

Centreville Press

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LET US KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

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ARC Bibb County Programs “Open House” will be held Sunday, June 8th from 2pm-4pm at Brent Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Bibb County Chamber to Host 2025 Annual Golf Tournament

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

There's nothing like the sound of a solid tee shot echoing across a freshly cut fairway. The days are longer, the greens are smooth, and summer golf is here. Whether you've played for years or just started, now is the perfect time to get out on the course.

The Bibb County Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for its highly anticipated 2025 Annual Golf Tournament, scheduled for Friday, June 13, at Cahaba

Falls Country Club in Centreville, Alabama.

This year's event will feature an 18-hole, 3-person scramble format. Proceeds from the tournament will go toward advancing economic development efforts in Bibb County, with a key focus on enhancing the Chamber's website. The planned improvements aim to provide better communication on local projects and ongoing development initiatives.

“We've had a great response from sponsors and participants so far,” said

Brian Hilson, Executive Director of the Chamber. “Notable supporters this year include Rado Mechanical Group, Westervelt, Buffalo Rock, Stella-Jones, Lhoist, and Farm and Forest Brokers.”

Anyone interested in sponsoring or participating in the tournament can visit the Bibb County Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. Locate the tournament post and scan the QR code to reserve a spot—but don't wait too long, as spaces are filling quickly. Lunch will be provided.



THE HEART OF THE HALLWAY: THE ROLE OF A SCHOOL COUNSELOR WITH CONNIE JOHNSON

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

In every successful school, beyond the textbooks and tests, is a person quietly shaping futures—the school counselor. Often the first to notice when a student is struggling and the last to celebrate their quiet victories, school counselors are the heartbeat of student well-being.

A counselor wears many hats: advocate, listener, mentor, and guide. They help students navigate academic challenges, social pressures, and emotional struggles. Whether it's helping a child cope with anxiety, guiding a teen through college applications, or mediating peer conflict, the counselor's door is always open—and that open door can make all the difference.

Their work is more than just responding to problems. School counselors help build a foundation for lifelong success by teaching coping skills, encouraging self-reflection, and fostering resilience. They champion every child, no matter their background or ability.

In a world where students face increasing pressures, having a trusted adult who listens without judgment and believes in their

potential is a powerful thing. That's the quiet, steady magic of a school counselor—helping students find their way, one conversation at a time.

“I had the privilege of interviewing Brent Elementary School counselor Connie Johnson. Let's take a moment to read and get to know her better.”

Connie, tell us about yourself. Hello! My name is Connie Johnson, and I am proud to serve as the School Counselor at Brent Elementary School. I have had the joy and privilege of working in the Bibb County area for over 20 years, dedicating my career to supporting and guiding our wonderful students. It is truly an honor to walk alongside them in their educational and personal journeys.

Do you have any pets? I don't have any pets—turns out I'm allergic to most of them! (But I still enjoy admiring them from afar.)

What's the most unexpectedly funny thing a student has ever said during a counseling session? As a school counselor, I'm always mindful of confidentiality and the sacred trust between students and myself. While I can't share what happens in sessions, I do want to share a lightheart-

ed and touching moment that occurred outside of the counseling setting.

One day, I was greeting a dear friend and substitute teacher, Mrs. Amanda Watkins, with a warm hug. A nearby student, observing our interaction, looked at us with genuine curiosity and innocence and said, “Y'all are hugging and she's chocolate (me), and you're vanilla (Amanda)!”

We hadn't thought about it that way before, but it made us smile. From that day forward, Amanda and I have affectionately called each other “my chocolate and vanilla friend.”

See Community Connect on page 2



Kayaker Self-Rescues After Capsizing in Cahaba River

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE
REPORTER

In the nighttime hours of Monday, June 2, 2025, a kayaker capsized in the Cahaba River near Brierfield, Alabama, within Bibb County. Despite the incident, the kayaker managed to self-rescue and was safely reunited with his family, thanks to the coordinated efforts of local emergency services.

The Bibb County Sheriff's Office requested mutual aid after receiving a report of a capsized kayak with a person in the water. Rescue units R200, R205,

and E202 from Brierfield Volunteer Fire & Rescue, comprising seven personnel, responded promptly to the scene.

Upon arrival, responders determined that the kayaker had already self-rescued and was located in a secluded section of woods. Utilizing updated cell phone coordinates provided by Bibb County E911, a Bibb deputy and a Brierfield paramedic quickly located the kayaker. He was then transported to a nearby staging area where he was reunited with his family.

Officials noted that the kayaker's preparedness

and ability to remain calm under pressure significantly contributed to the positive outcome. Authorities extended special thanks to the Bibb County Sheriff's Office, Bibb County E911, and Woodstock Police Department for their assistance in the rescue operation.

This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of safety and preparedness when engaging in water activities. The collaborative efforts of local emergency services ensured a successful rescue and a safe reunion for the kayaker and his family.

PRESCRIBED BURN SCHEDULED AT AMERIGAS FACILITY JUNE 10TH
Brent & Centreville Volunteer Fire Departments announced that the AmeriGas facility located on Belcher Street near Bibb Medical Center in Centreville will be conducting a prescribed burn on Tuesday, June 10, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and may continue for a few days during the day light hours. The team overseeing the burn is trained and equipped to ensure that it is carried out safely and effectively. Please be advised that residents and commuters in the area may notice smoke in the vicinity during the morning hours. However, officials have stated that the fire will be fully contained within the designated burn area and pose no threat to nearby structures or the public.

JUNE Community Calendar

June 7th- Join us Saturday June 7th at 6pm for the 1st Saturday Night Singing at Cedar Grove Church 30 Cedar Grove Rd West Blocton. Singers will be Russell Magni from Legacy Gospel and friends with more from off the floor.

June 12th-13th – ForestHER Workshop at Minooka Park, Jemison, AL 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. contact Lynn Dickinson for info at 334-303-8360.

June 17th- The Bibb County Democratic executive meeting is meeting June 17, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Sawmeal Restaurant. Marsha Sturdevant will be our guest speaker, chair of the Shelby County Democratic executive committee.

June 20th-21st – Griffin Farms Rodeo Gates open at 6:00. Rodeo at 8:00 p.m.

June 23 – 25 - 4-H Community Clubs 2025 Summer Camp (ages 9-13)

June 27th: Brierfield Ironworks' FIRST EVER Movie Night! This is a FREE event. We will have food trucks available. Movie will be outdoors, so bring your lawn chairs! Movie starts at 7pm.

July 12th – Celebration on the Green

July 25th: Brierfield Ironworks' Movie Night! This is a FREE event! There will be food trucks available. Movie will be outdoors, so bring your lawn chairs! Movie starts at 7pm.

August 22nd: Brierfield Ironworks Movie Night! This is a FREE event. There will be food trucks available. Movie will be outdoors, so bring your lawn chairs! Movie starts at 7pm.

September 5th: Brierfield Ironworks Movie Night! This is a FREE event. There will be food trucks available. Movie will be outdoors, so bring your lawn chairs! Movie starts at 7pm.

Honoring Officer Chris Crocker: Over 20 Years of Dedicated Service

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

For more than two decades, Officer Chris Crocker has been a steadfast figure in law enforcement, dedicating his life to the safety and well-being of the community he serves. With over 20 years of experience under his belt, Officer Crocker has built a career defined by integrity, commitment, and courage.

From his first day on the force, Officer Crocker has shown unwavering dedication to upholding the law and protecting citizens. Whether responding to emergencies, patrolling neighborhoods, or mentoring younger officers, his calm presence and professionalism have made a lasting impact.

In an era when trust in law enforcement is more important than ever, Officer Crocker has remained

a shining example of what it means to serve with honor. His legacy includes not only the cases he's solved and the lives he's helped save, but also the countless individuals he's influenced through his kindness and mentorship.

As he marks over 20

years of service, the community expresses heartfelt gratitude to Officer Chris Crocker for his enduring commitment and the positive difference he continues to make every day.

Thank you, Officer Crocker, for your service and dedication.



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NEWS

Kicks, Goals, and Glory: Spring Soccer Championship Fun!

