

# Centreville Press

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LET US KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

205.926.9769 | editor@centrevillepress.com



## 100 Is A Magic Number

By Lynn Hamric

There is an elite club of senior citizens who celebrate a century of living.

"Mrs. Emma" is a member of this unique group and celebrations were all around. Family gathered to enjoy visiting and telling stories about their years growing up under the guiding hand of Emma Woods.

Mrs. Josephine Steward, a Centreville resident since 1951, was a daily walking companion. Early mornings would find these two, fast stepping around town. The story goes that the police chief at that time issued fluorescent vests, so they could be seen in the pre-dawn hours. Perhaps these daily walks contributed to such a long life.

I have a special relationship with this family. Her son, Alvin Rice, and I met to talk about his mom and traveled back through over 50 years remembering people, places and events. "Mrs. Emma" took care of me when I was young, while my parents worked, and Alvin and his sister Dot

were my closest playmates. Alvin and I concluded that life was much simpler then and there were many, many good times.

As the birthday girl enjoyed her family, Councilman Don Mack presented a framed Resolution commemorating the day. Chief Rodney Smith serenaded her with police car sirens and the City Fire Department did a siren drive by as

well.

Few citizens live to mark this benchmark. I'm thankful we live in a small town that recognizes, respects and celebrates the good lives of great individuals.

Thank you, Mrs. Emma, for taking such good care of me and for always welcoming me when I came to cast my vote. You will always be special to me.



## Exciting News from BMC Wellness: New Outdoor Recreation Spaces Now Open!

BY SHEILA DUNCAN  
REPORTER

BMC Wellness is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its brand-new outdoor recreation spaces! Thanks to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the community now has even more opportunities to stay active, have fun, and connect with others in a healthy, engaging environment.

The new facilities offer

something for everyone, including: Pickleball - This fast-growing sport is perfect for all ages and skill levels, providing a great mix of fun and fitness. Basketball - Whether you're looking for a competitive game or just a friendly shoot-around, the new courts are ready for action! Playground - A safe and exciting space designed to keep little ones entertained while encouraging physical ac-

tivity. Bicycles - Enjoy a refreshing cardio workout while exploring the beautiful outdoor surroundings.

These additions are part of BMC Wellness's commitment to promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. So, grab a paddle, hit the court, or let the kids play—because at BMC, Movement is Medicine!

Come visit and experience the new facilities for yourself!

(Pictures BMC Wellness)

## Exploring the Past: Beginner's Genealogy Class at Woodstock Community Library Continues

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

The Woodstock Community Library has become a hub for history buffs and curious minds alike, thanks to its ongoing Beginner's Genealogy Class. Participants have gathered every other week to learn how to uncover their roots, with recent sessions focusing on two important tools in any genealogist's toolkit: interviews and photo analysis.

In the most recent

classes, attendees discovered the power of simply talking with living relatives. Family members, especially older generations, often hold a wealth of stories, names, and dates that can't be found in records alone. Instructors encouraged students to approach these conversations with open-ended questions and genuine curiosity, allowing memories to unfold naturally. Some of these questions might include questions

about their parents, their siblings, where they went to school, where they grew up, where they met their spouse/partner, or where they worked. The sky is the limit when it comes to asking these types of questions - just always check in and make sure that they are comfortable answering them first and be sure to pivot to a different type of question should they not want to answer for whatever reason.

See Genealogy on page 2

## West Blocton Begins Restoration of Historic Strand Theater Building

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

The Town of West Blocton took a significant step toward revitalizing its Main Street business district with a pre-bid meeting held for the restoration of the old Strand Theater building.

According to West Blocton Mayor Daniel Sims, the restoration project has been a long time coming, involving an extensive process of design and assessing the building's current condition. Now, with full funding awarded by the Alabama Mining Land Reclamation (AML) program and the Department of Labor, the town is excited to move forward.

"This is going to be great to see one of our historic buildings being renovated," Sims shared in a post to Facebook. "We are hoping this

creates positive energy for more growth in our business district."

The restoration of the Strand Theater is more than just a construction project; it's a symbol of West Blocton's commitment to preserving its history while encouraging economic growth. With the project fully funded and moving into the bidding phase, excitement is building over what the revitalized the-

ater could mean for the community's future.

"We are very excited about this project, and can't wait to see it finished," Sims said.

As plans progress, the town looks forward to the positive impact this restoration will have on West Blocton's downtown area, with hopes of sparking renewed interest and growth throughout the business district.





## APRIL Community Calendar

April 7 - Central Alabama Regional Child Advocacy Center Pinwheel Planting, 5pm, Bibb County Courthouse lawn

April 10th - Bibb County Cahmber Coffee, Wellness Center 9:00 a.m.

April 12 - Arts on the Cahaba, 10am-2pm, Courthouse Square

April 16 - Best Gardening Practices for a Bountiful Harvest 1:00-2:00 pm, BMC Wellness Center

April 19th - Brierfield Ironworks' Easter Egg Hunt and Flea Market from 10am-12pm!

April 22 - Right Bite - Healthy Eating for Diabetes, 11:30am-12:30pm Woodstock Senior Center

April 23 - BMC Wellness Center, Movie Night "The Lion King", 7:30 p.m.

April 26 - Six Mile Music Festival, 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

April 28 - BMC Wellness Center, Diabetes Management Support Group, 5:30 p.m.

April 29 - Right Bite - Healthy Eating for Diabetes, 11:30am-12:30 p.m. Woodstock Senior Center



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# NEWS

## Easter Celebration at Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park

### SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

Mark your calendars! On April 19, 2025, from 10 AM to 12 PM, Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park will host a fantastic Easter celebration filled with family-friendly fun, delicious food, live music, and more!

Exciting Activities for All Ages. This event, included with Regular Gate Admission, promises a day packed with entertainment and community spirit. Enjoy a variety of activities, including:

Egg Hunt – A thrilling adventure for kids as they search for hidden treasures!

Petting Zoo – Get up close with adorable animals.

Slides & Fun Attractions – Plenty of excitement for the little ones!

Flea Market & Vendors – Shop for unique goods, crafts, and seasonal treats.

Food Trucks – Delicious eats and refreshing drinks from local favorites.

Live Music Lineup – Enjoy live performances from talented gospel and worship groups, including Latter Rain Trio, River of Praise, Three on a Wing, and MORE!

Join the Fun! Whether you're coming for the Easter Egg Hunt, the shopping, or the great music, there's something for everyone at Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park this Easter season. Don't miss out on this fun-filled day with family and friends!



## Living River to Hold You & Me Retreat on the Cahaba

BY SHEILA DUNCAN  
REPORTER

Spring is a season of renewal, making it the perfect time to take a break from the daily routine and enjoy a meaningful retreat with your family. Living River, a scenic camp and conference center in Central Alabama affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, is set to host the You & Me Retreat on the Cahaba from April 11-13.

Located at 2000 Living River Parkway in Montevallo, AL, and just a 45-minute drive from Centreville, Living River offers a beautiful setting along the Cahaba River, perfect for relaxation, learning, and adventure.

The You & Me Retreat is an ideal getaway for young campers and first-timers. Children aged 4 years to 2nd grade, along with a trusted adult, are invited to share this enrich-

ing experience. The retreat is designed to foster quality family time, outdoor exploration, and spiritual growth in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Participants will enjoy an exciting Night Sky Program led by the UAB Astronomy Club, providing a chance to gaze at the stars and learn about the wonders of the universe. In addition, families will have the opportunity to contribute to the Living River vegetable garden, an activity that blends environmental stewardship with hands-on learning.

The retreat will also feature inspirational keynote lessons by Rev. Ruth Aimee Belonni-Rosario Govens, the Associate Dean of Academic Success and Retention at Stillman College. Her insights will encourage meaningful reflection and connection.

The retreat will conclude by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, ensuring families have time to return home for Palm Sunday celebrations.

