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March 15, 2024



Captain Carlton Jackson, Raquel Smith, Brenda Hong and Lieutenant Bobby Horn

Bessemer Fire Department Presents Checks to Breast Cancer Organizations

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

The Bessemer Fire Department and Bessemer Mayor Kenneth Gulley presented checks to several breast cancer organizations on Tuesday, March 5. The presentation was made at the 7 p.m. meeting of the Bessemer City Council.

On behalf of the Bessemer Fire Department, Fire Chief Kendrick Hughley, Captain Carlton Jackson and Lieutenant Bobby Horn gave a \$12,500

check to Raquel Smith of Pinktopps Resource & Wellness Center and a \$12,500 check to Brenda Hong with Brenda's Brown Bosom Buddies.

Chief Hughley said, "The Bessemer Fire Department is again pleased to have participated in the annual cancer drive. This is near and dear to my heart because I have had family members diagnosed with breast cancer."

Pinktopps is a non-profit focused on early detection of breast cancer for women and men under the

age of 35. Brenda's Brown Bosom Buddies, also a non-profit, has a goal that breast cancer survivors are made to feel as victors rather than victims. They operate educational programs on awareness and early detection.

Every year the fire department sponsors a fundraiser call "Fill the Boot." Monies collected benefit breast cancer awareness, prevention and treatment. The fundraiser is held in the month of October at The Tannehill Promenade in Bessemer.

13th Annual Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival

SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN STAR

Alabama Barbecue and Blues are a great combination so start planning for the 13th Annual Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival presented by City of Bessemer and Coca Cola is set for Saturday, April 20, 2024. The event will combine the best of blues music and legendary Bob Sykes Bar B Q

from 12-8pm. Gates open at 11am. Be sure to bring your chair or blanket and set-up your spot for the day to enjoy talented blues musicians.

Since 2010, the event has been a local favorite for festival goers. Attendees of the festival range from youth to adults. 2nd generation owner and pit master of Bob Sykes Bar B Q Van Sykes says "Each year

the festival grows and we couldn't do it without our sponsors and the support of the community." City of Bessemer Mayor Kenneth Gulley says "The Bob Sykes BBQ and BLUES Festival has been a great event for the City of Bessemer. We're looking forward to many more great years of barbecue and blues music in downtown Bessemer."

See BBQ on page 2

Remembering A Mellow Spirit

BY ROBERT BURGINS, JR.
WESTERN STAR STAFF

This past Saturday, the sad yet necessary visit was made to the home-going celebration of one Mr. Manuel Fitch.

Mr. Fitch served Jefferson County for forty plus years as an informative radio announcer at several radio stations that included WENN & WJLD Broadcasting networks.

A passionate one about his craft as an infor-

mation sharer to listening residents, Mr. Fitch was also a hardworking employee and dedicated family man.

Held at New Bethlehem Baptist Church, serviced by Chambers Funeral Home and officiated by Pastor, Douglas Cadell, the services reflected upon a life of a man with a love for laughter, a true friend, well respected Bessemer citizen and one who's passion was music. Classmate, John Smith sung "No More

Tears In Heaven" as dedication to a friend.

See Remembering on page 2



Healthy Tactics for the Neighborhood

BY ROBERT BURGINS, JR.
WESTERN STAR STAFF

This International Women's Day had members of the Benjamin Greene community gifted with a session in Yoga presented by Yoga Circle's Stephen Fletcher (assisted with Thai & Adam).

Residents came to the community center to partake in a Yoga chair exercise that started with meditative breathing exercises followed by arm stretches, shoulder rotations, chair poses and others.

Participants learned the fundamentals of staying poised, centered and grounded while performing such, as they relieved unknown stress and worked parts of the body needed to make for a perfect workout.

We also learned about 'Laughing Yoga' as participants joked on how much their bodies appreciated such.

We spoke with Yoga instructor Stephen Fletcher who told us, "This is a modi-

fied portion of the usual Yoga Practice in which the chair exercise gets participants geared towards the more traditional exercises. This will help our session participants gain more interest along with learning from their bodies what is possible to be done mentally just as much as physical."

Mr. Fletcher also informed us about the Holistic approach as well as paying attention to our dietary habits and the way we treat ourselves as well as others, along with practicing thinking positively repetitively.

Through the 4-H Program, this particular pro-

gram was brought to many residences this year to open residents up to new healthy exercises and valid means to a healthier lifestyle. This particular yoga session garnered an instant fan in participant Tonja Hall. She told us, "I think this is something we need to have consistently at least twice a month because in this one sitting I've found it could help me with my breathing and a way to lessen body tension. I already feel better and loose within, so this is something I'm surely going to be practicing more of."

See Healthy Tactics on page 2



Former General Store at Tannehill State Park

Tuscaloosa County Commission Cleaned Up Fire Damaged Site

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

The management and staff of Tannehill State Park

are deeply grateful to the Tuscaloosa County Commission for cleaning up the entire fire damaged site where the historic General Store stood.

The historic General Store, built in 1907 burned to the ground in an early morning fire on February 28. The store was a popular site for the visitors to the park to gather. It was a total loss.

The General Store has been located in the park for many decades and served both as a general store and a campground registration office.

Alabama Historic Iron-

works Commissioner Johnny Curry stated, "On behalf of the Ironworks Commission we are saddened at the loss of this well beloved historic structure. In the coming months the Commission and the staff will develop plans for a new general store."

35 trees were lost due to the structural fire and Fowler Tree Service charged a much-reduced price for cutting and clearing away trees.

Lake View Fire District and Green Pond Fire & Rescue kept the fire contained to the one structure and overhanging trees.



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NEWS

The Luck of the Irish on St. Patrick's Day

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

It has always been said that the Irish are born with the gift of the blarney. It is never more obvious than on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 the anniversary of his death.

How appropriate, St. Patrick's Day is on Sunday this year which is also the Fifth Sunday in Lent. St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland said, "If I have any worth, it is to live my life

for God."

Erin Go Bragh. Few among us have ever kissed the Blarney Stone and yet we engage in blarney long after St. Patrick's Day has ended. The streets of the city will be filled with blarney as the sons and daughter of Erin celebrate the feast day of St. Patrick, March 17.

It is a grand day for the Irish and the wearing of the "green." For 24 grand hours, an Irishman is transformed by glory, mirth and

communion with God.

The proud Irish, with the flag we love so well, will march in parades and toast Erin Go Bragh.

The first St. Patrick's Day observance in the United States was held in Boston in 1726.

St. Patrick, a 5th century Irish priest converted the Irish pagans to Christianity.

The Irish celebrate his good works on this day with special religious observances.



United Way Offers Free Online Tax Service for Many Central Alabama Residents

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Many Central Alabama residents can file their taxes at no cost in 2024 by using MyFreeTaxes, an online platform built through a partnership between United Way and Tax Slayer, one of the nation's leading tax software companies. Individuals can often file their taxes in less than an hour through MyFreeTaxes.

By logging onto MyFreeTaxes.com, users are guided through the process of collecting information from their financial documents, sending it to the IRS and looking for additional credits that might otherwise be missed.

All that users need before filing online is their Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number

(ITIN) and their official tax documents, whether they be W2s, 1099s or other relevant documentation.

Since 2009, MyFreeTaxes has helped more than 1.3 million taxpayers claim every credit and deduction they deserve. These credits maximize filers' refunds and provide important opportunities for individuals and families to build financial stability.

In addition to the written guides, users can also seek online chat support through the service or through IRS-certified tax specialists over the phone.

Since its inception, more than 1.3 million people have used MyFreeTaxes, resulting in savings of \$260 million in tax preparation fees.

In addition to the free on-

line option, United Way of Central Alabama (UWCA) also offers free in-person tax preparation for qualified clients whose annual household income is \$54,000 or less. Area residents can call 2-1-1 to make an appointment with an IRS-certified tax volunteer on UWCA's campus in Birmingham.

For more information about MyFreeTaxes or UWCA's free in-person tax preparation, visit uwca.org/taxes.

Tax preparation itself is but one of the many ways that UWCA seeks to improve the financial stability of residents throughout its six-county service area. In 2023, more than 27,000 individuals received financial counseling, job-relevant skills training and more through United Way.

Hoover Police Explorers Win Big at State, Regional Competitions

BY MATT BRYANT
WESTERN STAR STAFF

Continuing a tradition of excellence, the Hoover Police Explorers recently earned top accolades at state and regional competition, facing off against more than 50 teams. The Explorer Program is a career development program run by the Hoover Police Department that emphasizes academic study, character development and self-discipline.

Current Explorers are: Elijah Ferguson, Molly Rollan, Jackson Fast, Caden Westler, Parker Tolleson, Rashad

Williams and Brooks Boyd. Monday night, Hoover Police Chief Nick Derzis presented the team to the Hoover City Council in an effort to recognize their success.

"Very proud of them. Very proud of the work that they've put in," Derzis said. "A lot of work goes into competition and you can see the results of hard work," he said, referring to the ten large trophies the Explorers were holding.

