

Steven Tyler presses pause on Aerosmith for a little country



Police mistake glaze for meth



150 YEARS OF SERVING THE GREATER GADSDEN AREA

# The Gadsden Times

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75¢



**TODAY** **SAT** **SUN**  
  
 88°/71° 92°/71° 92°/71°  
 Complete forecast, A8

**STATE**



**Cursive not lost with Lexi's Law**

Cursive writing may be a lost art amidst keyboards and smart phones, but not in Alabama public schools. A new state law will make sure of that. Lexi's Law, which goes into effect Aug. 1, will require cursive handwriting to be taught by the end of third grade in all state schools. **A3**

**NATION**



**Trump has a record of siding with Putin on key issues**

Donald Trump has refused to condemn Russia's military takeover of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, saying if elected he would consider recognizing it as Russian territory, in the latest of a series of statements that have raised eyebrows about the Republican candidate's intentions toward the Kremlin. **A6**

**SPORTS**



**Walker jumps out to one-shot lead at PGA Championship**

Jimmy Walker took advantage of smoother greens in the morning Thursday at Baltusrol by rolling in six birdies for a 5-under 65, giving him a one-shot lead after the opening round of the final major that delivered its share of surprises. **B1**

Ask Amy..... A8 Funerals..... A5  
 Bridge..... B4 GO!..... C1  
 Classifieds..... B5 Lotteries..... A2  
 Comics..... B4 Sports..... B1  
 Crossword..... B4 TV listings..... A8  
 Editorial..... A4 Weather..... A8

Volume 150, Issue 27



DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION DAY 4

## Clinton pledges steady hand

By Julie Pace  
 The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Promising Americans a steady hand, Hillary Clinton cast herself Thursday night as a unifier for divided times, steeled for a volatile world by decades in politics that have left some Americans skeptical of her character.

"I will be a president for Democrats, Republicans, independents, for the struggling, the striving and the successful. For those who

vote for me and those who don't," Clinton said as she accepted the Democratic nomination, becoming the first woman to lead a major U.S. political party.

She drew a sharp contrast with her general election rival Donald Trump, calling the Republican supremely unqualified for the White House.

"Imagine him in the Oval Office facing a real crisis," she said. "A man you can bait with a tweet is not a man we can trust with nuclear weapons," she said.

Clinton took the stage to roaring applause from flag-waving delegates. But her real audience was the millions of voters who may welcome her experience but question her character.

She acknowledged those concerns briefly, saying "I get it that some people just don't know what to make of me." But her primary focus was persuading anxious Americans to stick with a Democrat for a third term and put aside their frustration with those who

SEE CLINTON, A5



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton waves to delegates before speaking during the final day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia Thursday. AP PHOTO/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

GADSDEN

## PROTEST CALLS FOR JUDGE'S REMOVAL



Willie Kidd holds a sign during a protest at the Gadsden Municipal Court and Police Patrol Division building Thursday. Protestors were calling for the removal of city judge Tom King. PHOTOS BY MARC GOLDEN/ GADSDEN TIMES

### Attorney questions municipal court's policies

By Donna Thornton  
 Times Staff Writer

As many as 100 people gathered Thursday outside the City of Gadsden Annex on Campbell Court, vocally but non-violently calling for the removal of Gadsden Municipal Judge Tom King.

The dominating speakers at the protest were Alexander City lawyer Eric Hutchins and Bishop A.L. Dowdell Sr., a civil rights activist who has served on the Auburn City Council.

They gave voice to a number of issues with the agreement of the crowd. Hutchins said he will file a federal lawsuit on one such issue: denying public access to the municipal courtroom.

He said when people come to court, they have to show identification and security officers check to see if they are on the court docket. He said if they aren't on the docket, they can't come in the courtroom, barring family or friends from



Alexander City attorney Eric Hutchins speaks through a megaphone during a protest at the Gadsden Municipal Court and Police Patrol Division building Thursday.

being there in support of a defendant.

Hutchins said the ID checks let officers check for warrants and arrest people if they have outstanding warrants.

"That dissuades people from coming to see what's going on," he said.

Additionally, Hutchins said people are allowed to see public court records only with a city prosecutor on hand to

go through the records with them. People are supposed to have access to the courtroom and to court records, he said.

Many protesting said King should not be sitting in judgment of others after a domestic violence conviction against him.

King was convicted of third-degree domestic violence in December 2005, but the case

SEE PROTEST, A5

STATE

## Bentley: Lottery is best option for revenue

By Kim Chandler  
 The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley once said state lotteries were as outdated as leisure suits, but in throwing his support to a state lottery this week he said it was the only revenue option left in the closet.

The governor, in an opinion piece submitted Wednesday to news outlets, said lawmakers have rejected the idea of tax increases while the state faces a continued revenue crisis. The governor did not name the state's Medicaid program in the piece, but said the state's revenue troubles could force cuts "gut-wrenching" decisions to cut programs for children, the disabled and the elderly.

"I will not, as your Governor and as a physician, watch as our most helpless and vulnerable people go without a doctor's care. I can't bear to think of the half-million children who, through no fault of their own, are born into poverty and have no way to get basic medical treatment they need to grow healthy and strong," Bentley wrote.

The governor said, "At bare minimum, we must care for our truly vulnerable."

Bentley in the opinion piece expanded on his Wednesday announcement calling a special session for lawmakers to consider the idea of a state lottery. He acknowledged how he once likened state lotteries to leisure suits because he thought they were an outdated idea that was once the rage as state after state approved lotteries. Alabama lawmakers instead, he said, pieced together past budgets with borrowed money, slashed government services and debated tax increases, but the state still faces perpetual revenue troubles.

"Well, sometimes when the leisure suit is the only thing you've got left hanging in the closet, you have to suck in your gut, and squeeze into that thing, no matter how ill-fitting it may be," Bentley wrote.

The governor has not announced specifics of his proposal, including such crucial details of how the money will be used. The governor is expected to announce the date

SEE LOTTERY, A5