

# Centreville Press

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LET US KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

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## Bibb County Shines: Five Young Women Set to Take the Stage in The Distinguished Young Women Program

### SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

The stage is set for one of Bibb County's most inspiring and anticipated events of the summer—the Distinguished Young Women Program, where five outstanding young women will compete in a celebration of talent, leadership, and ambition.

The program will take place on Saturday, July 19th at 4:00 PM, featuring entertainment from The Little Sisters and the always-popular High Heel Bootcamp participants. Admission is \$10, with program books available for \$5. Payments will be accepted at the door by cash or Venmo.

Last year's winner, Lilli Turner, will be featured during the event. Her journey continues to inspire participants and attendees alike as the program highlights the personal growth and achievements made possible through this unique opportunity.

#### Meet the 2025 Contestants

- Karleigh Bolding**  
Parents: Kim and Jonathan Bolding  
High School: Bibb County High School  
College: University of Tennessee  
Career Goal: Dentistry  
Talent: Contemporary Dance to "Dream On" by Aerosmith  
Honors & Activities: BCHS Danceline Captain, National Honor Society President, Junior Council, 11-year dancer at The Studio
- Takyla Pewee**  
Parents: Joe Pewee and Rebecca Abercrombie  
High School: Bibb County High School

ty High School  
College: University of Alabama or University of North Alabama  
Career Goal: Teacher  
Talent: Baton performance to "Treasure" by Bruno Mars  
Honors & Activities: Junior Council Vice President, Peer Leader

3. Anna Belle Mott  
Parents: Kenneth and Kimberly Hubbard  
High School: West Blocton High School  
College: University of Alabama or UAB  
Career Goal: Physical Therapy  
Talent: Lyrical Interpretive Dance to "When We Were Young" by Adele

Honors & Activities: WBHS Cheer Captain, All-American Cheerleader, West Blocton Baptist Youth Group, National Honor Society, SGA Parliamentarian, WBHS C.L.U.B.  
4. Dakayla Jackson  
Parent: Katrina Ross  
High School: Bibb County High School  
College: University of South Alabama  
Career Goal: Radiation Therapist  
Talent: Vocal performance of "Georgia On My Mind" by Ray Charles

Honors & Activities: Peer Leadership, Junior Council Treasurer, Majorette, Children's Theatre  
5. Savannah Catherine Gibson  
Parents: Camille and Scott Gibson  
High School: Bibb County High School  
College: University of Alabama or Auburn University  
Career Goal: Healthcare  
Talent: Piano solo "Whirling Leaves" by Edna Mae Burnam  
Honors & Activities: National Honor Society Vice President, Junior Council, Peer Leadership, Cahaba Juniorettes, Varsity Cheer, Softball, Volleyball  
A Celebration of Growth and Grace

With past winners like Lilli Turner setting the standard for excellence, this program continues to empower and uplift the next generation of leaders in Bibb County. Join us on July 19th at 4 PM to support these incredible young women and be part of a tradition that celebrates courage, creativity, and character.

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Dakayla Jackson



Savannah Catherine Gibson



Karleigh Bolding



Takyla Pewee



Anna Belle Mott



## Community Calendar

July 12th – Celebration on the Green

July 13th- Homecoming at Bethlehem Methodist Church in Heiberger this year is July 13th 2025. Our pastor Rev. Tim Craddock, will be leading the service and giving the message beginning at 11:00am. Following our service will be pot luck lunch in the fellowship hall. If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation to the cemetery fund, you can mail a check payable to Bethlehem Methodist Church to Mrs. Ada Jean Holifield, 1971 Jericho Rd. Marion, AL 36756.

Hope to see a lot of familiar and new faces! WELCOME HOME!

July 13th- Homecoming at Haysop Baptist Church on Sunday July 13th.

July 14th-July 18th - 2025 Aquaculture/Aquaponics 101 Teacher Workshop, 8:00am-12:30pm, E.W. Shell Fisheries Center, 2101 N. College St., Auburn, AL 36830

July 15- The Bibb County Democratic meeting will be at the Brent/Centreville Library on July 15th at 6 p.m.

July 22nd – Bibb Co. Extension "Addressing Housing Concerns" 6:00 pm-7:30 p.m. at Centreville Baptist Church. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/sfv4pe4t> or call Bibb Co. Extension @ 205-926-4310.

July 24th – Treasure Forest of Bibb meeting at 6:30 pm at Brent/Centreville Library.



## Lily Bamberg One of Auburn's Fab 5: Power Soccer Champions and Trailblazers

BY SHEILA DUNCAN  
REPORTER

In a world where touchdowns and buzzer-beaters steal the spotlight, something just as remarkable happened quietly—but powerfully—in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Over the weekend, Auburn University's Power Soccer Team rolled into the national championship tournament, dominated the court, and rolled back out as National Champions.

The team, coached by U.S. National Team member Zach Dickey, went undefeated (6-0-1) at the championships. A second-year program under Auburn's Adaptive Athletics, the team is already setting a gold standard—not

just in wins, but in what it means to belong, to compete, and to thrive.

Yes, you read that right. The Auburn Fab 5—a team of five extraordinary student-athletes led by their trailblazing coach—are now officially the best in the nation. Among them: Lily Bamberg, a sophomore from Centreville, Alabama, and daughter of Trent and Kristie Bamberg. Lily's journey is nothing short of inspirational.

Lily was adopted from Baotou, China, in 2011 at the age of seven. Just six months after arriving home, she was diagnosed with Merosin-Deficient Congenital Muscular Dystrophy. Despite the challenges of severe muscle weakness, Lily excelled academically and maintained an incredibly positive outlook on life.

demically and maintained an incredibly positive outlook on life.

The summer before her senior year at West Blocton High School, Lily attended the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum at Troy University. It was there that her dream of going to college began to take shape. She chose to major in Rehabilitation and Disability Services, narrowing her options to UAB, Troy, and Auburn. With older siblings who had attended both UAB and Auburn, Lily had spent time on both campuses—but ultimately, Auburn felt like the best fit for a power wheelchair user.

See Lily Bamberg on page 7

## Jim Oakley: A Life of Service, Leadership, and Love for Bibb County

BY SHEILA DUNCAN  
REPORTER

Jim Oakley's name is etched into the very fabric of Centreville and Bibb County, not simply because of his many titles and accomplishments, but because of his deep-rooted love for the community he has always called home.

Born and raised on Walnut Street in Centreville, Oakley's childhood was filled with simple joys and strong connections. "There were many people my age and we always had something going on," he recalled. "We rode bicycles through town—I probably put a million miles on my bicycle as a kid." It was a time when community life was bustling with camps, contests, and friendships that helped shape his values.

Oakley credits his father, Jim Oakley Sr.—a longtime mayor from the 1950s through 1972—as his greatest influence. Watching his father lead the town and serve the community laid the foundation for Oakley's own journey into public service. "People in

town encouraged me to get involved and run for office," he said. "Seeing my father's involvement also inspired me."

Over the years, Oakley has worn many hats with distinction. After his father's passing in 1972, he became editor of *The Centreville Press*, a role he held until 1986. He was also appointed by Governor Patterson to serve as Bibb County's Tax Collector; a role he later held for 12 years after being elected. Beyond that, he served as President of the Alabama Press Association and chaired the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for over 15 years.