For more details and to register for the event, visit [www.livingriver.org](http://www.livingriver.org).  
*(pictures Living River)*



## Centreville Press & Alabama Lightwave Get Facelift with New Awnings

BY SHEILA DUNCAN  
REPORTER

The Centreville Press and Alabama Lightwave have received a fresh new look with the installation of stylish new awnings, adding both charm and functionality to the historic downtown building.

The updated awnings enhance the building's ex-

terior while also providing much-needed shade and weather protection for customers and staff. The facelift is part of an ongoing effort to keep the local businesses inviting and vibrant for the community.

"We're excited about the new look," said a representative from the Centreville Press. "It's a small change that makes

a big impact, and we hope our readers and visitors enjoy the refreshed appearance."

The Centreville Press and Alabama Lightwave remain committed to serving the local community with reliable news coverage and communication services. Stop by to check out the updates and support your local businesses!



## Balloons By Morris: A Blossoming Business from Two West Blocton High School Sophomores

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

Ella Morris and Katie Morris may share a last name, but they aren't related. What they do share, however, is a passion for creativity and entrepreneurship. The sophomores at West Blocton High School co-own Balloons By Morris, a party décor business specializing in vibrant, custom balloon arrangements. Despite their busy schedules as students and majorettes, they have managed to build a thriving business from the ground up.

For more information about their services or specific pricing, you can find them on Facebook and Instagram under the name Balloons By Morris or email them at [balloonsbymorris@gmail.com](mailto:balloonsbymorris@gmail.com).

What inspired you both to start Balloons By Morris?

"We were inspired to start Balloons by Morris because we struggled to find jobs that worked with our busy schedules. With school, practices, and other extracurriculars, we knew that jobs wouldn't work around our activities. We decided to create our own way of making money doing something we enjoy."

What types of events do you specialize in, and do you have any favorite themes?

"We have many events we cater to! If you have a birthday party, shower, gender reveal, or any event that calls for a celebration, we bring the balloons."

What sets Balloons By Morris apart from other party decor businesses?

"Some things that set us apart from other businesses is our quality and affordability. We value giving only the best there is to offer to our clients at a good price."

Have you faced any unex-

pected obstacles since starting your business? If so, how did you overcome them?

"A moment we ran into an obstacle was this January when we had to move a party due to bad weather.

This caused us to have many limitations. Some materials that we ordered hadn't arrived yet causing us to make do with what we had.

*See Community Connect on page 3*



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## Genealogy

**Genealogy from page 1**

Alongside oral history, the class has explored how to examine old family photographs for clues. Identifying markers, such as clothing styles (each decade has defining style features, backgrounds, or even the type of photograph, can help place a photo in a certain era or location. Rec-

ognizing a familiar face or spotting a handwritten note on the back of a picture might be the key to unlocking a long-lost branch of a family tree.

By combining interviews with visual context clues, participants are beginning to piece together personal histories in a meaningful and hands-on

way. The class continues to foster a sense of community and discovery, one story at a time. Come on by one day if you can, because having a guide, as well as support from other class members, can be an integral and impactful part of your journey of discovering more about your own family history.

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### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Advising
- Tutoring
- Meet with an SSCC representative

For more information or to set up a meeting, contact [bibb@sheltonstate.edu](mailto:bibb@sheltonstate.edu).

It is the policy of the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees and Shelton State Community College, a postsecondary institution under its control, that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, marital status, disability, gender, age, or any other protected class as defined by federal and state law, be excluded from participation, denied benefits, or subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment.

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NEWS/CALENDAR

**Community Connect from page 2**

We decided to not let the obstacles hold us back. In the end, the balloon backdrop turned out adorable!”

What advice would you give to other young entrepreneurs looking to start their own business?

“It is never a bad idea to put what you love doing out there. Even though it may seem silly to others, that doesn’t matter as long as you enjoy it!”

What has been the most rewarding part of running Balloons By Morris together so far?

“The most rewarding part of running our business is having the privilege to experience the joy of each event with our clients. We absolutely love providing balloons for these memorable moments.”

How do you balance school, being majorettes, and running a business?

“Juggling all aspects of our life and the business is not easy at times. Keeping a balance and staying on top of things allows us to succeed in everything. We also understand that it is important to take breaks every now and then to enjoy time with our loved ones.”

What are your future goals—both for Balloons By Morris and personally?

“We hope to one day expand the scope of Balloons by Morris beyond our local community. We are also always practicing new skills to create new and improved products. As for our future personal goals, we are working towards possibly twirling in college, keeping our grades up, and working towards scholarships.”

What’s your go-to song to sing right now when you’re driving with the windows down on a beautiful day?

“Any song on the Mamma Mia soundtrack is our go-

to song for a nice day out. We pride ourselves in always being down for some car karaoke.”

Do you have any favorite quotes?

“There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.” - Michelle Obama

Ella and Katie have proven that determination and



creativity can go a long way, even for two high school sophomores (not to mention, honor students) balancing multiple responsibilities. Their enthusiasm for their craft and dedication to making clients’ celebrations extra special is evident in every balloon arrangement they create.

Check them out on social media or reach out via email to learn more about how they can make your next event one to remember!

## NOW HIRING

**RN - Labor & Delivery**  
**RN - Emergency Dept \*\***  
**RN - Nursing Home**  
**LPN - Nursing Home**  
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**Patient Care Tech \*\***  
**Restorative Aide - Nursing Home**  
**Medication Aide (full-time & part-time)**  
**Social Worker**

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[bmchr@bibbmedicalcenter.com](mailto:bmchr@bibbmedicalcenter.com)

EVENING

GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

- » Bibb County Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the County Commission Chambers inside the Rock Building-Courthouse Annex.
- » Centreville City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m..
- » Brent Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at Brent City Hall.
- » West Blocton City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.
- » Woodstock City Council meets the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at 5:00 p.m.
- » The Bibb County Board of Education normally holds regular monthly Board Meetings the second Tuesday of every month. Meetings are at 5:00 p.m. and are held in the Board Room of the Central Office. Board Minutes are available on our website at [www.bibbed.org](http://www.bibbed.org). Ph. 205-926-9881.

SPECIAL WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

- » Come join us for The Masters Kitchen at the First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Coldwater Rd. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Free meal along with a great message through the word or a song.
- » The Treasure Forest Association, a stewardship and land ethic program, for and by timberland owners (present or aspiring) meets the fourth Thursday at the B/C library (downstairs) 6pm. Visit us on FB. Search for “Treasure Forest of Bibb County” and join to learn more.
- » Brush Arbor Revival on April 10-12 at 6pm at Cedar Grove Church at 30 Cedar Grove Rd. West Blocton, AL. For more information call Bonnie Ray at 205-928-9317.

WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES

- » Green Pond Presbyterian Church, Service at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Pastor, Bev Dodson.
- » Enon Baptist Church 5286 Montevallo Rd. Centreville, AL 35042. Sunday worship 10:30am, Sunday School 9:30am, contact info 205-928-9421 or 205-490-4830.
- » Woodstock United Methodist Church services begin Sunday School at 10am Worship at 11.
- » Sandy Chapel Church services start at 9 am for preaching 10 am for Sunday School.
- » Scottsville Union Church, Co. Rd. 9., Sun. School-10 a.m., Worship-11 a.m., Sun. eve. Bible Study 5 p.m., Wed. service 6 p.m, Bro. J. R. Keeton, Pastor. Info, 205-340-1864.
- » New Life West Blocton a revival oriented church. Sunday Service at 11am, Wed. night service at 7pm. Pastor Greg Brock 205.441.2809
- » Little Hope Primitive Baptist Church holds services on Sat. before 3rd Sun. of each month at 10am. Elder Scott Sexton-Pastor. For info 205-225-4341.
- » Scottsville Baptist Church holds church service on Tue. at 7pm. with a different speaker each week.
- » God’s House of Prayer 489 Co. Rd 162 Marion, AL (in Heiberger) hold services every Sunday at 11am.
- » Centreville Church of Christ, 824 Montevallo Rd., Centreville. 926-5683. Assembly times-Sun. a.m. Bible Study-9:30, a.m. Worship-10:30, p.m. Worship-5:00 p.m.; Wed. night-6:30.
- » Six Mile Baptist Church: Sunday School on Sun. at 10am, Worship at 11am. Wed. Bible Study at 6 pm.
- » 1st United Pentecostal Church of Centreville has weekly services. Pastor Marilyn Belcher, Asst. Pastor Murray Nichols. For info, call 205-225-0007.
- » New Jerusalem Holiness Church holds services in the Woodstock Plaza on Sun. at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm, and Wed. at 7:30pm.
- » Apostolic Revival Center holds services on Sunday: Sunday School 2pm. and Worship 3pm.; Wed. Bible Study 7pm.
- » West Blocton Bible Methodist Church holds services on: Sunday School 10am, Worship Service 11am, Sunday Night 5pm & Wednesday night 6pm. The Bible Methodist Church meeting every second Tues. of each month at 10:30, lunch provided.
- » Randolph Baptist Church Sunday School 9am, preaching 10am. Wednesday night teen kids & youth 6:15pm, supper provided at 6pm.

