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SPORTS, 1B



The Gadsden Times

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Pathway partnership



Talladega College President Willie L. Todd Jr., left, and Gadsden State President Alan Smith formalize an agreement to strengthen transfer pathways for Gadsden State graduates. PROVIDED BY GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Gadsden State, Talladega College sign an agreement for student transfers

Staff reports
The Gadsden Times

Gadsden State Community College and Talladega College have formed a new partnership aimed at expanding transfer opportunities for students seeking to earn a bachelor's degree.

Leaders from both institutions recently signed an agreement designed to strengthen transfer pathways for Gadsden State graduates entering Talladega College's four-year programs.

The agreement was formalized during a signing ceremony on Gadsden State's campus by Gadsden State President Alan Smith and Talladega College President Willie L. Todd Jr., according to an April 7 news release from GSCC.

The partnership streamlines the

transition process for students moving from an associate degree program at Gadsden State to a bachelor's degree program at Talladega College, officials said.

"This agreement reflects a shared commitment to student success and opens the door for our graduates to take the next step with confidence," Smith said.

Under the agreement, the two institutions will provide coordinated support for transfer students, including outreach to eligible graduates, assistance navigating the transfer process and information about available financial aid.

Todd said the partnership supports Talladega College's mission to create meaningful academic pathways for students.

"This partnership with Gadsden State strengthens our ability to support transfer students as they continue their academic journey and prepare for successful careers," Todd said.

Gadsden State will identify and connect eligible students with transfer opportunities, while Talladega College will offer guidance on admissions requirements, transfer pathways and funding options.

The agreement is renewable annually and is intended to strengthen the regional education pipeline and help more students achieve long-term academic and career goals.

More information about Gadsden State Community College is available at www.gadsdenstate.edu. More information about Talladega College can be found at www.talladega.edu.

POPULATION GROWTH

Huntsville's metro area ranks sixth in the U.S.

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

While population growth has cooled across much of the country, Huntsville clearly didn't get the memo. The metro area continues to climb the ranks, landing among the nation's fastest-growing areas.

The Huntsville metro area ranked sixth in the U.S. for population growth between July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025, increasing by 2.6% to a population of 556,444, according to new estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

This stands in contrast to national trends: while Huntsville's growth accelerates, population gains slowed in most counties and metro areas during the same period. In fact, of the nation's 387 metro areas, 310 posted slower growth between 2024 and 2025.

See HUNTSVILLE, Page 2A

What the 25th Amendment means and what Alabama officials say

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

The 25th Amendment, a rarely used part of the Constitution, is making headlines as some lawmakers call for its use to remove President Donald Trump from office.

The push follows a series of alarming posts from Trump on social media.

In Alabama, political leaders have mostly not commented on calls for the 25th Amendment. This includes Sen. Tommy Tuberville, who has remained silent amid the ongoing national discussion.

What is the 25th Amendment, and why might Alabama leaders be silent? Here's what to know.

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Foodie: Where to find Alabama's best burger

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Every year, Americans devour an estimated 50 million burgers, a sizzling testament to the nation's enduring passion for beef, buns and bold toppings.

From roadside diners to upscale gastropubs, the hamburger has become a culinary symbol, with each state offering its own

unique twist.

The team at Foodie has taken on the delicious challenge of finding the very best burger in every state. By combing through hundreds of customer reviews, spotlighting local award winners and even digging into regional news coverage, they've crafted a list that celebrates standout spots from coast to coast.

And when it comes to Alabama, one burger rises above the rest.

What is the best burger in Alabama?

In Alabama, Vicki's Lunch Van in Montgomery claims the top spot.

What sets it apart? According to Foodie, the small, no-frills spot is "dam-near flawless," known for freshly made cheeseburgers that taste exactly how a classic burger

See BURGER, Page 2A

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