See Jim Oakley on page 8



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## Checking, Savings, Loans & More

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Centreville	McCalla	Vance	Woodstock
205.926.4651	205.432.0255	205.633.0904	205.938.7813







LIFESTYLE/NEWS



Isaac Bigham turned 6 on Tuesday June 24th. He celebrated with a Lego themed pizza party given by his parents on June 21 2025 at Cedar Grove Church Fellowship Hall. Those who came to celebrate were his parents Eric and Tonya Bigham, grandparents Frankie and Lisa Brooks, Nana Bonnie, Great Nanny Marie Shows, Uncle Nathan and cousin Samuel Brooks, Great Great Aunt Vonda Thompson, cousins Ryan Thompson and Braden Gardiner and friends James , Hannah and Hunter Jones. Those sending gifts but unable to attend was Great Aunt Jeanette Cunningham, cousin Corey Colburn, Great Grandmother Betty Belcher, PopPop Joe Belcher and Wanda Pacnio. June 24th his actual birthday was spent at the BMC wellness center with some of his classmates and teachers for a Noahs Ark VBS. Other celebrations included an early birthday trip to the BJCC for the legos Brick Fan Expo Event. He got to see legos built by several of the contestants and see Grandpappy Patrick Durham of the tv show Lego Masters. Isaac is the grandson of Frankie and Lisa Brooks and Bonnie Ray and the late Johnny Ray and the late Eddy Bigham. He is the great grandson of Marie Shows and Peggy Brooks and the late Eugene Shows and Andrew Brooks, Oren and Sarah Hicks and John and Jibbie Bigham.

Parental Rights Are Making a Comeback Thanks To Recent SCOTUS

Opinion Reported by Mike Hobson

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday (June 27) ruled that public schools must allow parents to let their children “opt out” of classes using storybooks with LGBTQ+ characters. The landmark opinion in *Mahmoud et al v. Taylor et al* involved a Montgomery Maryland Board of Education decision that introduced a variety of LGBTQ publications that were being used in the Maryland course of study. The Board had prevented parents from opting their children out of what they considered to be “inappropriate materials”.

The plaintiffs (parents) argued, and the 6-3 conservative majority agreed, that the use of the books without allowing parents to opt their children out would inter-

fere with students’ First Amendment right to religious exercise. The court said that the parents “are entitled to a preliminary injunction.”

In their holding, written by Justice Alito, the USSC held that “the Court has long recognized the rights of parents to direct the religious upbringing of their children.” Sotomayor, Kagan, and Jackson dissented in the opinion.

While this case involved a Maryland school board the opinion will reaffirm and establish a policy that will be binding on school systems across the country.

John Wahl, chair of the Alabama Republican Party and the Alabama Public Library Service board of directors, praised the decision over the weekend.

“As chairman of the Alabama Public Library

Service, I have been saying this for years: we must put parents back in control of what their children are exposed to. (Friday’s) Supreme Court ruling is a powerful win for religious freedom and parental rights,” Wahl said. “No child should be forced to sit through lessons that go against their family’s beliefs. Parents—not government bureaucrats—should have the final say in what their children have access to in public institutions. I applaud the Court’s decision to uphold the Constitution and protect the right of families to opt out of radical social agendas being pushed on our young people.”

You can read the entire Court Opinion at the link below:

[https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/24-297\\_4f14.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/24-297_4f14.pdf)

WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Date: June 16, 2025 Submitted by the Town of Woodstock

The Town Council of the Town of Woodstock, Alabama met in a Regular Council Meeting at the Town Hall on Monday, June 16, 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.

COUNCIL APPROVAL:

Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the June 2, 2025 minutes as previously submitted by email. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Mears and the motion so carried.

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to approve the following expense: West Alabama Chamber of Commerce – ’25 Membership \$345.00

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

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

Gateway Foodland – Concessions \$80.93

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

Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the following expense for the Road 4&5 Cent Account:

APAC-Alabama Inc. – Molly Trace/Hunter Drive \$359.60

(This is the overage of additional asphalt expenses which were previously approved in the amount of \$10,261.00 on April 7, 2025)

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

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to approve the following expense for the Police Department:

Tire Hub – New Tires

and Tire Rotation for #884 – 2023 Tahoe \$506.80

“Y” Auto Parts – Mount & Balance \$100.00

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

MAYOR’S REPORT Incentive Request for Exit 100 New Business

Mayor Jeff Dodson read aloud a letter requesting incentives for a new business that will be located at Exit 100.

Request to Purchase Town Property

There was a discussion of a request received to purchase property owned by the Town of Woodstock.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments were heard.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council at this time, Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to adjourn at 5:15 P.M. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ronnie Kinard and upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.



Waterfalls of Alabama: Hidden Gems of the South

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE REPORTER

Alabama, often celebrated for its rich history and southern charm, is also home to some of the most beautiful and underrated natural wonders in the country—its waterfalls. Scattered across the state’s diverse landscapes, these cascading treasures draw hikers, nature lovers, and photographers alike to experience their refreshing beauty and peaceful allure.

Thanks to Alabama’s varied terrain—ranging from rolling hills and forested valleys to rugged mountains—the state boasts dozens of waterfalls, many of which are nestled within state parks and protected areas. These waterfalls aren’t just scenic—they’re also steeped in local history and provide a habitat for unique flora and fauna.

Here are a few of the most notable waterfalls in Alabama:

Noccalula Falls – Gadsden, AL: One of Alabama’s most iconic waterfalls, Noccalula Falls plunges 90 feet into a deep

ravine below. Located in Noccalula Falls Park in Gadsden, the waterfall is easily accessible and surrounded by a charming park that includes hiking trails, botanical gardens, and a miniature train. Legend tells of a Cherokee princess named Noccalula who leapt from the falls rather than marry a man she did not love, adding a layer of myth and mystery to its beauty.

DeSoto Falls – Mentone, AL: Situated in DeSoto State Park on Lookout Mountain, DeSoto Falls is one of the tallest and most spectacular waterfalls in the state, dropping 104 feet into a crystal-clear pool. The area is popular year-round, especially during the fall when colorful foliage enhances the dramatic landscape. The upper falls are easily accessible, and hiking trails offer scenic views throughout the park.

Cheaha Falls – Talladega National Forest: Located in Alabama’s highest mountain range, Cheaha

Falls is a favorite among backpackers and hikers. Found along the Chinnabee Silent Trail in Talladega National Forest, this multi-tiered waterfall flows over rocky ledges into tranquil pools below. The nearby Cheaha State Park offers panoramic views and campgrounds for extended stays.

High Falls – Grove Oak, AL: Tucked away in a lesser-known corner of northeast Alabama, High Falls is a striking 35-foot waterfall known for its wide span and dramatic rock formations. When water levels are high, a natural arch forms at the base of the falls, creating a scene that feels more like a hidden paradise than a Southern backcountry spot.

Kinlock Falls – Sipsey Wilderness: In the heart of the Bankhead National Forest lies Kinlock Falls, a small yet enchanting waterfall that’s popular with swimmers and photographers.

See Reading Corner on page 7

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**BRENT POLICE DEPARTMENT SEALED BIDS**

The Brent Police Department will be accepting sealed bids on the following:

**2016 Ford Explorer**  
VIN#1FM5K8AR8GGB19424  
with minimum bid starting at \$2000.00

Bids will be accepted at the Brent City Hall until July 15, 2025 at 4:30pm

**Centreville Press**

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Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress or grievances.

