

Centreville Press

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LET US KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

205.926.9769 | editor@centrevillepress.com



Fish Ranger opens Aug. 1 in Centreville offering tackle, apparel, and live music

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

The grand opening of the Bibb County Expo Center's Fish Ranger officially took place on August 1 at 8 a.m. Many representatives were in attendance to commemorate the celebration, including two Bibb County Commissioners, the Board of Directors, and more.

The ceremony began with a welcome by Executive Director of the Bibb County Chamber of Commerce Brian Hilson. Following the welcome was a speech by Brent Mayor Bobbie White. White spoke about how the Fish Ranger is a positive addition to the city. She also mentioned how it will increase traffic from larger cities such as Tuscaloosa and Birmingham.

The owner of the Fish Ranger, Shane Jones expressed his gratitude to the citizens of Bibb County, and how he is honored to have a business in the city of Brent. The Fish Ranger took the location of the former Winn Dixie building, located at 100 Walnut St, Centreville, AL 35042. Jones was proud to have his family by his side, as they helped to make the vision

a reality. Jones' family and friends were seen wearing custom made t-shirts with the letters "TFR Staff." Jones loves the County of Bibb and wants to give back to the community. "The people down here really appreciate who you are and what you're doing in a community for them," Jones said.

What makes the Fish Ranger stand out from other sport stores are the in-store activities. The Fish Ranger offers live music on their very own stage, concessions, and more. For kids present at the opening, a balloon artist was more than happy to entertain them by making custom-made balloon animals, while parents were able to shop.

Jones' plan for the store is to create a family-friendly environment for all customers.

The 133-day project paid off, as several customers began to appear throughout the day. The store offers items such as fishing gear, hoodies, t-shirts, jackets, hats, socks, and much more. Jones hopes that the store will not only offer needed fishing materials but will be a place for customers to enjoy themselves by stopping for some concession, watching the sports channel, or listening to live music while you shop.

2025 Grand Opening Week: In-Store Performances:

Holsen performed on both days from 2-5 p.m.

Devin Sanders performed Friday, Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Montgomery Highway Band appeared Saturday, Aug. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



West Blocton Mayor unveils Expansion to Park

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

West Blocton, Ala. Mayor Daniel Sims officially announced this week an expansion to West Blocton Town Park on the former high school campus. The upgraded park will include a pickleball court, a children's splash pad and outdoor fitness stations, aiming to attract visitors of all ages.

Councilman Glenn Johnson and Gene McKinney were recognized for their significant contributions,

including concrete and paving work, and tearing down old fences. Mayor Sims and others praised Johnson and McKinney for their leadership over nearly a decade, emphasizing the collaborative effort and the positive impact on the town's growth and appearance.

Glenn Johnson expressed his gratitude to Mayor Sims for what he has done for the town, and how he is contributing to its growth. Johnson and McKinney attended the former high school, and their love

for the city stands as they chose to give back to the community.

The park expansion also features a new pavilion dedicated to Colleen Parker, a beloved resident recognized for her service to children and families. Mayor Sims hopes that the expansion will not only bring visitors and residents alike but provide a space for energy and life. The event underscored the community's dedication to improving local amenities and fostering a sense of belonging.



Two New Doctors Join Cahaba Medical Care to Serve Bibb County

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

Exciting developments are underway at Cahaba Medical Care, where the residency program continues to shape the future of community-based healthcare. In June 2025, Cahaba marked a historic milestone by graduating 19 new physicians—the largest family medicine class ever in Alabama.

Cahaba Medical Care proudly welcomes two of those newly trained physicians, Dr. Carrie Brackett and Dr. Haley Warwick, who are now seeing patients across the Centreville, Woodstock, and West Blocton clinics. Both doctors recently completed their residency through the Cahaba + UAB Family Medicine Residency Program, which prepares physicians to meet the unique healthcare needs of rural Alabama communities.

Dr. Carrie Brackett, DO, a native of Ozark, Alabama, completed her rural residency in 2024 and went on to finish an additional year of advanced training through Cahaba's Obstet-

rics and Women's Health Fellowship, graduating in June 2025. She earned her undergraduate degree from Troy University (Dothan Campus) and her medical degree from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Auburn.

Dr. Brackett chose Cahaba for its mission to serve underserved areas and its commitment to whole-person care. She will treat patients of all ages at the Centreville clinic and provide obstetric care, including deliveries, at Bibb Medical Center. Deeply motivated by her Christian faith, Dr. Brackett describes her

work as striving to be "the hands and feet of Jesus." In her spare time, she enjoys painting, reading, spending time with loved ones, sports, and searching for great coffee.

Dr. Haley Warwick, DO, is originally from Ripley, Tennessee, and graduated from the Cahaba + UAB program in 2025. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Memphis – Lambuth Campus and earned her medical degree from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Auburn Campus.