In January, the Explorers traveled to the University of Montevallo to participate in the ALEAA State Competition. Thirteen teams compet-

ed in eight events and Hoover placed in the top three in seven of them. Those events included: Crime Scene Investigation, Disturbance in Progress, DUI Investigation, Unknown Trouble, Traffic Stops, and Burglary Investigation.

In February, the Explorers took part in the Winterfest Southeastern Regional Competition in Gatlinburg TN. Forty-three Explorer posts from across the region participated in four events and Hoover placed first and second in three of four events. Those events were: Uniform Inspection, Domestic Violence and Warrant Service.

BBQ

BBQ from page 1

The 2024 musical performances by award winning blues musicians includes Chris "BadNews" Barnes, Chambers DeSauriers Band, Nikki Hill, Misty Blues, Skyler Saufley, and Earl Williams. For more details on the times please visit BobSykesBlues.com

The festival has been chosen for numerous years as one of the top food festivals in Alabama by al.com.

There are activities for the entire family including a large kids corner. Children eight and under are free with a ticketed adult. Besides great music and bbq the festival offers a variety of booths including arts and crafts, outdoor exhibits, and a diverse selection of vendors selling tempting offers.

General admission tickets can be purchased at www.bobsykesblues.com or visit Bob Sykes Bar B

Q Restaurant. Since 2010, the festival has provided funding for local charities including Red Mountain Grace, Children's of Alabama, Bessemer Education Enhancement Foundation, Clay House, Hands On Birmingham, Ady's Army and Latch and Live Foundation, Caring Men and Caring Women. The 2024 festival will give a portion of the event proceeds to a local charity that will soon be announced.

Community Leaders to Be Honored with the Heart of An Eagle Award

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America - Cherokee District will host their annual Community Leadership Breakfast on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at the Bessemer Civic Center. This year's honorees, receiving the Heart of An Eagle Award are Pastor William H Walker, Dr. Autumm M. Jeter, & BryOnda Collins.

The breakfast, which begins at 7:30 a.m., is expected to draw over two hundred business and community leaders. This year's keynote speaker will be Mrs. Stacia Roberson. She is the Director of the Alabama Office of Minority Affairs and contributing author to the New York Times and Wall Street Journal Bestseller Masters of Networking.

From Air Force Captain to leading voice in communications and entrepreneurship, Stacia Roberson has been appointed to the Governor's Cabinet to be the Director of the Alabama Office of Minority Affairs. Currently serving as the Agency Principal of BeneChoice Companies, LLC, a benefits and financial choices company that invests in businesses and organizational development focusing on boosting employee loyalty and retention, the Denver, Colorado native is a dedicated servant of her community.

A proud HBCU alumna of Spelman College, Stacia has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics before beginning her trailblazing career in the Air Force as a communications-computer

officer. Within seven years, she worked her way up the Air Force Standard Systems Center ranks to Captain before trading in her uniform to pursue her passion for marketing as a business owner.

In corporate America, Stacia carved a bold path to success. She broke barriers as the first African-American woman elected to the Montgomery Area Chamber of Com-

merce Board of Directors and founding chairwoman of the Fortitude Foundation for the Montgomery Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Sorority, Inc.

For more information or if you would like to attend the 2024 Community Leadership Breakfast, contact Anthony Edwards at anthony.edwards@scouting.org or 205-441-5763.



Noon: National Anthem by Aretta Woodruff
Emcee of the festival from noon-8pm: Aretta Woodruff

Remembering

Remembering from page 1

Pastor Whitt said "One thing Mr. Fitch would always do, was shake your hand and then present to you a Gospel cd. It wasn't just his job or career but it was a part of his musical ministry to share with others for listening inspiration within this sometimes hard world."

Richardson Broadcasting President, Gary Richardson along with wife Mrs. Willamena Richardson reflected upon the good work ethic and caring spirit of Mr. Fitch whom they stated was not just an employee but a family member who shared wisdom

throughout the years.

Mr. Augusta Maul also gave a tribute through reflective memories.

Mr. Fitch was also an employee at Bristol Steel, Trustee Board member of Canaan Baptist Church (Bessemer, AL) and is also a part of the Birmingham Black Radio Museum (Birmingham, AL) where recordings of his broadcasts can be heard today.

Starting off under the monikers of 'Mellow Man' and 'Weekend Warrior' (from the 1970s to the 1980s) Mr. Fitch would become one of the most well know Gospel DJs in Jefferson County under the name of 'God's Child'.

Pastor Douglas Caddell gave a personable sermon as Pastor to Mr. Fitch and also a friend and fan of his.

Pastor Caddell stated, "We've come to celebrate Mr. Fitch's homegoing, he touched our lives and made a difference and was willing to serve friends in need because he realized that was his calling, and we're grateful for his life."

We recognize a mentor, a father figure, teacher and hero to many of us, Mr. Manuel Fitch a man with a mellow spirit who musically did as he saw as the Lord's work.

Thanks and respect to the Fitch family for sharing him with us.

Healthy Tactics

Healthy Tactics from page 1

Roosevelt Community Center Client Support Coordinator, Beverly Fields told us, "I'm thankful to the 4-H Program and Mrs. McNealy for supporting us through activities and sessions as this was presented to us today. Here within the Roosevelt community, our main focus is to share knowledge and awareness with our residents in various aspects such as this. Learning is essential and anything that can be beneficial to our residents, we want to make sure they know about it and can participate. We want to stress progress health wise, career choices/changes that better fit the ever growing mind of our youth also, so I figured a session like this would and can bring awareness to a portion of life we don't necessarily consider as often as we should, yet we're going to change such in the way we think and live starting with this yoga session here today."

We salute the 4-H Program as well as those who are leaning towards living healthier lives and learning the consistency of exercising for better results when it comes to living naturally. For more information

call 205-266-7547 or visit theyogacircle.net or email theyogacircle@gmail.com as we look forward to stretching out those unneeded stresses with others. We'll see you on the mat.

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Bessemer City Board of Education will be accepting sealed bids for Fiber Wide Area Network for all schools and facilities within the district. All respondents are required to submit 3 (three) copies of your proposal.

Sealed Bids Will Be Received by The Finance Department Located at Bessemer City Board of Education, 1621 5th Avenue North, Bessemer, AL 35020 Until Monday, March 25, 2024 @ 10:00 A. M.

The envelope should be labeled:
BCS-2024-325

Fiber Wide Area Network Bessemer Board of Education Finance Department
ATTN: Patricia Stewart, CSFO 1621 5th Avenue North Bessemer, AL 35020

The bids will be opened and read publicly at the Bessemer Board of Education Work Session on March 25th, 2024 @ 5:30pm.

For more details and specifications, please visit our website at www.bessk12.org, under Departments/ Business & Finance/Bids tab or contact Dr. Williams at 205 432-3900.

Office of Business Affairs and Finance
1621 Fifth Avenue, North Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205.432.3029 | Fax: 205.432.3085
Email: pstewart@bessk12.org

NEWS

Shelton State Community College Hosts Professional Development Conference for Automotive Instructors

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Tuscaloosa, Alabama - Shelton State Community College (SSCC) recently hosted a professional development conference at the C. A. Fredd Campus for 27 secondary and post-secondary automotive instructors from Alabama and East Mississippi

institutions. The two-day event, sponsored by The Resource Center and President Bob Kimbrell, took place on February 8 and 9.

Presenters at the conference included John Bukowski from ConsuLab, an organization specializing in manufacturing training equipment in technology. Mike Batchelor with the ASE Education Founda-

tion, a nonprofit organization that provides training resources for automotive service professionals and instructors, also presented at the event.

"Hosting the conference allowed Shelton State to showcase our newly renovated facilities and equipment while also creating community and networking opportunities for those

in the automotive education industry," said Michael Hobson, Instructor and Division Chair for Automotive and Diesel Technology.

SSCC also partnered with Justin Russell from General Motors and Chris Westmoreland from Southeast Toyota Distributors to contribute to the conference. By hosting

this event and showcasing the quality automotive program, the program's leadership hopes instructors from other institutions will recommend SSCC as a program for their graduates to continue automotive education training.

"Being selected to host a multi-state professional development

event is a testament to the high-quality Automotive Service Technology program Shelton State has established," said Grant Cockrell, SSCC Associate Dean of Technical Services.

For more information about the Automotive Technology program at Shelton State, visit sheltonstate.edu.



A Heroic Initiative Recognized by the Long Lewis Foundation

SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN STAR

In a world often dominated by headlines of chaos and uncertainty, there are unsung heroes quietly working to make a positive impact on the lives of others. One such hero, Nick Hakes, a second-year medical student at the Heersink School of Medicine, University of Alabama in Birmingham, has recently been honored as the January Hero of the Month by the Long Lewis Foundation. This recognition stems from his remarkable initiative, the Compassion Closet, which addresses a crucial need in the emergency department.

Nick Hakes, immersed in the fast-paced environment of the emergency department, couldn't help but notice a poignant gap in the care provided to trauma patients. Many were being

discharged in thin paper scrubs after their clothes had been cut off for examination, leaving them exposed and vulnerable. Drawing from personal experiences and fueled by a commitment to preserving the dignity of every individual, Nick decided to take action.