MONTHLY MEETINGS & REMINDERS

- » The Bibb County Planning Commission is an organization involving county landowners and forestry groups. We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 1PM in the Alabama Forestry Commission Office located at 9712 Highway 5, Brent, AL.
- » Car Tag Renewal Months: (Alphabet indicates the first letter of last name) January-A/D, February-B, March-C/E, April-F/G/N, May-H/O, June-M/I, July-P/L, August-J/K/R, September-Q/S/T, October-U-Z and November-Commercial.
- » Brierfield Fire & Rescue meets on the last Monday of each month at 7pm at Station 1 located at 18756 AL-139. For more information, call the Station at 205-665-3060. We welcome volunteers!
- » Green Pond Fire & Rescue holds its monthly meetings every first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm at Station 1, located at 19629 Eastern Valley Road in Woodstock. These meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, call GPFR at 205-938-9991 or visit [greenpondfire.com](http://greenpondfire.com)
- » The Bibb County Bee Keepers Association August meeting will be at The Cahaba Lily Center in West Blocton. For more info call the BC Extension Office at 205-926-4310 or [mdh0007@aces.edu](mailto:mdh0007@aces.edu) or Chuck Allen 205-202-0501. Find us on FB at Bibb Co. Bee-keepers.
- » Bama Carry of Bibb County meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Sawmeal Restaurant. For more info contact Danny Jones 928-2455.

- » Women for Sobriety meets every Tues. at 5:30pm. For info call Karen 205-718-4097.
- » F. O. P. meets the 3rd Mon. of each month at Rock Building.
- » Bibb County Soil & Water meets at 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd Tue. of each month at 183 S. W. Davidson Dr., Centreville. 926-4360.
- » Bibb County GOP will hold quarterly meetings on the third Thursday at 7pm at the Sawmeal Restaurant.
- » Bibb County Chamber of Commerce holds monthly meetings on the 2nd Thurs. of the month at 5pm. at the chamber building.
- » Friendship Lodge #83 F & AM in Centreville meets on 1st and 3rd Thur. at 7pm. at 28 Ct. Sq. All members are encouraged to attend.
- » The Bibb Co. Airport Authority meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 5pm. at Bibb County Airport.
- » The Centreville Historic Preservation Commission meets in alternate months or at the call of the Chairman on the third Thursday beginning January 2025 at the Centreville Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at 5pm.
- » American Legion Post 47 West Blocton meets 7pm on the 4th Tues. of each month at 195 Rose Lane in West Blocton. Veterans are encouraged to attend. For more info call Jimmy Fitts 938-3713 or Gary Monk 938-0621. American Legion Auxiliary & Sons of American Legion are accepting members. Call Jan Fitts 938-3713 or Cathy Atchison 938-7617.
- » The Brent Cemetery Committee reminds the community of its policy of periodically removing old & faded flowers from cemetery. We welcome flowers, but ask you to remove flowers when faded.

LIBRARY HOURS

- » The Brent/Centreville Public Library hours are. M-9a-8p, Tu-Th-9a-5p, Fri.-9a-1p Closed, Sat & Sun.
- » The West Blocton Public Library hours are. Mon.-closed, Tues. 10am-2pm, Wed.-12pm-4pm, Thur.-1pm-5pm, Fri.-12pm-3pm, Sat.-10am-1pm, Sun.-closed.
- » Woodstock Community Library is open Sunday & Monday: closed, Tuesday: 11AM - 5PM, Wednesday: 10AM - 5PM, Thursday 10AM - 5PM, Friday 10-4
- » Vance Town Library is open Tues. & Thurs. 3-5pm. & Sat. 2-4pm.

PRAYER & SUPPORT GROUPS

- » Join us at the Celebrate Recovery support group each Tuesday at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall at Brent Bible Methodist Church. For more information contact Dwight Crosley at 812-675-1543.
- » Helping Other People Excel (HOPE) in Bibb County is a group of stakeholders within the Bibb County Community who have a vested interest in ensuring that all residents have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to obtain available resources that will equip them to thrive. Whether you (or someone you know) is in need of food, clothes, or other resources, our coalition works to either provide or help identify resources to meet your needs. Please contact John Skinner at 205-876-6931 or via email at [compassion-andhopefoodbasket@gmail.com](mailto:compassion-andhopefoodbasket@gmail.com) or H.O.P.E. in Bibb County at [hopeinbibbco@gmail.com](mailto:hopeinbibbco@gmail.com).

FREE CLASSES

- » Bibb Family Connections offers free Parenting Classes on the 2nd and 4th Thur. of each month at 10:00 am. The Earn While You Learn class offers opportunities for those with infants and toddlers to earn baby supplies and needs while attending classes. For more info call 205-926-3170 or come by Mon. mornings from 9-1 to sign up. Email, [bibbsavealife@gmail.com](mailto:bibbsavealife@gmail.com). 48 University Way, Brent, AL.
- » GED classes are offered free of charge to Bibb Co. residents at Brent Elem. School, 4 nights wkly, Mon.-Thur. Classes begin at 5:00 p.m. Vouchers are available to help pay the cost of the GED test for class participants. More info, call 205-260-0041.
- » The new Genealogy Class will be held monthly the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 10:00 a.m at the Woodstock Community Library. Dianne Chesser returns as our master genealogist and patrons will have free access to Ancestry.com during class time. Those interested may call 938-0008 or check our Facebook for more information. [www.facebook.com/woodstockcommunitylibrary](http://www.facebook.com/woodstockcommunitylibrary)

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

- » The Bibb County Chapter of the Alabama Treasure Forest hold quarterly meetings. For info. call 926-9765 or 926-4917. Private landowners interested in good stewardship of property are needed.
- » West Blocton Lunch Bunch, 1st Wed. of Feb., Apr., Aug., and Oct. More info, 938-2622.

