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Bo Jackson speaks Friday, Nov. 13, at the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory in Louisville, Ky., where he received the museum's Living Legend Award. (Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory)

Bo Jackson recalls Bessemer boyhood as he receives Living Legend Award

BY BRIAN CLEMENTS
WESTERN STAR STAFF

Bo Jackson received the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory's Living Legend Award Friday, Nov. 13, in Louisville, Ky., and told the crowd about growing up in a 600-square-foot house in Bessemer.

Jackson answered questions that those attending had submitted and museum organizers selected. One was what getting his first contract meant to him.

"I was eighth of 10 kids," said Jackson. "We lived in a 600 square-foot house in Bessemer, Alabama. My mother was the sole provider. She worked two jobs. We didn't have indoor plumbing until about 1971, I think. Still, I had the time of my life as a kid. But when I got a contract with my name on it, I knew I finally had something that nobody could take from me."

Asked who his idol was as a child, Jackson named his mother.

"My mother was my idol," said Jackson. "She worked those two jobs. She made sure we never went without. She always paid the bills. She made sure we had heat in the winter."

He spoke of her again when he was asked about his 1991 injury.

"I had hip replacement surgery and that ended my football career. My mother was being treated for colon cancer at the time," Jackson said. "She asked me what I was going to do. I said I was going to rehab well enough to return to baseball and hit a home run for her. She died the next year. I went back to baseball in '93 and hit a home run in my first at-bat of the year. I hit it for her. And I got the ball and put it on her dresser."

. . . see Jackson, page 12





Roger Johnson, the longest serving bell ringer from Bessemer.

Salvation Army Christmas red kettle campaign underway

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

It's that time of year again.

The Salvation Army in Bessemer has started their annual Christmas Red Kettle Campaign.

The kick-off campaign started Friday, Nov. 20, and will end on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.

The Bessemer Corps is located at 525 13th Street, North.

Lt. Melissa Poole is the officer at The Salvation Army in Bessemer.

Originally from Nashville, Poole said, "I am excited about the Christmas season in Bessemer. Serving here has reminded me that it is more than just meeting the physical needs of people, it is also about restoring hope, showing love and building genuine relationships."

The Salvation Army is in need of more volunteers this Christmas season.

Roger Johnson is the longest serving bell ringer from Bessemer. He is always encouraging others to ring. Last year Johnson raised over $11,000.

The goal for this year is $65,000.

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A chat with Nan Baldwin, president and CEO, Hoover Area Chamber of Commerce

GOOD AFTERNOON



DONALD JAY HOWTON, III
WESTERN STAR,
SOCIAL EDITOR

Nan Baldwin, President and CEO of the Hoover Area Chamber of Commerce, has a dynamic vision for the chamber which will make it even greater. A Birmingham native, she was hired in 2024 to serve as president and CEO. Nan earned a master's degree from Birmingham-Southern College. An amiable personality with a welcoming smile, she is a member of Living Stones Temple in Fultondale. Nan's deep commitment to Hoover is significant with evident enjoyment. She is a professional who is all over the place. Each day is exciting and rewarding for Nan as she develops stronger relationships with chamber members and elected officials while enhancing and promoting the quality of life within the community.

What is the role of the Hoover Chamber? Nan: The chamber's role is to support and serve the business community through advocacy, resources and programming. We work to help businesses grow and thrive with a special focus on supporting the small and medium-size businesses.

What are your goals for the Hoover Chamber? Nan: My goals are centered around growth, workforce development and engagement. I want to continue growing chamber membership, particularly among larger businesses, strengthen partnerships between schools and employers to build a local talent pipeline and expand our governmental affairs programming so our business community stays engaged with elected leaders.

How does the Hoover Chamber work with the city? Nan: The chamber and the city work hand in hand to strengthen Hoover's economy and quality of life. The city focuses on recruiting businesses to Hoover and the chamber helps retain and support those businesses.

What is your favorite meal? Nan: I am a Southern girl and I enjoy classic Southern comfort food including tender roast beef, collard greens with okra, macaroni and cheese, cornbread and no meal is complete without homemade banana pudding made from scratch.

Who has been most influential in your life? Nan: Without question, my mother. She taught me practical skills like cooking, sewing, gardening and fixing things around the house, but more importantly, she taught me the values I still live by today. The older I get, the more I realize how much of who I am, came directly from her example.

What are you most thankful for this Thanksgiving? Nan: I am most thankful for my family. Being a wife, mother, sister, aunt and grandmother brings me tremendous joy and I thank God every day for the love, support and relationships that make life meaningful. There is truly no greater blessing than family.

Pleasant Grove state representative indicted on federal wire fraud charges

A federal grand jury has indicted state Rep. Patrick Lorn Sellers, 53, of Pleasant Grove on four counts of wire fraud, U.S. Attorney Phillip W. Williams Jr. announced Thursday, Nov. 19.

The indictment, filed in U.S. District Court, alleges that between July 2020 and May 2021 Sellers fraudulently sought and obtained more than $240,000 in grants and loans meant to provide relief from the COVID-19 pandemic. The money came from the federal government, the State of Alabama and an Alabama nonprofit, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

The indictment alleges that Sellers used the money for his own benefit, including personal credit card, mortgage, loan and water bill payments and his daughters' college tuition.

Sellers has represented House District 57 since November 2022 and was re-elected to a second term this month.

The maximum penalty for wire fraud is 20 years in prison. The FBI investigated the case.

An indictment contains only charges. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Quote of the Week - Nov. 27, 2026 - Donald Jay Howton

"On this day of Thanksgiving, we praise our beneficent Father who is in the heavens."

Abraham Lincoln

The Western Star

John Allan Clark - Publisher
Matthew Bryant - Editor
Donald J. Howton, III - Social Editor
Robert Burgins, Jr. - Reporter/Sales
Kailah Hegler - Reporter/Sales

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SOUTHERN STYLES

In gratitude, EEFS Co. and Paden Realty share Thanksgiving meal



DONALD JAY HOWTON, III
WESTERN STAR,
SOCIAL EDITOR

The true meaning of Thanksgiving was again evident and enjoyed by all during one of the first Thanksgiving feasts of the harvest season.

The employees of EEFS Company and Paden Realty, both located on Second Avenue, North in downtown Bessemer, again observed Thanksgiving together.

