

GAME PLAN

continued from page 1

nesses and transparency. Speaking at a signing ceremony in Montgomery, Ivey thanked lawmakers for their support and said the measures will benefit communities statewide.

"The Game Plan will give Alabama's team the tools needed to extend our winning record in economic development and help us unleash a new wave of growth and innovation across the state," Ivey said. "This is going to benefit every corner of Alabama, from our rural areas to our big cities."

FOUR BILLS, ONE STRATEGY

The Game Plan includes four pieces of legislation focused on key economic development priorities:

- **Enhancing Alabama's Economic Progress Act:** Renews the Alabama Jobs Act and the Growing Alabama program, extending their sunset dates to 2028 while adding updates to strengthen their effectiveness. These programs serve as the state's primary tools for incentives and developing shovel-ready industrial sites.

- **Site Evaluation and Economic Development Strategy (SEEDS) Act:** Allows the State Industrial Development Authority to accelerate the development of industry-ready sites as competition for available land intensifies nationwide.

- **Innovation and Small Business Act:** Aims to expand Alabama's innovation economy while supporting small businesses, underrepresented entrepreneurs and rural enterprises, positioning the state as a growing hub for technology and innovation.

- **Enhancing Transparency Act:** Requires the Alabama Department of Commerce to publish certain information about incentivized projects, increasing public confidence and accountability in the economic development process.

A MODERNIZED PLAYBOOK

Alabama Department of Commerce Secretary Greg Canfield said the legislation modernizes the state's economic development strategy at a time when competition from neighboring states is increasing.

"The Game Plan will serve as our next-generation strategic framework as we work to build a more dynamic economy for Alabama and its citizens," Canfield said.

Legislative leaders also praised the package. Senate President Pro Tem Greg Reed called it a comprehensive approach to strengthening Alabama's economy, while House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter said the measures help ensure the state remains competitive for high-quality jobs.

State leaders say the Game Plan builds on Alabama's recent economic momentum while preparing the state for future growth.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-1006

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

The public welfare requiring it, and under authority granted by Section 11-52-78 of the 1975 Code of Alabama, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council for the City of Huntsville, Alabama, as follows:

1. That the following area, land lying on south side of Hwy 72 E and east of Shields Road, which area is a newly annexed area of the City of Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, and which has not been zoned previously, shall be shown and classified on the Official Zoning Maps of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, as Highway Business C-4 District, in the Zoning Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, said property being particularly described as follows:

All that part of Section 16, Township 03 South, Range 01 East of the Huntsville Meridian, in the City of Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama more particularly described as commencing at a point located at the Southwest Corner of said Section 16; thence from the Point of Commencement, North 86 Degrees 02 Minutes 09 Seconds East, 3422.36 feet to a point; said point is further described as the Point of Beginning; thence from the Point of Beginning, North 85 Degrees 08 Minutes 14 Seconds West, 707.88 feet to a point; said point is located in the centerline of Shields Rd; thence along said centerline, North 01 Degree 38 Minutes 46 Seconds East, 70.04 feet to a point; thence leaving said centerline, South 84 Degrees 14 Minutes 10 Seconds East, 365.16 feet to a point; thence North 02 Degrees 15 Minutes 01 Second East, 438.43 feet to a point; thence South 84 Degrees 20 Minutes 46 Seconds East, 368.48 feet to a point; thence South 05 Degrees 03 Minutes 57 Seconds West, 497.08 feet back to the Point of Beginning and containing 4.65 acres, more less.

2. The boundaries of the above district as described and defined above are hereby established and shall be shown on the Official Zoning Maps of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, on file in the Planning Division of the Urban Development Department, in accordance with the various classifications herein enumerated and hereafter the regulations governing said district under the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, shall apply to the area so described.

3. This ordinance shall take effect from and after the date of publication.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-1006 (Cont'd)

ADOPTED this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

/s/ Jennie Robinson
President of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

/s/ Tommy Battle
Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama

COUNTIES RANK

continued from page 1

tively created 9,388 new jobs, according to the Alabama Department of Commerce.