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

The 2025 Spring Soccer Championship Games were amazing! Each year, the players bring more heart and hustle—it’s so much fun to watch the competition grow! A big shoutout to our champions: **6U** – NY Red Bull - **9U** – NYC FC - **14U** – Orndorff

“This past soccer season was our most exciting

yet! The competition was fierce, and the energy was off the charts. Both the 6U and 9U division championships went into double overtime — talk about edge-of-your-seat! It’s clear we’re not just playing soccer; we’re building skilled, passionate players across every age group. This summer, we’re thrilled to welcome UK International Soccer for an incredible camp experience. It’s a great chance

for players to sharpen their skills, make new friends, and learn about other cultures!” says Katie Crumpler.

Soccer Camp will take place this summer from July 7–11, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. If your child is interested in soccer, this is a great opportunity to get started! Register online at <https://www.bmcwellness.com/summercamps>.

(pictures by Katie Crumpler)



Community Connect
from page 1

If only more people saw the world through the eyes of a child, unfiltered, sincere, and full of wonder. It’s a sweet reminder of the beauty in diversity and the joy of human connection.

If you could invent a course every high school student must take, what would it be? If I had the opportunity to create a high school course, it would be titled How to Be a Friend. In today’s world, where social dynamics can often be complicated by peer pressure, technology, and emotional struggles, students need a space to learn and practice the fundamentals of human connection.

What’s one thing you wish all parents understood about teenagers today? One of the most important things I wish parents and guardians understood about teenagers today is this: even the most well-behaved, respectful, and loved child has the capacity to be untruthful—especially when they feel scared, ashamed, or threatened. My goal isn’t to accuse, but to bridge understanding. When we approach these moments with calm, empathy, and accountability rather than denial, we not only help teenagers grow—we keep the lines of trust and communication open between them and the adults who love them most.

What’s your go-to pep talk line when a student is feeling discouraged? I may not have a go-to pep talk line, but I do remind all of my students that they are “Beautiful Angels.” I truly believe in the power of positivity and the strength that lies within each child. Every day, I encourage them with this simple truth: We have the power to make any day a good day “on purpose” if we choose to focus and approach whatever we’re facing with the right attitude. It’s not about pretending everything is perfect but about realizing that our mindset matters. A good day often starts with a good perspective.

If your office had a theme song every time a student walked in, what would it be? Each morning, I greet my students with more than just a smile. I greet them with music, dance, and joy! As they walk into school, the atmosphere is filled with upbeat songs and movement, and yes. I take requests!

Two of their favorite songs are “Church Clap” and “Your Way’s Better.” Both songs carry powerful, faith-filled lyrics, and what amazes me most is that my students

don’t just love the beat, they know the words.

It’s a beautiful reminder that music connects us, inspires us, and uplifts us. Starting the day, this way helps set the tone for learning and reminds every child that school is a place where they are seen, celebrated, and spiritually encouraged.

What’s the best piece of advice your daughters have ever given you? My daughters are truly my lifeline. They encourage me every single day to keep reaching for my goals even when the journey feels long or challenging. In fact, they were the ones who gave me the final push to begin my Doctoral Program, and I couldn’t be more grateful.

Their belief in me, along with the unwavering support of my loving husband, gives me the strength to keep going, growing, and striving for more.

I love them deeply, and I thank God every day for the gift of a family that uplifts me with love, faith, and encouragement.

If your daughters were giving you a “Mom Report Card” what would you ace and where might you need “extra credit?” If you asked my daughters for a little feedback, they’d probably say I need to relax more and not be so uptight. (Yes, I’ve heard it more than once!) And without a doubt, they’d also tell you I desperately need improvement on my dance moves!

What’s our favorite mother-daughter tradition or ritual? Some of my favorite times are when my daughters and I have a chance to slow down, take time off, and simply enjoy each other’s company shopping, eating, and laughing together.

One tradition that means so much to me is how they never let my birthday pass quietly. Whether I want to or not, they make me celebrate, and I love them for it. It’s our special mother-daughter’s tradition, and it reminds me just how blessed I am to have daughters who go out of their way to make me feel seen, loved, and celebrated.

These are the moments I treasure the most.

When your daughters started driving or dating, what was your secret survival strategy? I made sure that they were prepared and I prayed a lot! Life360 comes in handy as well!

Which TV or movie Mom do you think you’re most like and which would your daughter’s say? I think that I am Olivia Benson from Law and Order because I am always ready to protect my family!

My girls would say that I am Athena Grant who is also a protector of her family, and both are in law enforcements, and I am definitely an advocate for my students as well.

How often do your daughters come to you with questions that sound just like your students? None, that I can think of! Lol. Our daughter’s have always been miniature adults, so they don’t have any of the students’ questions.

Do you ever find yourself using your “school counselor voice” at home? Yes, I do! Especially when I feel I am being ignored concerning instructions, so I say, 1, 2, 3, “all eyes on me!” They just laugh!

What’s one thing being a school counselor has taught you about raising teenage girls? Being a school counselor or has taught me that when it comes to raising teenage girls, listening without judgment is everything.

I’ve learned that teenagers, mine included don’t always need immediate solutions. Sometimes they just need a safe space to be heard, to feel understood, and to know that their emotions are valid, even if we don’t always agree.

Working with students every day has also helped me realize that behind every behavior, there’s a reason. Most of all, I’ve learned that grace goes a long way for them and for us as parents! No one has all the answers, but love, patience, and presence speak louder than perfection ever could.

Do your daughters ask for advice or tell you to take a break from being “on duty?” They will ask for advice, but they will also let me know that they think they can handle a situation, and I have to trust that what I have taught them will assist them in whatever challenge they may be facing.

If you wrote a book about what your job and motherhood have taught you, what would the title be? Interesting, but I think it would be, “SEE, I TOLD YOU, YOU GOT THIS!”

“A big thank you to Connie for taking the time to answer our questions—Brent Elementary School is lucky to have such an amazing counselor!”

“Exploring your community allows you to uncover its hidden gems and forge meaningful connections with your neighbors.” Thank you again, Connie Johnson, for taking the time to answer our questions so that we may get to know you and your family on a more personal level.”

Alabama Audubon to Host 5th Annual Black Belt Birding Festival

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

The 5th Annual Black Belt Birding Festival, hosted by Alabama Audubon, is set for August 1–3, 2025, celebrating the rich birdlife, culture, and history of Alabama’s Black Belt region.

This popular event combines birdwatching with ecotourism and community storytelling in one of the country’s most ecologically and historically significant areas.

This festival has grown tremendously, and you won’t find a better place to see Wood Storks, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and Swallow-tailed Kites—all while learning about the region’s deep civil rights history, per Dr. Scot Duncan, Executive Director of Alabama Audubon.

The festival kicks off Friday, August 1 at 5 p.m. with a free community party at Project Horseshoe Farm in Greensboro, AL. featuring live music by singer-songwriter Rachel Edwards and jazz guitarist John Holaway.

Saturday and Sunday are packed with guided birding trips across five counties—Dallas, Hale, Perry, Marengo, and Sumter—including a trek to the 100-foot birding tower at Perry Lakes Park and a beginner’s bird walk in Selma, led by Terry Chestnut, Jr., son of Alabama’s first Black lawyer, J.L. Chestnut, Jr.

A highlight of the weekend is the visit to The Joe Farm, a fourth-generation Black-owned ranch known for its spectacular bird sightings—where Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites

swoop through the air behind a working tractor. The farm has been featured on National Geographic and the BBC.

Sunday’s events will continue with birding at Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, a canoe trip on Perry Lakes with the Cahaba River Society, and tours of campsites used during the historic Selma to Montgomery March.

This year’s keynote speaker is author and filmmaker Dudley Edmonson. His talk, The

Browning of Birding, will focus on representation, conservation, and the importance of diversity in outdoor recreation. Edmonson will draw from his book, *People the Planet Needs Now*, sharing stories from Black and Brown scientists and environmental leaders.

In addition to birding, the festival includes an arts exhibit and local market hosted by textile artist Aaron Sanders Head at Sumac Cottage in Greensboro.



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LIFESTYLE/COMMUNITY



Fruits of the Spirit: A Life Rooted in Christ

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE
CP STAFF

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

A tree is known by the fruit it bears. In the same way, the life of a believer is recognized not just by words or outward appearance, but by the evidence of the Holy Spirit working within. Paul’s letter to the Galatians outlines this evidence as the “fruit of the Spirit” — a single fruit with nine distinct flavors that together reflect the character of Christ.

Love: The foundation of all the fruits. This isn’t merely affection or attraction — it’s agape, selfless, sacrificial love. It is the kind of love God shows us daily, and the love He calls us to extend to others, even when it’s difficult.