The Compassion Closet was born out of the understanding that providing proper clothing to patients leaving the emergency room is not just a matter of comfort but a fundamental expression of empathy and respect. This program aims to ensure that those in need leave the hospital with clean and weather-appropriate attire, a simple yet transformative gesture that can significantly impact their recovery journey.

Nick Hakes, through his vision for the Compassion Closet, has demonstrated

a profound understanding of the human experience in times of vulnerability. His initiative goes beyond the immediate medical needs of patients and addresses the often-overlooked aspect of their well-being. By providing appropriate clothing, Nick has not only improved the physical comfort of patients but has also helped restore a sense of dignity and normalcy during a challenging time.

Since its inception, the Compassion Closet has become a beacon of hope for those navigating through the aftermath of traumatic experiences. Patients who would have otherwise left the hospital in inadequate clothing are now given the opportunity to depart with self-assurance and comfort. Nick's vision has resonated with both medical professionals and the community, showcasing the transformative power of a simple yet thoughtful initiative.

The Long Lewis Foundation, in recognizing Nick Hakes as the January Hero of the Month, highlights the importance of community-driven initiatives that go beyond the traditional scope of healthcare. By supporting the Compassion Closet, the foundation is championing a cause that not only addresses a specific need but also sets a precedent for compassionate care within emergency departments.

The Long Lewis Foundation's recognition of Nick's initiative serves as a reminder that acts of compassion, no matter how small, can have a profound impact on the lives of individuals in need. As we applaud the Hero of the Month, let us also reflect on the power of empathy and the positive change it can bring to our communities.



Featured Event: Summer Camp registration is OPEN!

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Join us for seven weeks of active and exciting summer camps!

Week 1 May 28-31: "Ready, Set, here we Go!" - "Kick" off summer and meet new friends playing your favorite sports, games and activities. Some activities include but are not limited to... Capture the Flag, Spud, Tag, relay races, whiffle ball, kickball, dodgeball, and more. There's no better way to start the summer than being active and in game mode!

Week 2 June 3-7: "Hoops, They Did it Again!" - Basketball is the focus, but other "hoops" will find their way in our day. Working together and being part of a team are keys to your success this week.

Week 3 June 10-14: "It's an Amazing Race!" - You will be set in motion on an adventurous journey known as the Amazing Race right to the finish! Your team will compete in

age-appropriate fitness and sports challenges designed to inspire and excite. Games may include obstacle courses, relays, tug-of-war, and more designed to foster cooperation and teamwork.

Week 4 June 17-21: "Get in the Game of Racquets and Clubs" - You have met your match with this camp! Get your game face on and match up for some healthy competition on the Tennis court and our greens!

Week 5 June 24-28: "College Days" - Wear your favorite college jersey and have a blast playing a wide variety of college sports including volleyball, baseball, soccer, lacrosse and more. With lots of games and activities, there's never a bore!

Week 6: July 1-3 (3-

day camp - no camp July 4th & 5th) "Match Point" - Forehands, backhands, and serves that soar, Techniques we'll teach, and then some more. From novices to pros, everyone's in gear, but tennis alone won't be the only sport played here!

Week 7 July 8-12: "Put a Ring on It" - The Olympic torch is being lit which means it's time for our own HMC Olympics! Bring home the glory for your assigned country in a variety of sports competitions. It's time to go for the gold.

*In addition to the "primary sports focus" of the week, campers will be immersed in a variety of other games, activities and learning experiences throughout camp.



On March 9, 2024 the Shelby Fire Department held a trade day event. The event had vendors selling art work and much more. At the spring fling event they also had the Easter Bunny and local vendors, it was a wonderful event for kids and family. *By John Hahn*

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THE STAFF

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ALABAMA LEGAL JOURNAL

INVITATION FOR BIDS

INVITATION FOR BIDS GUARDRAIL COMPONENTS BID ANNOUNCEMENT ITB # 8-24

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Jefferson County Purchasing Department no later than 4:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT) on March 25, 2024, for proposed Guardrail Components. Bids will be opened on March 26, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. CDT, in Room 830 of the Jefferson County Courthouse. Any "Reasonable Accommodations" can be provided upon request. Interested parties may retrieve a copy of the bid package at Jefferson County Purchasing: 716 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N., Suite 830, Birmingham, AL 35203 or download at <https://paca.jccal.org>.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on March 18, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. CDT, virtually through MICROSOFT TEAMS. All questions must be written and faxed to the attention of Ericka Andrew at (205) 214-4034 or emailed to procurementservices@jccal.org.

Western Star
March 1, 8 & 15, 2024

INVITATION FOR BIDS READY-MIX CONCRETE BID ANNOUNCEMENT ITB # 5-24

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Jefferson County Purchasing Department no later than 4:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT) on March 25, 2024, for proposed Ready-Mix Concrete. Bids will be opened on March 26, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. CDT, in Room 830 of the Jefferson County Courthouse. Any "Reasonable Accommodations" can be provided upon request. Interested parties may retrieve a copy of the bid package at Jefferson County Purchasing: 716 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N., Suite 830, Birmingham, AL 35203 or download at <https://paca.jccal.org>.

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March 1, 8 & 15, 2024

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Notice to Contractors Federal Aid Project No. APDF-1602(542) JEFFERSON 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 March 29, 2024 and at that time publicly opened for constructing the Base, Pave, and Bridges on the Birmingham Northern Beltline from the junction of SR-79 to the junction of SR-75 (Partial), excluding Ramp C north of Pinson. Length 1.878 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 Five Hundred (500) Working Days. A 2.50% DBE Contract Obligation Is Required.

A Bidding Proposal may be purchased for \$5.00. Plans may be purchased for \$171.00 per set. Plans and Proposals are available at the Alabama Department of Transportation, 1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Room E-108, Montgomery, AL 36110. Checks should be made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation. Plans and Proposals will be mailed only upon receipt of remittance. No refunds will be made.

Minimum wage rates for this project have been pre-determined by the Secretary of Labor and are set forth in the advertised specifications. This project is subject to the contract work hours and Safety Standards Act and its implementing regulations.

Cashier's check or bid bond for 5% of bid (maximum - \$50,000.00) made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation must accompany each bid as evidence of good faith.

The bracket range is shown only to provide general financial information to contractors and bonding companies concerning the project's complexity and size. This Bracket should not be used in preparing a bid, nor will this bracket have any bearing on the decision to award this contract.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

PUBLICATION ON ADOPTION (UNKNOWN FATHER, KNOWN MOTHER UNKNOWN LOCATION)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, AL. CASE NO. 23BES000790
IN THE MATTER OF: ADOPTION OF: M.T.H., A MINOR NOTICE TO THE UNKNOWN OR UNDISCLOSED PARENT OF: M.T.H

WHOSE ADDRESS IS ALSO UNKNOWN OR UNDISCLOSED

You will take notice that a Petition for the Adoption of M.T.H., (born to A.H., Natural Mother), was filed on the 19th day of October, 2023, alleging that the identity of the natural parent of said minor child is unknown or has not been disclosed to the Court, and whose relationship of said unknown or undisclosed

natural parent to the aforesaid minor child is that of NATURAL FATHER. Minor Child's birth date is 2/26/2021.

Also, the whereabouts of A. H., whose relationship to the aforesaid Minor Child is that of natural mother are unknown to the petitioner.

Please be advised that should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response with thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein (with Stephen H. Jones, Esq., whose name and address is shown below, and) with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama, Courthouse, Bessemer, AL 35020.

DONE this the 22nd day of February 2024.
ELIZABETH NORTH
JUDGE OF PROBATE
STEPHEN H. JONES
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1714 4TH AVENUE
NORTH
BESSEMER, ALABAMA 35020
Western Star
March 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE Substantial Amendment to FY23 Action Plan

The City of Bessemer proposes a Substantial Amendment to its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY20-24 Consolidated Plan and FY19, FY20, FY21 and FY22 Annual Action Plans in accordance with federal regulations found at 24 CFR 91.105 and the City's Citizen Participation Plan. The purpose of the amendment is to reprogram funds to Emergency Housing Grants and Public Facilities/Improvement activities. The City proposes to reprogram grant funds of approximately \$200,565.24.

To the Emergency Housing Grant Program.
FY19 - Reprogram grant funds of \$27,372.50.
FY20 - Reprogram grant funds of \$111,446.47.

FY21 - Eliminate the Down Payment Assistance and the Lead Paint line items and reprogram \$16,529.27.

FY22 - Eliminate the Lead Paint line item and reprogram \$15,538.

Public Facilities and Improvements

FY22 - Eliminate the \$29,679 Planning line item and reprogram \$29,679 to the Public Facilities/Improvements line item.

The total reprogrammed grant funds for Emergency Housing Grants will be \$170,886.24. The total reprogrammed for Public Facilities/Improvements activities will be \$29,679.