For their time together, they gathered at the offices of EEFS and offered gratitude for their co-workers, friends and family.

Planning the Thanksgiving meal were Brenda Rickard and Jennifer Thomas. Everybody brought a favorite dish.

The blessing was given by Todd Paden.

Seen at the Thanksgiving feast were Ron Gilbert, Todd Paden, Danield Mayfield, Michael Rice, Eddie Snow, George Ambrose, George Shell, Greg Wade, Mason Wade, Chris Owens, Matthew Gregg and Jamey Champion.

Then there were Michelle Holland, Kay Thomas, Shirley Young, Morris Hodges, James Wood, Jacob Reid, Chris McKinney, Mondarius Maxwell and Tyler Stringer from Georgia.



Daniel Mayfield, from left, Chris Owens, Matthew Gregg and Chris McKinney.



Todd Paden and Ron Gilbert.



Ron Gilbert and Michael Rice.

Pleasant Grove High HOSA to hold blood drive Nov. 30

Pleasant Grove High School's HOSA chapter will hold an American Red Cross blood drive from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, in the Overlook area at the school.

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS, visit RedCrossBlood.org or use the Blood Donor App, with sponsor code PGHS.

Silver Boomers Group holds annual Thanksgiving program

BY ROBERT BURGINS JR.
WESTERN STAR STAFF

The Silver Boomers Group hosted its annual Thanksgiving program, Thanksgiving 2026, at the Kenneth E. Gulley Recreation Center. The program included poetry, song, food and fellowship.

State Sen. Merika Coleman and Jefferson County Deputy Treasurer Sherry McClain attended.

The Silver Boomers Choir sang songs of praise, among them "Thank You Lord (I Just Want to Thank You)" and "I Thank You Jesus," and the poem "Mr. Turkey" brought laughter from the audience.

Silver Boomers Group members also performed a skit, "Thank You God," portraying characters seeking spiritual assistance for various reasons: a praying mother with a wayward son, a sickly hospital patient, a business owner with complaining patrons, a lady with car issues and others.

Mykee Jackson, assistant director of the recreation center, told the audience, "The word Thanksgiving combines two great ideas, Thanks and Giving. Thanksgiving is more than about food, friends and family gatherings but moreso about realizing how blessed we are and giving thanks to God even when life isn't perfect."



Sherry McClain and state Sen. Merika Coleman visit with guests at the Silver Boomers Group's Thanksgiving program.



Members of the Silver Boomers Group greet the audience at the group's Thanksgiving program.



John Wilson sings a song of praise and worship.

ALABAMA LEGAL JOURNAL

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals for the construction of Hueytown Road Water Main Relocation STBH-7021(600) will be received by Bessemer Water Services (Owner) at Bessemer Electric & Water Services at 1600 First Avenue North, Bessemer, Alabama 35020, until 10:00 a.m., the prevailing time, on December 1, 2026, or by mailing to 1700 3rd Avenue, Bessemer, Alabama 35020 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. The bid is comprised of the following principal items and approximate quantities:

4 Mainline Connections

15 Water Service Relocations

Grout Filling of Abandoned Water Main

Fire Hydrant Relocations

Miscellaneous Appurtenances

Plans and Specifications may be inspected at the City of Bessemer in Bessemer, Alabama and Municipal Consultants, Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama and, after registering and payment of $50.00, they may be downloaded from Municipal Consultants' planroom at https://www.municipalconsultantsplanroom.org/. Cost of plans and specifications is non-refundable.

All Bidders must be responsible, meeting the criteria and requirements set forth in the specification documents. Prequalification of Bidders is not required.

This project is considered a "Public Works" project and is governed by competitive bid laws as contained in Title 39 of the Alabama Code. Bidders, subcontractors, suppliers, and Bond Agents should be familiar with this code.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technicalities. No Bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty days from the date set for receiving of the same. A Pre-Bid conference for prospective Bidders will not be held.

This project is governed by the applicable bid laws and practices of the State of Alabama.

By: Jerry D. Yarbrough

Title: Operations Manager

MUNICIPAL CONSULTANTS, INC.

Consulting Engineers

200 Century Park South

Suite 212

Birmingham, AL 35226

11/06/2026; 11/13/2026; 11/20/2026; 11/27/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: HARRIET M WILLIAMS, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000616

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 4th day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE Sherri C. Friday, 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.

ROBERT EARL WILLIAMS

Personal Representative(s)

Attorney of Record

11/13/2026; 11/20/2026; 11/27/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ALEX WILSON SR, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000614

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 4th day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE Sherri C. Friday, 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.

GEORGETTE TYUS

Personal Representative(s)

Attorney of Record

11/13/2026; 11/20/2026; 11/27/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MARY SUE RANEY, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000606

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 3rd day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE SHERRI C. FRIDAY, 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.

JAMES ARTHUR RANEY

Personal Representative(s)

Attorney of Record

11/13/2026; 11/20/2026; 11/27/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: KENNETH WILLIAM SHADIX, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000602

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 6th day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE Sherri C. Friday, 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.

JAY GREENE

Personal Representative(s)

Attorney of Record

11/13/2026; 11/20/2026; 11/27/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JO ANN P KENNEDY, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000618

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 4th day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE Sherri C. Friday, 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.

DAVID EUGENE KENNEDY

Personal Representative(s)

Attorney of Record



11/13/2026; 11/20/2026; 11/27/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: SHIRLEY GOURDINE MCCREE, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000620

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 9th day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE Sherri C. Friday, 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.

DEBRA G GAMBLE

Personal Representative(s)

published 11/20; 11/27; 12/4/26

LEGAL NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE

Court Case Number: CV-2025-900160

Sheriff #: 26022250

By virtue of Execution Fieri Facias issued out of the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court (CV) of the Bessemer Division, Jefferson County, State of Alabama, and to me directed, whereby I am commanded to make the amount of a certain judgment recently obtained against DAVID CHACE STRICKLAND AND LEA ANN STRICKLAND of the goods, chattels, lands and tenements of the said DAVID CHACE STRICKLAND AND LEA ANN STRICKLAND.

I have levied on the following property, to-wit:

LOT 949 TRACE CROSSINGS NINTH SECTOR 28/69

Therefore, according to said command, I will sell at public outcry for cash, all the rights, title and interest of the above named DAVID CHACE STRICKLAND AND LEA ANN STRICKLAND in and to the above described property, on the 7th day of December 2026, during the legal hours of 12:00 noon for sale at steps of Bessemer Courthouse, Jefferson County, Alabama.