Joy: True joy is not dependent on circumstances. It is the deep,

abiding gladness found in Christ — the assurance that God is in control, that His grace is sufficient, and that His promises are trustworthy.

Peace: Peace is not the absence of chaos but the presence of Christ. It’s the calm assurance that comes from trusting God with every detail of our lives, even in the storm.

Forbearance (Patience): In a world that demands instant results, patience is a radical act of faith. It teaches us to wait on God’s timing and to show grace to others, knowing we are all works in progress.

Kindness: Kindness is love in action — simple, everyday acts of compassion, generosity, and encouragement. It is a gentle strength that reflects the heart of our Savior.

Goodness: Goodness goes beyond being nice. It is moral integrity, a heart that seeks what is right in God’s eyes, and a life that actively resists evil.

Faithfulness: To be faithful is to be reliable, trustworthy, and steadfast. This fruit calls us

to be consistent in our walk with God and loyal in our relationships with others.

Gentleness: Gentleness is not weakness, but strength under control. It reflects humility and a willingness to yield to the Spirit rather than assert our own will.

Self-Control: The final fruit ties them all together. Self-control is the ability to say “no” to our flesh and “yes” to God. It’s the daily discipline of surrendering our desires to the Spirit.

These fruits are not developed by our own effort alone. They grow as we remain connected to Christ, the true Vine (John 15:5). The more we yield to the Holy Spirit, the more these qualities blossom in our lives — shaping our relationships, transforming our character, and glorifying God. Let this be a daily reminder: The fruit of the Spirit is not something we achieve, but something we receive — through abiding, trusting, and surrendering to the One who lives within us.

Aisle Grace: Living Out Love in Life’s Everyday Spaces

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

Let’s be real—this kind of thing shouldn’t bother me as much as it does, but sometimes my patience gets tested in the aisles of Walmart. There I am, just minding my business, when someone comes barreling down the aisle like they own every inch of it. Their buggy is smack in the middle, and I’m left thinking, really? Is this how you drive on the highway too?

So, trying to be the kind and courteous person Jesus calls me to be, I stop. I wait. I give grace. Maybe they’ll notice and scoot over. But nope—they see me. They just don’t care.

Now, I wasn’t raised that way, and I didn’t raise my kids that way either. Some of us were taught to treat others the way we want to be treated—yes, even in the grocery store. It’s about more than manners. It’s about living out the fruit of the Spirit—kindness, gentleness, patience—in everyday places like aisles and parking lots.

Life is full of unspoken rules—little acts of consideration that make life smoother for everyone. And as followers of Christ, we’re called to do even better. We’re called to love our neighbor, whether we’re in church or in checkout line six.

So scroll through this

list of unwritten rules. They might make you nod, laugh, or even say “ouch” under your breath. But maybe they’ll also remind us all to show up with more love—even in the buggy battles of Walmart.

Unwritten Rules (that show a little love and a lot of grace):

If you’re walking in a group and someone is coming toward you, make room. Step aside and be the kind of person who considers others first.

Don’t stand in the doorway—literally or metaphorically. Make space for people to come and go with ease.

Don’t Park your buggy in the middle of the aisle like it’s your personal driveway.

Keep your videos (and opinions) quiet in public. Headphones—and humility—go a long way.

Treat walkways like roads: stay right, don’t block the way, and be mindful of those around you.

Don’t make fun of someone’s smile or laugh. God made them that way, and joy is a gift. Don’t steal it.

Always wash your hands—cleanliness is next to godliness, right?

If someone’s wearing headphones, they’re probably not up for a chat. Respect that.

Put your buggy where it belongs. A little effort goes

a long way.

In relationships, aim to leave people better than you found them—build up, don’t tear down.

Base your opinions on truth, not just emotion. Seek wisdom.

If you’re spending time with someone, give them your attention. Be present.

If you’ve borrowed something three times, it’s probably time to invest in your own.

Respect people’s space—it’s a form of love too.

Let others off the elevator before you hop on. Honor goes first.

On a bus or train, don’t plop down next to someone if other seats are free. Give people breathing room.

Don’t embarrass someone who’s quiet. Not everyone needs to fill the silence.

And above all—**be kind**. Jesus didn’t say “Be right” or “Be first.” He said, “Love one another.”

These are just a few simple things we can work on. Now more than ever, we need to show kindness and grace to one another. The world is already full of so much hurt and darkness—we see it and hear it every day. But as believers, we’re called to be a light. Let’s lift each other up in love and pray earnestly for a world that reflects more of God’s peace, mercy, and goodness. Prayer truly changes things!

West Eoline News

From The Pen Of Jane Hannah

Linda Burke, Jane Hannah, Diana Dailey & Ruth Deason enjoyed dinner at Juan’s on Thursday last week. As always we loved seeing Danny.... Jo Kitchen joined us Friday night for shrimp cocktail and an evening playing Rummikub. Jo Hinson & Giada Colbeck arrived Saturday from Iowa and Talma Clark & Sonya O’Neal from the Chattanooga area. We were joined by local cousins Peggy Marchant, Janice Deason, Karen Sewell, Louise Thomas for a dinner of El Gonzo and fellowship. ... Sunday we all joined other family & cousins... Joseph & Valon Marchant Family, Bobby & Gary Creel, George Marchant, Mark Creel, Jan Little, Wayne Deason Jera & Alan Fortner, Donna Glidewell, Deb Jacks, Ricky Creel, Kelly McPherson & sons, Cindy & Delainey Garner, John Garner & Alexis, Brian & Heather Creel. ... Sunday afternoon card games were played by Ruth Deason, Jo Kitchen, Linda Burke, Jo Hinson & Diana

Dailey while Jane Hannah rested. On Monday Jo & Jane received chiropractic care and then we recuperated from kitchen work and ate out in Tuscaloosa before more card playing.

A stomach virus kept Geneva Mullins and the Kinney family from attending the Creel Reunion.

Diana Dailey was thrilled to spend time with her grandson, Crews several times this week. He is a handsome “live wire”, and will soon be three years old.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Ruben Pate & Alayna Passeri June 6, Kara Hamilton & Emma Vessels 6-8, and Ronnie Cearlock 6-9.

The county road work crew scraped the edge of West Eoline Road last week and hopefully they will be back real soon to pick up the huge clumps.

Have a wonderful week and call or text 478-396-2513 to share your news.



Because He Lives

“Because He Lives” is one of the most beloved modern Christian hymns, written by the prolific husband-and-wife songwriting team Bill and Gloria Gaither. It was first released in 1971, and its message of hope and resurrection has made it a cornerstone of worship services, Easter celebrations, and personal encouragement for decades.

The hymn was written during a turbulent and uncertain time in American history — the late 1960s and early 1970s — when the world was dealing with the Vietnam War, social unrest, and deep cultural upheaval. Amid this national anxiety, the Gaithers were also going through personal challenges. Bill had been recovering from a bout of mononucleosis, and the couple was expecting their third child. During this period, Gloria was feeling overwhelmed by the chaos of the world, wondering what kind of future their baby would face. She later recalled sitting in a moment of deep fear and prayer when she was reminded of the resurrection of Jesus — the ultimate victory over fear, death, and despair. That reminder sparked a sense of peace and purpose in her heart, and the lyrics to “Because He Lives” began to take shape. The chorus, in particular, cap-

tured the profound hope that no matter what the world may bring, life is worth living because Jesus Christ lives.

The song’s simple but powerful lyrics are structured around key themes of Christian faith: Verse 1 speaks to the assurance of Christ’s resurrection. Verse 2 is a reflection on the birth of a child and the courage to face an uncertain future. Verse 3 points forward to the believer’s victory over death. The famous chorus sums it up:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

Since its release, “Because He Lives” has been recorded by countless

artists, translated into multiple languages, and sung in churches around the world. It continues to resonate with believers facing trials, reminding them of the foundational Christian truth: Jesus is alive, and that changes everything. In 2001, the song earned the Dove Award for Southern Gospel Recorded Song of the Year and remains one of the Gaithers’ most enduring contributions to Christian music. “Because He Lives” endures not because of poetic brilliance or musical complexity, but because of its unshakable message of hope. In every generation, believers need to be reminded that the resurrection is not just a historical event — it is a present and living reality that gives us courage for today and confidence for tomorrow.