CEMETERY FUNDING

- » If you have loved ones buried at any of the following cemeteries and would like to make a donation for upkeep and etc., please send check (made payable to “(Church or Cemetery Name) Cemetery Fund”) to the name and address listed below:

- » Enon Baptist Church Cemetery: Main donations to Enon Baptist Cemetery PO Box 609 Centreville, AL 35042 For more info. 205-613-9060 or 205-928-2529.
- » Thrasher Family Cemetery in Woodstock, AL: c/o Danny Kellum 11502 Brown Circle Woodstock, AL 35188.
- » Shady Grove II Cemetery: Shady Grove II Baptist, 7247 Grey Hill Rd., West Blocton, AL 35184.
- » Pleasant Hill Church cemetery 2827 Ingate Pass, Centreville, AL 35042.
- » Mount Carmel Cemetery: Baptist Foundation of Alabama, P. O. Box 241227, Montgomery, AL 36124-1227. Mark check “Mt. Carmel Cemetery Fund Account #00-1870”
- » Pondville Perpetual Cemetery: Larry Watkins 8490 Payne Lake Rd. Brent, AL 35034.
- » Wesley Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery: Linda Crim 7197 Montevallo Rd. Centreville, AL 205.340.3476.
- » Schultz Creek Cemetery: PO Box 706, Centreville, AL 35042.
- » Shiney Rock Cemetery: call 205-938-9537.
- » Kinard Cemetery, Lowreytown: Kinard Cemetery Fund, Lowreytown, C/O Vicki Goggins 1694 Hopewell Church Road West Blocton, 35184.
- » If you have family buried at Old Salem Methodist Church Cemetary send donation to, Salem Methodist Cemetary Fund, 374 Collen Road, Selma, Al 36701 or call Jean Stevens at 205-316-8736.
- » Donations to Mt. Ivah Cemetery are greatly appreciated. Please send to: Lynn R. Johnson, 67 Friendship Pass, Brent Al 35034.
- » Little Hope Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery (West Eoline): C/O William Deason 262 Grover Lane Centreville, AL 35042-5562.
- » Green Pond Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Homecoming is 4th Sunday in May, Send donations for upkeep to P O Box 145, Green Pond, AL 35074.
- » Cedar Grove Cemetery donations can be mailed to Mike Lewis at 575 Cedar Grove Rd. West Blocton, AL 35184. For more information contact 205.617.0119.

Centreville Press

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OUR GOAL: The Centreville Press is published proudly for the citizens of Bibb County and adjoining counties by Bibb Community Media, Inc., Centreville, AL. Our Goal is to produce quality, profitable, community-oriented newspapers that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty and a strong dedication towards printing the truth.

OUR POLICIES: Signed letters to the editor welcomed. Please limit to 300 words and include address and phone number. Liability for an error will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error. Political endorsements will only be accepted through paid advertisements. We cannot be responsible for return of pictures or material unless stamped, return addressed envelope is included.

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Arlene Duncan.....Business Manager  
Sheila Duncan.....Reporter  
Whitney Buzbee.....Advertising Manager  
Savannah Logan.....Reporter





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Pastor Wayne Keeton

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Marion, AL 36756  
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Sandy Chapel Community  
Church  
926-4934

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## West Eoline News

From The Pen Of Jane Hannah

Ruth Deason and I returned Monday from a week cruising to Freeport and Nas-sau. As much as I love children, this cruise fun was diminished by CHILDREN RUN-NING WILD! Stomping/running feet above our suite and in the halls interrupted our sleep, and being hit by and dodging a soccer ball near the elevator wasn't fun. Nor did I hear an apology.

Jo Kitchen spent quality time last week with her son Mike & Brenda Vessels and their children and grandchildren. A bonus blessing was dinner with grandson Zane Glidewell and his girlfriend, Carley. They came to visit her at Mike & Brenda's. Mike served a feast of Oriental Cuisine and Zane was happy to take home leftovers.

Chad & Stacey hosted Chad's parents (Marlin & Cathy Thompson 4-1 to 4-7. It was a fun and busy time sightseeing, eating, and visiting more family. Friday night was a chilling time around the fire pit with Ed & Robby Todd and Jim Kirkend-all; plus great tasting steaks, chicken/vegetable kabobs, pea salad, and pasta salad.

Saturday was busy. Chad & Jim cleared a downed tree for Jane Hannah in the morning. Stacey was busy early with her Dad, Fred Boothe. After a trip to their river house and lunch, they chilled at home. Several neighbors also dropped by. Sunday was CHICKEN DUMPLING DAY shared with more family & friends (Marlin, Cathy, Shandon, Damien, Dezi, Destiny, Fred, Dusty, Tabatha, Jim, Ed, Robbie & Jane).

PRAYERS: Wayne Deason is sore and recovering from his latest spill. Stan Deason is still in hospital at press time. Amy Ellison is home from hospital and surgery scheduled for 4-14.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week Barbara Suttle & Jayme Dickerson 4-12, Coleman Cottingham 4-14, Stacey Thompson, Judy Ohme, Barbara Cottingham & Barbara Creel 4-15, Carol Shoults 4-16, Trevor Deason & Tracie Dickerson 4-17.

Have safe travels and a BLESSED week Call 478-396-2513 to share your news.

## Centreville News

From The Pen Of Brenda Hubbard

We wish to extend sincere sympathy to the family of Elaine June Frazier who passed away on March 29, 2025. A graveside service was held on Thursday April 3, 2025, at Pineland Memorial Park. Elaine will be missed greatly by her family and many friends.

Among those having birthdays in April are Tish Stallings, Tammy Corvin, Paul Pratt, Susan McCalla, Rennie Spinks, Rosie Hortin, Leigh Holliman, Amanda Clevenger, Kim Johnson, April Weaver, Tanya Hallman, Linda Tidwell, Teresa

Caffee, Sidney Seales, Edwin Snipes, Scott Mitchell. "Happy Birthday"

Dot Tidwell of Trussville was the recent guest of Charlotte West on Saturday.

The WMU of Brent Baptist Church met on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

Arts on the Cahaba Festival will be held on April 12, 2025, in Uptown Centreville Courthouse Square from 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m. Make plans to attend this event.

Call in news at 205-316-1181. Take Care – God Bless.

# Hymn History

By: Savannah Logan

## On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand

I like solid ground. Would you like to know why, other than the obvious? Well, my middle name is Grace, but I like to think the Lord laughs at that a bit, because He created me the farthest thing from graceful. I am quite clumsy, and I have often been known to trip over flat ground. In high school when I played on the basketball team, I earned the nickname "Floor Show" because I would give the crowd quite the show when I would be sprinting full speed, trip over my own feet, and barrel roll down the court before hopping back up and resuming the play. (Look, hear me out – I learned that if you rolled with the momentum of the fall, not only would it propel me farther down the court and increase my recovery speed, but also it would not leave so many bruises if I more evenly disbursed the impact.) Is there video out there of Savannah "Floor Show" Logan flipping head over heels down the court? Well, the world may never know - but all this being said, I know quite personally the value of secure, solid ground.

"On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand" is a widely popular hymn written by Edward Mote. This hymn has been a beloved and cherished part of Christian worship for well over a century, and it continues to inspire and uplift believers around the world today.

Edward Mote was born in London, England, in 1797. He grew up in a family of non-conformist Christians and eventually became a Baptist pastor. Mote was known for his deep faith and commitment to Christ, and he wrote several hymns during his lifetime. However, "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand" is by far his most well-known and enduring contribution to Christian music.

The inspiration for the hymn came from a sermon that Mote heard by a fellow Baptist preacher named John Hyatt. Hyatt spoke about the story of the wise and foolish builders from Matthew 7:24-27, in which Jesus teaches that those who build their lives on a foundation of faith in him will withstand the storms of life. Mote was deeply moved by Hyatt's message and later wrote, "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand" as a reflection on the importance of having a firm foundation in Christ.

Mote wrote the hymn in 1834, and it was first published in the same year in a Baptist hymnal titled "Hymns of Praise." The hymn consists of four stanzas, each of which emphasizes the importance of trusting in Christ as a sure foundation for one's life. The first stanza reads:

"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name."

This stanza sets the tone for the entire hymn by declaring that Christ alone is the foundation of our hope and salvation. Mote emphasizes that our trust must be in Christ's blood and righteousness, rather than in any human effort or achievement. He also acknowledges that our own strength and abilities are not enough to save us, and that we must rely wholly on Jesus' name.

The second stanza continues the theme of Christ as our sure foundation:

"When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil."

Here, Mote acknowledges that there will be times when we cannot see Christ clearly or feel his presence in our lives. However, he emphasizes that even in the midst

of darkness and turmoil, Christ's grace is unchanging and provides a firm anchor for our souls. This stanza reflects Mote's own experiences of trials and struggles, and his deep trust in Christ to sustain him through them.