Dated this 12th day of November 2026.

Mark Pettway

Sheriff of Jefferson County, Alabama

11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE

Court Case Number: SR

Sheriff #: 26021896

By virtue of Execution Fieri Facias issued out of the Clerk's Office of the Dept. of Revenue (SR) of Montgomery County, State of Alabama, and to me directed, whereby I am commanded to make the amount of a certain judgment recently obtained against SEMYR NAGI of the goods, chattels, lands and tenements of the said SEMYR NAGI.

I have levied on the following property, to-wit:

LOT 13 MONTECELLO HEIGHTS 13/11

Therefore, according to said command, I will sell at public outcry for cash, all the rights, title and interest of the above named SEMYR NAGI in and to the above described property, on Monday, 7th day of December 2026, during the legal hours of 12:00 noon for sale at steps of the Courthouse Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama.

Dated this 12th day of November 2026.

Mark Pettway

Sheriff of Jefferson County, Alabama

11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BRIAN CECIL COLE, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000623

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 10TH day of November 2026 . by the HONORABLE JAMERIA JOHNSON MOORE, 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.

JAY GREENE

Personal Representative(s)

11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: HELEN WILLIAMS PEARSON A/K/A HELEN MARIE PEARSON, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000626

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 12TH day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE SHERRI C FRIDAY, 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 CANTRELL WRIGHT

DANIEL CLIFFORD PEARSON

Personal Representative(s)

11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: PATRICIA C INGLE, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000624

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 12TH day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE SHERRI C FRIDAY, 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 ALBERT INGLE

Personal Representative(s)

11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

PUB ON FINAL SETTLEMENT

STATE OF ALABAMA PROBATE COURT

JEFFERSON COUNTY CASE NO. 21BES0000797

BESSEMER DIVISION

ESTATE OF: Robert Frank Kerr, a protected person

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

On the 14th day of May 2026, came Natalie Kerr Hunget, as Conservator for the Estate of Robert Frank Kerr, a protected person and filed her accounts, vouchers, evidence and statement for a Final Settlement of same.

It is therefore ordered that the 6th day of January 2027 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.

Done this the 12th day of November 2026.

Sherri C. Friday

JUDGE OF PROBATE

11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION ON FINAL SETTLEMENT

STATE OF ALABAMA PROBATE COURT

JEFFERSON COUNTY CASE NO. 24BES000187

BESSEMER DIVISION

ESTATE OF: LAWRENCE SULLIVAN, deceased

To: Frances F. Owens any and all other parties interested in said estate, take notice

On the 14th day of October 2026, came Nancy Elizabeth Rice, the Personal Representative for the Estate of Lawrence Sullivan, deceased and filed her accounts, vouchers, evidence and statement for a Final Settlement of same.

It is therefore ordered that the 22nd day of February 2027, 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.

Done this the 12th day of November 2026.

Jameria Johnson Moore

JUDGE OF PROBATE

11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals for the WTP Sludge Lagoon Dewatering - 2026 will be received by Warrior River Water Authority (WRWA), Oak Grove, Alabama (Owner) located at the WRWA Office, 8900 Lock 17 Road, Bessemer, Alabama 35023 until 2:00 p.m., the prevailing time, on December 11, 2026 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. The bid is comprised of the following principal items and approximate quantities:

Dredging and dewatering of 10,000 cubic yards of water plant sludge utilizing dewatering bags.

Plans and Specifications may be inspected at the WRWA office at the address above, and they may be inspected or obtained from the office of Municipal Consultants, Inc., 200 Century Park South, Suite 212, Birmingham, Alabama 35226, upon payment of $75.00. Cost of plans and specifications is non-refundable.

All Bidders must be responsible, meeting the criteria and requirements set forth in the specification documents. Prequalification of Bidders is not required.

This project is considered a "Public Works" project and is governed by competitive bid laws as contained in Title 39 of the Alabama Code. Bidders, subcontractors, suppliers, and Bond Agents should be familiar with this code.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technicalities. No Bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty days from the date set for receiving of the same.

There will not be a Pre-Bid Conference for this Project.

This project is governed by the applicable bid laws and practices of the State of Alabama.

By: Danny Johnson

Title: General Manager

MUNICIPAL CONSULTANTS, INC.

Consulting Engineers

200 Century Park South

Suite 212

Birmingham, AL 35226

11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

PUB ON FINAL SETTLEMENT

STATE OF ALABAMA PROBATE COURT

JEFFERSON COUNTY CASE NO. 24BES00725

BESSEMER DIVISION

ESTATE OF: JAN LEA JACOBIK, a protected person, now deceased

To: The Estate of Jan Lea Jacobik, deceased, any and all other parties interested in said estate, take notice;

On the 10th day of October 2026, came Edmond Earle, as Conservator for the Estate of Jan Lea Jacobik, a protected person, now deceased and filed his accounts, vouchers, evidence and statement for a Final Settlement of same.

It is therefore ordered that the 3rd day of February 2027, 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.

Done this the 12th day of November 2026.

Sherri C. Friday

JUDGE OF PROBATE

11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LINDA ROSEMARIE HARRIS-SCOTT, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NUMBER: 26BES000628

LETTERS

TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 13th day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE Sherri C. Friday, 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.

GEOFFREY NEALE BIRCHFIELD
Personal Representative(s)
11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BRENDA KAREN CALHOUN, DECEASED
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA
CASE NUMBER: 26BES000621
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 10th day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE Jameria Johnson Moore, 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.

GEOFFREY WILLIAM CALHOUN
Personal Representative(s)
11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION ON FINAL SETTLEMENT
STATE OF ALABAMA
PROBATE COURT
JEFFERSON COUNTY
CASE NO. 21BES00718
BESSEMER DIVISION
ESTATE OF: RICARDO A. NIXON, JR., a protected person.

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

On the 14th day of May 2025, came Ricardo A. Nixon, Sr., Conservator for the Estate of Ricardo A. Nixon, Jr., a protected person, and filed his accounts, vouchers, evidence and statement for a Final Settlement of same.

It is therefore ordered that the 16th day of December 2026, 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.

Done this the 12th day of November 2026.
Sherri C. Friday
JUDGE OF PROBATE
11/20/2026; 11/27/2026; 12/04/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MARY E ALEXANDER, DECEASED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 26BES000631
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 17th day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE Jameria Johnson Moore, 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.

