



146 YEARS OF SERVING THE GREATER GADSDEN AREA

# The Gadsden Times

GADSDENTIMES.COM | FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013 | 75 CENTS

CRIME

## Chase ends in motorcyclist's death

BY JOHN DAVIDSON  
Times Staff Writer

A chase that began in Calhoun County ended tragically Thursday as a man fleeing police lost control of his motorcycle, veered off East Meighan Boulevard and died in the ensuing accident.

Tevin Garcia Williams, 21, Birmingham, died just before 11 a.m. as he was trying to elude Calhoun County sheriff's deputies for the second time in as many days.

Calhoun County Sheriff Larry Amerson said the motorcycle was stolen and Williams



MARC GOLDEN | GADSDEN TIMES

A man was killed Thursday when his motorcycle left the roadway as he was attempting to outrun the police in Gadsden.

also had a warrant for felony violation of probation in Jefferson County.

His motorcycle was going about 100 mph when he left

the road, according to Etowah County Deputy Coroner Michael Head. The motorcycle traveled about 250 feet off the road, and at some point, Wil-

liams flew off and into a concrete electricity pole.

Calhoun County authorities first saw Williams on Wednesday when he and two other people were seen driving at high speed and erratically on Interstate 20. Amerson saw them and attempted to pull them over. One of the riders stopped, while the other two riders took off. The stopped rider then took off as well, and the three were last seen near the Oxford exit on I-20.

Amerson's office put out a description of the three motorcycles, which did not have

tags and were boosted with nitrous oxide. They were spotted Thursday by a patrol deputy near Wellington and did the same thing as the day before — one stopped while the other two took off, only to be joined by the third.

They were spotted again after they split up past the Etowah County line. Witnesses told Gadsden police that two of the men were stopped at Tractor Supply on East Meighan. Williams, however, continued to flee.

The chase ended near the intersection of East Broad Street

and East Meighan when Williams looked behind him. His bike began to wobble and then veered off the road.

It was the second motorcycle chase that ended fatally on East Meighan during the last two months. Otis Jamar Adams died March 3 near Walmart while fleeing from Glencoe police in a chase that also began in Calhoun County.

Amerson said motorcycle riders are able to travel at high speeds and believe they can outrun the police for that reason.

PLEASE SEE CHASE | A5

## BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING

## FBI releases suspect photos

BY DENISE LAVOIE  
AND ADAM GELLER  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Plucking a couple of faces in baseball caps out of a swarming crowd, the FBI zeroed in on two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and shared surveillance-camera images of them with the world Thursday in hopes the public will help them down.

The somewhat blurry but still detailed photos and video depict one young man in a dark cap and another in a white cap worn backward, both wearing backpacks and

one walking behind the other on the sidewalk near the finish line as marathoners run by.

The man in the white hat was seen setting down a backpack at the site of the second explosion, said Richard DesLauriers, FBI agent in charge in Boston.

"Somebody out there knows these individuals as friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members of the suspects," he said. "Though it may be difficult, the nation is counting on those with information to come forward and provide it to us."

PLEASE SEE FBI | A5



FBI | ASSOCIATED PRESS

This combination released by the FBI on Thursday shows two images taken from surveillance video of men the FBI are calling Suspect 2, left, and Suspect 1, right, as they walk near each other through the crowd before the explosions at the Boston Marathon on Monday.

## TEXAS EXPLOSION

## Crews seek survivors, bodies after blast

BY NOMAAN MERCHANT  
AND JOHN L. MONE  
Associated Press

WEST, Texas — Rescuers searched the smoking remnants of a Texas farm town Thursday for survivors of a thunderous fertilizer plant explosion, gingerly checking smashed houses and apartments for anyone still trapped in debris while the

