

“For I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” — Genesis 37:17

# DOTHAN EAGLE

Airport chapels appeal to workers, travelers

360



Prep a home for sale with these 5 budget-friendly staging hacks

LIVELY

Thursday, December 4, 2025

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

dothaneagle.com



MICHELLE MANN, DOTHAN EAGLE

Sharing in the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama's "Grantee Champion of the Year" award are Coffee County Family Service Center team members, from left, Jackie Zayas, Savannah Weeks, Rodrick Caldwell, Cathy Hendrix, TaTa Neisha Veal, and Alejandra Jordan.

## Coffee County: Fatherhood Initiative named best in state

MICHELLE MANN  
mmann@dothaneagle.com

ENTERPRISE — The Fatherhood Initiative in Coffee County, and program director Rodrick Caldwell, have been named the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama's "Grantee Champion of the Year."

Caldwell accepted the award for the program designed to enhance the ability of non-custodial fathers to be responsible parents from CTF Program Manager Amanda Lightsey in Montgomery.

**'Care, compassion beyond expectation'**

Fatherhood Initiative Field Director Mark Williams is the person who nomi-



inated Caldwell and the Coffee County Family Services Center fatherhood program for the honor.

"I've been a social worker for 30 years, and I can tell you that Rod is top-tier," Williams said. "His care and compassion go above and beyond any expectation. He has an excellent gift of making these fathers feel seen and heard."

"Rod is a champion as a facilitator, advocate and community organizer," Williams said. "The fact that Barbour County has now reached out to have Coffee County develop the program in their county is testament to how Rod and the agency as a whole took that program from its inception and just have exploded it with positive growth."

**'Total team effort'**

Caldwell said he was humbled by the state recognition but is quick to call it "a total team effort," crediting the entire CCFSC crew. "When I was called up to receive the award, I said, 'I know two things."

Please see **FATHERHOOD**, Page A2

## Dothan City Schools: Here is the 100-Day Report

MICHELLE MANN  
mmann@dothaneagle.com

After 100 days "listening, learning and building relationships," Dothan City Schools Superintendent Dr. Garrick Askew has released his findings of the school systems progress, challenges, goals and priorities. The report will be submitted to the Dothan Board of Education at their

December meeting for approval.

Askew was appointed to the top slot by the board in July to fill the post vacated upon the retirement of Dr. Dennis Coe. He had served most recently as assistant superintendent of Operations of Clark County Schools in Athens, Ga.

Since his arrival in the Circle City, Askew has conducted an in-depth review of the

district's strengths and opportunities for growth through community listening sessions, meetings with civic and government leaders, school visits and program analysis from national experts.

Askew promised school stakeholders he would issue his findings and last week delivered on that promise. The 100 Day Report provides a detailed overview

of the district's progress during the past three months, to include challenges and priorities realized from multiple listening sessions; more than 100 school and classroom visits; one-on-one meetings with stakeholders; and independent evaluations conducted by national literacy,

Please see **REPORT**, Page A2

**Weather**  
A few showers  
**High 51 • Low 48**  
FORECAST • A8

Around the Wiregrass, an events calendar

PAGE A3

**Inside**  
OPINION A7  
BUSINESS B4  
SPORTS C1