Written or verbal comments on the proposed amendment will be accepted beginning on Friday March 1, 2024 and lasting until 3 p.m. on April 2, 2024. Comments on the proposed amendment may be mailed to the City of Bessemer Economic and Community Development Department, 1700 Third Avenue North, or emailed to Mr. Toraine Norris, Economic and Community Development Director, at tnorris@bessemeral.org. Oral comments will be accepted by contacting the Department at 205-424-4060 during normal City Hall business hours.

A public meeting on the substantial amendment will be held on March 21, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. at Bessemer City Hall, 1700 Third Avenue North. Persons needing special assistance (such as translated materials) or a reasonable accommodation to provide comment during the hearing are asked to contact the Community Development Department at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Western Star
March 1, 8 & 15, 2024

PROBATE NOTICE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 24BES000124

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JEANNINE HAMILTON GODSEY, DECEASED
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 29th day of February 2024, by the HONORABLE JAMES P. NAFTEL, Judge of the Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama,

notice is hereby given that all persons having Claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

TIMOTHY HAMILTON GODSEY
MICHAEL JOE GODSEY
Personal Representative(s)
Western Star
3/1/24; 3/8/24 and 3/15/24
Attorney of Record

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 24BES000113

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ELAINE HENTON, DECEASED
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 26TH day of FEBRUARY, 2024, by the HONORABLE JAMES P. NAFTEL, Judge of the Probate Court of Jefferson

County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having Claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

COREY HENTON
Personal Representative(s)
Western Star
3/8/24
3/15/24
3/22/24
Attorney of Record

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 24BES000126

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: PHILLIP E. MULLEN, JR., DECEASED
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 29TH day of FEBRUARY, 2024, by the HONORABLE JAMES P. NAFTEL, Judge of the Probate Court of Jefferson

County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having Claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

PAMELA M BOYLES
Personal Representative(s)
Western Star
3/8/24
3/15/24
3/22/24
Attorney of Record

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 24BES000123

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: WADE BENTON TIBBS, SR., DECEASED
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 29TH day of FEBRUARY, 2024, by the HONORABLE JAMES P. NAFTEL, Judge of the Probate Court of Jefferson

County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having Claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

CHARLES HOWARD TIBBS
Personal Representative(s)
Western Star
3/8/24
3/15/24
3/22/24
Attorney of Record

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 24BES000111

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: CLAIRE ANN WATERS, DECEASED
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 27TH day of FEBRUARY, 2024, by the HONORABLE JAMES P. NAFTEL, Judge of the

Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having Claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

KAREN NARRO
Personal Representative(s)
Western Star
3/8/24
3/15/24
3/22/24
Attorney of Record

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 24BES000135

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MELBA W. HARMON, DECEASED
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 5TH day of MARCH, 2024, by the HONORABLE JAMES P. NAFTEL, Judge of the Probate Court of Jefferson

County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having Claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

THOMAS E HARMON JR
Personal Representative(s)
Western Star
3/15/24
3/22/24
3/29/24
Attorney of Record

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 24BES00010

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JANE GREY HARRIS, DECEASED
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 22nd day of March 2024, by the HONORABLE James P. NafTel, Judge of the Probate Court of Jefferson

County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having Claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

ERIC HARRIS
Personal Representative(s)
Western Star
3/15/2024
3/22/2024
3/29/2024
Attorney of Record

ALABAMA LEGAL JOURNAL

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Official public notice is hereby given that the City of Bessemer will receive sealed bids for the bid of the **BESSEMER STORM SHELTER/POLICE PRECINCT PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECT**.

There will be a MANDATORY pre-bid meeting for this project on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 10:00 am at Bessemer City Hall – Multipurpose Room, 1700 3rd Avenue North, Bessemer, AL 35020.

Bids will be opened and read aloud on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 10:00 am at Bessemer City Hall – Multipurpose Room, 1700 3rd Avenue North, Bessemer, AL 35020.

Bids delivered prior to March 28, 2024, should be delivered to Bessemer City Hall – Office of Economic and Community Development Department, 2nd Floor, 1700 3rd Avenue North, Bessemer, AL 35020 Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:45 pm.

Each bid must be sealed,

and the following words must appear on the outside of the sealed envelope: **BESSEMER STORM SHELTER/POLICE PRECINCT PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECT**.

SCOPE OF WORK:
The scope of work on this project includes: Mobilization; installation of temporary traffic control along Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) SR-5 (US 11) in accordance with the temporary traffic plan submitted to ALDOT and developed in accordance with the latest edition of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD); installation of erosion and sediment control devices as shown on the drawings; removal of approximately 10 inches of existing base and pavement in the sections shown on the drawings; placement of approximately 6 inches of ALDOT Crushed Aggregate Base Section 825B (to be placed in 2 equal lifts) (98% compaction required); placement of ALDOT Bituminous 'A' Treatment or Prime Coat;

placement of ALDOT Superpave Bituminous Concrete Upper Binder Layer, 1" maximum aggregate size mix, ESAL Range A/B, approximately 275 lbs/sy or 2.5 inches thick; placement of tack coat; placement of ALDOT Superpave Bituminous Concrete Wearing Surface Layer, ½" maximum aggregate size mix, ESAL Range A/B, approximately 165 lbs/sy or 1.5 inches thick; and site cleanup and stabilization of any disturbed areas.

A cashier's check or bid bond payable to the City of Bessemer in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than \$10,000.00 must accompany the bidder's proposal along with a Non-Collusion Affidavit. A one hundred percent (100%) Performance Bond and a one hundred percent (100%) Payment Bond and evidence of insurance is required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of the Contract.

To submit a bid, a complete set of bid documents

MUST be obtained from the office of SIDNEY H. MAY, P.E., LLC., (SHM) 600 20th Street North, Suite 407, Birmingham, AL 35203 Monday through Friday by appointment at (205) 915-3937. Bid documents may be obtained from SHM, the Engineer upon deposit of \$50 per set which will be refunded in full on the first set issued to each general contractor bidder submitting a bona fide bid, upon return of documents in good condition within ten (10) days of the bid date. Other sets for general contractors, and set for subcontractors and dealers, may be obtained with the same deposit, which will be refunded as above, less cost of printing, reproduction, handling, and distribution. Bid Documents must be picked up no later than 24 hours prior to bid opening.

All general contractor bidders must be pre-qualified pursuant to pre-qualification procedures and criteria established by the OWNER prior to picking up bid documents. Written pre-qualification pro-

cedures and criteria are available for review at the office of SHM. Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Engineers or copies thereof. 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 Engineer. 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 interest of the OWNER will thereby be promoted.

Engineer's Bracket Estimate: \$250,000 - \$300,000
Nonresident bidders must accompany any written bid documents with a

written opinion of an attorney at law licensed to practice law in such nonresident bidder's state of domicile, as to the preferences, if any or none, granted by the law of that state to its own business entities whose principal places of business are in that state in the letting on any or all public contracts.

CITY OF BESSEMER
Mayor Kenneth Gulley
1700 3rd Avenue North
Bessemer, Alabama
35020
(205) 424-3737
(OWNER)
CITY OF BESSEMER
Toraine Norris, MPA
Community Development Director
1700 3rd Avenue North
Bessemer, Alabama
35020
(205) 424-4060 x4232
(OWNER)
SIDNEY H. MAY, P.E., LLC.
600 20th Street North, Suite 407
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 915-3937
(ENGINEER)
Western Star
March 8, 15 & 22, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

FY 2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROPOSED ACTION PLAN CITY OF BESSEMER

As set forth in 24 CFR Part 91, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires jurisdictions to

incorporate their planning and application requirements into one five-year document called the Consolidated Plan. In turn, an Annual Action Plan must then be prepared for each year of the Consolidated Plan. The following constitutes the City of Bessemer's FY24 Action Plan for the

use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds within the Consolidated Plan period of 2020-2024. The projected use of funds has been developed to give maximum priority to activities that will primarily benefit low-to-moderate income persons, or aid in the

prevention/elimination of slum and blight conditions. The projected use of funds is consistent with the City's established strategy of stabilizing the community and reversing negative trends associated with urban decay and blight.

2024 CDBG Action Plan Budget

PROJECTED GRANT FY24 Funding*	\$625,648
PROJECTED Program Income (from RLFs) **	\$98,071
Total FY24 REVENUES	\$723,719
Budgeted Items	
Administration & Planning	\$144,744
HOUSING Delivery Costs	\$70,518
Public Services	\$60,000
Public Facilities/improvements	\$175,000
Senior and Disabled Housing Grants	\$160,000
Historic District Façade grants	\$35,000
Revolving Loan Funds (Economic development and housing)	\$78,457
Total Proposed activity expenditures	\$723,719

The city of Bessemer anticipates submitting a "Final Statement of Community Development Objectives and Projected Use of Funds" to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at least 60 days after grant allocations are announced by HUD.

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

The City of Bessemer, Economic and Community Development Department will receive public comments on the above proposed Action Plan for 30 days beginning on Friday, March 1, 2024 and ending on

Tuesday, April, 2, 2024 at noon.

Copies of the proposed Action Plan will be available in the Economic and Community Development Department on the Second Floor of Bessemer City Hall during normal working days. The plan will be available online at bessemeral.org on the Community Development Department page.