Creel 1st cousins: Top row Ricky Creel, Diana Dailey, Gary Creel, Peggy Marchant, Bobby Creel, Jo Hinson, Jo Kitchen, Bottom - Janice Deason, Linda Burke, Talma Clark Wayne Deason, Mark Creel, Jane Hannah

Centreville News

From The Pen Of Brenda Hubbard

Friends will be interested to know that Margaret A. Latham of Foley passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Margaret was a former resident of the Centreville-Brent area and will be greatly missed.

Charlotte West joined Perry Party of five for Memorial Day activities. All enjoyed a cookout, delicious desserts with friends and in the afternoon a swim in the pool.

Visiting with Larry and Vickie Speights on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend were Jim and Laura Blumefeld, Liam and Lily. At this time they celebrated Lilys 6th birthday.

On Tuesday recently Larry and Vickie

Speights and daughters Laura and Stacie celebrated their parents wedding anniversary at Wasabi Japanese Cuisine.

Birthday wishes go out to several that have a birthday in June, Hazel Crowe, Larry Caffee, Clara Williams, Bruce Grant and Nancy Newman. Happy Birthday!

A speedy recovery goes out to Johnnie Tidwell who fell and has been in rehab, Get well wishes and prayers go out to Jason Corley who is now at home. Please keep this family in your prayers daily.

If you have news call it in at 205-316-1181.

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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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190 Tabernacle Rd.
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West Blocton, AL
513-254-8241

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Ricky Lynn Hubbard

Ricky Lynn Hubbard, age 66, a lifelong resident of Bibb County, Al passed peacefully at home with his wife, son and daughter by his side on April 28, 2025. Ricky was a beloved husband, devoted father, and cherished member of his community. Visitation will be held Monday May 5, 2025 at Magnolia Chapel Funeral Home from 12-2pm. A graveside service for family and friends will be held on Monday May 5 at 4pm on the Hubbard Farm in Bibb County, Al. The wishes of the family are that anyone wanting to share a memory will please do so at the graveside service. The family plans for a future flower garden nearby if you would like to bring a flower or seed that day to be added.

Pallbearers will be Glenn Peak, Tim Armstrong, Eddie Johnston, Randy Brown, Sherwood McMillan & Mike McCary. Honorary Pallbearers are BCHS Class of 1976, Bibb County Commissioners from years 2004-2020, Lewis & Faye Manderson Cancer Center Nurses & Dr's, and all past ball players that were coached under Ricky Hubbard & sponsored by Hubbard Electric Company.

A respected electrician and small business owner for 40+ years by trade;

Ricky was also a passionate public servant and served the citizens of Bibb County as a commissioner for 16 years. Ricky was known for always advocating for his community and believing in the power of doing what was right. Leaders in the community have been quoted as saying, "Commissioner Hubbard worked tirelessly for Bibb County and fought hard for Economic Development. Bibb County is a better place because of his service". And that "Commissioner Hubbard always worked to benefit the county verses what benefited himself". Ricky was not just a leader but also a true friend to those around him; earning the respect and admiration of everyone he encountered. Commissioner Hubbard also held leadership positions on the West Alabama Regional Commission and the Alabama Association of County Commissions.

Those that truly knew Ricky knew that his "rule book style" of voting started way before his commission years. Many young men, fellow ball coaches, and umpires remembered him as the Coach who always had a copy of the rule book in his back pocket.... even if it was just a T-ball game. Instilling the lesson early in life to his players and his children to always stand for what you believe in....even when you are left standing alone. One of his favorite sayings to his children was "you have got to stand for something or you will fall for anything".

Ricky was a farmer; there was never a day to pass that you wouldn't find him out on the land. He was known and respected at cattle barns in surrounding areas. He

showed commitment not only to his land but to the values of honesty and perseverance. Ricky built a life rooted in hard work and started with nothing but piece by piece put together what could easily be described as a little piece of paradise; Ricky referred to it as God's Country.

Ricky faced his cancer diagnosis with incredible strength & courage. He touched the lives of so many over his fight and lived out the lyrics of his favorite Elvis Presley song.... "My friend, I'll say it clear. I'll state my case of which I'm certain. I've lived a life that's full. I've traveled each and every highway. And more, much more than this - I did it my way. Regrets, I've had a few- But then again, too few to mention- I did what I had to do- And saw it through without exemption. I've loved, I've laughed and cried- I've had my fill, my share of losing. And now as tears subside I find it all so amusing to think I did all that and not in a shy way. Oh, no, no not me....I did it my way". Known as "Trouble" to his favorite infusion nurses, he truly always did it his way.

Ricky is survived by his wife of 46 years, his "baby", Karen Hubbard; his daughter and "favorite" son in law- Lindsay & David Stallings; his son, Chris Hubbard; sisters; Brenda Johnston (Willie Frank), Ada Jane Spinks (Jody), and Kay Morse (Chuck). Along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents, Burl Washington Hubbard and R.T. Hubbard Moore, his step father Victor Moore and his brothers Robert Cary Hubbard and Alan Burl Hubbard.

**Arlas Armster
Caffee Jr.**

October 21, 1929 – May 30, 2025

Arlas Armster Caffee Jr., age 95, of West Blocton, Alabama passed away on Friday, May 30, 2025. He was born on October 21, 1929; the son of the late Arlas Caffee Sr. and the late Elsie Lee Medders Caffee.

Arlas was a God fearing simple man that had a gentle soul.

He is survived by: Wife, Helen Ann Caffee; Son, Edward LaVaughn Caffee

(Kaye); Daughter, Nona Faulkner (Jeff); Son, Adam Caffee; daughter in-law, Merina Caffee; Grandson, Jason Caffee; Grandson, Brandon Caffee; Grandson, Chase Caffee; Grandson, Eric Dunkin; Grandson, Ayden Caffee; Grandson, Avery Caffee; Great Granddaughter, Aleigha Caffee; Great Granddaughters, Tamara and Tessa Caffee; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by: First wife, Flora Kimble; Parents, Arlas Caffee

Sr. and Elsie Caffee; Son, Arlas Stanley Caffee; Grandson, Taylor Blake Caffee; Half Brother, Aylette Lewis; and Granddaughter, Shayla Ballenger.

Honoray pallbearers will be Ayden Caffee and Avery Caffee.

A visitation will be held Wednesday June 4, 2025 from 1:30p - 2:00pm at Ada Chapel in West Blocton with a funeral service beginning at 2pm. Burial will follow at the adjoining cemetery.

Plain & Simple
"Slow down and enjoy the simple pleasures in life"
By: Sheila Duncan

Sunday Supper Fried Chicken & Buttermilk Biscuits with Cream Gravy

Ingredients
For the Chicken:
8 bone-in chicken pieces (legs, thighs, etc.)
2 cups buttermilk
2 tsp hot sauce (for that little kick!)

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tbsp seasoned salt
1 tsp paprika
1 tsp black pepper
1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
Vegetable oil (for frying)

For the Biscuits:
2 cups self-rising flour
1/2 cup cold unsalted butter (cubed)
3/4 cup cold buttermilk
Melted butter (for brushing)

For the Cream Gravy:
2 tbsp pan drippings or butter
2 tbsp all-purpose flour

1 1/2 cups whole milk
Salt & black pepper (plenty!)

1. Marinate the Chicken:
Combine buttermilk and hot sauce in a bowl. Add chicken and refrigerate at least 4 hours (overnight is best).

2. Dredge & Fry:
Mix flour and seasonings in a separate bowl. Remove chicken from marinade and dredge each piece well. Let rest on a rack 10 minutes before frying. Heat oil to 350°F in a cast-iron skillet and fry chicken in batches until golden brown and cooked through (15–18 minutes). Drain on a rack.

3. Bake the Biscuits:
Preheat oven to 450°F. Cut butter into self-rising flour until crumbly. Stir in buttermilk just until combined. Roll out gently, fold over once or twice for layers, and cut out biscuits. Bake 12–14 minutes until golden. Brush with melted butter when they come out.

4. Make the Gravy:
Pour off most oil from skillet, leaving 2 tbsp. Add flour and whisk over medium heat until bubbly and just golden. Whisk in milk slowly. Cook until thickened. Add salt and lots of black pepper.

To Serve
Split a hot biscuit, place a piece of fried chicken on top, and ladle on that creamy gravy. Serve with love, sweet tea, and maybe a slice of peach cobbler for good measure.