The third stanza builds on the previous two by emphasizing Christ's sufficiency in all circumstances:

"His oath, His covenant, and blood Support me in the whelming flood; When every earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay."

Mote uses powerful imagery here to describe the challenges we face in life as a "whelming flood" that threatens to overwhelm us. However, he affirms that even in the face of such adversity, Christ's covenant and blood provide a steadfast support and hope. Mote's words echo the psalmist's declaration in Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

The final stanza of the hymn brings the theme full circle, declaring Christ as our firm foundation and sure hope:

"When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found, Clothed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne."

Powerful truths call for powerful expression, and Mote achieved just that with the lyrics of "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand." No matter how this earthly life might inevitably trip us and make us stumble, may we always remember that we can always remain steadfast and secure in the love of Christ.

Do you have a hymn you'd like to know more about? Feel free to send in a request to savannah.pearce@bibbcommunitymedia.com or by giving me a call. It would make my day to hear from you!

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### NOTICE OF SALE

**Notice of Public Sale**  
Hometown Towing and Recovery, LLC gives notice of foreclosure of lien and intent to sell these vehicles on June 3, 2025 at 10:00am at 54 Norman Dr. Woodstock, AL 35188-3941, pursuant to subsection 32.13.3 of

the Alabama Statutes. Hometown Towing and Recovery LLC reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.  
2020 Nissan 3N1AB-8BV5LY23046  
Centreville Press  
April 11 & April 18, 2025

### PROBATE NOTICE

**In the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama**  
**In Re: The estate of Patricia Grund Cummings, deceased**  
**Case No. 2025PC019**  
**Notice of Publication**  
Letters of Administration in the matter of the estate of Patricia Grund Cummings, having been granted to Emily Kelley on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025 by the Honorable Stephanie Kemmer, Probate Judge of said coun-

ty, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.  
Stephanie Kemmer, Probate Judge  
Holliman & Holliman  
John R. Holliman, Esq.  
402 South Broad Street, Ste 200  
Scottsboro, AL 35768  
Centreville Press  
April 4, 11 & 18, 2025

**In the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama**  
**In Re: The estate of Ronald Nathan Davis, deceased**  
**Case No. 2024PC100**  
**Publication Notice**  
Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned, Sara Beth Davis, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025, by the Honorable Judge Stephanie W. Kemmer of Probate of Bibb County, Alabama, notice is hereby

given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.  
Sara Beth Davis  
Executor  
B. Boozer Davis, Jr.  
Downs & Davis Law, LLC  
Attorney for Petitioner  
PO Box 65  
Woodstock, AL 35184  
Centreville Press  
March 28, April 4 & 11, 2025

**In the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama**  
**In the matter of the estate of James S. Potts, Jr., deceased**  
**Case No. 2025-PC014**  
**Publication Notice**  
Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to Wendy N. Davis on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025 by the Honorable Stephanie W. Kemmer, Judge of the Probate court of Bibb

County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.  
Wendy N. Davis  
Michael L. Murphy  
Attorney at Law  
44 Court Square East  
PO Box 38  
Centreville, AL 35042  
Centreville Press  
March 28, April 4 & 11, 2025

**Legal Notice**  
**Probate Office of Bibb County**  
**Case Number 2025-PC021**  
**Estate of Scott Alan Bardwell, deceased**  
Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to Sheldon Carl Sander- son, as Personal Representative, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2025, by the Honorable Stephanie Kemmer, Judge of the Probate Court of Bibb County, notice

is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.  
G. Stephen Wiggins  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
Capell & Howard, PC  
1490 Northbank Parkway, Suite 226  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35406  
Centreville Press  
April 11, 18 & 25, 2025

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain Mortgage executed by Michael Martin and wife, Lora A. Martin, to Regions Mortgage, Inc., dated the 31st day of August, 2001, which Mortgage was recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Bibb County, Alabama, in RPB 85, at Page 327; said Mortgage having been corrected and re-recorded in said Probate Office in RPB Book 116, Page 363. The undersigned Regions Bank successor by merger with Regions Mortgage, Inc., as Mortgagee of said Mortgage will, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mort-

gage, sell at auction to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Bibb County Courthouse in the City of Centreville, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on May 14, 2025 the real property described in said Mortgage, which said description is hereby referred to and made a part hereof, said property being situated in Bibb County, Alabama, to-wit:

A parcel of land containing 2.0 acres, more or less, located in the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, Section 8, Township 23 North, Range 9 East, Bibb County, Alabama, described as follows:  
Commence at the Northeast corner of said 1/4 - 1/4 section and run South 0 degrees 47 minutes 25 seconds East along the East boundary

### NOTICE OF COMPLETION

**Legal Notice**  
In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given that K&A Builders, Inc., Contractor, has completed the contract for construction at T-Hanger for the Bibb County Airport at 265 Airport Street Centreville, AL 35042 for the State of Alabama and the City of Centreville in Bibb County Alabama, owners and have made

request for final settlement of said contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Goodwyn Mill Cawood at 1906 E. Three North Street, Andalusia, AL 36421.

K&A Builders  
2601 Kaulton Road  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
Centreville Press  
April 4, 11 & 18, 2025

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that: Central Alabama Asphalt & Construction Co., LLC has completed the contract for the construction of Municipal Paving Project #2: Town of Woodstock for the State of Alabama, and the County of Bibb, and have made request for final settlement of

said contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify:  
Central Alabama Asphalt & Construction Co., LLC  
P.O. Box 20766,  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35402  
Office: (205) 349-0910  
Centreville Press  
April 11, 18, 25 & May 2, 2025

**Notice of Completion**  
Ozark Striping Company hereby gives notice of completion of contract with the Alabama Department of Transportation for construction of Project No. HSIP-NR19(928) in Tuscaloosa, Bibb Sumter, Chilton, Hale and Perry Counties, AL. This notice will ap-

pear for four consecutive weeks beginning on March 21, 2025 and ending on April 11, 2025. All claims should be filed at P.O. Box 847, Ozark, AL 36361, during this period.  
Ozark Striping Company  
Centreville Press  
March 21, 28, April 4 & 11, 2025

### MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

462 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue on the same line 453.46 feet to the intersection of the North right of way of U.S. Highway No. 82; thence run North 67 degrees 36 minutes 02 seconds West along said right of way 293.79 feet; thence run North 22 degrees 23 minutes 58 seconds East 50 feet; thence run North 40 degrees East 125 feet; thence run North 24 degrees 17 minutes 14 seconds West 203.33 feet; thence run North 86 degrees 45 minutes 21 seconds East 250 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay

the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

This sale is made for the purpose of realizing the mortgage debt, together with all expenses of the sale, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

Capell & Howard, P.C.  
Bowdy J. Brown, Esq.  
150 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
Our File No.: 37610-959  
Attorneys for Mortgagee  
Regions Bank Successor by Merger with Regions Mortgage Inc., Mortgagee  
Centreville Press  
April 4, 11 & 18, 2025

### ADOPTION NOTICE

**In the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama**  
**State of Alabama County of Bibb**  
**Case No. PC-2025-AD0004**  
**In the matter of the Adoption Petition of Delilah Loraine Pyper Sparkes**

**Notice for Service by Publication**  
Come Now the Petitioners, Joyce Face Brown & Robert Llyod Brown, by and through their attorney of record, Thomas W. Hinote, and hereby move this Hon-

orable Court for an order directing notice of service by publication in the Centreville Press of this petition for adoption of a minor child, Delilah Loraine Pyper Sparks.