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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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Assembly of God  
Worship Center  
Centreville (205) 928-0369

**BAPTIST**  
Antioch Baptist  
Centreville (205) 316-1221

Ashby Baptist  
Brierfield 665-1111

Bethel Baptist Brent  
205-225-4780

Bethlehem Baptist  
Centreville

Bibb Baptist Association  
Centreville 926-7866

Bibbville Baptist  
Woodstock 938-2015

Brent Baptist  
Brent 926-7687

Cahaba Valley Baptist  
Centreville 926-5927

Calvary Baptist  
Centreville 926-4079

Camp Branch Baptist Church  
2590 Camp Branch Rd  
West Blocton

Cedar Grove Baptist  
West Blocton 938-0828

Centreville Baptist  
Centreville 926-7069

Community Baptist  
Centreville

Deer Creek Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Centreville 225-0460

Ebenzer Baptist Church  
Brierfield 665-4865

Enon Baptist  
Centreville 926-4517

Eoline Baptist  
Eoline 926-7448

Faith Baptist  
West Blocton 938-7220

First Baptist Church of  
Woodstock  
205-938-7479

Four Points Baptist  
Centreville 926-7775

Green Pond Baptist  
Green Pond 938-7769

Haysop Baptist  
Centreville 205-310-1316

Hopewell Primitive Baptist  
West Blocton 553-7603

Johntown Baptist  
West Blocton 938-7621

Liberty Baptist  
West Blocton 938-2090

Liberty Baptist  
Duncanville 759-9647 / 759-4074

Liberty Freewill Baptist  
926-6496

Little Hope Primitive Baptist  
Centreville 926-4236

Lowertown Baptist  
West Blocton 938-2436

Lucille Baptist  
West Blocton 966-3556

Mission Baptist  
Woodstock 938-7096

Mt. Carmel Baptist  
West Blocton 938-2379

Mt. Ebell Baptist  
Brent 926-9223

Mt. Grove Baptist  
938-3410

Mt. Moriah Baptist  
West Blocton 926-5425

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Brent 926-9009

Mt. Tabor Baptist  
Brent 926-7156

Mt. Zion Baptist  
Centreville 334-366-5903

New Hebron Baptist  
West Blocton 938-2101

New Hope Missionary Baptist  
Randolph 334-366-1199

New Life Baptist Church  
Centreville 205-541-7072

New Pleasant Valley  
Brent 926-9045

Pinegrove Missionary Baptist  
Brent 225-0139

Pineview Baptist  
Brent 926-9280

Pleasant Sabine Baptist  
Centreville 926-3867

Pondville Baptist  
Brent 926-9211

Randolph Baptist 366-4296

Reno Baptist Church  
Caffee Junction 477-5058

Rising Star Baptist  
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Rehobeth Baptist  
Lawley 663-2907

Schultz Creek Baptist  
West Blocton 938-9766

Shady Grove Baptist  
Randolph 366-1163

Shady Grove II Baptist  
West Blocton 938-0120  
Pastor 834-2557

Shiloh Baptist  
Centreville 926-7041

Six Mile Baptist  
Brierfield

Smith Hill Baptist  
West Blocton 938-2379

Thomas Mill Baptist  
Centreville 926-6882

Union Baptist Church  
722 Magnolia St  
West Blocton

West Blocton First Baptist  
938-7392

**BIBLE**  
Grace Bible  
Woodstock 938-7763

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Church Of The Holy Spirit  
Tuscaloosa 553-9733

St. Thomas  
The Apostle Church  
Montevallo 663-3936

**CHRISTIAN**  
Marvel Christian Union  
Montevallo 345-7018

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Centreville Church Of Christ  
926-LOVE

North Bibb Church of Christ  
Woodstock 477-6121

West Blocton  
Church of Christ  
West Blocton 938-7108

Evangelist Temple  
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256-393-9625  
Pastor Shane Pate

Church Of God Of Prophecy  
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God  
205-477-5468

River of Life Church of God  
9225 Hwy 82, Brent  
205-926-7600

West Blocton Church of God  
City Rd. 21 Smith Hill  
205-966-4988

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Deliverance Temple Holiness

Four Points 926-5565

Word of Faith Worship Cen-  
ter  
Centreville 926-4555

Free Will Apostolic Holiness  
Antioch 926-9252

Real Truth Holiness Church  
646 S. Scottsville Road  
Brent 926-5009

Trinity Spirit Holiness Church  
Centreville 926-4321

**METHODIST**  
Brent Bible Methodist  
812-675-1543  
210 4th St. Brent, AL

Brent Methodist  
190 Tabernacle Rd.  
Brent, AL

Pondville Methodist  
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Church  
205-225-4000  
Co. Rd. 16 Brent, AL

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West Blocton, AL  
513-254-8241

West Blocton Bible  
Methodist Church  
355 Camellia Lane, West  
Blocton  
205.826.5763

Mt. Sinai Church  
Centreville 256-577-8137

James Chapel  
A.M.E. Zion Church  
926-5607

Bible Methodist  
West Blocton 938-0091

Hopewell A.M.E. Zion  
Harrisburg 926-5777

New Hope AME  
West Blocton 540-8016

Tabernacle United Methodist  
Lawley

Waymon Chapel AME  
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West Scottsville  
United Methodist Church  
North Scottsville Road  
451-3624

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Brent

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Nazarene  
Brent

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Centreville First  
Presbyterian P.C.A.  
926-4261

Green Pond Presbyterian  
Presbyterian Church Rd  
205-938-2344

Pleasant Hill Upper Cumber-  
land Presbyterian Church  
Centreville 926-4409

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST**  
First Brent Seventh Day Ad-  
ventist  
926-6328

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
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926-6800

Scottsville Union Church  
Co. Rd. 9  
Scottsville 205-503-6096

Victory Tabernacle Church  
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Centreville  
926-9455 or 361-2763  
Pastor Butch Tucker

Yahweh's Harvest  
926-9044

The Refreshing Place Church  
24865 Hwy. 5  
Woodstock, AL 35188  
Pastor Wayne Keeton

God's House of Prayer  
489 Co. Rd. 162 (Heiberger)  
Marion, AL 36756  
334-683-4933  
Every Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Sandy Chapel Community  
Church  
926-4934

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## West Eoline News

From The Pen Of Jane Hannah

Lisa Deason never stops. Thursday, last week she pulled off every item from Maw-maw's porch and scrubbed everything. This was in preparation for the DEASON 4th Celebration on Saturday. She works tirelessly for her family, church family and community. Thank you Lisa for all you do.

Luke & Tracey celebrated Independence Day at home with family. Sharing the pool, food and fun were: Jamie & Connie Holladay, Shane Hobson and most of his family, Jeremy & Kim Holladay, and Jane Hannah. On Saturday some special friends (Lynn, Tommy & family) visited for the day. On Sunday, Jo Kitchen and great grandsons Talon, Link & Hayes and Jane Hannah enjoyed their pool.

Chad & Stacey Thompson smoked a pork butt and five sides of ribs over the fire Thursday night. The meat finished cooking in the oven for Fridays guests celebrating with them. Several neighbors visited (getting smoked) while they were watching the fire. Stacey's daughter Dezi visited Saturday evening and everyone enjoyed games of Rummikub. Jim Kirkendall visited from Thursday afternoon until Sunday evening.

Saturday the Deasons enjoyed a spread of food so immense I couldn't begin to name everything. The desserts were fantastic, the meat was delicious and the salads and vegetables were wonderful. Wayne's

family there numbered 36, Geneva Mullins family numbered 8, Jo Kitchen's family was 13, Jane Hannah's was 5, Barbara, Del & Lisa's family & friends numbered 10 and C H rounded out total eating and playing to 73. It seems Stan Deason may have passed on his athleticism for pitching and golf to grandson, Trey and his meat cooking skills to Del & Trevor. Trey Deason & Hal Cottingham won the single elimination Doubles Horseshoe Tournament and Trey now holds the Singles title for 2025. Eight teams competed in Doubles and ten individuals in the Singles. Everyone enjoyed the HUGE waterslide too. Praise God and all our veterans and soldiers for our freedom. Of the 73 attending, there were 3 age 13, 4 younger school age and 6 babies to toddlers. It was a fun day and the young men shot fireworks that night.

