degrees 06 minutes 14 seconds West 46.93 feet to a point, thence North 21 degrees 32 minutes 29 seconds West 73.77 feet to a point, thence North 68 degrees 04 minutes 13 seconds West 28.86 feet to a point, thence South 86 degrees 27 minutes 17 seconds West 51.56 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence North 66 degrees 24 minutes 01 seconds West 33.01 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence North 15 degrees 39 minutes 54 seconds West 184.35 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence North 38 degrees 54 minutes 18 seconds West 107.61 feet to a point, thence North 27 degrees 04 minutes 23 seconds West 90.78 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence North 12 degrees 06 minutes 10 seconds West 4904 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence leaving said approximate 512 contour South 89 degrees 39 minutes 50 seconds East 647.67 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence North 04 degrees 56 minutes 20 seconds East 340.28 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 21 seconds East 60.00 feet to the point of beginning.
Also a 50' Access Easement described as follows:
Begin at a 1" pipe marking the NE corner of Tract (15), J.T. Morris Farms (aka NE corner of Fraction "A", Section 10, T-12-S, R-7-E), as recorded in Plat Book "C", Page 120, in the Etowah County Probate Office of Etowah County, Alabama, said point on the Westerly R/W of Johnson Road (50' R/W), thence South 04 degrees 56 minutes 45 seconds 49.95 feet along the East line of said Tract (15) and along said R/W to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence leaving said East line of said tract (15) and said R/W North 89 degrees 39 minutes 15 seconds West 210.00 feet to a ½" rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence South 89 degrees 51 minutes 21 seconds West 619.71 feet to a point, thence South 22 degrees 22 minutes 37 seconds East 153.79 feet to a point, thence South 06 degrees 21 minutes 31 seconds East 193.94 feet to a point, thence North 89 degrees 39 minutes 50 seconds West 60.06 feet to a point, thence North 06 degrees 27 minutes 57 seconds West 180.39 feet to a point, thence North 20 degrees 55 minutes 55 seconds West 217.48 feet to a point on the North line of said Tract (15), thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 21 seconds East 912.05 feet to the point of beginning, and the end of said easement.

Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process.

John Hayes, a married man
J. Lance Smith, his Attorney
Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, PC
P. O. Box 129
Gadsden, AL 35902

October 30, November 6 and 13, 2026

**MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE**

Whereas, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Karla V Lanzas, to Family Savings Credit Union on the 1st day of June, 2026, said mortgage being recorded in Instrument No. 3542846, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, and the undersigned, by reason of such default, having declared the entire remaining indebtedness secured by said mortgage to be immediately due and payable, and said mortgage subject to foreclosure, and such default continuing, notice is hereby given, that acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the undersigned, Dana L. Rice, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash in front of the rear Courthouse door Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on the 30th day of November, 2026, the following described real estate situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:
All that certain lot or parcel of land situate in the County of Etowah, State of Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows:
Lot Number Five (5) in Block Eight (8), Metropolitan Subdivision, Unit Three, according to the plat or map thereof as the same appears of record in Plat Book "G", Page 251, Probate Office 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. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process.

Family Savings Credit Union
Dana L. Rice, Its Attorney
Turnbach, Warren, Rice, Frederick & Smith, PC
P. O. Box 129
Gadsden, AL 35902

November 6, 13, and 20, 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 Allen D Parker Jr and Jeannine Parker, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns dated December 9, 2025; said mortgage being recorded on January 16, 2026 in Deed Book 2026, Page 3603335 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2026, Page 3615992 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on December 9, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot “A”, in Rearrangement of Lots 18, 19 and 20, in Block 3 of the Oak Hill Division of the Country Club District Rearrangement and Addition to, and Rearrangement of Block 12 of Rainbow Park, as recorded in Plat Book G, page 115, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 509 Country Club 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. 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.

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, 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. 26-09182AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Barbara McCurdy, Unmarried woman and Deric W. Cline, Unmarried Man, to Regions Bank, on May 9, 2022, said mortgage being recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama, on May 26, 2022, as Document Number 3541089. Regions Bank, its successors and assigns, the current holder, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Etowah County Courthouse, in Gadsden, Alabama, on December 16, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:
THE FOLLOWING LANDS AND PROPERTY, TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED THEREON, LYING IN CITY OF SOUTHSIDE. ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA TO WIT: PARCEL ONECOMMENCE AT AN EXISTING RAILROAD SPIKE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH. RANGE 6 EAST OF THE HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN, AND RUN SOUTH 03 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE THEREOF, 466.70 FEET TO AN EXISTING PK NAIL; THENCE RUN SOUTH 38 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST, LEAVING SAID EAST LINE 834.66 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 38 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST 45.09 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN NORTH 47 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 26 SECONDS WEST. 330.38 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF SMITH ROAD (60 FEET RIGHT OF WAY): THENCE RUN NORTH 38 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY 45.09 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 47 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY 330.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PROPERTY BEING A PORTION OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 9 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.PARCEL TWOCOMMENCE AT AN EXISTING RAILROAD SPOKE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 9. TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST OF THE HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN, AND RUN SOUTH 03 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE THEREOF, 466.70 FEET TO AN EXISTING PK NAIL: THENCE RUN SOUTH 38 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST, LEAVING SAID EAST LINE, 879.75 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 38 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST. 112.0 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN NORTH 47 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 26 SECONDS WEST, 330.38 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SMITH ROAD (60 FEET RIGHT OF WAY); THENCE RUN NORTH 38 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY, 112 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 47 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST. 330.38 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PROPERTY BEING A PORTION OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST. ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.PARCEL THREECOMMENCE AT AN EXISTING RAILROAD SPIKE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST OF THE HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN, AND RUN SOUTH 03 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE THEREOF, 466.70 FEET TO AN EXISTING PK NAIL; THENCE RUN SOUTH 38 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST, LEAVING SAID EAST LINE 991.75 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 38 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST, 234.42 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF DEED BOOK 1199, PAGE 635. PROBATE OFFICE, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA; THENCE RUN SOUTH 47 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST 330.50 FEET TO AN EXISTING PINCH PIPE ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SMITH ROAD (60 FEET RIGHT OF WAY): THENCE RUN NORTH 38 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY, 234.41 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 47 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST, LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY 330.38 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PROPERTY BEING A PORTION OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 AND THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA.
More commonly known as: 3601 Smith Rd, Southside, AL 35907-0835
This Property will be sold on an “as is, where is” basis, without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expense of foreclosure. The successful bidder must tender certified funds by noon the next business day to Law Office of Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Certified funds must be in the form of a wire transfer, bank or credit union’s cashier’s check, or bank official check payable to Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. If sale is voided, Mortgagee/Transferee shall return the bid amount to the successful purchaser and the Mortgagee/Transferee shall not be liable to the purchase for any damages. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the purchaser at the sale shall be only entitled to a return of the deposit and bid amount, if paid. The Mortgagee/Transferee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.
Important Notice to Potential Bidders: Federal law administered by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (“FinCEN”), a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, requires certain residential real estate transactions to be reported to the federal government. If you are the winning bidder at auction, you may be required to provide identifying information about yourself and, if applicable, any entity or trust purchasing the property. This information is required by federal law and must be provided to complete the sale. Failure to provide required information after the sale may delay or prevent issuance of the foreclosure deed.
Regions Bank, its successors and assigns (“Transferee”)

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

November 13, 20, and 27, 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 Shannon D Baty, an unmarried person, to Compass Bank dated July 21, 2014; said mortgage being recorded on July 22, 2014 as Instrument No. 3404745 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama..

The undersigned, PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Successor by merger to BBVA USA, formerly known as Compass Bank, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on December 23, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

Commence at a 2 inch pipe marking the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter (Northeast 1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (Northwest 1/4 ) of Section Thirty Two (32), Township Twelve (12) South, Range Seven (7) East, thence South 00 degrees 13 minutes 09 seconds East 644.80 feet along the East line of said forty to a 1/2 inch rebar on the Southerly right of way of Keysburg Road (30 foot right of way), thence leaving said forty line North 69 degrees 32 minutes 22 seconds West 21.73 feet along said right of way to a 1/2 inch rebar, thence North 74 degrees 08 minutes 31 seconds West 105.02 feet along said right of way to a 3/8 inch rebar capped (Dowdy) also being the Point of Beginning, thence leaving said right of way South 02 degrees 54 minutes 33 seconds West 210.39 feet to a 3/8 inch rebar, thence North 62 degrees 48 minutes 12 seconds West 9.00 feet to a point, thence South 02 degrees 56 minutes 59 seconds West 214.43 feet to a 2 inch pipe on the Northeasterly right of way of L & N Railroad (right of way varies), thence along said right of way a chord bearing and distance of North 40 degrees 33 minutes 06 seconds West 250.08 feet to a 1/2 inch rebar capped (CA-497-LS), thence along said right of way a chord bearing and distance of North 29 degrees 37 minutes 26 seconds West 435.08 feet to a 3/8 inch rebar on the Southerly right of way of said Keysburg Road (30 foot right of way) thence South 66 degrees 35 minutes 30 seconds East 238.71 feet along said right of way to a 3/8 inch rebar, thence South 74 degrees 45 minutes 36 seconds East 170.18 feet along said right of way to a nail, thence South 74 degrees 44 minutes 23 seconds East 16.69 feet along said right of way to the Point of Beginning.