Comments may be made orally by contacting the department at 205-424-4060. Written comments may be mailed to the City of Bessemer, Economic and

Community Development Department, 1700 Third Avenue North, Bessemer, AL 35020 or emailed to Mr. Toraine Norris, Economic and Community Development Director, at tnorris@bessemeral.org.

*HUD has not released the City's 2024 CDBG Allocation, therefore allocation amounts are based on the City's 2023 grant allocation. All proposed activity budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from the estimated funding levels to match actual allocation amounts once received. Priority of

any additional funds will be dedicated to Public Facilities/Improvements and Housing grants.

**Program income is comprised of loan receipts from past Housing Revolving Loan Funds and Economic Development Revolving Loan Funds. Such repaid funds, once received, can be directed towards eligible CDBG activities, including 20% for program administration costs and 15% of prior year funds towards eligible public service activities.

Western Star
March 1, 8 & 15, 2024

NOTICE OF AUCTION

NOTICE OF AUCTION

PURSUANT TO 32-13-1 ET SEQ. CODE OF ALABAMA, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOVERING STORAGE, TOWING, AND/OR REPAIR BILLS ON May 3, 2024, AT 2:00 PM ANDY'S TOWING INC. 3800 FLIGHT DRIVE, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, 35215. ANY OWNER, SECURED PARTY, LIEN HOLDER MAY CONTEST THE RIGHT TO SELL SUCH VEHICLE BY FILING AN APPLICATION FOR HEARING WITH THE CIRCUIT CLERK OF SHELBY COUNTY AT LEAST 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF SALE. SELLER RESERVES ALL RIGHTS TO REFUSE ANY BID.

- 2010 NISS ROGUE JN8AS5MV1AW147349
- 2011 TOY CAMRY 4T1BK3EK1BU118466
- 2011 HYUN ELANTRA 5NPDH4AE9BH045147
- 2013 FORD FUSION 3FA6P0H74DR195197
- 2006 NISS ARMADA 5N1AA08B56N732B48
- 2012 HONDA RIDGELINE 5FPYK1F74CB456989
- 1993 JEEP CHEROKEE 1J4FJ28P8RL138511
- 2003 CHEV TRAILBLAZER 1GND513S732261382
- 2007 NISS ALTIMA 4T1BE46K67U019841

- 2006 NISS TITAN 1N6BA06A26N501227
- 2018 CHRY 300 2C3CCAAG7JH321055
- 2006 NISS XTERRA 5N1AN08W16C515381
- 2013 HYUN ELANTRA. 5NPDH4AE7DH343067
- 2007 HYUN SONATA 5NPET46C08H302022
- 2003 LINC NAVIGATOR 5LMFU28R73LJ05837
- 1998 CHEV S 10 1GCCS1946W8178170
- 2013 HYUN ELANTRA 5NPDH4AE7DH431875
- 2014 HYUN ELANTRA 5NPDH4AE9DH425768
- 2008 MITS ECLIPSE 4A3AK64F78E015137
- 2008 FORD FUSION 3FAHP08118R189576
- 2014 HYUN ELANTRA 5NPDH4AE3EH470450
- 2004 CHEV SILVERADO 2GCEC19V941168280
- 2000 CHEV SILVERADO 2GCE19T3Y1126739
- 2013 DODGE CHARGER 2C3CDXAT8DH714936
- 1996 BUICK ROADMASTER 1G4BT52P2TR422032
- 2000 NISS XTERRA 5N1ED28T9YC584098
- 2008 NISS ALTIMA 1N4AL21E48N473843
- 2006 CHEV MALIBU 1G1ZT53826F185728

Western Star
March 15 & 22, 2024

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 24BES000133 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: SHERRY HUGHES HERRING, A/K/A SHERRY JANE HERRING, DECEASED

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 5TH day of MARCH, 2024, by the HONORABLE JAMES P. NAFTEL, Judge of the

Probate Court of Jefferson County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having Claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

CHERYL DELAINE SELF
Personal Representative(s)
Western Star
3/15/24
3/22/24
3/29/24
Attorney of Record

PUBLICATION STATE OF ALABAMA JEFFERSON COUNTY PROBATE COURT CASE NO. 24BES000134 ESTATE OF: DAVID WAYNE HOLCOMBE, DECEASED

TO: Matthew David Holcombe, Any and All Heirs, Whose Names, Ages, Conditions and Addresses are Unknown and to any and all interested parties:
On the 5th day of March 2024, came Philip Owen Holcombe, and filed his Petition for Probate of Will, in the matter of the Estate of David Wayne Holcombe, Deceased.
And whereas the 25 day of April 2024, at

10:45 A.M., has been set as a day for hearing said petition and the testimony to be submitted in support of same.

It is therefore ordered that notice of the filing of said petition and of the day set for hearing same be given by publication once a week for three successive weeks in the -WESTERN STAR, a newspaper published in this County, notifying all parties in interest to appear and contest said petition if they think proper so to do.

This the 5th day of March 2024.
Judge Elizabeth North
Judge of Probate
Western Star
March 15, 22 & 29, 2024

PROBATE NOTICE

PUB ON FINAL SETTLEMENT STATE OF ALABAMA JEFFERSON COUNTY PROBATE COURT CASE NO. 20BES000198

ESTATE OF: EDNA T. BARNHART, a protected person

To: Melissa Moore and any and all other parties interested in said estate, take notice;

On the 20th day of February 2024 came Gregory H. Hawley, Esq. as Permanent Guardian and Temporary Conservator for the

Estate of Edna T. Barnhart, a protected person and filed his accounts, vouchers, evidence and statement for a Final Settlement of same.

It is therefore ordered that the 24th day of June 2024, at 1:45 p.m., be appointed a day for making such settlement at which time all parties in interest can appear and contest the same if they think proper. This the 4th day of March 2024.

Sherri C. Friday
JUDGE OF PROBATE
Western Star
March 8, 15 & 22, 2024

PUB ON FINAL SETTLEMENT STATE OF ALABAMA JEFFERSON COUNTY PROBATE COURT CASE NO. 23BES000625

ESTATE OF: LENNIE M. SAMS, SR., a.k.a. LENNIE MICHAEL SAMS, SR. DECEASED

To: GREG A. SAMS and any and all other parties interested in said estate, take notice;

On the 22nd day of February 2024 came Lennie M. Sams, Jr. the Personal Representative for the Estate of Len-

nie M. Sams, Sr., a.k.a. Lennie Michael Sams, Sr. deceased, and filed his accounts, vouchers, evidence and statement for a Final Settlement of same.

It is therefore ordered that the 24th day of June 2024, at 2:00 p.m., be appointed a day for making such settlement at which time all parties in interest can appear and contest the same if they think proper. This the 4th day of March 2024.

Sherri C. Friday
JUDGE OF PROBATE
Western Star
March 8, 15 & 22, 2024

ALABAMA LEGAL JOURNAL

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Notice to Contractors

Debris, Removal, Reduction, and Disposal Following a Declared Disaster
Alabama Department of Transportation
East Central Region – Birmingham Area
Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby Counties
Sealed bids will be received by the Alabama Department of Transportation until 10:00 am on Friday, April 19, 2024, and at that time publicly

opened for a retainer contract for debris removal, reduction, and disposal following a declared disaster, in the East Central Region, Birmingham Area. The bid opening will take place at the Alabama Department of Transportation, East Central Region, Birmingham Area office, Conference Room.
Qualified General Contractors holding a current Alabama State license are invited to

bid. This contract is for the purpose of retaining a qualified General Contractor whose services would be employed in the event of a Tropical Storm event or other declared disaster. Copies of the contract documents and specifications may be inspected and/or obtained at the following locations:
Alabama Department of Transportation
East Central Region – Birmingham Area

1202 Bankhead Hwy, West Birmingham, AL 35204
Phone: (205) 581-5723
Digital copies can be found under the "Special Notice to Contractors" section at <https://alletting.dot.state.al.us/>
Sealed bids may be mailed or delivered directly to the Owner prior to the bid opening. Such sealed bids must be clearly and legibly marked "Debris

Removal, Reduction, and Disposal Following a Declared Disaster – Birmingham Area" on the outside of the envelope.
The most qualified, responsive, responsible, and highest ranked bid will be accepted with key consideration based upon the benefit to the public; however, the Alabama Department of Transportation reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any irregularity in

the bids received, and to accept or reject any items of the bid for the benefit of the public.
No conditional bids will be accepted.
No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the scheduled closing date and time for the receipt of bids.
John Cooper
Transportation Director
Western Star
March 15, 22 & 29, 2024