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PROBATE NOTICE

**Legal Notice
Probate Office of Bibb County
Case Number 2025-PC033
Estate of Roy Glen Pratt Jr.**

Letters of administration of said deceased having been granted to Lori Boynton, as Personal Representative on the 21st day of May, 2025, by the Honor-

able 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.

Centreville Press
May 30, June 6 & 13, 2025

**In the Probate Court of
Bibb County, Alabama
In Re: The estate of
Betty Lou Shoults
Deceased
Case No. 2025PC034
Notice to Creditors**

Take notice that Letters Testamentary have been granted to Michael K. Shoults, as Executor of the estate of Betty Lou Shoults, deceased on the 21st day of May 2025.

Notice is hereby giv-

en that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Richard M. Kemmer, Jr. P.C.
Attorney for the Executor
PO Box 282
1124 Walnut St.
Centreville, AL 35042
Centreville Press
May 30, June 6 & 13, 2025

SOLICITATION OF BIDS

**SOLICITATION OF
BIDS FOR RECRE-
ATIONAL USE LIMITED
LICENSES
THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA**

The University of Alabama is soliciting bids for the recreational use limited license on selected tracts of land located in Bibb, Fayette, Jefferson, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, and Walker Counties in Alabama. Offers for the Recreational Use Licenses must be submitted by sealed bids which will be publicly opened and read aloud at 1:00 pm (CDT) on June 24, 2025, at the Office of University of Lands and Real Estate Services, 1115 14th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. All bids must be received in the Office of University Lands and Real Estate Services, prior to the bid opening time, to be considered. Recreational Use Licenses include hunting, horseback riding, hiking, camping, mountain biking, etc.

All information on this year's tracts can be found online at the following address: <https://universitylands.ua.edu/bids/> or you may contact the Office of University Lands and Real Estate Services at (205) 348-3510.

Only bids which are submitted on the bid form prepared by the Office of University Lands and Real Estate Services will be considered. Bidders submitting bids on more than (1) one tract should print all pages of the bid form and submit a separate bid for each tract. If a bid is mailed, the bid should be posted in sufficient time to ensure its receipt prior to the bid submission deadline of 1:00 pm (CDT), June 24, 2025. The mailing address for bid submission is The University of Alabama, Attn: Office of Uni-

versity Lands and Real Estate Services, Box 870176, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0176. Mailed bids should be marked "Recreational Bid 06-24-2025 – with the County and Tract you are bidding on in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope for bid security. Bid forms can be emailed to the following email address: bmfox@ua.edu but must be received by the deadline of 1:00 pm (CDT), June 24, 2025.

Successful bidders will be required to carry comprehensive general liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and \$1,000,000 per occurrence for property damage. Each bidder will be required to add the University as an additional named insured on all insurance policies. The certificate of insurance will be required upon the execution of the agreement.

Term of the recreational use license will be one (1) year and with the University's consent renewable for nine (9) renewal terms of one (1) year each. The annual fee will be due upon signing the agreement, with a 20% deposit due within five (5) business days of Acceptance of the winning bid. The annual fee for each renewal term will increase by two-and-one-half percent (2½%) above the prior year's fee, each subsequent year of renewal.

Minimum bid per acre is \$5.00. Bids below this figure will be rejected. The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities. Sub-leasing by the high bidders to another individual will not be allowed.

Centreville Press
May 30, June 6, 13 & 20, 2025

**Notice of Mortgage
Foreclosure Sale
State of Alabama,
County of Bibb**

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Patricia Bonds, originally in favor of One Reverse Mortgage, LLC, on September 14, 2010, said mortgage recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Bibb County, Alabama, in Mortgage Book 249, Page 314; the undersigned Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Owner Trustee for Onity Loan Acquisition Trust 2024-HB2, as Mortgagee/Transferee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse at Bibb County, Alabama, on July 8, 2025, during the legal hours of sale, all of its rights, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Bibb County, Ala-

bama, to-wit:

Land situated in the County of Bibb in the State of AL:

Lot Number 14, South Forty, a residential subdivision situated in the Northeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter and Southeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter, Section 23, Township 21 South, Range 6 West, Bibb County, Alabama, a map or plat of said subdivision being recorded in Map Book 2, Page 120 in the Probate Office of Bibb County, Alabama.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as: 250 S Forty Loop, Woodstock, AL 35188.

THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS, WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED AS TO TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERETO.

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.

The successful bidder must tender a non-refundable deposit of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) in certified funds made payable to Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC at the time and place of the sale. The balance of the purchase price plus any deed recording costs and transfer taxes must be overnighted in certified funds to the Law Office of Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC at 339 Heyward Street, 2nd floor, Columbia, SC 29201. Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due.

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of fore-

closure. The Mortgagee/Transferee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate.

This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

If the sale is set aside, the Purchaser may be entitled to only a return of any tendered purchase funds less any applicable fees and costs and shall have no other recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney.

THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC. 2100 Southbridge Pkwy, Suite 650, Homewood, AL, 35209. www.bellcarrington.com. File Number: 25-41589.

Centreville Press
June 6, 13, 20 & 13, 2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**TOWN OF WOOD-
STOCK PUBLIC
NOTICE ADVERTISE-
MENT FOR BIDS
MUNICIPAL ROAD
PAVING PROJECT #3**

Sealed bids for the "Municipal Road Paving Project #3" will be received by the Town of Woodstock at Woodstock Town Hall, located at 28513 Highway 5, Woodstock, Alabama 35188, until 5:00 P.M. CST on Monday, July 7, 2025, and then publicly opened and read aloud in Council chambers, Woodstock Town Hall, at 5:00 P.M. Bids received either by hand delivery or mail after the specified date and time will not be considered.

A mandatory site visit is required to bid on the project. Contact the Building Inspector (205) 331-2448; (inspector@townofwoodstockal.com) to schedule the site visit.

Bids should be returned in a sealed envelope clearly labeled, "Municipal Road Paving Project #3", Town of Woodstock, Alabama, and return addressed to: Town Clerk
Town of Woodstock
28513 Highway 5
Woodstock, AL 35188
Municipal Road Paving

The project consists of furnishing all labor, tools, materials, and

equipment for milling, paving, road repairs, and resurfacing a portion of one (1) residential street within the Town of Woodstock: Shamblin Woods Road Inspection of the site prior to submitting the bid is mandatory.

All bids must be on bid forms provided in the Specifications and submitted in their entirety. A certified check or bond payable to the Town of Woodstock for not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount, not to exceed

\$10,000.00, must accompany each proposal. Workmen's Compensation, Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance, Performance, Labor and Material Bonds & Town of Woodstock Business License will be required.

Bid documents may be examined at the Office of Building Inspector, Woodstock Town Hall, located at 28513 Highway 5, Woodstock, Alabama 35188, phone number (205) 331-2448; inspector@townofwoodstockal.com.

No bids will be considered unless the bidder, whether resident or non-resident of Alabama, is properly qualified to submit a bid for this construction in accordance with all applicable laws of the State of Alabama.

This shall include evidence of holding a current license from the State Licensing Board for General Contractors, Montgomery, Alabama, as required by Chapter 8 of Title 34, of the Code of Alabama, 1975. In addition, non-residents of the State, if a corporation, shall show evidence of having qualified with the Secretary of State to do business in the State of Alabama. Each bidder must be prequalified with the Alabama Department of Transportation and shall be responsible for knowledge of and compliance with the Alabama Public Works Bid Law, Alabama Code Section 39-1-1, et seq. Bids will be received from experienced contractors who have successfully com-

pleted projects of similar scope.

In addition, bids shall be clearly identified on the exterior of the package with the bidder's name, address, the name of the project being bid, and time and place of the bid opening. No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for a period of sixty (60) days. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive technical errors if the best interest of the owner will thereby be promoted. All bids received after the date and time of the bid opening noted above will be returned unopened.