See CMC on page 2



Haley Warwick, DO



Carrie Brackett, DO



August 19th- Bibb County Democratic executive meeting is August 19th at 6pm at the Brent-Centreville Library

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

August 28th – Treasure Forest of Bibb meeting at 6:30 pm at Brent/Centreville Library

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

September 20th: Brierfield Ironworks' Car Show and Flea Market from 10am-2pm! The Car Show will be judged at 1pm. We will have food trucks, vendors and live music!

September 25th - Treasure Forest of Bibb meeting at 6:30 pm at Brent/Centreville Library.



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NEWS



Politics in Person

Get to Know our Candidates In the heart of campaign season, it’s easy to get lost in slogans, yard signs, and sound bites. But behind every candidacy is a real person with a story, a purpose, and a passion for serving the community. In this special feature, we bring politics to a personal level—introducing you to Barry Cooner, a local face with big ideas and a commitment to making a difference. From early influences on current motivations, we take a closer look at the person behind the platform.

Barry Cooner Announces Candidacy for Mayor of Centreville, Alabama

Barry Cooner is running for Mayor of Centreville, Alabama, bringing a wealth of professional experience and a deep commitment to community service. He and his wife, Kayla Tucker Cooner, who currently serves as Circuit Clerk of Bibb County, have been married for 27 years. Together, they are proud parents of three wonderful children and grandparents to two delightful grandchildren.

A native of Alabama, Barry is a 1986 graduate of the University of Alabama, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology with a minor in Mineral Resources. His career has been diverse and extensive, including more than 20 years at Stella Jones, where he held key roles in Environmental Health & Safety and Human Resources. Prior to that, Barry worked as a geologist and also gained valuable management experience in the grocery industry.

In addition to his professional career, Barry enjoys spending his free time outdoors, participating in hunting and fishing activities.

Currently, Barry serves as a member of the Centreville Water Board, where he has contributed to managing the city’s vital water resources. Now, he is eager to take on a larger role in serving the community.

Barry’s decision to run for Mayor is driven by his belief that his life experiences, leadership skills, and dedication to service will benefit the residents of Centreville. His priorities as Mayor reflect the values he lives by: honesty, transparency, integrity, and service. Barry pledges to work closely with the City Council and the citizens of Centreville to make informed decisions that promote the city’s growth and economic development.

He asks for the support of the community as he embarks on this journey to help build a stronger future for Centreville.

West Blocton First Baptist launches “Mic Drop” kids worship series

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

West Blocton, Ala- West Blocton First Baptist Church has launched a new children’s Bible study series titled “Mic Drop.” Led by Children’s Minister Lia Watson, the

program combines worship music with age-appropriate lessons to help children memorize Scripture and express their faith creatively. The new program series allows members to incorporate worship music

into the lessons. “I believe learning worship music is so important. Kids naturally connect with music, and many of the songs are filled with Bible verses, which makes it easier for them to memorize Scripture and recall it later,” Watson explained.

Watson wants to ensure that the children are not only learning valuable Bible study lessons but are also putting their faith to practice. She wants them to know that they are all young servants of the Lord, and are called to serve, rather than be served.

During the school year, weekly attendance averages between nine and sixteen children on Wednesday nights, creating a nice environment for fellowship and genuine connections, Watson noted. The children’s ministry partners with other ministries in the community for outreach and service. The ministry participates in a monthly food pantry and prays for everyone they come across. The students also make a positive difference by making homemade cards for church members. Watson enjoys her position as Children’s Minister and hopes to continue to spread the word. “There is truly nothing like serving in a children’s ministry. It brings me so much joy to watch these kids grow in their relationship with Christ. They ask thoughtful, deep questions and genuinely want to learn and grow in their faith,” Watson said.



CMC

CMC from page 1

Dr. Warwick was drawn to Cahaba’s strong sense of community and focus on serving rural populations. She is now seeing patients at both the Woodstock and West Blocton clinics, becoming the first regular physician to serve the West Blocton area in over a decade. Outside of medicine, she enjoys baking, reading, and spending time outdoors—and dreams of one day taking a food tour across Europe.

The arrival of Drs. Brackett and Warwick marks an exciting moment for Cahaba Medical Care and coincides with a historic milestone. On June 26, 2025, the Cahaba + UAB Family Medicine Residency Program celebrated the

largest family medicine graduation in Alabama history, with 19 new doctors completing training across its four campuses. The event marked the fifth-largest family medicine residency graduation in the U.S. this year.

Founded in Centreville in 2013, the Cahaba + UAB residency is now the largest program of

its kind in Alabama. As the state faces a projected shortfall of more than 600 primary care doctors by 2030, Cahaba’s continued investment in training physicians for rural service is helping ensure that communities like Centreville, Woodstock, Brent and West Blocton have access to high-quality, compassionate healthcare.



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Come by and see what we have to offer!

NEWS

Bibb Schools Partner with MySchoolBucks to Offer Easy Online Payments

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

Bibb County School Systems is making it easier for families to manage school-related payments by partnering with MySchoolBucks, a secure online platform that allows parents and guardians to pay for fees using a credit/debit card or electronic check.

This new addition has been in the works since January 2025. The team that helped make it possible are Nicole Elam,

the Chief Financial Officer at the Bibb County Board of Education, and Tammy Pierson, the Local Schools Bookkeeper.