Jim Oakley is celebrating his 90th Birthday Saturday July 12th at Centreville Baptist Church from 1 to 3 p.m..

HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week to Bobby Creel, & Lane Englebert-Watkins 7-11, Margaret Dowdle 7-12, Alana Caddis 7-14, Wayne Deason 7-16, Ann Lee Freeman 7-17, Billie Deason 7-18.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Luke & Tracey Holladay July 14th. It's been forty-one years since their I Do's.

Enjoy a blessed week. Call 478-396-2513 to share your news.

## Centreville News

From The Pen Of Brenda Hubbard

Homecoming will be held at Haysop Baptist Church on Sunday, July 13, 2025. Guest singers will be Trusting Grace. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Birthday wishes go out to several who celebrate in July, Kasie Stamps, Marilyn Bamberg, Julie Elam and Margaret Dowdle.

Anniversary wishes go out to Johnny and Kim Watts who recently celebrated their wedding anniversary.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Larry Caffee, age 75, who passed away on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. Services were held on Monday, June 30, 2025 at Pineview Baptist Church with burial at Pineland cemetery. Larry will be greatly missed by his family and so many friends.

Charlotte West recently had lunch at Epicure and Jack's in Millbrook, AL with college friends Joyce Murphy and Martha Graham, Joyce drove from Greenville and Martha drove from Hoover. They had a 3 hour lunch full of talk and laughter.

Among those having birthdays in July are Michael Hartzell, Hugh Edwards Jr., Wayne Deason, Magan Young, Deb Stewart Grimsley, Tish Bamberg Patton, Debbie Wolfe, Quince McCoy, Jacob Pipher and Marti Watts.

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of Timothy (Tim) Holder who passed away on June 27, 2025. Services were held on July 2, 2025 at Lucile Baptist Church at 11am with burial at Scottville Cemetery. Tim will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

Prayers go out to Virginia Short who is sick at this writing.

Sincere sympathy goes out to the family of James "Jim" Mitchell, age 70, who passed away on July 2, 2025. Services were held on Sunday, July 6, 2025 at Rockco Funeral Homes at 2pm. Burial was at Centreville Memorial Cemetery. Jim will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

If you have news call it in at 205.316.1181. Take Care and God Bless!

# Plain & Simple

*"Slow down and enjoy the simple pleasures in life"*

*By: Sheila Duncan*

## Cheesy Hamburger Potato Casserole

Ingredients:  
1.5 pounds of ground beef  
1 finely diced yellow onion  
4 pounds of russet potatoes peeled and sliced into 1/4-inch pieces  
2 cups of grated cheddar cheese  
One 10.75 ounce can of condensed cheddar soup  
One 12 ounce can of evaporated milk  
1/2 cup of milk  
1/2 teaspoon of garlic powder  
Kosher salt to taste  
Freshly ground black pepper to taste  
Directions:  
Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C). Utilize nonstick spray to coat a 9×13-inch baking dish comprehensively. Set aside.

Place ground beef and diced onion into a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season generously with salt and pepper. Cook until the beef is thoroughly browned and no longer pink, ensuring to break up the beef as it cooks. Upon completion, drain any excess fat from the skillet and set the cooked meat aside.

In the prepared baking dish, arrange a single layer of sliced potatoes. Season each layer with salt and pepper. Follow with a layer comprising 1/4 of the cooked beef and onion mixture and then sprinkle 1/4 of the grated cheddar cheese over the beef. Repeat this layering process three more times, ensuring even distribution of ingredients.

In a small mixing bowl, combine the condensed cheddar soup, evaporated milk, milk, and garlic powder. Whisk these ingredients together until the mixture is smooth and homogenous.

Pour the prepared sauce evenly over the assembled layers in the baking dish. Cover the dish tightly with aluminum foil and place it in the preheated oven. Bake for 60 minutes. After this initial baking period, remove the foil and continue to bake for

an additional 15 minutes, or until the top layer is visibly golden brown and the sauce is bubbling.

Remove from oven and allow the casserole to stand for several minutes before serving to ensure that it sets properly and is safe to consume.

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# ALABAMA LEGAL JOURNAL

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### NOTICE

**Brent Garden Apartments – One Bedroom Available Now Elderly Community – Ask about the qualifications. Maintenance free living, with nice amenities. Come in and apply today. Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM 57 Steele Street; Centreville AL 35042 (205) 926-7547. 6/27**

### PROBATE NOTICE

**In the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama In Re: The estate of Ronald Joe Knight, Deceased Case No. 2024PC082 Publication Notice**  
Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned, Kimberly Joyce Knight, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024, 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 of the same will be barred.

Kimberly Joyce Knight, Executor  
B. Boozer Downs, Jr. Downs & Davis Law, LLC Attorney for Petitioner PO Box 65 Woodstock, AL 35188 Centreville Press July 11, 18 & 25, 2025

**In the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama Case No. 2025PC045 Estate of Michael Edwin Rogers, Deceased Probate Court**  
Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2025, by the Honorable Stephanie Kemmer, Judge of the Probate Court of Bibb County, notice is hereby given that all per-

sons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred. Shonda Marie Rogers, as Personal Representative of the estate of Michael Edwin Rogers, deceased Clint C. Thomas Attorney at Law PO Box 1422 Calera, AL 35040 Centreville Press July 11, 18 & 25, 2025

**In the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama In the matter of the Estate of Joseph Lee Owings, deceased Case No. 2025PC050 Publication Notice**  
Letters Testamentary under the last will and testament of Joseph Lee Owings, deceased, having been granted to Patrick Lee Owings, Executor, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025, by the Honorable Stephanie W. Kemmer, Judge of the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama, notice is

hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate of Joseph Lee Owings, deceased, are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed of the same will be barred.

Patrick Lee Owings, Executor  
Thomas G. Owings Owings Law Firm, LLC 1186 University Way, Suite D Brent, AL 35034 Attorney for Petitioner Centreville Press July 11, 18 & 25, 2025

### NOTICE OF SALE

**Notice of Public Sale**  
McKinney Wrecker Service gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 8/6/2025, 10:30 am at 4901 Truman Aldrich Pkwy., West Blocton, AL 35184-2101, pursuant to subsection 32-13-3 of the Alabama Statutes. McKinney Wrecker Service reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.  
1B3ES46C81D103204  
2001 DODGE NEON  
1FMYU70E02UA98282  
2002 FORD EXPLORER

1GAGG39K3SF174900  
1995 CHEVROLET SPORTSVAN  
1GNEC13Z15J243242  
2005 CHEVROLET TAHOE  
1HGCP36888A049901  
2008 HONDA ACCORD  
1J4GK58K84W147823  
2004 JEEP LIBERTY  
3FAHP07Z29R214056  
2009 FORD FUSION  
JTDDBR32E142048805  
2004 TOYOTA COROLLA  
KMHCU4AE4CU131394  
2012 HYUNDAI ACCENT  
Centreville Press  
July 4 & 11, 2025

### INVITATION TO BIDDERS

**INVITATION TO BIDDERS  
BIBB CO LANDFILL TRANSFER STATION REPAIRS & MODIFICATIONS  
PROJECT NO. 25-042**  
Sealed proposals will be received by the Bibb County Commission, until 2:00 P.M., legally prevailing time, on July 17, 2025 for the Transfer Station Repairs and Modifications at Bibb County Landfill at the Bibb County Commission, 157 SW Davidson Drive, Centreville, Alabama, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read.