Said property is commonly known as 204 Keysburg Road, Gadsden, AL 35905.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Successor by merger to BBVA USA, formerly known as Compass Bank as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 22-04043AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

November 13, 20, and 27, 2026

**FORECLOSURE NOTICE**

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by the mortgage given by Ceandra S. James and Jennifer James, as Mortgagor, to G & M Homes, LLC, as Mortgagee, dated March 18, 2013, and recorded as Instrument Number 3382713, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and the Mortgagee, by reason of such default, having declared the entire remaining indebtedness secured by said mortgage to be immediately due and payable and said mortgage subject to foreclosure, and such default continuing, notice is hereby given that acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the Mortgagee will sell, at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the door of the Etowah County Courthouse in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on the 3rd day of December, 2026, the following described property to-wit:

Lots Number Nine (9) and Ten (10) in Shaddowlawn Addition, as recorded in Plat Book “C”, page 74, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.
Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage and the proceeds thereof will be applied as provided by the terms of said mortgage.
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 the 10th day of November, 2026.

G & M Homes, LLC, Mortgagee
/s/ James C. Inzer, III
Inzer, Haney, McWhorter & Haney, LLC
Attorney for Mortgagee

November 13, 20, and 27, 2026

**FORECLOSURE NOTICE**

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by the mortgage given by Erin Shorder, as Mortgagor, to G & M Homes, LLC, as Mortgagee, dated September 13, 2013, and recorded as Instrument Number 3391818, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and the Mortgagee, by reason of such default, having declared the entire remaining indebtedness secured by said mortgage to be immediately due and payable and said mortgage subject to foreclosure, and such default continuing, notice is hereby given that acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the Mortgagee will sell, at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the door of the Etowah County Courthouse in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on the 3rd day of December, 2026, the following described property to-wit:

Lot Number Seven (7) in Spring Hill Estates, Rainbow City, Alabama, as recorded in Plat Book “I”, page 121, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.
Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage and the proceeds thereof will be applied as provided by the terms of said mortgage.
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 the 10th day of November, 2026.
G & M Homes, LLC, Mortgagee
/s/ James C. Inzer, III
Inzer, Haney, McWhorter & Haney, LLC
Attorney for Mortgagee

November 13, 20, and 27, 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 Anthony B Henson, Lea J Henson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns dated January 19, 2013; said mortgage being recorded on February 4, 2013 as Instrument No. 3380356 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Rocket Mortgage, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2026, Page 3612179 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Etowah County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Etowah County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on October 14, 2026 the following property, situated in Etowah County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot Number Fifteen (15), Phase I, Coosa Veranda Subdivision, according to the map thereof recorded in Plat Map “K”, page 48, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 2391 Veranda Trce, Gadsden, AL 35903.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC

as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 26-08877AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net
The Messenger
09/04/2026,09/11/2026,09/18/2026,11/13/2026
AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until November 25, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.
The Messenger, November 13, 2026
26-08877AL

November 13, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Julienne Allen was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/18/2026 over the Estate of Timothy Aaron Allen, 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

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Shirley D. Marbut was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/16/2026 to the Estate of David Roger Shields, 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

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Mary Ellen Burgess-Parker was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/15/2026 over the Estate of David Wayne Parker, 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

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Brittany Robbins was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/15/2026 over the Estate of Wesley Robertson, Jr, 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

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Suzanne M. Hammock was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/12/2026 to the Estate of John Dow Hammock 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

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Pamela Gregerson was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/08/2026 to the Estate of Peter Gregerson, Jr., 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

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Tim Huddleston was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/18/2026 to the Estate of Paula Allard, 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

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Rickey Lee Wordlaw was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 10/20/2026 to the Estate of Ruby Sue Johnson, 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

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**FILE CLAIMS**

Takeishea Rudolph was/were appointed Personal Representative(s) on 09/16/2026 over the Estate of Alice Jean Buggs, 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

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: YANG "KUMI" FLYNN, INCAPACITATED
Case #: 2026-241
TO: Any interested party

Please take notice that a PETITION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 23 day of NOVEMBER 2026 at 1:00P.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 22ND DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026.

Scott Hassell
PROBATE JUDGE

October 30, November 6 and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: LAURA LEE WRIGHT, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED
Case #: 2026-547

TO: Cathy Whitmore 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 30th day of NOVEMBER, 2026 at 1:30 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 22ND DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

Scott Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 30, November 6, and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: MILFORD LEON GARMON, III, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED

Case #: 2026-643

TO: Trent Garmon and any unknown family, whose whereabouts are unknown

Please take notice that a PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP, CONSERVATORSHIP, PROTECTIVE PLACEMENT AND/OR SERVICES of the above referenced incapacitated individual was filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate, and further, that the 7th day of DECEMBER 2026 at 1:30 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 26TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 30, November 6 and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: CATHERINE PATE, ALLEGED INCAPACITATED
Case #: 2026-647

TO: Richard Pate 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 9th day of DECEMBER, 2026 at 2:30 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 29TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

Scott Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 30, November 6, and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF KATIE HOLCOMB, DECEASED.
Case No.: 2026-00462

TO: Kristen Faulkner and Shaun Robinson; whereabouts unknown

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

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 29th day of December, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the instrument filed with said petition and purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Katie Holcomb, deceased, should not be admitted to probate and recorded in this Court as the true Last Will and Testament of said decedent.

DONE THIS THE 10th DAY OF November, 2026.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 13, 20, and 27, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LARRY GENE WHISENANT, DECEASED.
Case No.: 2025-00697

TO: Any and all persons interested in the Estate of Larry Gene Whisenant, deceased

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Brandy Clemmons, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Larry Gene Whisenant, filed a Petition to Sell Real Property on the 3rd day of November, 2026.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be in and appear before this Court on the 4th day of January, 2027 at 2:00 p.m., when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the Petition to Sell Property should be denied.

DONE THIS THE 10th DAY OF November, 2026.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 13, 20, and 27, 2026

**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

IN THE PROBATE COURT ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RONALD CLEMENTS TRIMBLE, SR., DECEASED.

CASE NO: 2026-00635

TO: Ronald Clements, Jr., Victoria Ann Bourne, Teresa Lynn Trimble, Anthony Dwayne Trimble, Wenona Jo Trimble Hardenburg and any and all unknown heirs.

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

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED to be and appear before this Court on the 4th day of January, 2027 at 1:30 p.m. when said petition will be heard and to show cause, if any you may have, why the instrument filed with said petition and purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Ronald Clements Trimble, Sr., deceased, should not be admitted to probate and recorded in this Court as the true Last Will and Testament of said decedent.
This the 30th day of October 2026

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND PETITION FOR LETTERS OF CONSERVATORSHIP**

Notice to: Any unknown family members, whose whereabouts are unknown

You will take notice that a Petition for Letters of Guardianship for the person of Donna Allred and a Petition for Letters of Conservatorship over the estate of Donna Allred was filed by Gadsden Regional Medical Center on the 27th day of OCTOBER 2026.

A hearing on the Petition for Letters of Guardianship and Petition for Letters of Conservatorship is set on the 1st day of DECEMBER 2026, at 1:00 p.m., in the Probate Court of Etowah County, Alabama, 800 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901.

Scott W. Hassell
Judge of Probate

October 30, November 6, and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO ALA. CODE § 40-10-197(i)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Order Resetting Public Auction entered October 23, 2026, by the Honorable Sonny J. Steen, Circuit Judge, in the above-styled tax lien foreclosure action, and pursuant to Ala. Code § 40-10-197(i), the real property described below will be sold at public auction as follows:

The public sale will occur on Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and will occur at the main entrance of the Etowah County Judicial Building, 801 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama 35901. The property to be sold 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 manner and terms of the sale are as follows:
1. The property will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, subject to confirmation by the Circuit Court of Etowah County, Alabama.

2. The minimum bid, as set by the Court pursuant to Ala. Code § 40-10-197(i)(5), is $7,202.87.

3. The highest bidder must pay a NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of $2,500.00 immediately upon being declared the highest bidder. The deposit will be applied to the purchase price.

4. The balance of the high bid must be delivered to the Circuit Clerk of Etowah County, 801 Forrest Avenue, Suite 202, Gadsden, Alabama 35901, in cash or certified funds, no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2026.

5. If the highest bidder fails to pay the balance timely, the next highest bidder must pay its bid amount to the Circuit Clerk within twenty-four (24) hours of the highest bidder's default. If the next highest bidder also fails to pay, the sale will be void. A defaulting highest bidder's deposit will be applied to court costs, attorney's fees, and commissioner's fees as determined by the Court at the confirmation hearing.
6. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court at a later date. Upon confirmation, the Court will enter judgment vesting title in the successful bidder and will direct the Circuit Clerk to execute and deliver a clerk's deed.
This notice is also posted at the Etowah County Judicial Building as required by Ala. Code § 40-10-197(i)(4). For further information, contact the Circuit Clerk of Etowah County at (256) 549-2150 or the undersigned counsel.