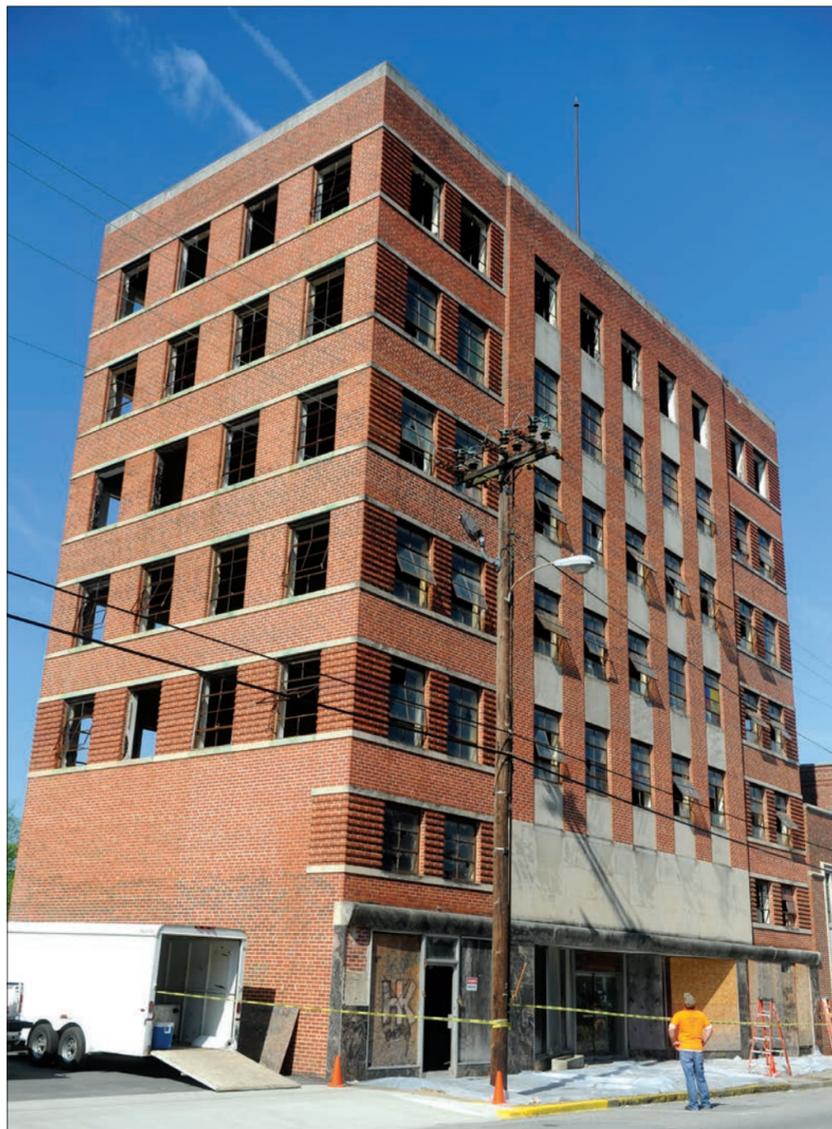
community awaited word on the number of dead.

Initial reports put the fatalities as high as 15, but later in the day, authorities backed away from any estimate and refused to elaborate. More than 160 people were hurt.

A breathtaking band of destruction extended for blocks around the West Fertilizer

PLEASE SEE BLAST | A12

## Early stage of demolition begins



**Above:** Sean Johnson calls up to workers Thursday morning as the demolition process begins at the Noojin building in downtown Gadsden.

**Right:** Edward Sparks, left, and Kevin McDaniel remove windows from the top floor of the Noojin building.

More photos available at  
[www.gadsdentimes.com](http://www.gadsdentimes.com).

Times  
photos by  
Eric T. Wright



## RICIN LETTERS

## Suspect called troubled

BY HOLBROOK MOHR  
AND ADRIAN SAINZ  
Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — A Mississippi man charged with sending ricin-laced letters to the president and other officials was described Thursday as a good father, a quiet neighbor and an entertainer who impersonated Elvis at parties. Other accounts show a man who spiraled into emotional turmoil trying to get attention for his claims of uncovering a conspiracy to sell body parts on the black market.

Paul Kevin Curtis, 45, wrote numerous Web posts over the past several years describing the event that he said "changed my life forever": the chance discovery of body parts and organs wrapped in plastic in a small refrigerator at a hospital where he worked as a janitor more than a decade ago.

He tried to talk to officials and get the word out online, but he thought he was being railroaded by the government.

Authorities say the efforts culminated in letters sent to President Barack Obama, a U.S. senator and a judge in Mississippi.

"Maybe I have your attention now even if that means someone must die," the letters read, according to an FBI affidavit.

"He is bipolar, and the only thing I can say is he wasn't on his medicine," his ex-wife, Laura Curtis, told the Associated Press.

Jim Waide, an attorney for the Curtis family, said Paul Kevin Curtis was prescribed medication three years ago. "When he is on his medication, he is terrific, he's nice, he's functional," Waide said. "When he's off his medication, that's when there's a problem."

PLEASE SEE SUSPECT | A5

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## CURTAIN CALL

'Party with a Purpose  
at the Pitman'  
to raise money  
for curtains at theater.  
**A7**

## TODAY'S WEATHER



Wake up to  
thunderstorms,  
then mostly cloudy.  
High **64** Low **35**  
For details, see **A12**