A cashier's check or bid bond payable to Bibb County Commission in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than \$10,000, must accompany the bidder's proposal.

Performance and Payment Bonds and evidence of insurance required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of the Contract.

Drawings and Specifications may be examined at the office of the Architect, Ward Scott Morris Architecture, Inc., 1606 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and TuscaBlue, 2806

Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Bid documents may be obtained from TuscaBlue via www.ward-scottplans.com, upon deposit of \$100.00 per set, which will be refunded in full on the first two sets issued to each trade contract bidder submitting a bona fide bid, upon return of documents in good condition within ten days of bid date. Other sets for contractors, and sets for dealers, may be obtained with the same deposit, which will be refunded as above, less cost of printing, reproduction, handling, and distribution. Electronic PDF copies of bid documents may be procured free of charge.

Bid bonds are to be issued by an acceptable bonding company licensed to do business in the State, with a Power of Attorney, to confess judgment thereon, with the understanding that it shall guarantee that the bidder shall not withdraw his bid for the guarantee period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids; that if his bid is accepted, he will enter into a formal contract with the Owner, and that in the event of a withdrawal of said bid within said period, or the failure to

enter into said contract within the time specified, the bidder shall be liable to the Owner for the full amount of the bid guarantee as liquidated damages and not as a forfeit or as a penalty. The bid bond and certified checks on unsuccessful bidders will be returned upon awarding the contract or rejection of all bids, in no event, later than the number of days in the guarantee period from the opening of proposals. That of the successful bidder will be returned when formal contract and bonds are accepted and approved.

Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof. All bidders bidding in amounts exceeding that established by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, and must show evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by the Architect; the bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered. The Owner reserves the

right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owner's judgment, the best interests of the Owner will thereby be promoted.

All Bidders are invited to attend a non-mandatory pre-bid conference to be at the Bibb County Commission, 157 SW Davidson Drive, Centreville, Alabama at 10:00 A.M. on July 11, 2025. The bidder's company employee attending the pre-bid conference shall have qualifications and experience with the construction to be performed within this project. Any questions concerning the pre-bid conference shall be directed to the Architect.

Nonresident bidders must accompany any written bid documents with a written opinion of an attorney at law licensed to practice law in such nonresident bidder's state of domicile, as to the preferences, if any or none, granted by the law of that state to its own business entities whose principal places of business are in that state in the letting of any or all public contracts.

Centreville Press  
June 27, July 4 & 11, 2025

### MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE**  
STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF BIBB

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Ronald Goodwin, an unmarried man and and Heather Michele Perry, an unmarried woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns dated May 18, 2023; said mortgage being recorded on June 22, 2023 in Deed Book 410, Page 655, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Bibb County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2024, Page 5583, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Bibb County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Bibb County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on October 30, 2024 the following property, situated in Bibb County, Alabama, to-wit:

A parcel of land located in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 7, Township 23 North, Range 12 East, Bibb

County, Alabama, described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said 1/4 -1/4 section and run South 89 degrees 57 minutes 32 seconds East along the North boundary of said section 781.55 feet to an iron pin, said point being the Point of Beginning; thence continue on the same line 227.30 feet to an iron pin; thence run South 23 degrees 48 minutes 07 seconds East 344.43 feet to an iron pin at the intersection of the North right of way of Oakley Station Road; thence run South 58 degrees 05 minutes 53 seconds West along said right of way 210.0 feet to an iron pin; thence run North 23 degrees 48 minutes 07 seconds West 465.90 feet to the point of beginning.

Said property is commonly known as 865 Oakley Station Rd, Randolph, AL 36792.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions,

special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

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 sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC

as holder of said mortgage  
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP  
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
Telephone: (205) 216-4238  
FT21@mccalla.com  
File No. 23-05464AL

www.foreclosurehotline.net

The Centreville Press  
09/13/2024,09/20/2024,09/27/2024,01/17/2025,05/02/2025,07/11/2025

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until February 5, 2025, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.

The Centreville Press, January 17, 2025

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until May 14, 2025, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.

The Centreville Press, May 2, 2025

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until July 23, 2025, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.

The Centreville Press, July 11, 2025  
23-05464AL  
Centreville Press  
July 11, 2025

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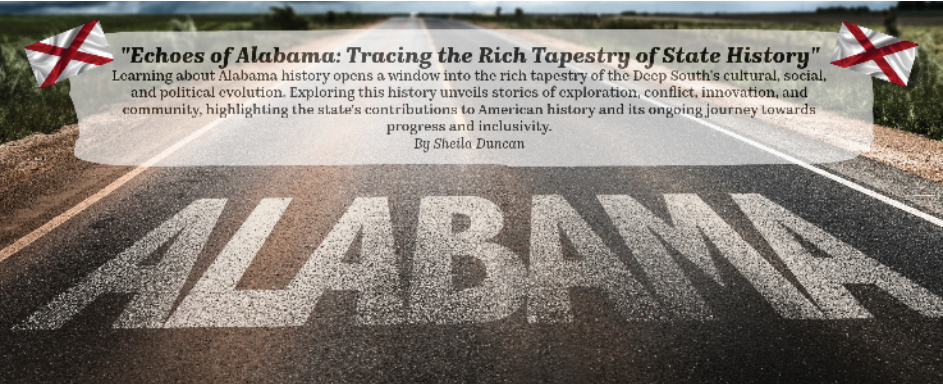
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**Centreville Press**

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LIFESTYLE



The Old Slab on the Cahaba River: Where History, Nature, and Adventure Collide

BY SHEILA DUNCAN  
REPORTER

Tucked away near Helena, Alabama, the Old Slab—officially known as the Marvel Slab—is a hidden gem steeped in history, surrounded by natural beauty, and embraced by outdoor enthusiasts who crave something off the beaten path. While it once served as a makeshift river crossing for coal trucks, today it’s a rugged recreational destination that symbolizes one of Alabama’s most remarkable environmental comebacks.

A Slab of History

The concrete structure was originally part of a mining operation’s infrastructure—a low dam and river ford used to transport coal across the Cahaba River. Known locally as “Booth Ford,” the slab’s industrial past is nearly forgotten by the laughter of swimmers and the quiet presence of hikers and anglers who visit today. But beneath the surface lies a transformative ecological story.

From Industry to Ecology

In 2004, conservationists made the bold decision to remove the slab and its associated culverts. Their goal was simple yet profound: restore the natural flow of the Cahaba River.

The results were immediate. Within hours, native fish began returning to the area. Within days, species of snails and mussels—some of the rarest in the nation—were spotted thriving again.

This small but vital project reconnected the longest unimpeded stretch of river in Alabama, proving that nature bounces back when given a chance. It’s now a textbook case of successful ecological restoration—one even featured by Smithsonian Magazine.

A Biodiversity Hotspot

The Cahaba River is Alabama’s longest free-flowing waterway and ranks among the most biologically diverse rivers in North America. It boasts over 130 species of fish, 69 rare plants, and countless aquatic invertebrates that rely on clean, fast-moving water to survive. The removal of the Marvel Slab allowed these species to return, making the area a living, breathing symbol of conservation success.