Centreville Press
June 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2025

PROBATE NOTICE

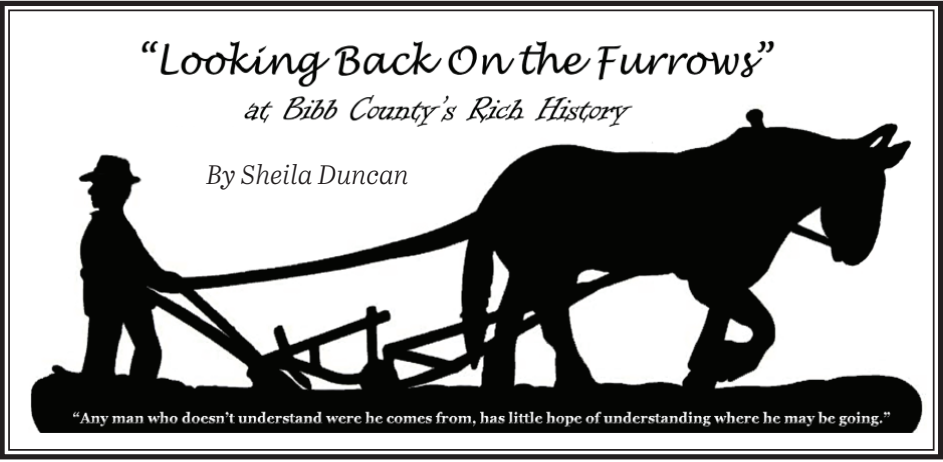
**In the Probate Court
of Bibb County, Alabama
In Re: The estate of
Robert W. Rogers, Jr.
Deceased
Case No. 2025PC039
Notice to Creditors**

Take Notice that Letters of Administration having been granted to Robert W. Rogers, III as Administrator/trix of the estate of Robert W. Rogers, Jr., on the 27th day of May of 2025, by the Honorable Judge of Probate of Bibb County, Alabama.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Robert W. Rogers III
Administrator/trix for the estate of
Robert W. Rogers, Jr.
Deceased
The Redd Law Firm, PC
5343 Old Springville Road
Pinson, AL 35126
Centreville Press
June 6, 13 & 20, 2025

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.

25 YEARS AGO

Ruby Hayes
Chosen Ms. BMC
Nursing Home 2000
Excitement filled the air on Tuesday, May 16, 2000, as 75-year-old Ruby Hayes was crowned as Ms. Bibb Medical Center Nursing Home 2000! One of the nine rest-dents of the long-term health facility competing for the coveted title, she will join other winners from nursing facilities across the state in Birmingham, AL., on August 8, 2000, to compete for the statewide title of “Ms. Alabama Nursing Home 2000.”

“I’ve never been so excited in my life!” said the 75-year-old queen as she basked in the glow of her newly bestowed title.

Also selected, as members of the Queen’s Court were Ms. Gertrude Duncan of Brent, as 1st Runner Up, and Ms. Mary Hubbard of Centreville as 2nd Runner Up.

Ms. Ruby Hayes and her court were crowned during the local pageant held on May 16, 2000, at Bibb Medical Center Nursing Home. The pageant is held each year by the facility to provide recognition for nursing home residents and their contributions to their fellowman.



50 YEARS AGO



TOP SPORTS AWARDS MADE AT BCHS BANQUET

Bibb County High School Coach, Cecil Lagrone, left, presented Captain’s Trophies to Clifford Hughes and Larry Watkins and the Most Valuable Back trophy to Steve Boyd, at the annual Sports Banquet last week. Hughes also carried home the Most Valuable Lineman award.

75 YEARS AGO

Pvt. O. T. Jackson Returns To His Unit After Field Maneuver
With The Eighth Army in Sakai, Japan, Private O. T. Jackson of Centreville, Alabama, has just returned to his unit after participating in a 22-day field maneuver which was held at Mt. Muji.
The maneuver participated in by 1900 troops was highlighted by a field firing exercise combining all the modern Infantry weapons of his unit.
Private Jackson is presently assigned to Company H. 27th Infantry Regiment.
The 27th Infantry Regiment is a part of the 25th Infantry Division. and is stationed at Osaka, Japan.
Enlisting in the Army at Centreville on January 13, 1949, and took his basic training at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, he arrived in Japan on May 10, 1949.

100 YEARS AGO

Killed By. Kick Of Horse, Five-Year-Old Girl Meets Tragic Death
The little five-years-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Elam met a tragic death one day last week when kicked by a horse. Her brother was leading the horse to the spring for water, and the little girl was following on behind. She got too close to the heels of the horse, and he kicked once, striking the child just over the heart, killing her instantly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the City of Centreville, proposes to amend the general zoning ordinance of the city as follows:

Section 17.1 of the General zoning ordinance shall be stricken in its entirety, and the following language shall be substituted therein:

A Board of Adjustment is hereby established. The Board shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) members, each to be appointed for a term of four (4) years by the City Council. Terms shall run concurrent with the term of the city council. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of any member whose term becomes vacant. Any member of the ZBA may be removed for cause by the

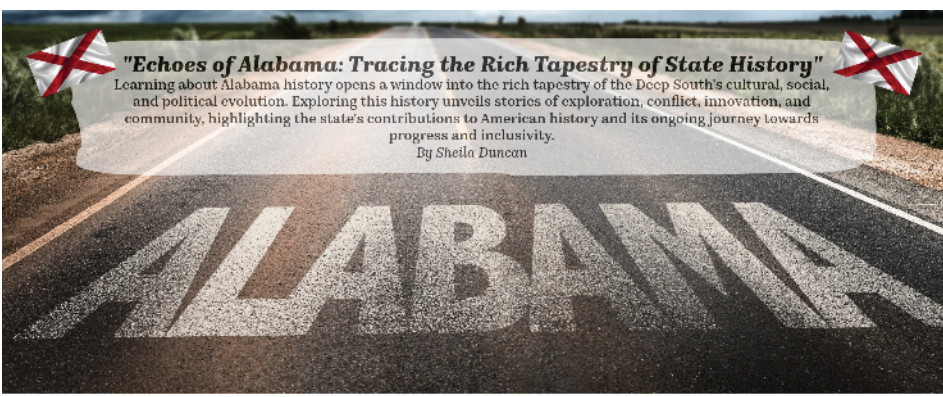
appointing authority upon the filing of any written charges and after a public hearing.

The City Council of the City of Centreville will hold a public hearing to address any concerns regarding the proposed amendment on June 17, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at Centreville City Hall located at 1270 Walnut Street, Centreville, Alabama.

All persons in favor or in opposition of the proposed amendment shall be heard at the public hearing.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for inspection during regular business hours at Centreville City Hall, 1270 Walnut Street, Centreville, Alabama 35042.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2025.
Tracy Griffin
City Clerk
Centreville Press
May 23, 30 & June 6, 2025



The Alabama Moccasinshell

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

The Alabama moccasinshell is historically known from the Alabama, Tombigbee, Black Warrior, Cahaba and Cossa Rivers and their tributaries in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee.

Reproduction
Female Alabama moccasinshell are gravid from October to June. They migrate to the surface of the river bottom between March and June and have a black mantle lure which may be used to attract fish hosts to gravid females. Successful fish hosts for the Alabama moccasinshell include one species of topminnow and several darter species.

Life Cycle
Freshwater mussels live an interesting multi-stage lifecycle, which depends upon a fish host to complete. Males release sperm into the water column, to be siphoned in by the incurrent aperture of the females, where the eggs held within her gills are then fertilized. Once the fertilized eggs start to develop, the female becomes inflated, or gravid. The fertilized eggs develop into glochidia, which is the mussel’s larval stage. This stage requires a fish host for transformation into the juvenile stage, which sometimes requires a little coaxing by females. Glochidia are housed in packets called conglutinates and often mimic a food source of the fishes within that ecosystem to lure the fish to bite. Once the fish bites, the glochidia clamp down onto the fish, become encysted, and feed from the fish for several weeks until dropping off as juveniles.

Similar Species
It is difficult to distinguish between the Alabama moccasinshell and Coosa moccasinshell, however, the posterior end of the Alabama moccasinshell is typically more pointed than that of the Coosa moccasinshell.

Sound
Freshwater mussels live an interesting multi-stage lifecycle which depends upon a fish host to complete. Males release sperm into the water column, to be (hopefully) siphoned in by the incurrent aperture of the females, where the eggs held within her gills are then fertilized. Once the fertilized eggs start to develop, the female becomes inflated (gravid). The fertilized eggs develop into glochidia, which is the mussel’s larval stage. This stage requires a fish host for transformation into the juvenile stage, which sometimes requires a little coaxing by the female mussel.

Size & Shape
This mussel species is small and delicate, measuring up to 55 millimeters in length. Their shell is narrowly elliptical and thin, with a well-developed acute posterior ridge that terminates in an acute point on the posterior ventral margin. The posterior slope is finely corrugated or wavy.