DARIUS D ALEXANDER
Personal Representative(s)
11/27/2026; 12/04/2026; 12/11/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JENNE EDER CRUTCHLEY, DECEASED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 26BES000533
LETTERS TESTAMENTARY UPON LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 17TH day of November 2026. by the HONORABLE JACQUELINE KNOX, 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.

ANNA CRUTCHLEY FOWLER Personal Representative(s)
11/27/2026; 12/04/2026; 12/11/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: RONALD J CULWELL, DECEASED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA CASE NUMBER: 26BES000632
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION UPON THE ESTATE of said decedent, having been granted to the Undersigned on the 19TH day of November 2026 . by the HONORABLE SHERRI C FRIDAY , 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.

PHYLLIS M CULWELL
Personal Representative(s)
11/27/2026; 12/04/2026; 12/11/2026

SBA offers drought disaster loans to businesses in 29 Alabama counties

Small businesses and private nonprofit organizations hurt by the drought that began April 21 may apply for low-interest federal disaster loans for economic injury, the U.S. Small Business Administration said Monday, Nov. 2.

The counties include Hale, Perry, Bibb, Jefferson, Marengo, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, Greene, Sumter, Dallas, Wilcox, Lowndes, Clarke, Washington, Monroe, Chilton, Autauga, Elmore, Montgomery, Coosa, Talladega, St. Clair, Walker, Fayette, Lamar, Pickens, Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia, along with Escambia County, Fla., and Lowndes and Noxubee counties in Mississippi.

The loans are for economic injury, and the deadline to apply is June 21, 2027. Applications are taken online at sba.gov/disaster. For more information, call the SBA at 866-SBA-HELP or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Classifieds

CEMETERY LOTS

Highland Memorial Gardens, Bessemer, AL. Two burial plots including 2 vaults. These are vertical plots, one on top of the other. Retail value approximately 10k. Asking 5k. Michael Walker 205-292-1601

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Groups give notice they will sue over Birmingham darter protections

The Center for Biological Diversity, Alabama Rivers Alliance and Black Warrior Riverkeeper notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Nov. 12 that they intend to sue the agency over the Birmingham darter, a two-inch fish known only from the Valley Creek system in Jefferson County.

The Center petitioned the service on Nov. 13, 2025, to list the darter under the Endangered Species Act. The act requires the service to make an initial finding on a listing petition within 90 days. The groups' letter, addressed to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik and the service's Southeast regional director, says that finding has not been issued.

The act requires 60 days' notice before such a suit can be filed.

According to the notice, the darter is known from six populations, all within the Valley Creek system. The notice says the fish has not been seen in Fivemile Creek since 2006 and is believed to be gone from there because of quarrying, and that pollutants including arsenic, nitrogen and mercury are elevated in the Valley Creek watershed. It names the proposed Northern Beltline around Birmingham and the Project Marvel data center near Bessemer among the threats to the fish.

"Birmingham darters don't have time for the Fish and Wildlife Service to slow-walk this decision because every day these darters spend waiting for protections brings them that much closer to extinction," said Laurel Jobe, an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity.

"Water pollution threats to the Birmingham darter's habitat in Valley Creek and its tributaries are putting this rare endemic species at risk," said Nelson Brooke of Black Warrior Riverkeeper. "It is the Fish and Wildlife Service's job to utilize the protections of the Endangered Species Act to ensure rare species are not wiped off the map."

Charles Miller, policy director at Alabama Rivers Alliance, said, "It is obvious from its limited range and small population that the Birmingham darter is endangered, even if the Fish and Wildlife Service has not acted on this petition. Given the multiple imminent threats this rare species faces, the Service must fulfill their statutory obligation and act swiftly to protect it."

Remains found in Ensley in 2019 identified as Birmingham veteran



WALTER LEE TODD

Human remains found in an abandoned house in Ensley in 2019 have been identified as those of Walter Lee Todd, 73, of Birmingham, the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office said Thursday, Nov. 19.

Workers cleaning out the house at 1807 27th Street Ensley found the remains May 30, 2019. The house had been abandoned for several years and had recently been sold. It was once a Todd family home, the coroner's office said.

Todd was last seen alive in 2013. No missing person report was filed, according to the coroner's office.

The cause and manner of death are undetermined.

Traditional DNA testing in 2019 produced no match. In May 2025 the coroner's office sent a sample to Othram Inc. for forensic genetic genealogy analysis, which led investigators to distant relatives across the country and then to Todd's immediate family. Family members said they had not been in contact with him in several years, and their DNA confirmed the identification.

Todd was a military veteran. His family is making arrangements for burial at a national cemetery.

Area students elected to Phi Kappa Phi honor society

The following area residents were recently elected to membership in The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi:

Goldton Williams of Bessemer, Jacksonville State University.

Hanna Mebius of Bessemer, Jacksonville State University.

Shelby Fields of Bessemer, University of South Alabama.

Trina Dale of Bessemer, University of North Alabama.

Marquita Leonard of Pleasant Grove, Auburn University at Montgomery.

Kwan Ching Liz Chan of Hoover, University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Kathryn Brown of Indian Springs, Auburn University at Montgomery.

Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. The top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible, as are graduate students in the top 10 percent, faculty, professional staff and alumni.

Police, recreation center to host Cookies and Carols Dec. 1

The Bessemer Police Department and the Bessemer Recreation Center will hold Cookies and Carols from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, at the Kenneth E. Gulley Recreation Center.

The evening will include cookies and light refreshments, Christmas carols, and photos with Santa Claus and the Grinch.

The public is invited.

Hoover man charged with shooting BB gun at vehicles

A Hoover man has been charged after two vehicles were struck by projectiles on Old Rocky Ridge Road this month, the Hoover Police Department said in a Nov. 20 news release.

Ronald Anthony Duhon Jr., 47, of Hoover is charged with throwing or shooting a deadly or dangerous missile into an occupied vehicle, a felony, according to the release.

Hoover police began investigating Nov. 3 after a vehicle was struck by an object first believed to be gunfire, the release states. Detectives later determined the damage had not been caused by gunfire and believed a BB gun or similar gun was used.