Today’s Old Slab

Getting to the Old Slab is part of the adventure. Located just south of Shelby County Road 13, down a network of dirt roads, it’s accessible to most two-wheel-drive vehicles—but don’t expect paved parking or public

restrooms. There are no amenities—just the river, rocks, and trees. Cell service is spotty, and much of the surrounding area is part of a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) or privately owned land. Visitors should respect posted signs, pack out all trash, and tread lightly on this fragile landscape.

In high water, the current can become swift and dangerous. The old concrete can be slippery, and crossing the river—while tempting—should be done with caution or not at all. Still, for those who come prepared, the reward is a peaceful retreat just miles from the city.

Why It Matters

The Old Slab is more than a swimming hole or fishing spot. It represents the Cahaba River’s transformation—from a workhorse of Alabama’s mining era to a symbol of ecological resilience. It’s a case study in how thoughtful, small-scale conservation can breathe life back into entire ecosystems.

So the next time you’re in search of quiet adventure, local flavor, and a little slice of wild Alabama, consider making your way to the Old Slab. Just bring your hiking shoes, a sense of humor—and maybe a tow rope, just in case.



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.

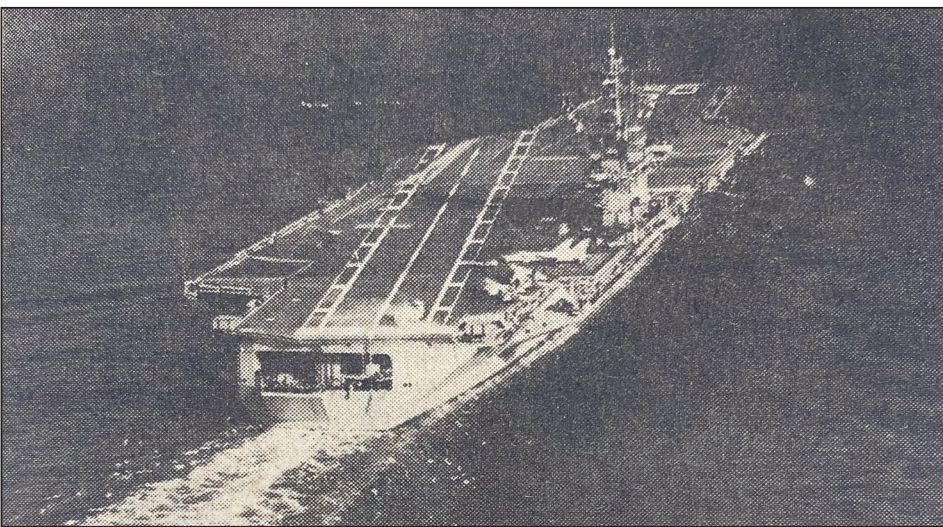


(Left to right) Miss Crews, Adult Education Teacher; Mrs. Lee Kinard, GED Recipient; Dr. Alesa Judd, Adult Education Teacher.

25 YEARS AGO  
Brent Resident Receives GED

Mrs. Lee Kinard of Brent, Alabama, recently completed her GED. Mrs. Kinard worked diligently and with commitment to complete requirements enabling her to receive her GED. She attended the Adult Basic Education Class at Brent Elementary School on Monday and Thursday evenings to prepare for the test. Mrs.

Kinard encourages anyone who has considered returning to GED classes to take the steps necessary to enroll. Congratulations to Mrs. Lee Kinard for this achievement! Adult Education Classes are offered throughout Bibb County at no cost to participants.



50 YEARS AGO

April 28-Navy Lieutenant Commander John L. Landon, whose wife, Ann, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. D.

Belcher of Route 2, Brent, Ala., is scheduled to participate in commissioning ceremonies May 3 aboard the Navy’s newest and most sophisticated attack air-

craft carrier.

He is a crewmember aboard the nuclear-powered USS

• Nimitz, which will become an official unit of the U. S. Fleet at the Naval Operations Base, Norfolk, Va.

The ship has been under construction since June 1968. It is more than 1,090 feet long, and is expected to operate on its initial nuclear power supply for the next 13 years.

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Between 9 and 12 years of age  
2 Doses

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2 Doses

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 [aps@dhr.alabama.gov](mailto:aps@dhr.alabama.gov)

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LIFESTYLE

Lily Bamberg

Lily Bamberg from page 1

Throughout her senior year, Lily and her family worked diligently to prepare for her transition to campus life. Her freshman year at Auburn exceeded all expectations. She independently managed her care with the help of seven Personal Care Attendants and fully embraced college life.

Lily quickly became involved in several university organizations, including the Beat Bama Food Drive and Students Enabling Students—where she was recently elected Outreach Officer for the 2025–2026 academic year. She also served on the Aubie Committee and enjoyed attending Auburn football games, baseball games, and gymnastics meets. Her calendar was always full, and she made many new friends.

A major highlight of her year was joining the Auburn Power Soccer Team. Practicing two to three times a week, Lily found a true sense of belonging and empowerment through the sport. Being part of the team not only gave her a place to shine but also allowed her to thrive as both an athlete and a leader.

Lily’s journey into power soccer began with an unexpected connection in Bibb County. A long-time friend of Trent and Kristie’s, Bridget Tucker Livaudais, reached out to share that her daughter was serving as a graduate intern for adapted athletics at Auburn University and that they were looking for new recruits for the Power Soccer Team. At the time, none of us knew anything about power soccer—and truthfully, Lily had never shown any interest in sports. She and her sister, Ava, would often avoid attending their older siblings’ games altogether.

Still, when we heard about this opportunity, we thought it might be a meaningful way for Lily to connect with a campus community. With a little parental encouragement (okay, a lot), Lily reluctantly reached out to Coach Zack Dickey. She agreed to meet him during a visit to campus while we were working on accessibility arrangements for her dorm.

That meeting at Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum changed everything. Coach Dickey was warm and encouraging, and when he watched Lily maneuver her chair on the court with the soccer ball, he told her she had natural athletic ability—words that lit her up with confidence. As we walked out of the coliseum, she turned to us and said she was definitely going to give Power Soccer a try.

She began weekly practices that September and, just two months later, played in her very first tournament in November 2024.

“Watching Lily compete is absolutely incredible. Seeing her roll onto the court in that Auburn jersey alongside her teammates fills us with so much pride. We never imagined she’d have an opportunity like

this, and it’s been amazing to witness how it’s opened up a whole new world for her. The speed of those soccer chairs is something else watching her fly down the court, score a goal, or make a big defensive stop is just thrilling. But more than anything, seeing her confidence grow throughout the season has been the most rewarding part for us as parents. Out there on that court, with her team, there are no limits. And that’s all we’ve ever wanted for her. As a mom, I was a nervous wreck! Lily was goalie and I was sweating it any time the opposing team got near the goal. She only allowed 4 points over 6 games and had some incredible blocks. In the last seconds of the Championship game, Lily held off a goal by a top player in the power soccer world. We were all on our feet going crazy for her. The smile on her face as the fans cheered will be a core memory for us. This little, tiny girl who has to work so hard to do the smallest tasks had a shut out to win a National Championship for Auburn University. It still doesn’t seem real! Watching that team roll out in single file and getting individual medals and a trophy...there’s just no way to describe our pride. When you raise a child with a progressive muscle disease, there is always worry and unease about the future. It’s always in the back of our minds and it’s almost like we’re holding our breath and praying for continued good health. Watching Lily and her teammates be announced as National Champions, there was no worry about her future, just excitement and joy for everything that she’s accomplished. Watching that team roll out in single file and getting individual medals and a trophy...there’s just no way to describe our pride. When you raise a child with a progressive muscle disease, there is always worry and unease about the future. It’s always in the back of our minds and it’s almost like we’re holding our breath and praying for continued good health. Watching Lily and her teammates be announced as National Champions, there was no worry about her future, just excitement and joy for everything that

she’s accomplished,” said Kristie

As parents, Trent and Kristie’s goals for Lily are simple...staying happy and healthy. They pray that she has a million more experiences, and we get to see her goal blocking smile for years and years to come. Lily has a lot bigger goals for herself. She plans to continue playing power soccer throughout college. After finishing her bachelor’s degree, Lily wants to attend graduate school, possibly law school. She is still researching what she wants to do professionally in the area of Disability and Rehabilitation Studies, but she knows she wants to advocate for others and help them live their dreams. As a wheelchair user, she knows how tough it can be to be successful, but she also knows firsthand that nothing is impossible. She is determined to establish herself in a career that can make a difference for others with disabilities.