As grounds for this motion, the Petitioners adopt by reference the statements contained in the attached affidavit for service by publication.  
So requested this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2025.  
Thomas W. Hinote  
2316 University Blvd.  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
Centreville Press  
April 11, 18 & 25, 2025

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# LIFESTYLE



Welcome to our historical journey, where we delve into the rich tapestry of our past through the pages of *The Centreville Press*. Below, you will find articles from what we call the “morgue” – a collection of past articles that once graced our newspaper. These narratives provide a fascinating glimpse into the events, stories, and voices that shaped our community. So, let’s embark on a journey through the narratives that once filled our pages, preserving the legacy and memories of yesteryears capturing the essence of bygone eras with vivid detail.



**TWIX ‘N’ TWEEN RESTAURANT IN CENTREVILLE**  
For decades, travelers along the highway between Tuscaloosa and Montgomery knew that a stop in Centreville wasn’t complete without a visit to Twix ‘n’ Tween Restaurant. Whether it was for a legendary barbecue sandwich—simply called “a barbecue” by regulars—a side of crispy fries, an ice-cold bottle of Coke, or a slice of icebox pie, the restaurant was a must-visit. Twix ‘n’ Tween first opened its doors in 1952, as Sinclair Twix “n” Tween with its name chosen through a contest to reflect its location between the neighboring Bibb County towns of Brent and Centreville. After being purchased by Cecil Crews, Sinclair was removed but remained Twix “n” Tween. As noted by the late Montgomery Advertiser reporter Alvin Benn, the restaurant enjoyed more than 60 years of success before closing its doors in the mid-2010s.

## New Business in West Blocton: “House of Fluff, LLC” Grooming

### SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

Cindy Wallace Smith has launched her own grooming business, House of Fluff, LLC, operating from her home on Mt. Carmel Road in West Blocton. A passionate dog lover, Cindy became certified in dog grooming through Penn Foster’s online program and honed her skills by practicing on her own pets. She has had her business for about 6 weeks now and is working to build her business.

“I’ve always been intrigued by dog grooming. I love dogs, and my own require regular grooming every 6–8 weeks. I started by practicing on them, watching

online videos, and eventually took courses to earn my certification,” Cindy shares.

Her secret to calming nervous pups? “Treats, sweet talk, and lots of love,” she says. “For dogs that don’t cooperate, I stay calm, offer hugs and kisses, and reassure them with gentle words. I’m known for kissing them all the way to their car!”

Cindy’s top grooming tip for pet owners: Brushing, brushing, brushing! “Before I started grooming, I wasn’t as diligent about brushing my own dogs. I get it—life is busy! But regular brushing is essential for keeping their coats healthy.”

For Cindy, the most rewarding part of being a

groomer is spending her days with dogs. “There’s nothing better than nailing a perfect groom—except seeing happy clients who love the results.”

Coming soon: Online booking at [houseoffluff.glossgenius.com](http://houseoffluff.glossgenius.com).



## Plain & Simple

“Slow down and enjoy the simple pleasures in life”

By: Sheila Duncan

### Butter Garlic Shrimp

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ pounds medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ cup chicken stock
- 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves

Directions:

Season shrimp with salt and pepper, to taste. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large cast iron skillet over medium high heat. Working in batches, add shrimp, and cook, stirring occasionally, until pink, about 2-3 minutes; set aside. Stir in garlic until fragrant, about 1

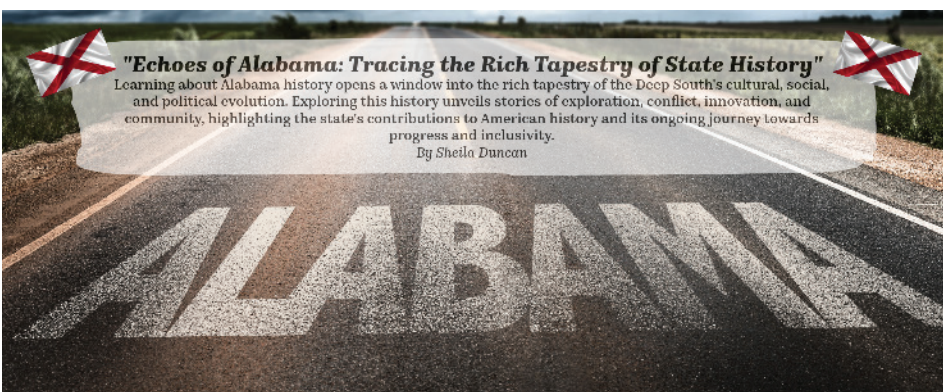
minute. Stir in chicken stock and lemon juice. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer until reduced by half, about 1-2 minutes. Stir in remaining 6 tablespoons butter, 1 tablespoon at a time, until melted and smooth. Stir in shrimp and gently toss to combine. Serve immediately, garnished with parsley leaves, if desired.

## Need a Laser Wood Cutout?

**COME BY OR CALL TO SEE IF WE CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR NEXT PROJECT**

### Centreville Press

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## 1934 Nationwide Textile Strike

**BY SHEILA DUNCAN  
REPORTER**

On July 12, 1934, workers at the Dwight cotton mill in Gadsden, Alabama, went on strike. Two days later, workers at the Saratoga mill in Guntersville joined them. By July 17, the Alabama branch of the United Textile Workers of America (UTW) called for a statewide strike, which soon grew into a national textile workers’ strike. This became the largest labor conflict in U.S. history, but it ended in failure for the union.

At the time, the country was in the Great Depression, and the textile industry was one of the hardest hit. Even in the booming 1920s, textile manufacturing had struggled with falling prices, company cost-cutting, and unsuccessful strikes. The cotton industry, once centered in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, had moved south to the Piedmont region, covering parts of the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama. Many displaced white agricultural workers found jobs in southern mills, where wages were much lower than in the North due to the abundant labor supply.

The Great Depression worsened the already declining living conditions, which had been falling since the cotton boom of World War I ended. Southern workers, facing harsh conditions and low wages, became the most determined to fight for change.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933, he launched the New Deal to combat the Great Depression. A key part of his industrial reforms was the National Industrial Recovery Act, signed into law on June 16, 1933. This law temporarily suspended federal antitrust rules, allowing business leaders to set industry-wide “codes of fair competition,” which let them control prices and production. It also aimed to support workers by guaranteeing their right to join unions and requiring employers to set work-hour limits and minimum wages. Roosevelt called it “the most important and far-reaching legislation ever enacted by the American Congress.”

The cotton textile industry welcomed the law and the creation of the National Recovery Administration, which enforced it. However, industry leaders quickly manipulated the rules to their advantage. Meanwhile, union membership surged from 15,000 in early 1933 to over 300,000 within 18 months. Unions spread across 208 cities, including workers from both Southern cotton mills and older textile centers

in the Northeast. Many workers, frustrated that the law wasn’t benefiting them as expected, accused employers of exploiting the system while ignoring labor protections. The biggest disappointment was that wages did not increase as hoped, hitting Southern workers the hardest.

These events led to the July strikes by Alabama’s union workers in Gadsden and Guntersville. Alabama workers were already well-organized and eager for action, so they didn’t wait for a national strike to be called. Southern textile workers were the first to respond when UTW leader Francis Gorman called for a general strike on September 1.

By the end of the first week, estimates of striking workers ranged from 300,000 to 500,000, mostly in the cotton mills of the Carolina Piedmont. In Alabama, most mills also remained shut down. The UTW initially had control, but employers quickly fought back with help from local and state police, private security, and the National Guard. Violence broke out early, with the worst incident at Chiquola Mill in Honea Path, South Carolina, where strikebreakers shot at picketing workers, killing six and injuring 20 on September 6.

As violence escalated,

President Roosevelt stepped in, appointing a mediation board led by former New Hampshire governor John G. Winant to resolve the conflict.

Violence escalated in the second week of the strike, spreading to northern mills. In Rhode Island, police shot at protesting workers in Saylesville and Woonsocket. Killings continued in the Carolinas and Georgia, where Governor Eugene Talmadge declared martial law and deployed 4,000 National Guardsmen to stop picketing. In Alabama, deputies set up machine guns at mill gates. With state forces backing them, mill owners regained control, and mills began reopening.