"Alabama's economy is riding a wave of historic momentum," Ivey said in announcing the report. She noted that since taking office in 2017, the state has attracted \$69 billion in investment and created more than 100,000 jobs through targeted recruitment and workforce development efforts.

Limestone County Leads State in Investment

Limestone County's top ranking was driven largely by Eli Lilly and Company's \$6 billion advanced manufacturing facility in Huntsville and Limestone County — the largest initial investment ever announced in Alabama.

The pharmaceutical facility will produce synthetic active pharmaceutical ingredients and is expected to create 450 high-skilled jobs, including positions for engineers, scientists and lab technicians.

In total, Limestone County landed 16 new and expanding industry projects in 2025, accounting for approximately \$6.6 billion in investment and 858 new jobs.

"Limestone County's performance demonstrates that our community has arrived as a major player in advanced manufacturing, aerospace and bioscience," said Bethany Shockney, president and CEO of the Limestone County Economic Development Association.

Additional Limestone County projects included expansions by Carpenter Technology, Cast

Products, Titomic USA, GE Aerospace, Northrop Grumman, and Daikyo Nishikawa.

Madison County Tops Job Creation

Madison County's 2,424 new job commitments placed it first statewide for job growth, reflecting continued strength in aerospace, defense, advanced manufacturing, and technology sectors. Economic leaders cited the county's skilled workforce, research institutions, and infrastructure as key advantages.

Commerce Secretary Ellen McNair said the results highlight the early success of the state's new Catalyst growth strategy, which emphasizes site readiness, workforce preparation, and long-term competitiveness.

With Limestone County leading in investment and Madison County topping job creation, state and local leaders say North Alabama continues to solidify its position as one of the Southeast's most dynamic economic development regions.

HSV AIRPORT

continued from page 1

community is growing and that travelers value the air service they can find at Huntsville International Airport," said Joey Ceci, board chair of the Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority. "By continuing strategic investment in infrastructure and the passenger experience, we ensure HSV remains a powerful economic engine for our region."

The record-setting year continues a three-year trend of sustained growth at HSV. The airport served 1,473,629 passengers in 2023, followed by 1,635,589 travelers in 2024, before setting the new record in 2025.

Airport leadership credited the growth to ex-

panded flight capacity, strong regional economic momentum and collaboration with airline partners. Huntsville International Airport is currently served by Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Breeze Airways, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines, offering nonstop service to 19 destinations nationwide.

"This accomplishment reflects years of deliberate planning and strong partnerships," said Butch Roberts, chief executive officer of Huntsville International Airport. "Our airline partners added new nonstop destinations, increased flight frequency to major hubs like Atlanta, Chicago and Houston, and deployed larger aircraft to

meet growing demand." Officials say continued growth is expected as North Alabama's population and economy expand. The airport has more than \$121 million in planned infrastructure upgrades, including a parking deck expansion, new terminal restaurants and the start of a major concourse renovation.

Roberts said additional air service is already planned for 2026, including new Allegiant routes to Gulf Shores, Orlando/Sanford and St. Petersburg.

Huntsville International Airport has also earned national recognition, being named the No. 1 small airport in the United States by Newsweek Reader's Choice Awards in both 2024 and 2025.

More information on flights and services is available at flyhuntsville.com.

APP DOWNLOAD

continued from page 1

age before allowing downloads. While the bill does not dictate a specific verification method, it is intended to ensure that minors are shielded from apps that include explicit content, social media risks, or features deemed unsuitable for children.

Supporters of the legislation emphasized that parents need stronger tools to protect their children in the digital space.

"This is about giving families more confidence

and control in an online environment that continues to grow faster than regulations," lawmakers said during debate.

The bill passed with bipartisan support, reflecting growing concern among legislators about youth exposure to online exploitation, harmful content, and addictive digital platforms. Lawmakers also cited rising mental health challenges among young people as a reason for stronger safeguards.