Alongside Lily, Auburn’s Fab 5 includes:

Kyle Eggleston – a gritty player who powers through every game while managing Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Noah Griffith – living with Friedrich Ataxia, he brings unmatched intensity and heart to the team.

Walker Ray – a dynamic presence on the court with an undiagnosed condition, showing that strength has no label.

Coach Zach Dickey – born with a progressive condition himself, Zach plays professionally in Australia, represents Team USA, and made time—calling from the Club World Cup in Paris—to make sure his team got the recognition they deserve. These athletes didn’t just bring home a trophy. They broke barriers, changed perceptions, and inspired hearts. In a sports world dominated by TV contracts and fame, the Auburn Power Soccer Team reminded us of all that the real wins happen when courage meets opportunity.

So, here’s to Lily, Kyle, Noah, Walker, and Coach Dickey—for every practice, every challenge, every triumph.

The Auburn Power Soccer Team isn’t just champions. They’re trailblazers. And now, they’ve got the hardware to prove it.



Brent Recognized Among Alabama’s Most Peaceful Small Towns

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

Brent, Alabama has officially been named one of the ten most peaceful small towns to call home in the state, according to a June 2025 report from Safe-Wise Community Outreach. This honor reflects not only Brent’s commitment to safety but also the town’s warm, neighborly spirit and growing appeal as a place to live, work, and raise a family.

With a population of around 4,500, Brent stood out in the report for its low crime rates and strong sense of community. The town recorded just 3.43 violent crimes and 12.94 property crimes per 1,000 residents—statistics that high-

light the efforts of local leadership and law enforcement in keeping residents safe.

But Brent’s story is about more than just numbers. Nestled in Bibb County, the town is known for its close-knit community, where people genuinely care for and look out for one another. Whether it’s lending a hand to a neighbor in need or gathering for local events, Brent embodies the small-town values that make Alabama special.

The report also mentioned one of Brent’s culinary treasures—one of Alabama’s finest country restaurants—which draws visitors and locals alike with its down-home cooking and Southern

hospitality.

As one of only ten towns to earn a spot on the list, Brent joins the ranks of places like Margaret, Helena, and Mountain Brook—each celebrated for their safety and community pride. For those seeking a peaceful, welcoming environment to call home, Brent is proving to be a top contender.

Whether you’re raising a family, enjoying retirement, or simply searching for a slower pace of life, Brent offers not just security, but the kind of community connection that’s hard to find elsewhere.

Find the link to the Safe-Wise on the I Love Alabama Facebook Page!

CENTREVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: July 1, 2025

by Lynn Hamric

Mayor Oakley called the meeting to order at five o’clock followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: All council members were present except Mike Nichols.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dianne Epperson again asked Mayor Oakley for a copy of the Truck Works contract since a change in vehicles had occurred since the original contract. No contract provided.

Brad Colburn asked Mayor Oakley if he had been successful in securing a buyer for the truck. Not successful yet.

Street Paving was discussed and Mayor Oakley stated this job has not been completed.

Don Mack stated he had spoken with JW Kornegay regarding the paving done on Riverside Drive. He stated Mr. Kornegay told him he did exactly as he was instructed. Mayor Oakley did not want to continue this discussion. Mr. Mack then said to bring Mr. Kornegay to a council meeting so he can explain this.

Mr. Mack then spoke about a “man hole” with a missing top. He stated that an orange flag on a post had been put in the hole to prevent someone hitting it with a car tire. He asked Larry (Water Dept.) if he knew anything about who did this. He did not. Mr. Mack asked Larry if covers had been ordered. Larry state they had and were an incorrect size. They were returned and more ordered.

Mr. Mack brought to the Mayor’s attention the need for proper drainage on the hillside street between the Baptist Church and Extension Service Bldg. The homes at the bottom of the hill are experiencing flooding issues from a city street runoff. Mayor Oakley stated he would check into it.

Brad Colburn asked Atty. Mitch Kemmer if the Zoning Ordinance paperwork, advertising, etc. had been completed. Atty. Kemmer stated it had been completed.

Brad Colburn then asked if the ordinance paperwork regarding Vaping Shops had been completed. Atty. Kemmer stated he had not had time to work on this.

Brad Colburn asked if the addition of Don Mack to the bank account signature card(s) had been done. Tracy Griffin stated she had not had time to do that.

At this time Mayor Oakley addressed the council about their circulating a rumor that he was trying to delay the audit until after the election. A rather heated discussion between the Mayor and Council members took place. The Council insisted they had not started any rumors. Brad Colburn explained that said rumors were “in the street” but the council, to his knowledge, had nothing to do with it. The remaining council members insisted they were not responsible. Mayor Oakley continued to insist they did. Dianne Epperson then stated the rumor going around is that Mayor Oakley is saying the council is the reason for the financial situation the city is in.

A council member mentioned that discussions in the City Café could be a source of rumors. Mayor Oakley stated these are professional positions and that everyone needs to act accordingly. Dianne Epperson asked Mayor Oakley how the council can be responsible when they aren’t even able to obtain financial information. Don Mack stated the council has been asking for financial reports for forever and none have been provided. Another heated discussion took place ending with Linda Lawrence asking Don Wallace about the reason(s) for the extent of time necessary to conduct the audit.

Don Wallace stated the records were not “audit ready” requiring extra time to locate records. Upon completion of his audit, it will be provided to the council as well as the State of Alabama auditors. If the state detects sufficient irregular activity they may or may not conduct their own audit. (Which would be at no cost to the city.)

Brad Colburn asked Don Wallace about the late payments and penalties, if he was aware of them and why the council was not notified. Mr. Wallace stated he reported these findings to the “administration”. Going even further into the matter, Brad stated Mayor Oakley advised the council upon their discovery of the issue, that the city did not owe any money. Mayor Oakley stated he and Tracy were on the phone with the IRS and were told the matter had been cleared up and no money was owed. The Mayor indicted he had shown the council a letter that (it was not for the correct time period) stated this.

Don Wallace talked about possible reasons for the irregularities in payments to the IRS. At one point the bank account had been hacked and at another a change in software had occurred. This software has proven to be ineffective and the city attorney and Tracy Griffin are working on a resolution with the company.

He further stated the city staff were “overwhelmed”.

Brad Colburn asked Don how long he had been a CPA (37 years). Brad then asked in the number of audits he had performed and where Centreville ranks as the worst...top 10, 5, 3...where. Don admitted, yes, it is in the top few.

Questions were being asked about the water department audit and Don said he needs to present that information to the water board before it comes to the council.