On September 18, the Winant board released its report. While it acknowledged some worker grievances, it did not recommend major changes to wages or regulations. Despite this, strike leader Francis Gorman had little choice but to declare victory and tell workers to return to their jobs.

Northern strikers faced little punishment, but in the South, mill owners took harsh revenge. Southern workers lacked strong unions and legal protections, leaving them vulnerable. The UTW collapsed in Alabama and across the South, dealing a lasting blow to the textile labor movement.



Barker Cotton Mill



Cotton Mill Workers Housing



Eula McGill

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### Centreville Press

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NEWS



# LET'S CLEAN UP!

## OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Let's Create a Cleaner and Greener Community Together

WIN Prizes

Join us for West Blocton Cleanup Day! This is our chance to maintain and beautify our community. To RSVP for Lunch email: Holly Barnett councildistrict3@townofwestblocton.org or Brandy Fancher townclerk@townofwestblocton.org

**Saturday, 19 April 2025**  
**08:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
Meet up in front of Town Hall

All are invited

# CENTREVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

by Lynn Hamric

Mayor Mike Oakley called the meeting to order at five o'clock. All council member were present except Mike Nichols.

Don Mack offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Diane Epperson.

A motion to approve the March 18, 2025 minutes was made (Epperson) seconded (Lawrence). Motion carried.

New Business:

\*AmeriGas  
Mayor Oakley recognized the fire departments who immediately responded to the recent fire/explosions at the AmeriGas filling station. The Mayor and Council need to address this situation, location, zoning, etc. Mayor Oakley stated a land swap is a possibility for relocation of plant and he said he has 2-5 possibilities. He stated he does not like the present location. Chief Smith stated inspector from Montgomery as well as the Fire Marshal have inspected and no definitive reason has been determined for the explosion/fire. They will continue to investigate. He also stated that all county Fire Departments had conducted a walk-through three months earlier as a preemptive measure. Mayor Oakley stated operation will not immediately resume at the present location.

AmeriGas advised they have clearance from the state but nothing in writing has been produced.

Brad Colburn said this is a very bad location. With their insurance payout and our helping with finding a location this should facilitate their moving.

Don Mack asked about their license status or revocation. Attorney Kemmer said he is communicating with the League of Municipalities legal council regarding public safety and whether or not this area is zoned for their operating a business as well as communications with the AmeriGas Chief Legal Counsel.

A discussion as to whether to suspend of cancel license was held. Mitch advised that if the city council revokes their city license the gas board can revoke their license which is a three-month process.

It was pointed out that AmeriGas has nothing on site to extinguish fires. Their plan was to evacuate.

A motion to suspend the license was made (Mack) seconded (Colburn). Motion carried. Brad stated this should bring AmeriGas to the table for discussion.

\*Paving Update

Mayor Oakley reported that the first round of patching the worst places before the street paving is done. This is a work-in-progress so everyone needs to understand this. Linda Lawrence stated Riverside Drive still has standing water, uprooted tree roots and piles of asphalt alongside the street. The asphalt piles need to be cleaned up. She asked Pete what needs to be done to eliminate the continuous standing water. Pete stated a resident had built a small retaining wall and this forces water to pool. There will need to be a good bit of street buildup to eliminate this.

\*Uptown Parking Lot Striping

This striping is for just around the court square and the city street department employees are capable of doing this. They have a templet for it. There was a discussion of the required equipment needed, whether the city owns this or one of the employees. Nothing definitive except street employees can handle this.

There will be a temporary blocking off of a street while the old bank building roof is removed and a new one installed. Jeff McGee advised this will be accomplished within a week.

A discussion of the existing speed limit around the courthouse and whether it should be lowered. Chief Smith stated the current speed limit is 25mph. Discussion to reduce to 15mph. No action taken.

\*Police Department Report

Chief Smith reported work has begun on the renovation of the police department. He anticipates completion by the end of April.

Requested the council approve a general maintenance amount (oil, tires, brakes, etc.) on unit vehicles. No credit card charges will be made, only purchase orders. A motion was made and seconded to allow up to \$1,000.00.

Commended the cooperation of county-wide fire departments, Brent/Centreville police, AmServ, BMC and Cahaba Medical. There were between 30-40 first responders.

Last week Officer Wells hit a deer on Montgomery Hwy, in a police vehicle, resulting \$6,600.00 estimate from Landmark who handles our repairs. Vehicles currently have front only bars. He is looking into putting wrap-around

bars on existing push-bumpers. Online costs per vehicle will be \$300.00 ea. He is getting a quote. Chief Smith is also obtaining a price on side-wings. The headlight alone cost \$1,049.00. This is a 2023 vehicle. No repairs are being made while costs are trying to be lowered and seeing what the insurance company results are.

Centreville Main Street Katie Cheslock passed out her quarterly report.

\*Uptown Multiuse/Historic District

Jeff McGee presented a proposal (no vote expected tonight) for the council and city attorney to review. This is an attempt to create an ordinance, based on current zoning, etc., that will provide for:

Loft Apartments

Restaurant(s) that may serve alcohol as stipulated in this proposal., etc. This proposal will not change current zoning but is requesting this be approved now rather than wait two-three years on the revised ordinances in process (paid for by funding from Alabama Main Street). We simply cannot afford to wait on something this far down the road. A business owner was to make this presentation (Seth Young) but due to a vehicle plowing into his Woodstock Drug Store he is there doing damage control. The city attorney agreed with the overview provided by Jeff but will view in detail and advise the council. This must come before the Zoning Board who will send forward.

Old Business – none

Council Comments

\*Diane Epperson stated that Great White Sanitation is asking neighborhood customers to consolidate their receptacles to decrease the number of stops their trucks make. Mayor Oakley said he will meet with the Brent Mayor and County Administrator to discuss this.

\*Brad Colburn stated there are complaints about dogs running free in the uptown area. They are overturning trash cans and chasing citizens. NOTE: Centreville Historic Preservation Commission matched a grant from the Extension Office and have new cans that are animal proof. These have been delivered and will be installed soon.

\*Linda Lawrence asked Mayor Oakley when the council can anticipate receipt of the audit. Mayor Oakley stated it would be available upon completion.

# Spruce Up Before the Lilies Bloom: West Blocton Cleanup Day Set for April 19

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

West Blocton, it's time to clean up our act — literally. With the Cahaba Lily Festival right around the corner, our town is about to step into the spotlight. Visitors from all over come to see our rare and beautiful lilies, but while they're here, they'll also be seeing us. Let's make sure what they see is a community that's clean, welcoming, and proud of where we live.

On Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, everyone is invited to join in for West Blocton Cleanup Day. Folks will be meeting right in front of Town Hall — look for the smiling people, the trash bags, and

probably someone turning litter-picking into a full-blown competition. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or just someone who hates seeing a gum wrapper in the wild, your efforts are more than welcome.

This isn't just a cleanup — it's a community celebration. Come ready to help out, laugh a little, and maybe win a prize or two. Yes, giveaways are being offered. Why? Because picking up garbage is more fun when you might walk away with something shiny (besides a soda can). There may even be an unofficial, highly prestigious "Fastest Trash Picker in Town" title up for grabs — but don't let it go to your head.

Lunch will be provided, so you won't be working on an empty stomach. Just make sure to RSVP so they know how many sandwiches to slap together. You can reach out to Holly Barnett at councildistrict3@townofwestblocton.org or Brandy Fancher at townclerk@townofwestblocton.org to let them know you're coming.

Everyone's welcome — kids, grandparents, the neighbor who's been meaning to get more involved. Let's come together to show just how much pride we take in our little corner of the world. West Blocton is a great place to live, and with a little teamwork, it'll shine even brighter for all to see.



# Fire at AmeriGas Facility Quickly Contained Thanks to Rapid Response

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

On Friday, March 28, at 2:28 p.m., the Centreville Volunteer Fire Department responded to a fire at the AmeriGas facility on Belcher Street. Brent Fire Department provided automatic aid, along with Brerfield Volunteer Fire & Rescue, West Blocton Fire & Rescue, and other county departments.