A second vehicle was struck Nov. 8. Its driver gave police a description of a truck, and patrol officers found it, according to the release. Detectives searched the truck and found evidence that a BB or pellet gun was used and not a firearm, the department said.

Duhon was arrested Nov. 19 by Hoover police, taken to the Hoover City Jail and then transferred to the Jefferson County Jail, according to the release.

The charge carries a sentence of not less than a year and a day in prison and a fine of not less than $500 on conviction.

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Obituaries

Ellis Hodges



Ellis Hodges, 66, of McCalla, formerly of Coatopa, entered into eternal rest November 20 at Princeton Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham. He was born May 31, 1960.

Services for Ellis Hodges are pending and will be announced at a later date.

Larkin and Scott Mortuary of Demopolis is entrusted with arrangements.

Annie "Ann" Mae Alexander



Annie "Ann" Mae Alexander, 84, of Calera, passed away on November 17 in the comfort of her home surrounded by loved ones. Born on February 11, 1942, Ann was raised in Oak Grove, where the foundations of a life marked by faithfulness, gentle strength, and thoughtful devotion were first formed. She graduated from Hueytown High School and grew up alongside two siblings, Jim Blackston and Dolly Ward.

Ann was a cherished woman of God whose steady, compassionate presence shaped her home and all who entered it. She was married to her husband, Burble "Bud" Alexander, for 58 years before his passing in 2020, and together they built a family rooted in love, perseverance, and deep spiritual conviction. A devoted homemaker and pastor's wife, Ann served with quiet dignity, selfless in her care for others, kind-hearted in her counsel, and inspirational through the constancy of her example.

Ann was the proud mother of two sons, John T. Alexander and Robert Alexander, whom she described with affectionate honesty as "amazing yet hard headed and stubborn." Her love was practical and tender, often expressed in the familiar comfort of early morning biscuits made for her family. Known to many as "Ann-Mae" and "Granny on the Hill," she was a beloved matriarch, a gentle, faithful presence whose influence carried through generations.

In the rhythms of everyday life, Ann's devotion shone brightly. She found joy in reading the Bible and magazines, listening to gospel music, and settling in to watch Matlock and In the Heat of the Night. Her compassion extended beyond her household as well, as Ann enjoyed feeding stray animals, offering simple kindness without recognition.

Remembered as a quiet prayer warrior and a woman of Proverbs, Ann leaves a legacy of steadfast faith, thoughtful love, and devoted service as a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Burble "Bud" Alexander; her son, Robert Alexander; and her brother, Jim Blackston. She is survived by her son, John T. Alexander; grandchildren, Sumer Reid (Jacob), Jessica Alexander, Justin Alexander (Cacy), Josh Alexander (Breanna); great-grandchildren, Westin Lemley, Kayleigh Lemley, Jared Strong, Cash Alexander, Kassidy Reid, Callie Rae Alexander, Sadie Grace Alexander, Maverick Alexander, Ella Kate Alexander; and a host of extended family and friends.

A celebration of life for Ann was held Sunday, November 22, at 2:30 p.m. at the Open Door Independent Church in Helena, with a visitation before the service at 1:30 p.m. Ann will be laid to rest on Friday, November 27, at 12:30 p.m. at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo.

Rockco Funeral Home of Montevallo is in charge of arrangements.

Subscribe

One year: $37 in Jefferson County, $45 elsewhere in Alabama, $50 outside Alabama. Call 205-424-7827.



R. Jordan Davis, center, with his parents, family and friends.

R. Jordan Davis admitted to the Alabama State Bar

BY ROBERT BURGINS JR.
WESTERN STAR STAFF



R. JORDAN DAVIS

Rodney Jordan Davis, a recent University of Alabama law graduate, was among more than 200 recent law graduates who took the oath of admission to the Alabama State Bar on Oct. 29 at the Montgomery Performing Arts Centre.

Alabama State Bar President Jana R. Garner told the admittees, "You have responsibilities and means that are very unique, so serve the people and your communities to make Alabama a better state."

Judge Bill Lewis also spoke, saying, "Don't let anyone diminish what it took for you to get here."

Davis said, "This is a great day and I'm grateful for the overwhelming support of family here with me today. Work hard and keep the faith as the sky is the limit for those who'd like to practice law of any kind or achieve any profession in life, and anything you'd like to be don't talk about, be about it and you can do it."

Davis will be working in-house at an international construction company practicing governmental contracting law.

The Alabama State Bar was established in 1879 and is governed by the 1975 Alabama Code, Title 34, Chapter 3.

Our lives are enriched at Thanksgiving

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

Thanksgiving is far more than just food and football.

On Thursday, Nov. 26, we observe Thanksgiving and give thanks to God Almighty for He is good, His love and mercy and His guidance are everlasting.

Our first Thanksgiving was in 1621 with the English Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians celebrating their harvest with a three-day feast at Plymouth.

During this harvest season, we give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed upon us including family, good health, friends and our country.

A day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer was proclaimed on Nov. 26, 1789, by President George Washington.

President Abraham Lincoln established in 1863 Thanksgiving Day as an annual observance for the fourth Thursday in November.

As we offer gratitude for the blessings of the past year, let us remain mindful of those in need, sick and suffering.

On this grand autumn day, all eyes will be on the bronzed bird, the trimmings and all those delicious desserts. Several will enjoy the family stories told by grandparents and others.

But most importantly, as we begin the holiday season, it is right and proper to give thanks to God.

Our lives are enriched at Thanksgiving.

Bessemer Christmas parade set for Dec. 12

The Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its Christmas parade Saturday, Dec. 12.

Sponsorships are due Monday, Nov. 30. Registration for parade participants and vendors closes Friday, Dec. 4.

The chamber will hold its Holiday Membership Open House on Thursday, Dec. 10.

For more information, call the chamber at 205-425-3253.



Attendees of the 2026 Women's Conference at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church holds Women's Conference

BY ROBERT BURGINS JR.
WESTERN STAR STAFF

Bessemer's Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church held its annual Women's Conference. This year's theme was "Why Women Can't Remain Silent In the Church."

Edna Hinson, president of the church's Women's Conference, said, "We thank God for what has been today as we look forward to engaging with more of our females of all ages throughout the city."

Takiya Collins of Grace Community Church in Montgomery was the guest speaker. She said, "We're here to speak on empowering our women thru spiritual assignments. There's people we can touch, reach and have an impact on thru the Biblical character of Priscilla and how God illustrated thru her how we as women can advocate for one another."