Brad Colburn inquired about the percentage of the budget that is to be set aside (savings) to cover catastrophic situations. Don explained this and arrived at approximately \$600,000. A safe cushion is to have funds for three months of expenditures.

Don Mack came back around to the IRS issue and Don Wallace stated the city did indeed pay \$25,000 in penalties. He went on to say that some of the current coun-

cil members were not on the council when this occurred

Don Wallace explained that Tracy is having to go back to October 1, 2024 and recreate correct postings, extracting information from the old software and locating records to fill in gaps. This is extremely time consuming while trying to figure out how to operate day-to-day. 60% of the budget is made in February.

Tracy indicated that she hopes to have most of the information up-to-date by August but definitely year end September 30, 2025.

Linda Epperson stated that the council still had not received an accounting of how the ARPA funds were spent. Tracy stated this all occurred prior to her coming on board and would have to be researched at a later date.

Don Wallace indicated that for Tracy to get a balance sheet, which is what the council is asking for, has been virtually impossible. It will be possible very soon.

Centreville Main Street – Quarterly update passed out.

Ashton Cottingham state d there are a couple more businesses they are attempting to secure locations.

No Police Report – Chief on vacation.

Mayor Oakley passed out photos of a leak in the ceiling of the old fire station (residence of Larry). Estimates have been obtained. This is a matter that must be handled quickly.

The matter of fireworks for the upcoming Celebration on the Green came up (\$3,500 is the city’s share). Don Mack asked if this needs to be voted on in light of the financial situation. Atty. Kemmer stated when the budget was passed no further action is necessary. The question of having enough money to cover this “non-essential” expenditure came up. Both Mayor Oakley and Atty. Kemmer stated once the budget is approved no further action is necessary. Linda Lawrence stated they didn’t have a budget since there is no money. No action taken.

The long awaited walk through of city property will take place at ten o’clock on Monday, July 7.

The water board, per Mayor Oakley, will meet on Monday, July 14 with the next Council meeting scheduled for July 15, 2025 at five o’clock.

Meeting Adjourned.

Note: At one point during the council meeting three city police rushed into the building. Finding no disturbance worthy of their intervention no action was taken. It is unknown to this reporter who actually summoned them.

I strongly encouraged interested/concerned citizens to regularly attend all municipal meetings in person. You may request to be added to the agenda should you wish to bring an issue before the body. For more details to council meetings please view on Youtube.com City of Centreville.



NEWS

Jim Oakley

*Jim Oakley from page 1*  
But when asked what role meant the most to him, Oakley didn't hesitate: "Being involved with the hospital and seeing how far it has come makes me the proudest." Alongside former hospital administrator Terry Smith and other board members, Oakley helped lay the groundwork for the growth and success of Bibb Medical Center—a vision that has now become reality.

Oakley's style of leadership has always been rooted in collaboration and humility. "I've always worked very well with people and always wanted what's best for our community," he shared. One of his proudest moments came from helping to identify a young hitchhiker who was tragically killed in 1961. Known only as the "Unknown Boy" for decades, Oakley spearheaded efforts to utilize DNA and public outreach to uncover his identity. The young man's family was finally located,

and he was reburied with the honor and dignity he had long been denied. "I was one of the original pallbearers when he was first buried," Oakley said. "Years later, my grandson Pate served as a pallbearer at his reburial. That was very emotional for me."

When asked about the changes he's most proud of, Oakley points to the transformation of Centreville's downtown through the Main Street USA program. His son, Mike Oakley, led the charge to secure the designation, and since then, Centreville has seen revitalization, new businesses, and a surge in local pride. "All you have to do is drive through downtown and uptown and see what's going on," he said.

Even with a lifetime of accomplishments, Oakley remains focused on what matters most: family, education, and community. A proud graduate of The University of Alabama and the first in his family to attend college, he has passed that

legacy on. "I'm extremely proud of my granddaughters who've become nurses and my great-granddaughter who will soon earn her RN," he said.

Oakley hopes to be remembered as someone who always worked to make Bibb County a better place. "I turned down a U.S. Senate appointment to better serve my hometown," he said. "I wanted to leave a legacy of caring and service that our children have carried forward."

His advice to future leaders is simple but powerful: "If you don't have a burning desire to serve your hometown and are willing to donate your time and effort, you shouldn't run for office. But you can still be a valuable volunteer."

As Bibb County continues to grow and evolve, Oakley's vision remains clear: "Love your county. Love your fellow citizens. Help improve life here. That's how you make a difference."



BRENT CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: June 16, 2025

by Lynn Hamric

Jerry Conway called the meeting to order at five o'clock followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call – all present with the exception of Chad Jones.

A motion to approve the minutes was made (Owings) seconded (Sanders).

Motion carried.

A motion to approve the financial transactions was made (Owings) seconded (Sanders). Motion carried.

Police Report – none

Court Report – none

Request to address council – none

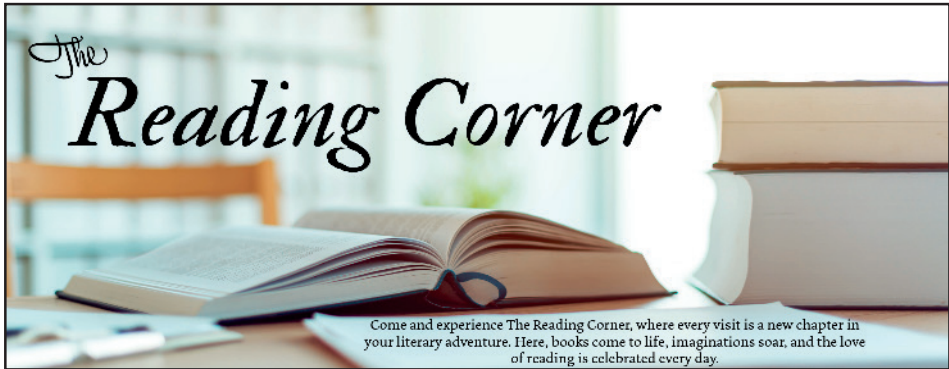
Personnel action – none

Other business:

A motion for the use of Electronic Vote Counting Devices was made (Sanders) seconded (Owings). Motion carried.

A motion to increase the pay of Poll Workers/Inspectors from \$150 to \$175 was made (Sanders) seconded (Owings) Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.



Reading Corner from page 3

The falls are easily accessible from the roadside, making them an ideal stop for families or casual explorers. The surrounding Sipsey Wilderness, often called "The Land of 1,000 Waterfalls," is filled with hidden cascades for the adventurous to discover.

Most of Alabama's waterfalls are best viewed in the spring and early summer, when rainfall is abundant and the surrounding forests are lush and green. However, many falls take on a different kind of beauty in autumn, framed by fiery leaves, or in winter, when icicles add a frosty charm. Visitors are encouraged to follow Leave No Trace principles, respect posted guidelines, and be cautious around wet rocks and swift currents.

Whether you're seeking adventure, solitude, or simply the sound of rushing water to calm your soul, Alabama's waterfalls offer a refreshing escape into nature's embrace. From majestic plunges to gentle cascades, these hid-

den gems prove that you don't have to travel far to find wonder—you just have to follow the sound of the falls. So grab your hiking boots, pack a camera, and explore the waterfalls of Alabama—where beauty flows year-round.

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Tumbling & Cheer	July 14th-18th	4 - 12	8:00am-12:00pm	Kessa Steele
Basketball Camp	July 21st-25th	4-14	8:00am- 12:00pm	Jamesio Rhine

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