Knowles & Sullivan, LLC
413 Broad Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
256-547-7200

October 30, November 6 and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

MERCURY FUNDING, LLC, Plaintiff,
v.
PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY SITUATED IN ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA, HAVING A PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER OF 21-02-09-0-001-052.000, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE PARAGRAPHS BELOW,

AND

LISA TUCK; JILL DEAN a/k/a MELANIE JILL DEAN; BRIAN TUCK; KELLY TUCK; THE HEIRS OF RUBY H. DEAN a/k/a Ruby Jo Harris Dean; and FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS A, B, C, and D, being those persons or entities claiming an interest in, or possession of, certain real property located in Etowah County, Alabama, and more particularly described below,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 31-CV-2025-900145.00

The heirs of Ruby H. Dean a/k/a Ruby Jo Harris Dean, and any person or entity claiming an interest in the property described in the style of the Verified Amended Complaint In Rem must answer the Verified Amended Complaint In Rem filed by Mercury Funding, LLC ("Mercury Funding"), seeking possession and quiet title to that certain property more particularly described as follows:
ETOWAH COUNTY PARCEL NO.: 21-02-09-0-001-052.000
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot # 16 in Jenkins Addition to Southside, Alabama, according to the map thereof as recorded in Plat Book "H", Page 5, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama
ADDRESS: 3160 Jenkins Circle North, Gadsden, Alabama 35907
within 30 days from the last publication date, and serve a copy of same to William S. Hereford, the attorney for Mercury Funding, whose address is Burr & Forman LLP, 420 North 20th Street, Suite 3400, Birmingham, Alabama 35203, or, thereafter, a judgment for possession and quiet title by default may be entered against them in Case Number 31-CV-2025-900145.00, Circuit Court of Etowah County, Alabama.
Done this the 21st day of Oct. 2026.

CASSANDRA JOHNSON
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

October 23, 30, November 6 and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF CIVIL ACTION FOR PARTITION OF REAL PROPERTY BY SALE AND DIVISION**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA
NANCY HUNT,
PLAINTIFF

V.

CASE NO.:
CV2026-900468

JEFFREY HOWARD OWEN,
DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE ISSUED TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT: JEFFREY HOWARD OWEN, and any and all unknown parties, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any persons claiming any future contingent, reversionary, reminder, or other interest therein, who may claim any interest in the above described real property:

A tract of land described as beginning at a point in the North line of the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 which is 54.8 feet West of the Northeast corner of said forty, and from thence run in a Southerly direction and parallel with the East line of said forty to a point in the South line of said forty; thence in a Westerly direction and along said South line to the Southwest corner of said forty; thence in a Northerly direction and along the West line of said forty to the Northwest corner of said forty; thence in an Easterly direction and along the North line of said forty to the point of beginning, and being a portion of the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 in Section 30, Township 11 South, Range 7 East of the Huntsville Meridian, Etowah County, Alabama.

Please take notice that Nancy Hunt has filed an action in the Circuit Court of Etowah County seeking partition of real property by sale and division to the above described property. The above named defendant, whose whereabouts are unknown and/or has not been personally served with process despite the efforts described in the record of this case, must answer said Complaint on or before December 14, 2026, or thereafter a judgment by default may be rendered against the said Defendants in Etowah County Circuit Court Case Number CV-2026-900468.

Done this 21st day of October, 2026.
CASSANDRA JOHNSON,
Clerk of the Court

J. Lance Smith
Attorney for Plaintiff
200 Chestnut Street, Suite A
Gadsden, AL 35901
(256) 543-3664

October 23, 30, November 6 and 13, 2026

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, from Qualified General Contractors will be received by The Etowah County Board of Education at the board office 401 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 until 10:00am CST, Thursday, December 3, 2026 for Re-roofing of Rainbow Middle School Gym: at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. A cashier's check or bid bond payable to Etowah County Board of Education in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than $10,000, must accompany the bidder's proposal. Performance and Payment Bonds and evidence of insurance required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of the Contract. Bid Documents may be examined at the office of B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect, 442 Chestnut Street, Gadsden, AL 35901 and obtained from the Architect at cost of printing. Digital documents are available from the Architect at no cost.
Only general contractors who have been approved to bid pursuant to prequalification procedures, attended the mandatory pre-bid conference and have demonstrated the ability to provide 24/7/365 service with a main office within 60 miles driving distance of the project site as described in the pre-qualification package and/or Div 1 specifications and criteria established by the Owner will be eligible to bid for the Project. Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof.
Prequalification packages are due at the office of the Architect by 10am CST on Friday, November 20, 2026. Utilize standard AIA 305-2020 Contractor's Qualification Statement.
A mandatory pre-bid conference shall be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2026 at 10am CST at the architect's office.
All bidders bidding in amounts exceeding that established by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, and must show evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by the Architect ; the bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owner's judgement, the best interests of the Owner will thereby be promoted.
Etowah County Board of Education (Awarding Authority)
B. Craig Lipscomb, Architect, 256-390-5657, craig@bclarch.com (Architect)

November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS STATE PROJECT NO. RACR-028-759-002 ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA**

Sealed bids will be received by the Director of Transportation at the office of the Alabama Department of Transportation, Montgomery, Alabama until 10:00 AM on December 04, 2026 and at that time publicly opened for constructing SR-759 (East Gadsden Connector) (Grading, Drainage, Pavement, Bridges, Traffic Signals, Intelligent Traffic Systems (ITS), Traffic Signs, Lighting, and Traffic Stripe) from the Coosa River Bridge to the intersection of SR-1 (US-431) and SR-74 (US-278) in Gadsden. Length 2.058 mi.
The total amount of uncompleted work under contract to a contractor must not exceed the amount of his or her qualification certificate.
The Entire Project Shall Be Completed In Six Hundred (600) Working Days.
A Bidding Proposal may be purchased for $5.00. Plans may be purchased for $236.00 per set. Plans and Proposals are available at the Alabama Department of Transportation, 1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Room E-108, Montgomery, AL 36110. Checks should be made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation. Plans and Proposals will be mailed only upon on receipt of remittance. No refunds will be made.

Cashier's check or bid bond for 5% of bid (maximum - $50,000.00) made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation must accompany each bid as evidence of good faith.
The bracket range is shown only to provide general financial information to contractors and bonding companies concerning the project's complexity and size. This Bracket should not be used in preparing a bid, nor will this bracket have any bearing on the decision to award this contract.
The Bracket Estimate On This Project Is From $81,254,429 To $99,310,969 .

Plans and Specifications are on file in Room E-108 of the Alabama Department of Transportation at Montgomery, Alabama 36110.
In accordance with the rules and regulations of The Alabama Department of Transportation, proposals will be issued only to prequalified contractors or their authorized representatives, upon requests that are received before 10 AM., on the day previous to the day of opening of bids.
The bidder's proposal must be submitted on the complete original proposal furnished him or her by the Alabama Department of Transportation.
Section 34-8-8. Code of Alabama 1975 as amended states in part as follows: '... it will be necessary for him or her to show evidence of license before his or her bid is considered,' Further, Section 34-8-8, Code of Alabama 1975 as amended also states in part as follows: 'All Owners, Architects, and engineers receiving bids pursuant to this chapter shall require the person, firm, or corporation to include his or her current license number on the bid.'
The right to reject any or all bids is reserved.

JOHN R. COOPER

Transportation Director

November 13, 20, and 27, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Bulls Construction Group, LLC hereby gives notice of completion of contract with the State of Alabama for construction of Project No. TAP-SU-TA24(903) in Etowah County. This notice will appear for four consecutive weeks beginning on October 30, 2026 and ending on November 20, 2026. All claims should be filed at P.O. Box 360302 Birmingham, AL. 35236 during this period.

Bulls Construction Group, LLC
P.O. Box 360302
Birmingham, AL 35236

October 30, November 6, 13, and 20, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Temple J Electric, LLC hereby gives notice of completion of contract with the State of Alabama for construction of Project Number ATRP2-28-2023-418 in Etowah County. This notice will appear in the form of an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation and will run for three (3) consecutive weeks beginning on 11/13/2026 and ending on 11/27/2026. All claims should be filed at 519 Diversey Street Rainbow City, AL 35906 during this period.