Color & Pattern
The periostracum is dull to glossy and yellow to brownish yellow, with broken green rays across the entire surface of the shell. The nacre is thin and translucent along the

margins and its coloration can vary from white to salmon-colored in the umbros, or beak cavity, which are shallow. The pseudo cardinal teeth of the Alabama moccasinshell are short and triangular while their lateral teeth are slightly curved.

Behavior
Many freshwater mussels spend the majority of their life sedentary and filter feeding on the bottom of rivers and streams. Sometimes they will bury into the sediment, only revealing a small portion of their aperture, which is used for gas exchange and filter feeding. The Alabama moccasinshell spends most of its time buried in the sediment, although gravid females, meaning carrying eggs, have been alleged to emerge from the sediment to display a modified mantle margin.

Habitat
The Alabama moccasinshell typically occupies sand, gravel or cobble shoals, with moderate to strong currents, in streams and small rivers.

Food
Although the diets of unionids, or freshwater mussels, are poorly understood, it is believed to consist of algae, and or, bacteria. Some studies suggest that the diets of freshwater mussels may change throughout their life, with juveniles collecting

organic materials from the substrate though pedal feeding and then developing the ability to filter feed during adulthood. Pedal feeding is a form of deposit feeding where the animal uses their muscular foot to bury into the sediment, collecting organic matter. Filter-feeding is a process by which mussels feed off of suspended organic material by pumping in water through their incurrent aperture and out through their excurrent apertures, catching small, suspended particles and using them as food.

Range
The Alabama moccasinshell continues to survive in tributaries of the Tombigbee including Bull Mountain Creek (Itawamba Co, MS), Trussels Creek (Green Co, AL), Luxapalila Creek (Lowndes Co, MS), including Yellow Creek (Lowndes Co, MS; Lamar Co, AL), and Wilson Creek (Lamar Co, AL), the Buttahatchee River (Lowndes/Monrow Co, MS; Lamar Co, AL) Sipsey Creek (Monrow Co, MS), Lubbug Creek (Pickens Co, AL) and its trib Bear Creek (Pickens Co, AL), Spisey River (Greene/Pickens Co, AL. Tributaries of the Black Warrior River, including Fivemile Creek (Hale Co, AL), Sipsey Fork and tributaries (Winston/Lawrence Co, AL), the Conasauga River (Polk Co, TN) and its tributary, Holly Creek (Murray Co, GA) of the Coosa River drainage.

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STOP Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation
Submit a report to the Alabama Department of Human Resources Adult Protective Services Division

1-800-458-7214
aps@dhr.alabama.gov

NEWS

Twinkle Cavanaugh Steps Down from Alabama Public Service Commission to Join USDA

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE REPORTER

Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, President of the Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC), has announced her resignation effective June 1, 2025, to accept an appointment as Alabama’s State Director for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Trump administration. Cavanaugh, a prominent Republican figure in Alabama politics, has served on the PSC since 2010 and became its president in 2012. During her tenure, she focused on expanding natural gas access to rural areas, opposing federal energy mandates, and laying the groundwork for broadband expansion across the state. In her new role at the USDA, Cavanaugh will oversee initiatives aimed at empowering rural communities and promoting economic prosperity in Alabama. Her appointment has been praised by state leaders, including U.S. Senator Katie Britt and Alabama Farmers Federation President Jimmy Parnell, who highlighted her strong network and commitment to rural development. Governor Kay Ivey is expected to appoint Cavanaugh’s successor to the PSC in the coming days.

Ordinance #2011-5-1 as to manufactured homes, it is hereby amended as follows: Manufactured and modular homes in existence on this date are hereby grandfathered in as an exception in R-2. If the owner of a grandfathered home wants to replace it and can prove that the home was in existence at the date this Ordinance was passed, then it may be replaced with a manufactured home or modular home which must be less than ten years old and be installed per state regulations. Otherwise, all manufactured or modular homes not grandfathered in under this R-2 are all excluded from R-2.

That Sections 150(11) and 60.2 of Zoning Ordinance #2005-8-1, continue to exclude manufactured and modular homes subject to the above exceptions in Para.1.

WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Date: May 19, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Woodstock, Alabama met in a Regular Council Meeting at the Town Hall on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. A quorum being present: Mayor Jeff Dodson called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Dodson. The following Council Members were present: Ernestine Johnson, Ronnie Kinard, Kellie Parks, Don Bowling, and Lee Mears. Police Chief Len Price, Town Attorney Boozer Downs and Director of Library & Media Services Michele Dickey were also present.

COUNCIL APPROVAL: Council Member Ernestine Johnson made the motion to approve the May 5, 2025, minutes as previously submitted by email. Motion was seconded by Council Member Kellie Parks and the motion so carried.

Council Member Lee Mears made the motion to approve the following:

Cahaba Medical Care SK Sponsorship \$250.00

Motion was seconded by Council Member Kellie Parks and the motion so carried.

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to approve the following:

West Blocton High School – Football Program Ad \$500.00

Motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Mears and the motion so carried.

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to approve the following expenses: ALDOT – Exit 100 Roadway Lighting Repair \$3,700.00

Motion was seconded by Council Member Ronnie Kinard and the motion so carried.

Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the following expenses for Parks & Recreation:

US Foods – Concessions \$984.45

Gateway Foodland – Concessions \$388.21

Motion was seconded by Council Member Ernestine Johnson and the motion so

MAYOR’S REPORT

Senior Center Quarterly Departmental Report

Mayor Dodson read aloud the Senior Center Quarterly Departmental Report.

Alcohol License – Jackson Business LLC/AM PM Food Mart

Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the alcohol license for Jackson Business LLC/AM PM Food Mart. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Mears and the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance #2025-5-1 / #2025-5-2 / #2025-5-3

Mayor Dodson advised that upon the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board of the Town of Woodstock; the Town Council held a Public Hearing to rezone property located within the town limits of the Town of Woodstock. The Public Hearing was held on May 19, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. A motion was made by Council Member Kellie Parks to approve the Public Hearing as conducted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ernestine Johnson and the motion carried unanimously. Documentation from Public Hearing will be attached to said minutes.

Town Attorney Boozer Downs conducted the first reading of the following Ordinances:

#2025-5-1:

Re-Zone the following properties from R-R to R-2, Hunter’s Pointe Subdivision.

Re-Zone the following properties from R-2 to R-MU: Coldwater Road – 2.7 miles +/- in Bibb County & Rotenberry Lane.

#2025-5-2:

(R-MU) Residential Mixed-Use District as found in Ordinance #2021-3-2, which amended Ordinance #2005-8-1 is to be amended to remove the size dimensions of 24x32. Further, all references to manufactured housing shall also include modular housing.

#2025-5-3:

As to R-2 Zoning District in Ordinance #2005-08-01 and as amended in

Ordinance #2011-5-1 as to manufactured homes, it is hereby amended as follows: Manufactured and modular homes in existence on this date are hereby grandfathered in as an exception in R-2. If the owner of a grandfathered home wants to replace it and can prove that the home was in existence at the date this Ordinance was passed, then it may be replaced with a manufactured home or modular home which must be less than ten years old and be installed per state regulations. Otherwise, all manufactured or modular homes not grandfathered in under this R-2 are all excluded from R-2.

This Ordinance hereby repeals Ordinance #2011-5-1.

That Sections 150(11) and 60.2 of Zoning Ordinance #2005-8-1, continue to exclude manufactured and modular homes subject to the above exceptions in Para.1.

2025 Woodstock Music Festival Proceeds Report

Town Clerk Tiffany McCulley presented a report with the Gate Proceeds from the 8th Annual Woodstock Music Festival, which totaled \$14,100.00. Included in the report are procedural details for the collection and counting process. A copy of the report is attached to said minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments were heard.

Mayor Dodson expressed his condolences for the passing of Zoning Board Member Kathy Leatherwood. We are grateful for Kathy’s 20+ years of dedicated service to our community. Funeral Service will be held at 11am on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at McCalla Memorial.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council at this time, Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to adjourn at 5:30 P.M. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ernestine Johnson and upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

WEST BLOCTON TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Date: May 5, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of West Blocton, Alabama met In a Regular Council Meeting at the Municipal Building on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. A quorum being present. Mayor Daniel Sims called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Prayer was led by Glenn Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kristen Nash. Roll was called by Town Clerk Brandy Fancher. Fred Lynch- Absent Glenn Johnson- Present Holly Barnett- Present Blane Sherron- Absent Kristen Nash- Present Mayor’s Notes:

•Cahaba Lily Festival will take place from 9am-12pm May 17, 2025. Main Street will be blocked off from Georgia Street to the flower shop. There will be

street vendors and a Kid Zone set up for all to enjoy.