Upon arrival, crews found a large fire with multiple propane tank explosions on-site. Firefighters quickly assessed the situation, devised a plan, and worked together to contain the blaze. Thanks to their rapid response and coordination, the fire was brought

under control efficiently.

The state fire marshal's office is currently investigating the incident. Fortunately, no injuries were reported, and all employees safely evacuated.

We extend our appreciation to the Bibb County Emergency Management Agency, Centreville Police Department, Brent Police Department, Bibb County Sheriff's Department - Alabama, AmServ EMS, Alabama Power, BMC Wellness, and Bibb Medical Center for their assistance during the emergency.

Thankfully, the situation did not escalate further, and no one was harmed. Notably, prior to this event, all county depart-

ments conducted a walk-through, scene evaluation, and emergency planning exercise, which likely contributed to the successful response.

We are grateful for the teamwork and cooperation among all county agencies. Centreville Volunteer Fire Department, Brerfield Volunteer Fire & Rescue, West Blocton Fire & Rescue, AmServ EMS, Bibb County Emergency Management Agency, Bibb County E-911, Alabama Power, Bibb Medical Center, BMC Wellness, Brent Police Department, Centreville Police Department, Alabama Power, BMC Wellness, and Bibb Medical Center.

# RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY HONOR ROLL

A HONOR ROLL

Jakeelah Alexander, Erik Amador, Blaykelyn Bailey, Keaton Dowdell, Silas Gibson, Zayden Gillilan, Adley Gray, Emmi Gray, Trinity Griggs, Graham Gurley, Marley Handley, Wyatt Handley, Shelby Hedrick, Jude Johnson, Lucas Marchant, Colton Martin, Kase Mathis, Gianna Oliver, Adelade Reach, Elijah Scanlon, Carlie-Bell Simmons, Lynli Reese Simmons, Lauren Smith, Charli Bay Tapscott, Mia Tucker, Sara Elizabeth Turner, Hazel Williams, Sara Wilson

A/B HONOR ROLL

Brennan Adams, Damon Bailey, Maria Bassanezi, Luke Belcher, Grace-lynn Benton, Bodhi Bice, Emma Bracknell, Jessi-

ca Brown, Ella Burt, Judson Chavis, McKinleigh Cleckley, Kinsley Cummings, Levi Dailey, Justin Daniel, Piper Deerman, Chloe Epperson, Jian Foster, Siddalee Gibson, Oakleigh Harrison, Ollie Harrison, Owen Harrison, Kamdyn Hicks, Reignny Hill, Addalyn Hoggle, Isaac Hudgins, Cameron James, Charli Johnson, Weston Johnson,

Avery Jones, Hazel Jones, McKenzie King, Trinity King, Bowen Kirby, Brinley Latham, Charley Latham, Brayden Lawley, Charli Lawley, Aiden Lee, Kai Mathis, Kody McElroy, John Luke McMillan, Dalton McMillan, Brantley Nesbitt, Kimber-Ray Page, Wyatt Patterson, Aubree Pendley, Emerald

Peoples, Don Purdie, Michael Revolorio Saucedo, Wyatt Roop, Asher Scott, Ainsley Smith, Emily Smith, Natalie Smith, Zoey Smith, Chase Smitherman, Levi Sosa, Carley Stallings, Sawyer Thompson, Abrielle Trevino, Madi Tucker, Allen Whitfield

STAR STUDENTS

Travis Allen, Kane Cooper, John Epperson, Travis Fulgham, Jasmine Gonzalez, Reagan Kness, Mason Martin, Katie Jo Patterson, Savannah Smith, Mason Brasher, Oaklynn Fulgham, Stella Crouch, Lydia Dailey, Carolina Smitherman, Dawsyn Jackson, Tatum Wheat, Karson Banks, Wilder Drawhorn, Makynlie Allen, Ramses Pinion, Ali Garner, Jonathan Smitherman

# Raise a Cup for Autism: Support and Celebrate Neurodiversity

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

Throughout the month of April, community members have the chance to support neurodiversity through the "Raise a Cup for Autism" campaign. By making a \$5 (or more) donation to Arts 'n Autism, participants will receive their drink in a special Autism Awareness Tumbler.

This initiative not only helps raise funds for Arts

'n Autism but also promotes awareness and inclusion for those with autism. It's a meaningful way to show support while enjoying a favorite beverage.

Participating locations include:

Druid City Brewing Company  
Rhythm & Brews  
Mugshots Grill & Bar  
Innisfree Irish Pub  
Copper Top

ACA Award Company of America  
Rama Jama's  
The Standard  
Buffalo Phil's  
Twelve25  
Harry's Bar  
The Houndstooth

Don't miss the opportunity to make a difference this April by raising a cup for autism awareness. Your support helps foster a more inclusive and understanding community!



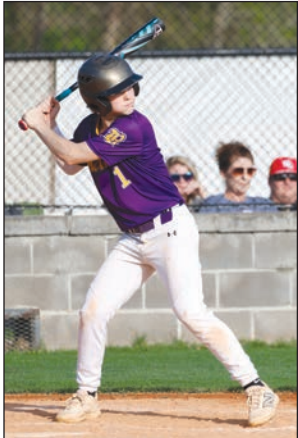
# BCHS GIRLS GOLF

PHOTOS BY BRIDGET STOKES



# CMS BASEBALL

PHOTOS BY BRIDGET STOKES



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# RELAY FOR LIFE PAGEANT

PHOTOS BY  
CENTREVILLE MY HOMETOWN





# WBHS BASEBALL

## West Blocton Tigers Baseball Team Takes a Trip to the Beach for Team Bonding and Growth

**By Sheila Cook**  
After a few challenging years marked by coaching changes and a lack of consistency, the West Blocton Tigers baseball team decided to hit the reset button in the best

way possible—by taking a trip to the beach. The team, which has faced difficulties in maintaining a steady direction, hoped this getaway would serve not just as a break, but as an opportunity for deeper

bonding and growth both on and off the field. For the Tigers, the past few seasons have been full of transitions. With multiple changes in the coaching staff, players have struggled to adapt and find

a rhythm. The uncertainty surrounding leadership has made it tough for the team to build lasting chemistry and to perform at their highest potential. However, with a new coach now at the helm, there's a

renewed sense of hope and excitement.

The decision to head to the beach came as part of the new coaching staff's strategy to bring the team closer together and instill a sense of unity. Rather than focusing solely on drills, this trip emphasized the importance of developing relationships and communication—both key components for success on the diamond.

While there, the Tigers spent their days relaxing on the sand, playing games, a little go cart racing, and engaging in team-building activities. These moments of camaraderie were more than just fun; they were essential in helping the players learn to trust each other and the coaches.

Off-the-field connections are often just as important as the ones made during practice, and this retreat helped reinforce the notion that baseball is as much about teamwork as it is about individual skill.

"The bond we're building

right now is going to be what carries us through the rough patches," said Coach Clements, the new head coach of the Tigers. "We've got a lot of potential, but we need to be on the same page. It's not just about hitting the ball well; it's about trusting the guy next to you."

As the trip concluded, the Tigers returned to West Blocton with a renewed sense of unity. They know there's still a lot of work to be done to restore the program, but the beach trip was a vital step in solidifying the foundation for success.

With a fresh perspective and a commitment to working together, the West Blocton Tigers are hopeful that the upcoming season and the future will be a turning point. If this trip to the beach proved anything, it's that when they play as a team, they can overcome even the toughest of challenges and bring back the joy of being on that field.





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- THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR EQUIPMENT RENTALS
- CARD ON FILE REQUIREMENT:** DURING CHECK IN, A CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD MUST BE PLACED ON FILE. THIS IS FOR SECURITY PURPOSES IN CASE ANY EQUIPMENT IS DAMAGED OR NOT RETURNED.

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