Contractor Name
Temple J Electric, LLC

November 13, 20, and 27, 2026

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDS FOR PHASE THREE RENOVATIONS TO THE CENTRE GYMNASIUM FOR THE CITY OF CENTRE, ALABAMA 350 E. MAIN STREET CENTRE, ALABAMA 35960**

Sealed construction proposals, in duplicate, will be received at the office of the City Clerk, Centre City Hall, 350 E. Main Street, Centre, Alabama, 35960 until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud.
The bidder shall file with his bid either a cashier's check drawn on an Alabama bank, payable to the City of Centre, Alabama, or a bid bond executed by a surety company duly authorized and qualified to make such bonds in Alabama, in an amount equal to the lesser of five percent (5%) of the bid or ten thousand ($10,000).
Bid Documents may be examined at the office of the Architect, The Owner; Alabama AGC / ISQFT Plan Room; McGraw Hill Construction; and Construct Connect. Electronic copies of Bid Documents may be obtained from the Architect upon request of same by email. No printed hard copies of bid documents will be issued. Plan requests should be submitted to tom@tmmarchitect.com. Only email requests will be accepted. The same process is applicable to subcontractors and vendors.
General Contractors who obtain bid documents and wish to withdraw from the Official Bidders List must do so in writing to the Architect prior to the bid date. Bids received from General Contractors who are not on the Official Bidders List will not be accepted or opened. Thomas M. McElrath, Architect, makes no guarantee of bid documents obtained by Contractors and Vendors from sources other than the issued documents provided by the Architect. Contractors and Vendors who base their pricing from bid documents obtained otherwise, either in part or whole, do so at their own risk.
A Mandatory Attendance Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at the Project Site. All General Contractor Bidders expecting to submit a bid shall have a knowledgeable representative at this meeting.
Scope of Work includes, Phase Three renovations of the existing Centre Gymnasium located on the City's Property at 350 E. Main Street, Centre, AL. The Work consists generally of general demolition of existing equipment, fixtures and finishes in the gymnasium, office and gymnasium toilet areas. New gymnasium flooring, wood wainscot, trim and base at the new seating addition. New HVAC systems for the renovated office areas, main gymnasium and new seating addition. New lighting and power and fire alarm system extension at the renovated areas. New finishes (T-111 plywood wainscot and gyp. bd. walls and lay-in ceiling at the new addition) and new gyp bd., resilient flooring, rubber base and lay-in ceiling in the renovated office areas. Project will also consist of new motorized bleachers and new motorized basketball backstops at the gymnasium area and new sidewalks at exit locations.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owner's judgment, the best interests of the Owner will thereby be promoted. The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for the satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond or Bond in the amount required by Section 39-1-1(a), Code of Alabama 1975, and evidence of insurance as required by the bid documents within ten (10) days after being notified that he has been awarded the contract.
Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof. The Owner desires to delay the "Start Date" of this project until 3-1-27 and requests that no bid be withdrawn until that date. In order for the successful bidder to be able to "lock in" pricing for materials that are subject to price fluctuations, the Owner will issue a letter stating that they are agreeable to paying for "stored materials" that are purchased prior to the start date subject to said materials being stored in a bonded warehouse or facility. The successful bidder will provide proof of enrollment in the Federal E-Verify Program and in compliance with the Beason-Hammon Act (Act 2011-535). The bidder must comply with all requirements of the public works bid law Section 39-2-1 et seq., Code of Alabama 1975.
CITY of CENTRE, ALABAMA
350 East Main Street, Centre, Alabama
(256) 927-5222
THOMAS M. McELRATH, ARCHITECT.
717 Merit Springs Road, Gadsden, AL 35901
(256) 490-8244

October 30, November 6, and 13, 2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The following storage unit will be disposed of on November 13, 2026 beginning at 9:00 A.M. on the business premises of B&J Thrift Store and Mini Storage at 1101 Hwy 77, Attalla, AL. 35954.

Unit 37

B&J Thrift and Mini Storage
1101 Hwy 77
Attalla, AL. 35954
256-485-8656

November 6 and 13, 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 2014 jeep Cherokee Vin## 1C4PJLDS7EW183328 The public auction will be held at Matt's Towing 927 B 5th Ave NE Attalla AL 35954 at 10:00am 12/23/2026
The Seller shall have a right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. The seller expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

November 6 and 13, 2026

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Attalla Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing on 19th day of November 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 Petition for Variance requested and filed by Linda Knight to replace an existing mobile home on the property located at 895 Gaines Street SW, Attalla, AL 35954 with a new 2026 mobile home. The lot is zoned R-2 (Two Family Residential).

Mandy Cash
City Clerk

November 6 and 13, 2026

**ORDINANCE NO-33-26**

Authorizing Conveyance of Certain Property

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, that the CITY OF GADSDEN, owns property located at 721 Forrest Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama, more particularly described as follows:

PARCEL 1: H/S BASE YEAR - LT 5 BLK 2 STANDIFER ADD PLAT A-73 4-12-6
1384-421, 1385-763, MERGER-9412-0126, D-2012-3376287
PIN: 33876

PARCEL 2: H/S BASE YEAR - LT 50 X 250S X 50S X 240S LYING IN NE1/4 SW1/4
4-12-6 1384-421, 1385-763, MERGER-9412-0126, D-2012-3376287
PIN: 33875

Whereas, WinSouth Credit Union has offered to pay $50,000.00 for the property;
Now, Therefore, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, as follows:
1. This real property is not needed for any municipal or public purpose.
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a deed to and in favor of WinSouth Credit Union for the sum of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars ($50,000.00).
Adopted by the City Council of Gadsden on October 27, 2026.

Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

November 13, 2026

**ORDINANCE NO. O-34-26**

Amending Certain Sections of Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances of The City of Gadsden, Alabama

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GADSDEN, ALABAMA, as follows:
Section 1.
Chapter 6 ARTICLE I - III of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Gadsden is amended to read as follows:
Sec. 6-1. – Definition.
(a) As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases shall, unless the context plainly shows a different meaning, be given the meanings ascribed to them in Code of Ala. 1975, tit. 28 (Code of Ala. 1975, § 28-1-1 et seq.): alcoholic beverages, association, beer, board, carton, container, club, corporation, fortified wine, hotel, importer, liquor, liquor store, manufacturer, meal, minor, person, restaurant retailer, sale or sell, table wine, unopened container, wholesaler, wine.
(b) As used in this chapter, the word "club" or "private club" shall, unless the context plainly shows a different meaning, be given the meaning ascribed in Code of Ala. 1975, § 28-3-1(8)a for a Class I license.
(c) Table Wine defined by the ABC Board as an alcoholic beverage made from fermented fruit juice, not containing more than 24 percent alcohol by volume (abv), does not contain more than sixteen and one-half percent alcohol by volume (abv) that is made with herbs or flavors, except vermouth, or is an imitation or other standard wine. Table wine is not a liquor, spirituous, or vinous.
(d) "Family-Friendly" is considered to be suitable for all members of an average family, providing service to families that have young children with no age restrictions for entry, and providing activities suitable for children. (examples include: Concerts Venues, Movie theaters, Bowling Alleys, Stadiums, Sporting Events, Special Event Venues, Family Entertainment Centers, Arcades, Specialty bars (such as Karaoke or Piano), Circus or Fairs
(e) Package Store refers to ABC License (011) Lounge Retail Liquor License Class II – Package
ABC Board or Board shall mean the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
ABC License shall mean any license issued by the ABC Board for alcohol, tobacco, ENDS, or consumable hemp
City license means license issued pursuant to this chapter which are business or privilege license which allow the holder thereof to conduct the kind of business identified in the license in accordance with this chapter and Chapter 74 of the Gadsden code of ordinances.
CHP means Consumable Hemp Products
ENDS mean Electronic Nicotine Delivery System and includes Vapes and Electronic Cigarettes
Licensee means the holder of the license pursuant to the chapter
Manager or Agent means each person responsible for the management of an establishment and shall include the designated person in charge
Owner means each individual owner of a sole proprietorship, officer of a corporation, and partner or member of an association, except as incorporated clubs the term shall mean such individuals who, under the bylaws of such clubs, have the jurisdiction over the possession and sale of alcoholic beverages therein.
State Code means the laws of the state as set forth in Code of Alabama 1975 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as such laws may be amended or superseded from time to time.
Sec. 6-2. Violation of state code
It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, title 28 (Code of Ala. 1975, § 28-1-1 et seq.), and such violations shall be considered a misdemeanor against the city and punishable the same as any other violation of this chapter. Where State alcoholic beverage controls laws, which includes Chapter 20-X-6 of the rules and regulations promulgated by the ABC board regulate the operation of licensed premises, shall be subject to the same operational requirements under city licensing and failure to comply with same shall constitute a violation of this chapter.

Sec. 6-3. Citations; duties and powers of the Director of Revenue.

The Director of Revenue, or their designee, shall administer and enforce the license imposed by this chapter, shall have the power to enter upon the premises of any city licensed premises and to examine or cause to be examined by any agent or representative designated by the Director for that person, any books, papers, records, memoranda, or their documents bearing upon the administration or enforcement of this chapter. Where state alcoholic beverage control laws have record keeping requirements of its licensees and right of inspection of state licensed premises such requirement and right of inspection shall also apply in the case of city licensees and city licensed premises.
The Director of Revenue, or their designee, is hereby authorized to issue citations to any person for violation of this chapter. Such citations shall order the person to appear in municipal court to answer such charges. A violation shall be punishable under city code section 1-7.