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS AND FOR BIDS FROM BIDDERS THAT ARE PREQUALIFIED

Prequalification Proposals from General Contractors shall be submitted and will be received on behalf of the Owner by Robins & Morton; submit electronically Attn: William Byrd at williams@robinsmorton.com or delivery to 400 Shades Creek Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35209; UNTIL 5:00PM LOCAL TIME; ON FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024, for:
MECHANICAL REPLACEMENT AT THE MARTIN CAMPUS
SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA
and thereafter delivered to the Owner for consideration of approval to bid this project. Only Non-Prequalified Bidders will be notified

in writing ON MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024, but no later than the date of the Bid. Construction Documents will be available to bidders, currently anticipated to be on or about FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024.
Prequalification proposal requirements may be obtained from Robins & Morton, by written request via email or mailed on the Contractor's company letterhead.
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all prequalification and/or proposals, waive technical errors, and/or abandon this process if, in their judgment, the Owner's best interests will be promoted.
Sealed proposals will be received only from Prequalified General Contractor Bidders by Shelton State Community College; at their offices at 9500 Old Greensboro Rd, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405; AT 2:00 PM LOCAL TIME

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read.
The Work of the project includes the replacement of two chillers, a recovery unit and other equipment in the Martin Central Energy Plant; as specified and as indicated on the Drawings; coordination and supervision of the entire project; and all related work, as indicated in the Bid and Contract Documents.
A cashier's check or bid bond payable to Shelton State Community College 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 statutory Labor and Material Payment Bonds, insurance in compliance with requirements, and verification of E-Verify enrollment (also with

Proposals), will be required at the signing of the Contract.
Drawings and Specifications will be distributed free of charge electronically through Robins & Morton's Building Connected Platform. Plans may be examined at the Office of Robins & Morton.
Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof. All bidders bidding in amounts exceeding that established by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors must be licensed under the Provision of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, and must show such evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by Architect or Owner; The bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying their current license number on the outside of

the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered; Bidder must also include their current license number on the Proposal Form. No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for a period of SIXTY (60) days.
PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at 9500 Old Greensboro Rd, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405; at 10:00 AM LOCAL TIME, ON THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024, to review the project and answer Bidder's questions. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference IS NOT REQUIRED but highly recommended FOR ALL GENERAL CONTRACTOR BIDDERS (and any subcontractors) intending to submit a proposal.
This project is being bid EXCLUDING TAXES, and requires the Contractor to comply with the requirements of Act 2013-205, which was

signed into law on May 9, 2013. The Contractor and the Owner will be required to apply for Certificates of Exemption with the Alabama Department of Revenue which will handle administration of the Certificates. The Contractor shall account for the tax savings on the Proposal Form.
Additional qualifications and requirements for General Contractor Bidders and separate Subcontractors and Manufacturers are indicated in the Bid and Contract Documents.
SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Dr. Jonathan Koh, President
Construction Manager:
Robins & Morton
400 Shades Creek Pkwy.
Birmingham, AL 35209
Phone: (205) 870-1000
Western Star
March 15, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

WHEELER WRECKER SERVICE INC gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 09/12/2023, 10:00 AM at 705 22ND ST N BESSEMER, AL 35007, pursuant to subsection 32-13-3 of the Alabama Statutes. WHEELER WRECKER SERVICE INC reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
WHEELER WRECKER SERVICE INC
WAURVAFD3CN017839 2012 AUDI A8
2G4WS52J911327439 2001 BUICK CENTURY
1G1155S34EU145982 2014 CHEVROLET IMPALA
1G1BC5SM8J7156883 2018 CHEVROLET CRUZE
1G1JC5SH9F4220808 2015 CHEVROLET SONIC
1G1ZC5EUXBF143764 2011 CHEVROLET MALIBU
1GNEK13T11J195184 2001 CHEVROLET TAHOE
1GN5CBE02BR276013 2011 CHEVROLET TAHOE
2G1WW12M9W9278143 1998 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO
2GNALBEK8H1500061 2017 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
2GNLFE33D6115199 2013 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
3GCPKTE71DG206932 2013 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
1B7GG2AN6YS792025 2000 DODGE DAKOTA
1B7HC16Y9SS370349 1995 DODGE RAM 1500
1D7HA16K78J155901 2008 DODGE RAM
2C3CDXBG2LH173351 2020 DODGE CHARGER
2C3CDZBT2HH594180 2017 DODGE CHALLENGER

3C4PDCAB0LT272107 2020 DODGE JOURNEY
2C3CDZAG9FH764195 2015 DODGE CHALLENGER
1FA6P8TH4K5184358 2019 FORD MUSTANG
1FDXE4FS0DDB00612 2013 FORD E-450
1FMEU17W03LB19076 2003 FORD EXPEDITION
1FTFW1E59NKE78190 2022 FORD F-150
1FTFW1EF8EKE03957 2014 FORD F-150
1FTFW1ET8DFA85481 2013 FORD F-150
1FTKR1EE5BPA75943 2011 FORD RANGER
1FTRW08L12KB41056 2002 FORD F-150
1FTRW08L81KE11933 2001 FORD F-150
2FAHP71WX4X103675 2004 FORD CROWN VICTORIA
3FA6P0K90DR277650 2013 FORD FUSION
NM0LSTCN5DT153594 2013 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT
1FUJA6CK56LW11417 2006 FREIGHTLINER COLUMBIA
1GDY7RFG0L1257600 2020 GENERAL MOTORS CORP SAVANA
3GTEC23049G165935 2009 GMC SIERRA
1HGCM56455A111381 2005 HONDA ACCORD
1HGCR2F76DA215063 2013 HONDA ACCORD
1HGCV1F54MA064258 2021 HONDA ACCORD
2HGFA1E5XAH532694 2010 HONDA CIVIC
JHLRD78502C025019 2002 HONDA CR-V
3KPC24A3XKE073703 2019 HYUNDAI ACCENT
5NPD74LF6HH193788 2017 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
5NPDH4AE0GH704546 2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
KMHDH4AE3DU524555 2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
JN1CV6AP0BM301637 2011 INFINITI G37
1C4HJXDGL6LW344272 2020 JEEP WRANGLER
5XXGT4L37JG217578 2018 KIA OPTIMA

JTJGF10U210088487 2001 LEXUS RX
2LMDU68CX7BJ07475 2007 LINCOLN MKX
3LN6L2GK9FR626610 2015 LINCOLN MKZ
2MEFM74V37X636578 2007 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS
4M2EU48858UJ07135 2008 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER
WDDDJ75X36A065964 2006 MERCEDES BENZ CLS-CLASS
1N4AA5AP1EC480636 2014 NISSAN MAXIMA
1N4AL3AP3EN370951 2014 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4AL3AP4EN364270 2014 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4AL3AP6DN445284 2013 NISSAN ALTIMA
3N1AB7AP6KY429089 2019 NISSAN SENTRA
5N1AZ2MG6JN163409 2018 NISSAN MURANO
JN8AT2MT1KW250136 2019 NISSAN ROGUE
KNMAT2MT0FP503183 2015 NISSAN ROGUE
1C6RR6GT5GS311980 2016 RAM 1500
4T1JZ1FB1MU065314 2021 TOYOTA AVALON
1NXBR32E27Z924981 2007 TOYOTA COROLLA
2T1BU4EE0CC768337 2012 TOYOTA COROLLA
2T1BURHE8GC672762 2016 TOYOTA COROLLA
4T1BE46K47U074076 2007 TOYOTA CAMRY
4T1BF1FK3FU995943 2015 TOYOTA CAMRY
4T1BF1FK6GU265672 2016 TOYOTA CAMRY
4T1BF1FK8EU346928 2014 TOYOTA CAMRY
4T1K61AK4MU595149 2021 TOYOTA CAMRY
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5TESN92N22Z138083 2002 TOYOTA TACOMA
5YFBURHE8JP855764 2018 TOYOTA COROLLA
5YFEPMAE4MP158341 2021 TOYOTA COROLLA
JTD8U4EE5B3093345 2011 TOYOTA COROLLA
Western Star
March 15 & 22, 2024

PROBATE NOTICE

PUB ON FINAL SETTLEMENT STATE OF ALABAMA JEFFERSON COUNTY BESSEMER DIVISION PROBATE COURT CASE NO. 22BES000823 ESTATE OF: MARION TAYLOR WILLIAMS, JR., Deceased.
To: Rachel Lea Warren, Robert Marion Williams, Mary Altha Williams and ANY and all other parties interested in said estate, take notice;
On the 19th day of December 2023, came Marjorie G. Evans, Personal Representative for the Estate of Mari-

on Taylor Williams, Jr., deceased and filed her accounts, vouchers, evidence and statement for a Final Settlement of same.
It is therefore ordered that the 17th day of April 2024, at 2:30 p.m. be appointed a day for making such settlement at which time all parties in interest can appear and contest the same if they think proper. This the 5th day or March 2024.
Judge James P. Naftel
JUDGE OF PROBATE
Western Star
March 15, 22 & 29, 2024



BESSEMER CITY SCHOOLS
Teaching Effectively, Leading Successfully

Bessemer Board of Education will be accepting sealed bids for Custodial Services for the following locations:

**Bessemer City Middle School
BCS-2024-4-3**

**Bessemer City High School
BCS-2024-4-2**

The initial contract will be for one (1) year and four (4) months, with a two-year option of satisfactory service to be evaluated by May 31st of each year thereafter. Your bid must include a deep clean, stripping all floors and applying 4-6 coats of wax throughout the building during the months of June and July.