•Congratulations to Kayla Hood as our new 2025 Miss. Cahaba Lliy.

• The Bishop Ridge water line install has been completed.

I. Council Approval:

Previous Council Meeting Minutes April 21. 2025

Council Member Glenn Johnson made the motion to approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes for 4-21-2025. Motion was seconded by Council Member Kristen Nash. All in favor and motion so carried.

Hire of Police Reserve

Roll Call Vote was used to approve the hire of Police Reserve Zacary Maddox. Full time with BCBS

Insurance, ERS Retirement, Vacation and Holiday Pay, Start Pay \$15.00 per hour. Council Member Glenn Johnson-JES Council Member Holly Barnett-YES Council Member Kristen Nash-YES NO-0 YES-3 Motion Passes

District 2 Report: No Report District 3 Report: No Report District 5 Report: No Report

Citizens to Speak: NONE

There being no further business to come before the Town Council at this time, Council Member Holly Barnett made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kristen Nash. All in favor and motion carried.

ForestHER Workshop Empowers Women Landowners: June 12–13 in Jemison

BY SHEILA DUNCAN REPORTER

Women who own or manage forestland are invited to attend the ForestHER Workshop, taking place June 12–13 at Minooka Park in Jemison, Alabama. This unique, hands-on workshop is designed to equip women with the knowledge and confidence to care for and make decisions about their forested property.

The ForestHER program was developed by Auburn University’s College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment in response to a very real need. The idea was inspired

by the personal story of the program’s associate director, whose grandmother was taken advantage of when selling timber due to a lack of knowledge about forest management. Too often, men in families are the ones who handle land decisions, but they may pass away first—leaving women unprepared to manage inherited land.

ForestHER fills that gap by offering women the tools and understanding they need to make informed choices. The workshop includes practical education about timber sales, land stewardship, wildlife habitat, and more.

While the event is hosted by the Alabama Cooperative Extension offices in Bibb, Chilton, and Autaugaa counties, women from all areas are welcome to attend. Men are also encouraged to participate.

A registration fee covers all workshop materials and meals.

To register, visit: <https://www.aces.edu/event/foresther-jemison-6-12-6-13/> For more information, contact the Bibb County Extension Office at 205-926-4310.

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about managing your forestland with confidence and care!

New Summer EBT Benefits Coming to Families with Eligible School Children

BY SHEILA DUNCAN REPORTER

The Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) in partnership with the

Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) plans to distribute Alabama SUN Bucks (Summer EBT Benefits to eligible children this summer, as part of a new federal program. Alabama SUN Bucks will provide a one-time issuance of \$120 per school-aged child for grocery benefits for the summer to low-income families.

Alabama SUN Bucks will be automatically issued to school-aged children who have been approved by application or direct certification and attending a school that offers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs. Children that are directly certified through the ALSDE in programs such as SNAP, TANF or Medicaid will be automatically eligible for Alabama SUN Bucks. If not automatically enrolled, each student may apply for Alabama SUN Bucks. Students receiving free meals through the Community Eligibility Provision will not automatically qualify; however, students may still be eligible for the benefits based on the household’s income. Households should visit Alabama SUN Bucks to apply or receive additional information.

“The summer break can be challenging for families when children are at home and spending increases because children and youth are not in school and receiving benefits,” said Alabama DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner. “This additional money will help families across the state make it through summer break while also encouraging healthy and nutritious eating.

An Alabama SUN Bucks card will be issued for students who qualify for the program. Alabama SUN Bucks customer service representatives are available to answer summer EBT questions by phone at 1-800-443-3536 or email at support@alabama-sunbucks.com from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Alabama Families to Receive Summer Food Benefits for Children

This summer, some Alabama families will get help buying groceries for their school-aged children through a new program called Alabama SUN Bucks.

The Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) are working together to give

out this benefit. It provides a one-time payment of \$120 per eligible child to help cover the cost of food during summer break.

Children who meet the following conditions will get SUN Bucks automatically get free or reduced-price meals at school, attend a school that offers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program, are already in programs like SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid

If your child gets free meals through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), they are not automatically eligible. However, you can still apply if your household income qualifies.

To apply or learn more, visit the Alabama SUN Bucks website. If your child qualifies, you’ll receive a SUN Bucks card in the mail. This card works like a debit card and can be used to buy groceries.

You can contact Alabama SUN Bucks:

Phone: 1-800-443-3536

Email: support@alabama-sunbucks.com

Hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“This money will help families during summer when kids are out of school and food costs go up,” said DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner.

The History of Newspapers: From Handwritten Newsletters to Digital Front Pages

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE REPORTER

The newspaper, a cornerstone of modern journalism and a pillar of public discourse, has undergone a remarkable evolution over the centuries. Its story is a reflection of humanity’s desire to communicate, inform, and connect. From handwritten newsletters circulated among the elite to instant digital updates accessible to billions, newspapers have played a crucial role in shaping societies and recording history.

The origins of newspapers can be traced back to ancient times when governments and rulers used various methods to disseminate information. In ancient Rome around 59 BCE, the Acta Diurna (“Daily Acts”) were carved on stone or metal and displayed in public places to inform citizens of political and social events. These early forms of public records set the stage for future developments in mass communication.

In China, during the Tang dynasty (7th century), officials circulated hand-copied news bulletins called the bao. These bulletins, primarily intended for government use, were early examples of regularly produced news sources.

The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the mid-15th century revolutionized the spread of information. It wasn’t until the early 17th century, however, that printed newspapers began to emerge in Europe. One of the earliest recognized newspapers was Relation aller Fürnemmen und gedenckwürdigen Historien, published in Strasbourg in 1605 by Johann Carolus.

By the mid-17th century, newspapers had begun appearing in major European cities such as London, Paris, and Amsterdam. These early publications were often weekly and primarily focused on foreign news, commerce, and political

developments.

The Rise of Daily Newspapers and Press Freedom

The 18th century marked a significant period for newspapers, particularly in Britain and its American colonies. Newspapers became more frequent, with daily editions appearing in the early 1700s. As literacy rates increased and printing technology improved, newspapers became more affordable and widely read.

In colonial America, newspapers played a critical role in the lead-up to the American Revolution, serving as platforms for political debate and criticism of British rule. The trial of John Peter Zenger in 1735, in which he was acquitted for libel after criticizing the colonial governor of New York, became a landmark moment in the history of press freedom.

The 19th century brought industrialization to the newspaper industry. Steam-powered printing presses allowed for mass production, and the cost of newspapers dropped dramatically. The “penny press” emerged, offering affordable papers to the general public and shifting the content toward sensationalism, human interest stories, and local news.

This era also saw the rise of influential newspaper magnates such as Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst in the United States. Their fierce competition led to the era of “yellow journalism,” characterized by exaggerated stories and dramatic headlines designed to boost sales.

By the early 20th century, journalism began to establish itself as a profession. Newspapers introduced editorial standards, fact-checking, and journalistic ethics. This period is often referred to as the “golden age” of newspapers, especially in the United States and Europe, when dai-

ly editions became essential reading for millions.

The mid-20th century saw the peak of print circulation, with major cities supporting multiple newspapers, each with distinct political leanings and editorial voices. Newspapers played a central role in covering significant events such as World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Watergate scandal.

The late 20th and early 21st centuries ushered in profound changes for the newspaper industry. The rise of the internet disrupted traditional business models, with advertising revenues shifting to digital platforms and readership increasingly moving online.

Many newspapers adapted by launching digital editions, creating subscription-based models, and expanding multimedia content. Despite these efforts, the transition has been challenging, leading to the closure of numerous local and regional papers and a concentration of media ownership.

However, digital platforms have also democratized publishing, allowing for a broader range of voices and new forms of investigative journalism. The smartphone revolution, social media, and real-time news updates have fundamentally changed how and when people consume news.

The history of newspapers is a testament to humanity’s enduring need for information and dialogue. While the format and delivery mechanisms have evolved dramatically, the core mission of newspapers—to inform the public, hold power to account, and reflect the stories of society—remains unchanged. As the industry continues to adapt in the digital age, newspapers, whether on paper or screen, continue to play a vital role in the fabric of democracy and civic life.

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