Sec. 6-4. Seizure of property.
In all cases of confiscation of alcoholic beverages in violation of this chapter, the officer making the seizure shall prepare a list containing a particular description of the property seized. The chief of police shall post notices at the city police department, the county courthouse and the location from which the property was taken. Such notice shall describe the property seized, and the time and place and cause of the seizure, and require any person claiming an interest in such property to make written claim within 30 days of the first posting. Any person claiming the property seized as contraband must file with the chief of police a written claim stating his interest in the property seized and may execute a bond in a penal sum equal to double the value of such property, but in no case less than $200.00, with sureties approved by the municipal court magistrate, conditioned that in case of condemnation of the property obligors shall pay to the city the full value of the property and all cost and expense of the proceedings to obtain condemnation. Upon filing of the bond, the property shall be returned to the claimant pending outcome of the case. The city attorney may then file a complaint in county circuit court to secure the forfeiture of such property.
Sec. 6-5. Gross receipts tax.
In addition to the license fee prescribed by this chapter there shall be a gross receipts tax on the sale of liquor and wine (except table wine for on-premises consumption); that is, on all sales of liquor and wine except table wine by lounge retail licensees, restaurant retail licensees, club liquor licenses, special retail licensees and special events retail licensees. Each such retailer shall pay an additional tax of seven percent of the gross receipts from the sale of the liquor and wine, except table wine. Gross receipts include total receipts from the sale of any drink or mixture containing an alcoholic beverage. Such tax shall be paid on or before the 20th of each month following the month in which the sale was made. If the tax is not paid on time, there shall be assessed a penalty of twenty percent or $25.00 whichever is greater. If the 20th falls on a Saturday, Sunday or municipal holiday, the tax shall be paid on the next working day. A signed, sworn statement of such sales must accompany the payment of tax.
Sec. 6-6. General restrictions on retailers licensed for on-premises consumption.
(a) Sales to be in room accessible to general public. No retailer shall sell any alcoholic beverages for consumption on the licensed premises except in a room or place on the licensed premises at all times accessible to the use and accommodation of the general public; provided, however, a hotel or club licensee may sell alcoholic beverages in any room of such hotel or clubhouse occupied by a bona fide registered guest or member or private party entitled to purchase alcoholic beverages.
(b) View inside establishments. All retail licensees for on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages must maintain their establishment so that no person is able to see inside such place from the outside. This provision shall not apply to restaurant retail licensees or licensees that offer for sale beer and/or table wine.
(c) Firearms. No retail licensee for on-premises consumption shall allow any person carrying any firearm to enter or remain about the premises except for a law enforcement officer on official duty or an employee of the licensee.
Sec. 6-7. Prohibited sales.
(a) Underage persons. It is unlawful for any person, either directly or by the servants, agents, or employees of such person, or for any servant, agent, or employee of any person, to sell, deliver, furnish, or give away alcoholic beverages to any person under the legal drinking age, as defined in Code of Ala. 1975, § 28-1-5, or to permit any person under the legal drinking age, as defined in Code of Ala. 1975, § 28-1-5, to drink, consume, or possess any alcoholic beverages on any licensee's premises of any licensee under this chapter.
(b) Sale to persons engaged in illegal sales. It shall be unlawful for any licensee to knowingly sell any alcoholic beverages to any person engaged in the business of illegally selling alcoholic beverages.
(c) Rolling stores. No licenses shall be issued for the sale of any alcoholic beverages by rolling stores.
Sec. 6-8. Package stores.
(a) Sales to be in sealed containers only. The retail sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption off the premises of the licensee shall be permitted only in sealed containers.
(b) Issuance of license to person holding license for on-premises consumption. No package store license shall be issued to any person holding a license for on-premises consumption on the same or adjoining premises (see State Code 25-3A-25(a)(4)).
(c) Minimum distance between package stores. No package store license shall be issued at any location within 1,000 feet of another package store.
(d) Minimum square footage. The licensee must have a minimum of 500 square feet of floorspace for the display and sale of alcoholic beverages, not including areas of the licensed premises which are not open to the patrons or general membership of the licensee and which are used for office space, storage or restroom facilities.
(e) Sale of other items. The licensee is authorized to sell only snack and delicatessen items, cheeses, beverage containers (whether glass or plastic) and tobacco products. The licensee shall not sell general grocery items, novelties, clothing or any other items of general merchandise.
(f) Use of interior passageways. Any interior door, window or passageway in licensed premises which opens or may be opened into an adjoining building may be used only by the licensee or its employees. Such interior openings must be unavailable to the patrons, customers or members of the licensee and such passageway must be clearly marked "employees only."
(g) Inventory requirements. The licensee shall at all times when open for business have in its possession a minimum inventory of $5,000.00 wholesale cost of liquor and wine. The liquor possessed by the licensee must have been produced by at least two distilleries and the wine possessed must have been produced by at least two wineries.
(h) Age restriction for issuance of license. No person under the age of 21 years shall be issued such licenses nor shall any corporation be issued such licenses unless the president shall be over the age of 21 years.
(i) Signs, emblems, slogans and other advertising.
(1) It shall be unlawful for any signs, cards, placards or streamers to be distributed by or for any licensee advertising specific sports events which are carried by radio and television stations. This does not prohibit calendars or schedules of sports such as football, basketball, baseball, hockey, etc. It shall be unlawful for any signs to be displayed or visible from the outside of a licensee's establishment advertising beverages by the case, carton, or bottle, or advertising beverages at a certain price; or for any signs to be displayed outside a retail licensee's establishment which advertise alcoholic beverages by brand name or by use of the terms "beer," "liquor," "wine" or "whiskey."
(2) A licensee may use the name of its emblems, slogans, etc., on the letterhead used by the licensee.
(3) The sale of items bearing names, slogans, or emblems of any alcoholic beverage is not prohibited.
(4) The licensee shall not advertise or identify its premises, prices or location by the use of a flashing or blinking sign whether operated by electricity, gas or otherwise.
(j) Beverage lockers prohibited. The licensee may not rent out, furnish or maintain so-called beverage locker service for the storing or keeping by customers, patrons, members or renters of any alcoholic beverages.
(k) Prohibited conduct.
(1) An off-premises licensee, employee or agent is prohibited from conducting, sponsoring or allowing any type of contest which requires the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the licensed premises.
(2) No off-premises licensee, employee or agent may sell any alcoholic beverage to any person if such person is acting in such a manner as to appear to be intoxicated.
(3) No off-premises licensee, employee or agent may consume alcoholic beverages during working hours.
(l) Time and manner of sales. It shall be unlawful to sell or offer for sale at retail or to give away in or upon any premises licensed for a package store any alcoholic beverages before the hour of 9:00 a.m. and after the hour of 11:55 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and before the hour of 9:00 a.m. and after the hour of 11:55 p.m. on Sunday. Alcoholic beverages shall not be sold by means of a drive-up, walk-up or drive-through window or other type of exterior access. All sales of alcoholic beverages must be made on the inside of the licensed premises.
(m) Open containers prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to be in possession of any glass, can, bottle or other open container containing an alcoholic beverage on the premises of any package store or any street, sidewalk, alley, parking lot or other public property, or right-of-way adjoining the premises of such a licensee. The licensee shall post a notice at each exit stating: "No alcoholic beverage (beer, liquor or wine) may be carried in an open container inside this building or the surrounding area."
(n) Business license and license tax. A package store licensee shall pay a business license tax as a retail merchandise business, NAICS Code 4456, according to the license schedule established by sections 74-91 and 74-92. In addition, the licensee shall pay a tax of seven percent of the gross receipts from the sale of liquor and wine except table wine as provided in section 6-5.
Sec. 6-9. Hours of sale and operation.
(a) Retail licensees. Subject to subsection (d) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any retail licensee, its owner, manager, servant, agent, or employee, to sell, offer for sale or to serve, or to dispense for reward, or offer to serve, or dispense for reward, or to allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages upon the city licensed premises on the days and during the hours hereinafter enumerated as follows:
(1) Prohibited hours for on-premises consumption for licensees with (140) Special Events Retail, (150) Special Retail License – 30 days or less, (160) Special Retail – more than 30 days, shall be from 12:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. These establishments/event venues are considered "family friendly".
(2) There shall be no prohibited hours for off-premises retailers, except those subject to Sec 6-8 Package Stores.
(3) Prohibited hours for on-premises for licensee with (020) Restaurant Retail Liquor, shall be from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. provided the kitchen is open serving menu items.
(b) Other licensees. Pursuant to Title 28-3A-25 Code of Alabama, it shall be unlawful for any manufacturer, importer, or wholesaler, or the servants, agents, or employees of the same, to sell, trade, or barter in alcoholic beverages between the hours of 9:00 p.m. of any Saturday and 2:00 a.m. of the following Monday (i.e. No Sunday Sales).
(c) Business hours for on-premises liquor retailers. It shall be unlawful for any (010) Lounge Retail Liquor- Class I and (011) Lounge Retail-Class II (Package) retail liquor license to remain open to the general public between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
(d) Where state alcoholic beverage control laws have specific requirements or conditions for a state licenses, which includes those that are classification specific, the requirements or conditions shall also apply in the case of city licensees, which includes membership requirements in the case of club licensees.
(e) Hours proscribed by zoning ordinance. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, where the city's zoning laws, which includes variances and special exceptions granted under the authority of the zoning ordinance, provide for more or less restrictive hours of operation or sales hours for a licensee such hours shall apply in lieu of the foregoing and it shall be a violation of this chapter for any licensee to operate or sell during the prohibited hours. Such variances may be found in designated Entertainment Districts.
Sec. 6-10. Responsibility of club and lounge licensees to document age.
All club and lounge retail licensees shall be responsible for determining that no minors enter such establishment and that each customer has legal documentation of age.
Sec. 6-11. Lewd acts.
(a) No licensee shall permit any person upon the licensed premises to perform acts of or acts which simulate:
(1) Sexual intercourse, masturbation,

sodomy, bestiality, oral copulation, or flagellation;
(2) The touching, caressing or fondling of the breasts, buttocks, anus or genitalia; or
(3) The display of pubic hair, anus, vulva, genitalia, nipples and areola of the breast.
(b) No licensee shall permit the showing of films, still pictures, electronic reproductions or other visual reproductions depicting such acts or simulations of such acts.