Critics of similar measures nationwide have raised concerns about privacy and implementation, particularly how personal data would be handled during age verification. However, House members stressed that the bill fo-

cuses on accountability for app platforms rather than on collecting unnecessary personal information.

If enacted, Alabama would join a growing number of states considering or adopting laws to regulate digital access for minors and place greater responsibility on technology companies.

The bill now moves to the Alabama Senate for consideration. If approved there and signed into law by Gov. Kay Ivey, the requirements could take effect later this year.

State officials say the legislation reflects Alabama's broader effort to modernize consumer protections while addressing challenges posed by rapidly evolving technology.

\$450M DEAL

continued from page 1

Huntsville Hospital Health System President and CEO Jeff Samz said the acquisition reflects a long-term investment in the community and its growing healthcare needs.

"This acquisition continues our commitment to invest in the specific health care needs of our patients and community and in our employees," Samz said. "We are committed to building on our more than 100-year legacy and continuing to invest in local access to high-quality, compassionate care."

The announcement comes as Huntsville continues to experience rapid population growth, with

the city's population increasing nearly 16% over the past five years. Health system leaders say the acquisition will help meet rising demand while preserving patient choice and strengthening care coordination across facilities.

"As our community continues to grow, we listen carefully to patient experiences and expectations," Samz said. "Our community wants and deserves options for more locally coordinated services and care."

According to a joint news release, Crestwood Medical Center will continue normal operations throughout the transition. Huntsville Hospital Health System said there will be no immediate changes to patient care, medical staff privileges, or services as a result of the agreement.

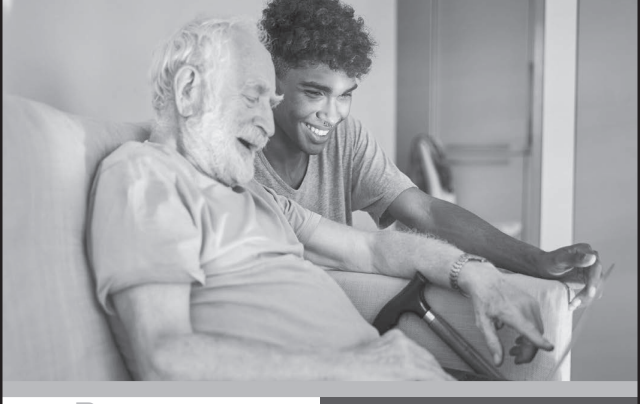
What the Acquisition Includes

The deal includes Crest-

wood Medical Center's 180-bed acute care hospital, the Crestwood free-standing emergency department in Harvest, and a range of outpatient services, clinics, and ambulatory interests.

Crestwood employs approximately 1,000 healthcare professionals and serves nearly 400,000 patients across Huntsville, North Alabama and surrounding communities. The hospital offers emergency care, surgical services, women's health, cardiovascular care and intensive care, among other specialties.

Huntsville Hospital Health System is a non-profit network serving more than 1.5 million people across northern Alabama and southern Tennessee and employs more than 19,500 people. Crestwood Medical Center has served the Huntsville community since 1965.



Become an **ADULT FOSTER CARE** Provider
"Love Never Ages"

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF **HUMAN RESOURCES**
1-800-458-7214
dhr.alabama.gov/AFC

COLD FLOORS START BELOW

Time to Check Your Crawl Space

Frontier THE ALL THINGS **BASEMENT!** COMPANY
Locally Owned and Operated by the Gebers Family

FOUNDATION & CRAWL SPACE Repair

Insulate the space beneath your feet to warm your floors, prevent frozen pipes, and lower your heating bills.

270-203-3607
FrontierLevel.com

SCAN ME!

FREE ESTIMATES FINANCING AVAILABLE

4.9 RATING

\$300 OFF

ANY PROJECT!

Not to exceed 5% of project. Cannot be combined with any other offer or promotional financing. Must be presented at time of inspection. Limitations may apply. Expires 1/31/26.