BIDS FOR CUSTODIAL SERVICES

RFP Posted	March 7, 2024
*Mandatory Site Visit at 4:00 p.m.	March 14, 2024
Deadlines for Inquiries	March 19, 2024
Proposals Due by 4:00 p.m.	March 21, 2024
School Board Meeting	TBA
Commencement of Services (projected)	TBD

Date for commencement of service is approximate and subject to change.

***All bidders must attend the mandatory site visit on March 14, 2024. You will meet with an employee from Maintenance and Facilities at 4:00 p.m. in the Library at Bessemer City High School, located at 4950 Premiere Parkway, Bessemer, Alabama 35020. Please ensure that you have signed in, if you do not sign in, your proposal will not be considered.

**Please refer to the Bessemer Board of Education website (www.bessk12.org) Business & Accounting Department for a detailed RFP, time sensitive information, scope of work and required documents. **

**Don't miss out on all of the community & school news. Subscribe to the Western Star
Call 205.926.9767 or visit our website at westernstar.news**

NEWS

Celebration of the American Revolution Experience Exhibit

BY JOHN HAHN
On March 6, 2024 at the American village at 2:00pm. The Alabama Society of the Daughters of The American Revolution Celebration of the American Revolution Experience Exhibit was at the American Village in Montevallo Alabama. Val Crofts introduced a new exhibit coming to the

American Village to the battle of the trustees. It was very exciting hear the News that there is more events and building coming to the American village as he explained to the trustees during the event. Also all the trustees got to tour around the American village to see where all the new building and events will take place.



Monthly Business Appreciation: Express Services

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

If you own a home, you know just as well as anyone how true this saying remains: "if it's not one thing, it's another." Perhaps your porch is starting to rot through in places, your water heater leaked and created water damage, or maybe instead of looking for a new home you would like to add an addition to meet your family's growing needs. When it comes to home repair and renovation, that's where Express Services would like to help. Going on 30 years in business, Express Services is owned and operated by Mike Castle. With a focus on residential and commercial remodeling, Express Services can work on bathrooms, kitchens, flooring,

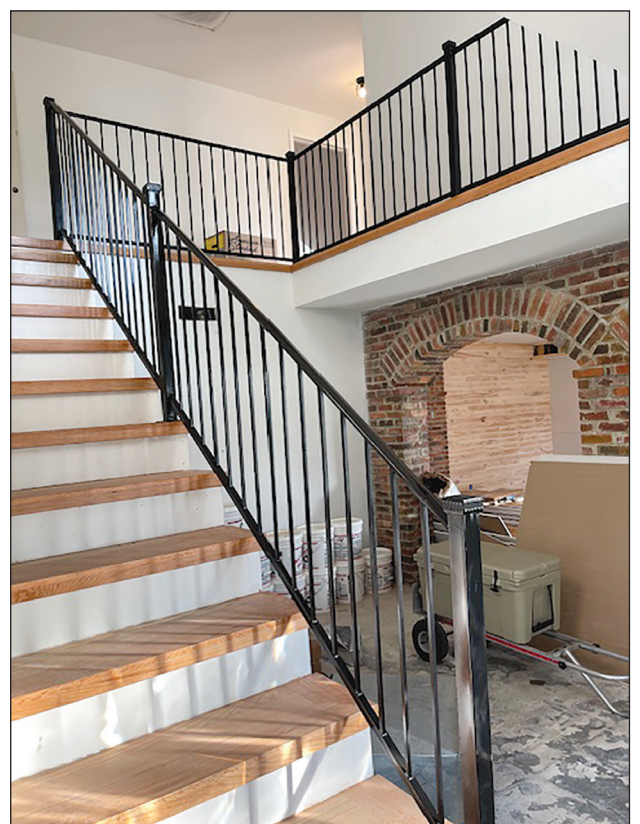
plumbing, electrical, building porches and decks, installing seamless gutters, as well as constructing shops and garages. For property maintenance and improvement, they have the heavy equipment needed for that, too. Licensed and insured, Castle and his team are professionals through and through, ready to do a job well done on whatever project is on your list. From a small home repair to a full home remodel, Express Services has their customers covered. A Bibb County resident, he prefers to keep his business aimed at boosting the local economy as much as possible. Even though Express Services also does government jobs that cover seven counties, there's nothing better to Castle than being able to serve

his Bibb County neighbors first. "Community means doing our business with the mom and pops," Castle shared in elaborating why he has serving Bibb County residents at the top of his list of business priorities. "Whether it's eating out, buying materials for jobs, or even supporting our lo-

cal sports, that's our way of giving back to the community whenever we can." While capable and confident to handle most any job, Castle shared that foundational issues are the one type of job that they prefer not to take on. Estimates are always free when you call Express Services, and customer satisfac-

tion remains one of their highest priorities. "Customer satisfaction and service is the number one goal, because word of mouth is your best advertisement," Castle assured. So, whether you're contemplating a minor repair or embarking on a full-scale renovation, look no further than Express Services. If

you or someone you know might be interested in what Express Services can do for your next project, feel free to give them a call at 205-229-5425. If you don't need anything done now, be sure to save their number for the next time you do! Let's continue to do what we can to keep things local, folks.



PROBATE NOTICE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA
CASE NUMBER 24BES000137
IN THE MATTER OF: THE CONDEMNATION OF: STATE OF ALABAMA JOHN R. COOPER, DIRECTOR OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION VS. ELAINE TUCKER CALLAHAN; THE ESTATE OF MARGARET VICTORIA BROWN; EMILY DAVIDSTON; MARGARET ANN DAVISTON; ABNER VINCENT BROWN, JR.; WANDA J. BROWN; MCCALLA FIRE DISTRICT; J.T. SMALLWOOD, JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR;

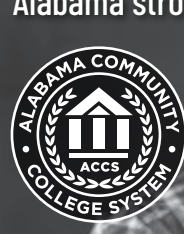
AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTY OR PARTIES CLAIMING ANY RIGHT TITLE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN AND TO THE PROPERTY DESCRIBE IN THIS COMPLAINT
On the 5th day of March 2024, came the State of Alabama, Ex Rel John R. Cooper, Director of The Alabama Department of Transportation, by its Attorney of Record, John E. Rollins, and filed its complaint, for the condemnation of certain lands therein described for and on behalf of the said State of Alabama Department of Transportation for use for public "road *school purposes, said lands belonging to Defendants listed. It is therefore ordered by the Court that the 16th day of April 2024 at 10:30 a.m. be set as a day for hearing said Complaint for Order of Condemnation and

the proof to be submitted in support of same and upon said hearing an order be made appointing three commissioners to assess the damages and compensation to which the owners of the said lands may be entitled for the taking of said lands. It is further ordered that notice of the filing of said Complaint and of the days set for hearing thereof be given Elaine Tucker Callahan; the Estate of Margaret Victoria Brown; Emily Davidston; Margaret Ann Daviston Andrew Daviston Abner Vincent Brown, Jr; Wanda J. Brown; McCalla Fire District; J.T Smallwood, Jefferson County Tax Collector; and any and all unknown party or parties claiming any right, title, lien or interest in an to the property described in this complaint. Any and all unknown heirs or devisees, of the individual defendants; Any and all unknown


claimants of the property hereinafter described who may have any right, title or interest in said property whose names, ages, addresses and conditions are unknown and cannot be ascertained after exercise of reasonable diligence by publication once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in the Alabama, a newspaper published in this County, at which time they or any other parties interested in said cause may appear and contest the same if they think proper. Please note that an answer may be filed by each defendant within 30 days from the date of this last publication notice. This the 7th day of March 2024. ELIZABETH NORTH JUDGE OF PROBATE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, AL. Western Star March 15, 22, 29 & April 5, 2024

WHAT WORKS

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www.alabama.edu/workforce



YOU CAN HELP PROTECT AGAINST CANCER.



alabamapublichealth.gov/imm





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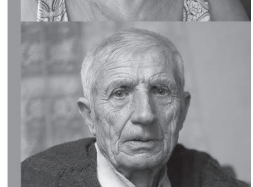

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
1-800-458-7214
dhr.alabama.gov/AFC

This is a registered logo of the Administration for Community Care (ACC) of the Alabama Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) as part of a financial assistance program ending 3/31/2022 and is not to be used for any other purpose. The contents of this logo are not to be used to represent the official seal of any state, territory, or the U.S. Government.


"Love Never Ages"

STOP Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation

Submit a report to the Alabama Department of Human Resources Adult Protective Services Division

1-800-458-7214
aps@dhr.alabama.gov



SOUTHERN STYLES

Riverchase Country Club Site of Bessemer High School Class of 1958 Reunion



DONALD JAY HOWTON, III
WESTERN STAR,
SOCIAL EDITOR

Reunions, especially high school class reunions are always exciting and memorable.

Recently, the Bessemer High School Class of 1958 held their 65th high school reunion at Riverchase Country Club.

Gerald Hicks was reunion chairman. Assisting Gerald were Sandra Roy Kirkland, Nancy Millstead McDougal, Claudia Paden Russell, Frank Mobley, Maxie Hall,

Tom Gilmore, Johnny White and Larry Olvey.