Sec. 6-12. Retail off-premises table wine licensees to separate wine from other goods.
Any retail off-premises table wine licensee operating a business other than the sale of alcoholic beverages shall place the table wine available for purchase on the premises in such a manner as to readily distinguish and separate it from the other goods or merchandise available for purchase.
Sec. 6-13. Purchase, consumption or possession by persons under 21 years of age.
(a) It is unlawful for any person less than 21 years of age to attempt to purchase, to purchase, consume, or possess, or to transport any alcoholic beverages within the city; provided, however, it shall not be unlawful for a person under 21 years of age who is an employee of a wholesale licensee or an off-premises retail licensee of the board to handle, transport, or sell any beer or table wine if the person under the legal drinking age is acting within the line and scope of his employment while so acting. There must be an adult licensee or servant, agent, or employee of the licensee present at all times a licensed establishment is open for business.
(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, it shall not be unlawful for any state alcoholic beverage control board licensee to employ any person under 21 years of age to work, provided there is an adult in attendance at all times. It shall be permissible to employ persons in an on-premises licensed establishment under 21 years of age such as professional entertainers, show people, musicians, cashiers, hostesses, ushers, waiters and waitresses, bus boys or girls, and the like, provided they do not serve, dispense or consume alcoholic beverages and there is an adult in attendance at all times. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, persons who are 19 years of age or older and working as a waiter, waitress, or server may serve alcoholic beverages during normal dining hours in a restaurant which holds a state alcoholic beverage control board restaurant retail license. An employer who employs a person between the ages of 19 and 21 to serve alcoholic beverages as provided in the preceding sentence shall be a licensee of the board who has been annually certified as a responsible vendor under the Alabama Responsible Vendor Act (Code of Ala. 1975, § 28-10-1 et seq.).

Sec. 6-14. Drinking in public place.
It shall be unlawful for any person to drink alcoholic beverages in any public place, including, but not limited to, public buildings, public parks, streets, sidewalks, alleys, public rights-of-way, parking lots, shopping centers, malls, bus stations, theaters, or service stations, except when a special retail or special events retail license has been obtained.

Sec. 6-15. Wholesale sales of beer and table wine.
It shall be unlawful for any wholesaler to sell beer or table wine to any person other than one holding a current City of Gadsden retail business license for beer or table wine, provided wholesalers may sell draft or keg beer for off-premises consumption.

Sec. 6-16. Portable coolers.
No iced container, sometimes referred to as a portable cooler, shall be used or allowed to be used for the sale of individual containers of alcoholic beverages on the premises of an establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages on an off-premises basis, unless specifically permitted by resolution of the city council.

Sec. 6-17—6-40. Reserved.

ARTICLE II.
LICENSES

Sec. 6-41. Sale without license prohibited. City license required; application of business license chapter
It shall be unlawful for any person to deliver, furnish, distribute, manufacture, import, store, sell, offer for sale or have in possession for sale any alcoholic beverages when such person has not been licensed to do so. The possession of five gallons or more of liquor, including wine, and/or two cases or more of beer by one who is not licensed under this chapter shall be prima facie evidence that such alcoholic beverages are in possession for sale under the terms of this section. Any alcoholic beverages so possessed shall be contraband and are subject to confiscation and condemnation as set out in section 6-4 or as otherwise provided by law.
(a) All applicable provisions of Chapter 74 of this Code, not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, are hereby referred to and made a part of this chapter to the same extent as herein set out in full.

Sec. 6-42. Separate license required for each place of business.
Any retailer may be granted licenses to maintain, operate or conduct any number of places for the sale of alcoholic beverages, but a separate license must be secured for each place where alcoholic beverages are sold. Where more than one retail operation is located within the same building, each such operation under separate or different ownership is required to obtain a separate retail license. Note restrictions on locations for package stores exist. See Sec 6-8(c)

Sec. 6-43. Application requirements; qualifications.
(a) Application for state license; fee. Each person desiring to sell alcoholic beverages, tobacco, consumable hemp or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems in the corporate limits of the city shall file with the state alcoholic beverage control board a written application in such form and containing such information as is required for a state license and shall pay the appropriate license fee prescribed by this chapter.
(b) Additional information. In addition, such application shall state the type of license sought; the place where the business is to be conducted; whether the applicant is a person, association or corporation; the name, address, birthdate, place of birth and record of all criminal convictions of the applicant and each officer, director, manager or person holding ten percent or more of the stock; and evidence of ownership or lease of real property where the business will be located.
(c) Application for (031) Club Liquor-Class I License (Non-Profit). Any application for a (031) Club Liquor- Class I license shall show the name of the club and its business address; the location where alcoholic beverages will be sold; the names and addresses of the owners of the premises and all lessees and sublessees; a certified copy of the certificate of incorporation, constitution and bylaws of the club; a verified list of the members of the club at the time of application, together with resident addresses; and the names and resident addresses of the elected officers and manager of the club. The highest elected official of the club shall certify to the truth of all matters in the application with his signature attested by any other elected officer of the club.
(d) Character of applicant. Licenses shall be granted only to reputable individuals who are of good moral character, to associations whose members are of good moral character, or to reputable corporations organized under the laws of the state or qualified to do business in the state, if it appears that all officers and directors of the corporation are of good moral character.
(e) Certificates of health and safety. Every applicant for an original license shall furnish:
(1) A certificate from the health officer that the premises of the business are sanitary and comply with city and state sanitary and health laws, rules and regulations; and
(2) A certificate of approval for occupancy by the building official.

Sec. 6-44. Types of licenses.
The City of Gadsden has no obligation to offer the same types of licenses the ABC Board has available. The types of licenses available in the City of Gadsden are as follows:
(1) 010 - Lounge Retail Liquor -Class I (7228-commonly referred to in layman's terms as a night club-no one under 19 is allowed to enter)
(2) 011- Lounge Retail Liquor Class --II – Package Store (4456-only allows off-premise sales of liquor, beer and wine in an unopen container-no one under 19 is allowed to enter)
(3) 020- Restaurant Retail Liquor (7229-Must maintain 51% Food Ratio, requires food permit, allows for on-premise consumption)
(4) 031- Club Liquor - Class I (7227-Non-Profit Private Club-members only licensed location, general public is not allowed-can allow members to bring outside alcohol onto the licensed premise)
(5) 040-Retail Beer on/off-premises (7225-allows sale of beer for on premise consumption and off premise in the original unopened container) and 050-Retail Beer- off-premises (4454-allows sale of beer for off-premise sales in the original unopened container)
(6) 060-Retail Wine on/off-premises (7226- allows sale of wine for on premise consumption and off premise in the original unopened container and 070 Retail Wine on/off-premises (4455- allows sale of wine for off-premise sales in the original unopened container)
(7) 080-Liquor wholesale (4248)-Beer or Wine or Distilled alcohol beverage merchant
(8) 090-Wholesale beer only. (4248)-Beer or Wine or Distilled alcohol beverage merchant
(9) 100-Wholesale wine only. (4248)-Beer or Wine or Distilled alcohol beverage merchant.
(10) 110-Wholesale warehouses (4240-Table Wine & Beer Combined)
(11) 140-Special Events retail-7 days or less (7230) *Not to exceed 7 days
(12) 150-Special retail less than 30 days (7231-one-time event)
(13) 160-Special retail more than 30 days (7224-Designed for Event Centers, Hotels without Bars or Restaurants, Golf Courses, etc.) *Hours Restrictions apply
(14) 200-Manufacturer (3121-Allows for the manufacture of liquor, beer and wine, can only sell products they produce)
(15) 220-Brewpub (3121-Allows for the manufacture of beer, can sell beer produced for on-premise and off-premise consumption as well as other brands purchased through a licensed distributor/wholesaler)
(16) 700-Specialty Retailer of Consumable Hemp Products (4590-allows for the sale of CMP is a specialty retail establishment, subject to zoning)
(17) 710-Pharmacy Consumable Hemp Products (4590-allows for the sale of CHP in a pharmacy, subject to zoning)
(18) 720-Retial Food Store Consumable Hemp Products (4590-allows for the sale of CHP in a grocery store, subject to zoning)
(19) 990-Tobacco Permit (4599-Allows for the sale of nicotine products)
(20) 991-Specialty Retailer of ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) (4599-allows for the sale of vapes & other ENDS