Pastor Emanuel L. Foster said, "Women are being empowered by the word of God. From health awareness to spiritual development throughout Jefferson County. We're aware that statistics show women have elevated in numbers of those carrying out violent acts within domestic violence situations as well and that's where the talk of spiritual maturity comes in; yet we want them to understand they're not inferior to men but can be used by God in today's society for positive endeavors throughout our communities."

The day's events included activities and games, among them art paintings and trivia exercises, along with breakfast.

Birmingham Community Concert Band event Nov. 29

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

It is the culmination of Thanksgiving and the beginning of the Advent season.

The Birmingham Community Concert Band performance planned for Sunday, Nov. 29, at 3 p.m. is in honor of the First Sunday of Advent.

The event will be held at the First Methodist Church of Trussville.

Dr. Mark Foster is the director of the Community Concert Band. He is also the band director at John Carroll Catholic High School.

The free event is open to the public.

Sacred and secular music will be performed. "Frosty the Snowman" will be a featured tuba solo by Victor Collins.

The makeup of the concert band is people of varying ages, all from different walks of life.

For more information, please visit their Facebook Page at Birmingham community concert band.

District 7 Christmas Funday set for Dec. 19 at recreation center

Bessemer City Councilman Cleo King of District 7 and How High Inflatables will hold D7 Christmas Funday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at the Bessemer Recreational Center.

It will have free train rides, free refreshments, entertainment, a visit from Santa Claus and giveaways of bikes, toys and gift cards. Children should get their tickets when they arrive.

For more information or to make a donation, call King at 659-206-9115 or Jamal Bell at 205-835-3309.



Melissa Braseale, from left, Judy Mathis, Leigh Ann Courington, Louise Ayer Tommie and Walter Henley.

Society's Heritage Tour of historic pioneer houses Dec. 6

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

A grand way to start the Christmas season.

Members of the West Jefferson County Historical Society are busy cleaning and decorating the historic pioneer houses on Eastern Valley Road for the 51st Annual Christmas Heritage Tour of Pioneer Houses.

It is the oldest tour of historic houses in Jefferson County.

The event, sponsored by the Historical Society, is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The historic McAdory, Owen and Sadler Houses will be beautifully decorated for the Christmas season.

Planning the fundraiser are Melissa Braseale, Louise Ayer Tommie, Judy Moore Mathis and Walter Henley.

Admission is $15 per person for all three houses and children under the age of 10 are admitted for free. Tickets will be available at the houses.

The McAdory Plantation House was built in circa 1839, the Owen Plantation House circa 1836 and the Sadler Plantation House circa 1817 and 1834. The three houses remain located on their original land.

The event benefits the ongoing maintenance of the three historic properties.

For more information, please call 205-966-3938.

Pleasant Grove Christmas parade, tree lighting set for Dec. 1

The City of Pleasant Grove's Christmas parade and tree lighting will be Tuesday, Dec. 1, at City Hall. The parade will be at 6 p.m. and the tree lighting at 7 p.m.

Parade applications are available at the Pleasant Grove Public Library.

Prep scoreboard

Football
Thursday, Nov. 19
Monroe Academy 32, Bessemer Academy 28
Friday, Nov. 20
Pleasant Grove 36, Bullock County 35

Boys basketball
Monday, Nov. 16
Clay-Chalkville 82, Bessemer City 29
Fairfield 78, Shades Valley 44
Midfield 106, Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School 13
Restoration Academy 63, Heritage Christian Academy 20
Tuesday, Nov. 17
Hoover 84, McAdory 37
Wenonah 63, Midfield 54
Oak Grove 98, J.B. Pennington 71
Evangel Christian 58, Restoration Academy 38
Thursday, Nov. 19
Bessemer City 66, Pinson Valley 59
Oak Grove 63, West Blocton 62
Friday, Nov. 20
Gadsden City 63, Midfield 47
Saturday, Nov. 21
Gardendale 95, Bessemer City 66
Pleasant Grove 45, McAdory 40

Girls basketball
Monday, Nov. 16
Shades Valley 58, Fairfield 27
John Carroll Catholic 57, McAdory 52
Midfield 99, Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School 10
Cleveland 77, Oak Grove 18
Pleasant Grove 76, A.H. Parker 53
Restoration Academy 54, Heritage Christian Academy 24
Tuesday, Nov. 17
Midfield 64, Wenonah 48
J.B. Pennington 70, Oak Grove 21
Restoration Academy 40, Evangel Christian 27
Wednesday, Nov. 18
Pleasant Grove 64, Fairfield 23
Thursday, Nov. 19
Pinson Valley 62, Bessemer City 9
Oak Mountain 55, McAdory 29
Friday, Nov. 20
Midfield 68, Gadsden City 33
Saturday, Nov. 21
Hueytown 58, John Carroll Catholic 37

This week's games

Football
Friday, Nov. 27
Pleasant Grove vs. Cleburne County (LE Bell Field), 7 p.m. (playoff)

Boys basketball
Monday, Nov. 30
Bessemer Academy at Southern Academy, 7 p.m.
Homewood at Bessemer City, 7:30 p.m.
McAdory at Woodlawn, 7:30 p.m.
Isabella at Oak Grove, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 1
Paul W. Bryant at Hueytown, 7:30 p.m.
McAdory at A.H. Parker, 7 p.m. (exhibition; Preseason)
Midfield at Homewood, 7 p.m.
Berry at Oak Grove, 7 p.m.
Evangel Christian at Restoration Academy, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 2
A.H. Parker at Pleasant Grove, 7 p.m. (exhibition; Preseason)
Thursday, Dec. 3
Bessemer Academy at Valiant Cross Academy, 5 p.m.
Bessemer City at Pinson Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Hueytown at Midfield, 7:30 p.m.
Oak Grove at Dora, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball
Friday, Nov. 27
Midfield vs. Northview (Hoops 4 Hunger Atlanta), 5 p.m. (tournament)
Saturday, Nov. 28
Midfield vs. North Augusta (Hoops 4 Hunger Atlanta), 2:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 30
Bessemer Academy at Southern Academy, 6 p.m.
Homewood at Bessemer City, 6 p.m.
McAdory at Woodlawn, 6 p.m.
Isabella at Oak Grove, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 1
Paul W. Bryant at Hueytown, 6 p.m.
McAdory at A.H. Parker, 6 p.m.
Midfield at Homewood, 5:30 p.m.
Berry at Oak Grove, 5:45 p.m.
Evangel Christian at Restoration Academy, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 2
A.H. Parker at Pleasant Grove, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 3
Bessemer City at Pinson Valley, 6 p.m.
Oak Grove at Dora, 5:45 p.m.