Attending the great reunion were Johnny White, Sandra Roy Kirkland, Jean Nichols Sims, Maxie and Susan Hall, Nancy Millstead McDougal, Ed "Tex" McAfee from Katy, Texas, Frank and Jerrilyn Mobley, Tom and Jean Gilmore, Larry Olvey, Claudia Paden Russell and Gerald and Peggy Hicks.

During the luncheon reunion, the class presented a proclamation to James Scott naming him as an honorary graduate of the Bessemer High School Class of 1958.

Also, each class member recalled fond memories of high school days.



Members of the Class of 1958

Quote of the Week

by Donald J. Howton

**Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me.**

~ Saint Patrick

Market Day
Market Day in McCalla will be held on Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The free event will be at **Off The Beaten Path Antiques and Gifts, LLC.**

The public is welcome to enjoy outdoor vendors, sales, door prizes and delicious food.

Congratulations
Recently, the Hueytown Area Chamber of Commerce honored **Taylor Bugs Kids Boutique & Consignment** as the January Business Member of the Month. The business is located at 1355 Hueytown Road in Hueytown.

Also, **Cinco de Mayo Mexican Grill** was recognized as the February Business Member of the Month. They are located at 1408 Hueytown Road in Hueytown.

Hadestown
The Broadway in Birmingham Series proudly unveils the Tony and Grammy award-winning Best Musical **Hadestown** on March 19-24 at the BJCC Concert Hall.

One of the hottest shows on Broadway, **Hadestown** is a winner of eight 2019 Tony Awards including Best Musical.

For ticket information, go to Broadwayin-Birmingham.com.

Pink Floyd
The 2024 Super Pops Season, Alabama Symphony Orchestra will present **The Music of Pink Floyd** on Saturday, March 16 at 8 p.m.

The concert will be held at the BJCC Concert Hall.

Brent Havens is the conductor and guest vocalist **Randy Jackson** will perform a plethora of Pink Floyd hits.

GOOD AFTERNOON

A chat with Hunter Bryant, Community Sales Manager, Holiday Rocky Ridge Retirement



DONALD JAY HOWTON, III
WESTERN STAR,
SOCIAL EDITOR

Since 2018 Hunter Bryant has been community sales manager at Holiday Rocky Ridge Retirement community in Hoover. Originally from Irvine, California, he moved to Alabama in 2013 and has worked in Hoover for nearly 10 years. A collector of die-cast toy cars, he also enjoys watching Bloom-

berg News on the Bloomberg Network. A gregarious personality, Hunter is passionate about helping people, especially senior citizens. He welcomes all with a warm and gracious embrace. It is indeed a special man who makes a commitment to aid and assist our senior citizens.

What are your duties as Sales Manager? Hunter: I have been committed to learning all aspects of my duties and responsibilities as a community sales manager. I inform potential residents about the facility, what we offer and give tours of our well-appointed building. I love my work and working with my co-workers. Also, I offer outreach to rehabs, hospitals

and referral agencies. Every day is a wonderful and memorable experience.

What is a typical day? Hunter: After I get my son ready for daycare, I check the markets. Next, we are off to daycare and I am on my way to the office, 3517 Lorna Road in Hoover.

Tell me about your family? Hunter: I was born in January of 1994 and raised in Irvine, California. My mother and father were born and raised in Gadsden, Alabama. I have a four-year-old son who I love dearly.

Do you have a favorite movie? Hunter: My favorite movie is *Training Day*, a 2001 American crime thriller starring Denzel Washington and Ethan

Hawke. It was distributed by Warner Brothers.

What is your favorite meal? Hunter: I love seafood especially shrimp served with cheese grits, a crunchy Mango and Avocado salad, smoked Trout toasts and served with a dry Riesling. For dessert a slice of lemon cheesecake.

A memorable event at the retirement community? Hunter: My greatest joy comes from helping the seniors during a time of uncertainty. In particular,

the difficulties associated along life's journey. This is, without question, my true calling in life.

What is your favor-

ite quote? Hunter: I have several, but my favorite is "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."



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Just a Thought

Change is an interesting concept that affects people differently. For some, change is equal to stress, hassles, and more work. For me, change is an opportunity to see how relevant we are to a changing world and culture. Some have even desecrated change in this manner: "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans!" I do not believe that God is a malicious in His laughter but I do believe He wonders why I thought I had the right to determine my course in the first place. Proverbs 16 is filled with wise sayings that give the true perspective of who is in charge of "making plans."

"IN HIS HEART A MAN PLANS HIS COURSE, BUT THE LORD DETERMINES HIS STEPS" (PROVERBS 16:9).

Many of the wise sayings in Proverbs 16 identify that while it is natural, if not even good for me to make plans, I must recognize my future plans often may seem right to me, but are truly selfish and lead to bad results (Proverbs 16: 1, 2, 25). But we have some good news: **GOD IS IN THE BUSINESS OF CHNGING OUR PLANS TO HIS PLAN**, resulting in something much better than I could hope for. Jesus did that with His disciples.

In Matthew 16 there is a poignant discussion between Jesus and His disciples. Jesus is questioning them, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" (Matthew 16:13). The disciples gave some political answers of the prophet foretold in the Old Testament that would come before the Messiah. Then Je-

sus brings attention to their own beliefs to which Peter proclaims **Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God"** (Matthew 16:16). Peter fully recognizes that Jesus is the promised Messiah and he attaches his hopes and dreams to Jesus. Jesus affirms this confession and blesses Peter with the purpose and authority to establish God's church, with promised victory over Hades (Matthew 16: 17-19). Peter may have had visions of vanquishing the Roman occupation as well, for this was a common political expectation of the Messianic work.

Can you imagine Peter's shock when Jesus started to predict His death (Matthew 16:21)? Peter was upset with Jesus' talk of death (Matthew 16:22). Peter takes Jesus aside to rebuke Him: "This shall never happen to You!" (verse 22). Let us try to understand Peter's words as we read into them: "That is not my plan?" The response to Peter from Jesus was stinging. Jesus associated Peter's plan with Satan, perverting God's path of salvation. The reason for this rebuke is ultimately Peter **"does not have in mind the things of God, but the things of man"** (Matthew 16:23). This reveals the true issue at the center of the "whose plans do I operate by" debate: **man's thoughts or God's thoughts?**

DEALING WITH CHANGE IN PLANS REQUIRES US TO HAVE GOD'S THOUGHTS IN OUR FOCUS.

It is no wonder Jesus immediately discusses the conditions of discipleship with His followers. Jesus

insists if anyone has the plan to follow Him, "he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). I must relinquish and deny my desire to plan, scheme, and insist on my way through daily surrendering my life to Jesus. While my salvation is secure through my Savior Jesus, the struggle to make Jesus Lord is a constant giving up my plans for God's plan. I must daily fill and focus my mind with God's thoughts, including His plans for my life.

WHEN GOD CHANGES MY PLANS, I MUST REFOCUS MY MIND, ASKING WHAT IS GOD'S DESIGN FOR THIS MOMENT.

You may ask how or why? It is because I was able to recognize my plans were not the authority the universe operates by. I was able to focus on God's thoughts, which spared me the stress of worrying about things that were outside my control. I did not waste my time by fretting on what was lost, but rather realized God's plan would allow for something better to happen.

WHEN GOD CHANGES OUR PLANS, LOOK FOR HIS BLESSING OF SOMETHING NEW AND UNEXPECTED.



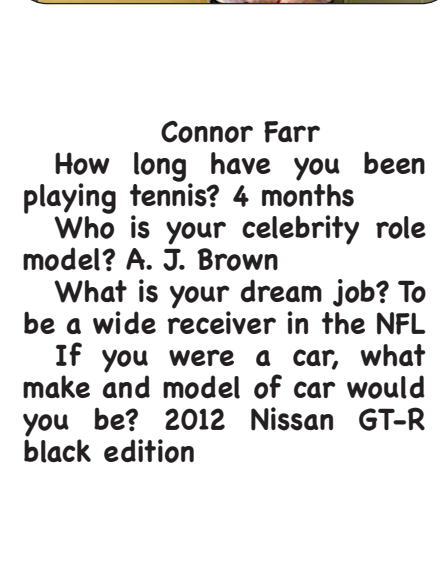
Barry F. Cosper

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Student athletes from Helena Middle are in the spotlight this week, as tennis season begins for local schools.



Isabell Bolen
How long have you been playing tennis? A few months
Do you play any other sports? Yes Cross Country
What is your favorite class? Civics
What historical person would you want to meet & why? Rosa Parks because I look up to her a lot.



Connor Farr
How long have you been playing tennis? 4 months
Who is your celebrity role model? A. J. Brown
What is your dream job? To be a wide receiver in the NFL
If you were a car, what make and model of car would you be? 2012 Nissan GT-R black edition



Ava Fulmer
How long have you been playing tennis? 3 months
What is your favorite subject in school? Math
What is the most beautiful place you've seen in person? The beach
What qualities do you look for in a friend? Someone who is sweet and kind