Sec. 6-45. Review of application; hearing.
(a) Every person applying for an ABC license shall file in the city revenue department a copy of the application to the state alcoholic beverage control board including the criminal background report provided by the Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to the state alcoholic beverage control board. In the event ABC doesn't require a background check (such as in the case of publicly traded corporate entities), city revenue department will not require said background check. Said Report shall not be older than six months.
(b) The planning/zoning official shall review the application to determine if the proposed business location is properly zoned for such a use and if there are any land use or other prohibitions on the sale of alcoholic beverages at that location, and shall recommend to the city revenue department whether or not the application should be approved, and, if not, the reason why it is not recommended
(c) The Revenue Department shall notify the building official and the fire department upon approval by the planning/zoning department.
(d) Upon receipt of the completed application the Director of Revenue review the completed application packet and add any recommendations for action and forward to Mayor and Legal for preparing of resolution.
(e) The hearing must be held no later than 20 days after the revenue department has submitted their recommendations to legal. When the city clerk has received the recommendations from the legal department, the city clerk shall set the application for a public hearing before the city council.
(g) Notice of the hearing will be sent by first class mail to the applicant at the business address listed on the application (and to the owner of the property if different from the applicant), published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the city at least four days prior to the hearing, and sent to any person who has a written request on file with the city clerk to be notified in writing of any request for an alcoholic beverage license within 300 feet of his property. In addition, the owner of the property where the applicant proposes to operate shall prominently post notice on the property. The applicant shall pay all costs of providing notice, but in no case less than $75.00.
(h) At the hearing, the council will hear any person who wishes to address the issue of whether the application for that particular site by that particular person should be approved.
(i) Among the factors that the city council may consider in making its decision on the application are:
(1) Zoning.
(2) The character and reputation of the applicant.
(3) The applicant's criminal record according to the local police records and the reports submitted to the state alcoholic beverage control board.
(4) Location of place of business, including proximity to residences, schools, churches, etc.
(5) The applicant's compliance with alcoholic beverage laws of the city, state and other jurisdictions.
(6) The applicant's general attitude towards the sale of alcoholic beverages.
(7) Recommendations of the administrative staff of the city departments.
(8) Any other fact that would be relevant to the decision.
(j) After the hearing has concluded, the council must by majority vote approve the application, state its reasons for denying the application or continue the application until it obtains information reasonably necessary to make its decision.
(k) The approval by the council is conditional on compliance with all building and life safety codes of the city. If the application is approved, a certificate of occupancy must be issued by the building department before the applicant is permitted to open for business at the approved location.
(l) No hearing shall be required for the renewal of an existing license by the same licensee, for the change of the name of a licensee, for the transfer of a license to a person, firm or corporation affiliated in business with the existing licensee, or for a special events license where the event occurs on only one day. No hearing shall be required if the city council has previously approved the issuance of one type or category of alcoholic beverage license for the premises to the same applicant and the business has continued to operate pursuant to that approval, unless the change is from off-premise sales to on-premise sales. If the state alcoholic beverage control board requires a new license because the licensee failed to renew the state license in a timely manner, no hearing shall be required if there is otherwise no change in the applicant, location or type of alcoholic beverage license.
(m) If an applicant fails to appear at the hearing after being properly notified and has not made a request for a continuance, the council may proceed with the hearing and decide in the absence of the applicant.

Sec. 6-46. Issuance; renewal; payment of fee.
Upon approval of an application for an alcoholic beverage license by the city council, the issuance of an approved ABC License by the state alcoholic beverage control board, a certificate of occupancy obtained by the City Building official, and any other required permits, the department of revenue shall issue the appropriate city business license(s).
All license issued pursuant to this chapter shall be conditioned upon the holder thereof continuing to meet the requirement and qualification of licensing and, failing therein shall be a violation of this chapter.
All licenses issued under this chapter shall be conditioned upon the holder thereof being duly licensed by the ABC board and any failure to be so licensed or any suspension or revocation of such licensing shall cause an automatic renewal denial, suspension or revocation of such license without the need for notice or an opportunity to be heard. ABC licenses allowed to lapse will result in licensee being required to reapply to the city for approval.
Licenses shall be renewed annually for the period from January 1 to December 31, upon the filing of a renewal application, along with proof of current ABC License, with the city Department of Revenue before January 31 of each year, along with the payment of the appropriate fee. Failure to renew by January 31 will result in notification to the ABC Board of non-compliance without any further notification.
License fees shall be due and payable on January 1 of each year and shall not be prorated.

Sec. 6-47. Keeping alcoholic beverages other than those authorized.
It shall be unlawful for any person licensed to sell liquor, wine or beer to keep, maintain or possess on the premises covered by his license any alcoholic beverages other than those authorized by his license.

Sec. 6-48. Limitation of Class II club liquor retail licenses.
No (032) Club Liquor-Class II retail license shall be permitted. Any Class II club liquor license existing as of the effective date of this section shall not be transferred or sold to any other person or entity, but shall become null and void upon such transfer or sale. The new owner may not obtain a Class II club liquor license but may seek another type of alcoholic beverage license. Any Class II club liquor license existing as of the effective date of this section shall be permitted to change the location of its business, but the license shall become null and void upon any relocation. If the location of a Class II club liquor retail license is destroyed or damaged to the extent that the cost of restoration exceeds 50 percent of the value of the structure before the destruction or damage, then the license shall be null and void for that location.

Sec. 6-49. Location restrictions.
(a) No original license for the sale of alcoholic beverages shall be issued after June 1, 1987, for a location in any building that is within 250 feet of a church building or a school building.
(b) The distance between the two buildings shall be measured by the building official between the nearest points of the two buildings.
(c) Those alcoholic beverage licensees which were licensed on or before May 31, 1987, and are located in a building that is within 250 feet of a church building or school building, may continue to operate the business in that location so long as the same person holds the license. Whenever a license is transferred or a new person applies for approval to do business at that location, then the restrictions of this section shall apply to that location.
(d) The provisions of subsections (a) through (c) of this section shall not apply to alcoholic beverage sales locations within any area zoned as a B-3 central business district or B-4 downtown core district, or to sales by businesses licensed only for sales of beer and/or table wine for consumption off the premises of the business.
(e) If a church building or school building is erected after June 1, 1987, within 250 feet of an alcoholic beverage sales location, that particular church building or school building shall not be used as a measuring point to determine if a violation of this section has occurred. The date of erection of the church building or school building is defined as the date of certificate of occupancy is issued by the building official.
(f) The words "school" or "school building" in this section refer only to buildings housing an elementary school, junior high school, high school, kindergarten, nursery, day care center or other similar institution which is used for the education or care of children under the age of 19. The words do not include a building housing a college, university, junior college, business college, technical college, technical institute or other similar institution which is used for the education of persons who are predominantly over the age of 19.

Sec. 6-50. Transfer of State License; new city license required.
(a) No city license issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be transferred or assigned from one location to another or from one licensee to another person. However, a state ABC license may be transferred to another location or from one person to another, by following the same procedure as if it were an original application. No transfer shall be made to any person who would not have been eligible to receive the license originally or to a place for which the license could not originally have been issued lawfully.
(b) Where a city licensee makes application with the ABC board for a transfer of its state license from one location to another or from one licensee to another person, then the transferee must obtain approval from the city for the state transfer and, in addition, must apply for a new city license for the new location or new person and meet all the requirement of this chapter for the new license. The transferee shall have 60 days from the date the transfer application is made with the state to complete the transfer process and obtain a new city license, subject to extensions granted by the Director of Revenue upon written request for good cause shown. In the case of a location transfer no business regulated by this chapter shall be conducted at the proposed location until the process is complete and a new license has been issued for the new location.
(c) In the case of a failure to complete the transfer process and obtain a new city license in a timely manner, where the ABC board in accordance with state alcoholic beverage control laws allows the original licensee to resume control and operation of the licensed premises, the original city licensee shall also be allowed to resume its operations at the original location.

Sec. 6-51. Change in ownership, management or name of licensee; expansion of city licensed premises.
(a) Change of ownership, etc. Subject to Section 6.50 concerning state transfers and new city licenses, city license shall be deemed to expire, terminate or otherwise be void when there is a substantial change of ownership in the licensees; when a licensed establishment is leased, rented or abandoned; or when possession is otherwise surrendered to another person. A city license issued to a corporation does not terminate by transfer of ownership of its stock, a new license is not required even with a complete change in ownership of the capital stock of a corporate licensee, although the provisions of subsection (d), below, shall apply.
(b) Temporary closure or interruption. Upon the death of an individual city licensee, sale of the licensed business, temporary closing of the licensed business, or other interruption in the operation of a licensed business, the city license shall immediately be delivered to the Director of Revenue, to be held pending the reopening of said business according to this chapter. However, where there is a surviving partner in a partnership entity possessing a city license, or a surviving spouse of a deceased licensee, such survivor may complete the current license year operating as a city licensee, having the same rights and responsibilities as the named licensee, without obtaining a new city license, provided: (1) the survivor notifies the Director of Revenue in writing within 20 days after the death of the licensee, and (2) the survivor is otherwise qualified to hold a city license. A surviving spouse or partner must complete a new application in his/her own name and receive approval prior to operation the following year.
(c) New officers or directors of license corporations. When ownership of 10 percent or more of a corporation's shares is transferred or there accrues a 10 percent transfer of shares since the licensing year began, a corporation shall notify the Director of Revenue in writing within 20 days thereafter. The letter shall contain the name of the persons to whom the stock was transferred, social security number, place of birth, date of birth, home address, how long the stock transferee has lived at that address and what quantity of shares was transferred. No person shall own shares though transfer or accrual in a licensed corporation who is otherwise unqualified to obtain an original city license in their own name. City Council shall have discretion in determining the qualification of any transferee of stock shares, and may, in its discretion, suspend the corporation's license during the period of time that the unqualified shareholder retains ownership of said shares, subject to the right of appeal to the city council in accordance with
A licensee under this article shall notify the department of revenue within seven days of any change in the ownership, officers, directors or managers of the licensee.