Hueytown library sets pajama party with Santa for Dec. 13

The Hueytown Public Library will hold its first Pajama Party with Santa from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. Mr. and Mrs. Claus and elves will be there.

Tickets are free but required for each child, and space is limited. Tickets are available at eventbrite.com. Each child must be with an adult; adults do not need a ticket.

Parking is in front of and behind the library.

Call 205-424-7827 to subscribe to The Western Star.

Baptist Church at McAdory annual live nativity Dec. 4-5

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

The true meaning of the Christmas season awaits all on Dec. 4-5 in the McAdory/McCalla communities.

The Baptist Church at McAdory invites families, friends and neighbors to the start of the Christmas season by visiting their annual Live Nativity on Dec. 4-5, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The church is located at 4954 Eastern Valley Road in McCalla.

Admission to this memorable Christmas story is free and everybody is welcome.

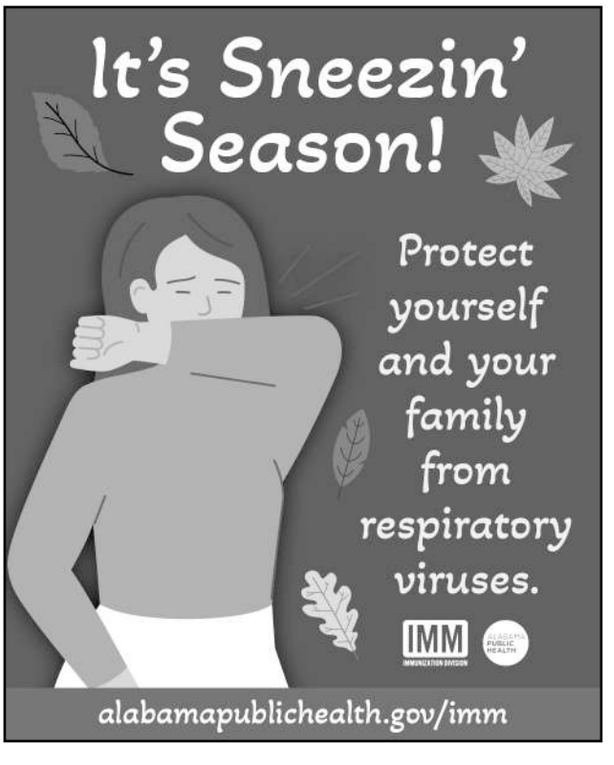
A tractor-pulled hayride wagon will transport the visitors on a 30-minute journey along a wooded trail behind the church. Along the way, you will encounter familiar Bible figures in period clothing portraying scenes from the birth of Jesus Christ and His life on earth.

Following the journey, the visitors are invited to enjoy complimentary hot chocolate, cider and snacks while sharing in the warmth of Christian fellowship.

Returning this year will be Hank the camel for all the children and adults to enjoy.

This wonderful event is quickly becoming a Christmas tradition.

For more information, please call 205-477-8265.





Jefferson County students Andon Cooper, Amelia Moore, Cash Nelson and Cooper Nichols attended the Alfa Youth Leadership Conference Nov. 10-11 at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana. Cooper attends Tabernacle Christian School, Moore attends Bessemer Academy, Nelson attends Heritage Christian Academy and Nichols attends Mortimer Jordan High School. The conference teaches students how to advocate for agriculture, identify their potential and step into leadership roles. It is for ninth and 10th graders. Sponsors are the Alabama Farmers Federation, the Alabama Farmers Ag Foundation, the Jefferson County Farmers Federation, Alabama Ag Credit and Alabama Farm Credit. From left are Matthew Durdin of the Alabama Farmers Federation, Cooper, Moore, Nelson and Nichols. (Photo from the Alabama Farmers Federation)

Museum of George and Martha Washington opens at American Village

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was recently held at the American Village in Montevallo for the new Karl C. Harrison Museum of George and Martha Washington.

The Karl C. Harrison Museum was established in 1982 by Columbiana banker and philanthropist Karl C. Harrison. It was always Harrison's desire that the public have a place to learn more about George Washington and his family.

Shelby County resident Charlotte Smith-Weaver, a sixth-generation granddaughter of Martha Washington, decided to share her family legacy with the public thus providing the foundation for the museum's collection.

The American Village acquired the Harrison Collection in 2025 and designated an area in the East Wing of Independence Hall for the collection.

Featured in the collection are paintings, letters, furniture, porcelain, glassware, busts, silver and jewelry from the colonial period through 1865.

The oldest object in the collection is a handwritten will belonging to Col. Daniel Parke dated 1710. His grandson, Daniel Parke Custis, married Martha Dandridge and upon his death, she married George Washington.

The Harrison Washington Collection is considered one of the most important collections of George and Martha Washington artifacts outside of Mount Vernon.

For more information on the exhibit, please contact the American Village at 205-665-3535.

Hueytown Christmas parade, Christmas in the Park set for Dec. 5

The Hueytown Christmas Parade is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, with Christmas in the Park to follow from 4 to 6 p.m. at Hueytown City Park, 104 Forest Road. The Hueytown Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Hueytown present the parade.

Christmas in the Park will have photos with Mr. and Mrs. Santa and friends, a live Nativity by Crossroad Baptist, a life-size snow globe, Christmas crafts, letters to Santa and food trucks, along with the annual Christmas tree lighting. The Hueytown High School band and choir, Concord Elementary, Nick Pierce and TeriDona will perform Christmas carols.

The chamber invites businesses and organizations to take part by offering a Christmas craft, a game, candy or another activity for children. There is no fee; those who take part bring their own table, chairs and activities. To sign up, contact Debbie Kiker at the chamber, 205-491-7010, ext. 1005, or director@hueytownchamber.com.

Bessemer awarded an Alabama SEEDS grant

BY DONALD JAY HOWTON
WESTERN STAR STAFF

At a recent meeting of the Bessemer City Council, City Councilman Chester W. Porter asked for an update concerning a grant awarded to the city.

Councilman Porter has long been interested in the Bessemer National Airport and its future. It is a jewel in Bessemer's crown.

Bessemer National Airport Director Tim Wasyluka was in attendance at the council meeting.

Wasyluka stated, "The Alabama Department of Commerce had awarded the city of Bessemer an Alabama SEEDS grant."

He further explained that the city council had authorized the Bessemer Airport to apply for the grant on behalf of the city in August of 2025.

The grant will fund a site evaluation of 116 acres adjacent to the airport. Once the evaluation is completed, the city will make application for a funding grant to purchase the property for manufacturing aerospace products.

Bessemer Mayor Louise Alexander asked if the grant would require matching funds.

Wasyluka announced that it will require a match of $119,295.

Bessemer households may apply for Christmas Village help through Dec. 4

Applications are open for the inaugural Christmas Village, holiday assistance for City of Bessemer residents with financial need. Households with or without children may apply.

Applications will be accepted through 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4. Apply online at mabelchambers.org. Paper applications are available at Bessemer City Hall, one per household. The completed application and copies of the household's documents go in the envelope provided.

Distribution will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at the Bessemer Civic Center. An application does not guarantee assistance.

For more information, call 205-519-8263.





Bo Jackson signs a wall at the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory in Louisville, Ky. (Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory)



Bo Jackson holds a bat during a tour of the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory in Louisville, Ky. (Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory)

Jackson

. . . from page one

Jackson, a McAdory High School graduate, was famous for climbing the outfield walls and pulling down potential homers, and he was asked where he learned to do that.

"In high school," Jackson said. "We had an outdoor smoking pit with three walls at my high school. We'd be late for class and the vice principal would be in the halls looking for us. I'd lead him outside and around the building and he could never keep up with me. I'd climb those walls and be back inside sitting in chemistry class by the time he got to the smoking pit. The day I graduated I showed him how I could climb those walls and he couldn't believe it."

In remarks the museum recorded for Alabama news outlets, Jackson said he still goes home.

"Whenever I feel the need to be grounded, I go home," he said. "And I don't go home to hang out with buddies. I go home because that's where it all started for me."

He said he goes to the dirt playground, visits his friends' parents who are still living, old coaches and teammates, and sees friends he has not seen in 20 or 30 years.

"We sit under the weeping willow tree and play cards," Jackson said. "So that part of me, I don't think I'll ever lose or forget because it's a part of me. That's part of my fiber. It's a part of my being, and I don't ever want to lose that. So going back home and having people to welcome me back is always a good thing."

There's a joke about the 120-foot-tall, 68,000-pound baseball bat that fronts the entrance of the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory: they wanted a bat big enough that Bo Jackson couldn't break it.

Die-hard fans paid $199 a ticket to attend the event and possibly win a bat autographed by the former two-sport phenom.

The ceremony began with recorded testimonials from former teammates of Jackson and other baseball and football all-stars.

Hall of Famer George Brett, a 13-time All-Star, AL batting champion, Gold Glove winner, former teammate of Jackson's, and the 2025 Living Legend Award recipient, said, "Bo is gifted. And Bo is unusual. Bo used to practice with a bow and arrow in the clubhouse. He had a bale of hay at one end of the clubhouse with a target on it. And he would shoot at it with the bow from the other end. So, I said, 'That doesn't look that hard, Bo. Let me try it.' He had the drawstring weight set so high I couldn't even pull the arrow back, much less shoot it. I didn't try that again. But Bo is kind. He gives to so many charities. He's just a great guy."

Hall of Famer Andre Dawson, an eight-time All-Star, NL MVP, eight-time Gold Glove winner with 438 career home runs, said, "I want to congratulate you for the award. People always say it's debatable who the greatest athlete of all time is. I believe there is no debate. You are the greatest athlete of all time."

Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt, three-time NL MVP, 12-time All-Star, 10-time Gold Glove winner, and eight-time NL home run leader, said, "You're a great player. It's amazing the things you did in baseball and football."

Jackson took the stage after the testimonials. A fan in the back wearing Auburn regalia from head to toe yelled out, "War Eagle!" before Jackson could speak.

"You know that's right," Jackson said. "This is only the second or third time I've stayed in Louisville. I drive through this city a lot, though, going from Chicago to Birmingham. Louisville is an interesting town. Y'all have some great bourbon here. I don't drink much. In college two of my teammates got me a little drunk and I was hungover for three days. Nobody told me at the time that alcohol comes out of your pores after you get drunk. So I was sitting in class the next day trying not to throw my guts up and I was sweating out that alcohol. The class started yelling, 'Go, Bo, go! Go, Bo, go!' So I got up and went to my room and stayed there for two days. I didn't drink too much after that."

"But I've always loved the people at Louisville Slugger," Jackson said. "To this day, if I need bats for my charities, I contact Louisville Slugger and they supply them."

Jackson addressed his notoriety as a bat-breaker.

"People ask me about breaking bats over my knee, over my head. I did that because I was frustrated with myself for not doing my job."

Asked whether fans will ever see another athlete compete at top levels in two sports, Jackson said, "If we do, it'll be my grandson. And I'm going to tell him just like I told his father: go out and do something that you have passion for. Surround yourself with winners and you will be a winner."

Another question was who Bo Jackson the person is.

"Do you know what excites me more than sports? Cooking," Jackson said. "I still cook with a cast iron skillet that I burned my stomach on when I was 5. I've still got scars from that, and I still use that same skillet. I've been married for 39 wonderful years, and my wife hasn't cooked more than 20 times in those years. And that's because I love cooking twice as much as I love sports."

Asked who his best teammate was, Jackson said, "All of them."

Asked who was the best Auburn athlete of all time, he said, "I love Charles Barkley. We have nicknames for each other. His nickname is No. 1. We let him have that nickname to keep him quiet. I'm No. 2. Frank Thomas is No. 3."

The last question was what he is up to currently.

"I have a podcast called Bo Knows Health," Jackson said. "As men, we are trained to keep our health issues private. We're trained to be strong and take any pain we get. But it takes strength to talk about health. It takes strength to go to the doctor. No man wants to go to the doctor. But that's selfish. Think about what you're doing, trying to be tough. You're not just hurting yourself; you're hurting all the people that love you, all the people that depend on you. If I didn't pay attention to my health at 20, I wouldn't be here today. So, if I can do anything to encourage men to take care of their health, I'll do it."