Sec. 6-52. Display.
Every license to sell alcoholic beverages shall be constantly and conspicuously displayed on the premises.

Sec. 6-53. Records.
Each licensee under this article shall keep full and complete records of all purchases, sales and deliveries of alcoholic beverages and shall preserve such records for two years. Such records shall be subject to inspection and audit by employees of the revenue department at any and all times of the day or night as may be deemed necessary. Revenue officers and police officers shall have the right, without hindrance, to enter any place that is subject to inspection under this chapter or any place where such records are kept.

Sec. 6-54. Revocation.
Any license issued under this article may be revoked by resolution, pursuant to Section 74-86 of the Code of Ordnances, of the city council after notice to the licensee and a public hearing for any one or more of the following reasons:
(1) Failure to keep accurate records as required by this chapter.
(2) Refusal to allow department of revenue personnel to inspect records, accounts and other documents relating to the sale, purchase, handling or delivery of alcoholic beverages.
(3) Failure to pay the license fee or gross receipts tax when due.
(4) Failure to collect and remit sales tax as applicable by state and local law
(5) Failure to renew ABC license.
(6) Violation of the provisions of this chapter.
(7) Violation of state law regarding the operation of the licensee's business.
(8) Violation of any ordinance dealing with alcoholic beverages.
(9) When the public safety, peace, good order or decency require revocation.

(10) When the licensee aids and abets the violation of the ordinances of the city or the laws of the state.
Secs. 6-55—6-60. Reserved.
ARTICLE III.
ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT
Sec. 6-61. Creation and establishment of districts.
Under the authority granted in Code of Ala. 1975, § 28-3A-17.1, the city does hereby amend the current district in downtown Gadsden with the areas and boundaries as set forth and designated on the map which is attached as Exhibit 1 to Ord. No. O-25-19, which is on file and available for inspection in the office of the city clerk. The designation of any street or portion of a street within the entertainment district shall include sidewalks, which run parallel with and immediately adjacent to each side of that street or portion of that street within the entertainment district.
After 90 days of the effective date of the ordinance from which this article was derived, the city council shall review this article to determine if changes to the entertainment district and the regulations for that district should be made.
Sec. 6-62. Outside consumption of alcoholic beverages permitted; conditions.
Any on premises retail alcohol beverage licensee located within the entertainment district, herein licensee, who satisfies all requirements of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations which govern its license type, except that a patron, guest or member of that licensee may exit the licensed premises between the hours of noon and 10:00 p.m. seven days a week, with no more than one open container of alcoholic beverage and consume that alcoholic beverage anywhere within the confines of the entertainment district in which the alcoholic beverage was obtained, subject to the following regulations:
(1) A person may not enter another premise that is licensed to sell alcohol with an open container of alcoholic beverage acquired elsewhere.
(2) A licensee shall allow alcoholic beverages to be removed from the licensed premises only in a recyclable paper or plastic cup that bears the commercially printed name and/or logo of the designated licensee. Any alcoholic beverage removed from a licensed premise pursuant to this article must remain in the paper or plastic cup with the commercially printed name and/or logo of the licensee who sold the alcoholic beverage for consumption purposes. No such alcoholic beverages shall be removed from the licensed premises in a can, bottle or glass container except upon a licensee's outdoor sit-down dining area situated on the licensee's property or on a sidewalk or other right-of-way where the licensee has a right-of-way use agreement with the city.
(3) No licensee shall allow a patron, guest, or member to exit its licensed premises with more than one open container of alcoholic beverages, and it shall be unlawful for any person to exit such licensed premises with more than one such open container.
(4) It shall be unlawful for any person to drink or attempt to drink any alcoholic beverage from a can, bottle, or glass container or to possess any open can, bottle, or glass container of alcoholic beverages on the public streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way and parking lots located within an entertainment district.
(5) No container in which an alcoholic beverage is dispensed and removed from the licensed premises shall exceed 16 fluid ounces in size.
(6) No person shall possess on the streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way, parking lots, or any other public area located within the entertainment district any open alcoholic beverage container which exceeds 16 fluid ounces in size.
(7) No person shall possess on the streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way, parking lots, or any other public area located within the entertainment district any open alcoholic beverage which was not purchased from an on premises retail alcohol beverage licensee lawfully doing business within the entertainment district who has met all requirements of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and the City of Gadsden.
(8) The city shall have the right to extend or reduce the days and the hours during which a patron, guest or member of a licensee may exit the licensed premises, which extension or reduction shall be determined by resolution for a specific event or date.
Sec. 6-63. Consumption of alcoholic beverages in a motor vehicle prohibited.
(a) Prohibition. It shall be unlawful for any person to consume any alcoholic beverages while in the confines of a motor vehicle while the motor vehicle is located upon any public street, parking lot or other place to which the public has or is permitted to have access within an entertainment district.
(b) Exceptions.
(1) A passenger in a motor vehicle in which the driver is operating the vehicle pursuant to a contract to provide transportation for passengers and such driver holds a valid license for the operation of a vehicle for hire;
(2) A passenger of a bus in which the driver holds a valid operator's license.
Sec. 6-64. Alcoholic beverages purchased outside entertainment district not allowed in open containers in district.
No alcoholic beverages purchased at any location other than a licensee in the entertainment district who has met the requirements of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and the city, which allows a person to exit the licensed premises with an open container of alcoholic beverages, shall be allowed in open containers in the entertainment district.
Sec. 6-65. Drinking in public places.
To the extent this article conflicts with prior ordinances of the city prohibiting drinking in public places, the authority allowing conduct as prescribed by this article shall supersede any prior city ordinances.
Sec. 6-66. Modification or elimination of article.
Notwithstanding anything in this article to the contrary, at any time and from time to time, any entertainment district established by this article may be enlarged, reduced, modified or eliminated, in whole or part, and the regulations set forth in this article are subject to amendment or elimination at any time and from time to time. No vested rights shall be acquired by or be conferred upon any person or business entity as a result of the establishment of an entertainment district or permitting under this section or by the state.
Sec. 6-67. Possession and consumption of alcohol in excluded places.
The consumption and possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages shall not be allowed in any public building, facility, garage or parking lot within an entertainment district that is posted with signage at each entrance or in conspicuous places that no alcoholic beverages are allowed on the premises. No open containers shall be allowed on property privately owned or controlled that is posted with signage at each entrance or in conspicuous places that no alcoholic beverages are allowed on the premises.
Section 2. A violation of this ordinance shall be punished as provided in Section 1-7 of the Gadsden City Code.
Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance shall be effective on publication.
Section 4. The sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance are severable. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a valid judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect the validity of any other section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this ordinance. The city council declares that it is its intent that it would have enacted this ordinance without such invalid or unconstitutional provisions.
Section 5. The provisions of this ordinance repeal any prior ordinance or provision of the Gadsden City Code to the extent of any conflict.

Adopted by the City Council of Gadsden on October 27, 2026.
Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

November 13, 2026

**ORDINANCE NO. O-35-26 (SYNOPSIS)**

Amending City Code Chapter 74 – Licenses and Taxation
Amending City Code Sections 74-62, 74-65, 74-69, 74-91 and 74-92 – Updating definitions; amending provisions related to licensing requirements for certain construction-based businesses and inspection requirements for food trucks to comply with state law; establishing classifications and applicable rates for vape and hemp businesses; adopting the 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS); and revising references to Chapter 6, Alcoholic Beverages, for consistency throughout the Code.
A copy of the full ordinance may be obtained from the office of the city clerk during normal business hours.
Adopted by the City Council of Gadsden on October 27, 2026.
Jennifer Smith, City Clerk

November 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**

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

2010 Lincoln MKS Gray
VIN
1LNHL9DR7AG608996

2013 Nissan Versa Gray
VIN
3N1CN7AP3DL894817

1999 Chevrolet Silverado Gray
VIN
1GCEK19T2XE119801

2004 Chevrolet Impala White
VIN
2G1WF52E149277341

2013 Volkswagen Jetta Red
VIN
3VWPP7AJ8DM642508

2005 Chevrolet Tahoe Black
VIN
1GNEC13T95R199942

2015 Nissan Sentra Red
VIN
3N1AB7AP8FL669067

1998 Honda Accord Blue
VIN
1HGCG5645WA211666

2016 Chrysler 200 Black
VIN
1C3CCCFB1GN189788

2006 Chevrolet HHR Red
VIN
3GNDA23P36S628534

2013 Nissan Maxima White
VIN
1N4AA5AP8DC807094

The public auction will be held at ER Towing, 1733 Forrest Ave, Gadsden, AL 35901at 8:00am on December 11, 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.

November 6 and 13, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**

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

2024 Mitsubishi Outlander
VIN: JA4J-4VA81RZ038303

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

November 13 and 20, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED VEHICLES**

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

2018 Dodge Charger
VIN: 2C3CDXCT-8JH233626

The public auction will be held at Thacker Towing, 927 5th Ave NE, Attalla, AL 35954 on January 8, 2027. 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.

November 13 and 20, 2026

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