The implementation of MySchoolBucks has been in development since January 2025, with key contributions from Nicole Elam, Chief Financial Officer at the Bibb County Board of Education, and Tammy Pierson, the Local Schools Bookkeeper.

This partnership gives families a convenient alternative to paying with cash or check, however

those traditional methods will still be accepted. Through the platform, users can check balances, view purchase history, and make secure payments.

For parents and guardians, here are the steps to get started:

Download the mobile app, visit myschoolbucks.com

Create your free account

Add your student

For further questions about getting started, visit MySchoolBucks at 855-832-5226

Bibb County Schools Prepare for School Year with FOCUS Act and Campus Improvements

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

The FOCUS Act, recently signed into law by Governor Ivey, prohibits the use of wireless devices during the instructional day in Alabama’s public schools, except when permitted for educational purposes or for students with medical needs outlined in an IEP or 504 plan. The law aims to reduce the growing distraction of cell phones in classrooms and help students stay focused on their academic work.

In addition, the FOCUS Act introduces a required social media education course for all students before they enter 8th grade. The course will teach safe and responsible online behavior, including how to report suspicious activity, recognize cyberbullying, avoid scams and phishing attempts, identify predatory behavior and human trafficking risks, and protect personal information by

avoiding oversharing.

“For Bibb County Schools, we will require students’ cell phones be turned off and stored off their person during the school day. Students will be expected to place their cell phones in their lockers at the beginning of the day and may take them out at the end. While there may be times a teacher has to contact a parent or a coach has to contact officials, we have asked our teachers to not use cell phones during the instructional part of the day as well,” says Superintendent Kevin Cotner.

Superintendent Cotner also updated us on the events and progress made over the summer, stating: “We have had a busy summer! We tried to at least do a project whether small or large at each school. Hallways were painted at Woodstock Elementary, West Blocton Elementary received LED lighting throughout the

building, the gym at Brent Elementary was painted along with the construction of the new car rider road, Randolph Elementary received a renovation to an older restroom along with paving the car rider road. West Blocton High and Centreville Middle received new windows in portions of their buildings, West Blocton Middle’s gym floor was refinished, the band room restrooms at Bibb County High were renovated and BCCA access gates were added to secure their campus. Our technology department is currently working on upgrading the security cameras throughout the district. The new bus shops for both ends of the county should be completed by the end of August as well. I am thankful for all the community support in organizing serve days we have had this summer to help get our schools ready. We could not do it without them!”

Bibb County Child Sexual Abuse Cases Spur Legislators To Propose the Death Penalty for Child Sex Predators

BY MIKE HOBSON
REPORTER

mike.hobson@centrevillepress.com

In response to horrific child sex abuse cases recently reported in Bibb County, Alabama, State Rep. Matt Simpson (R - Daphne), Sen. April Weaver (R - Brierfield), Bibb County Sheriff Jody Wade and Attorney General Steve Marshall appeared before the Press in the Montgomery State House this morning.

The Bibb County cases involve the arrest of seven adults and the victimization of at least ten children, so far, between the ages of 3 and 15 years. The officials today were there to discuss a proposed bill that is aimed at imposing the death penalty on perpetrators of sexual crimes against children, especially those under 12 years of age.

Originally sponsored in the Alabama House during the 2025 regular session, the legislation allows prosecutors to request the death penalty for those convicted of raping or sodomizing children

younger than 12-years-old.

Under a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the death penalty is currently applicable only in cases involving the loss of life — such as murder, robbery in which an individual is killed, and others — but Simpson and Weaver are confident that passing their law in Alabama will force the court to reconsider its precedent. Florida and Tennessee have recently enacted similar laws in their states.

Representative Simpson began by saying “we live in a world where we must have punishments for people that commit this offense. In my opinion this is the worst of the worst of offenses. Taking advantage and taking the innocence of children under the age of 12 is one of the worst things, if not the worst, someone can do, because it is one of the worst offenses. It deserves the worst of the worst punishments. We are here today to let you know we will be refiling a bill to allow for the capital punishment for those that commit the offense of rape or sodomy of a child under

the age of 12.

Senator April Weaver asserted “when a horrific child sex trafficking ring is reported in the news most people assume that it could not happen in their backyard. But as someone who has deep roots in Bibb County and represents Bibb County in the Alabama Senate, I just want you to know that these events have hit really, really close to home. I believe that there is a special place in hell for child sex predators. And when we pass this bill and it is approved by the courts there is also going to be a special place in Alabama for child sex predators and that is on death row of Holman Prison. I defy anyone, anywhere with any conscience or any sense of morals to look at this case and others like it and argue that the death penalty is not appropriate.” Bibb County Sheriff Jody Wade said “this is one of the most horrific cases of child sexual abuse that any of us can remember in our combined careers.

See Proposed Legislation on page 7

WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Date: July 21, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Woodstock, Alabama met in a Regular Council Meeting at the Town Hall on Monday, July 21, 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 and Don Bowling. Council Member Lee Mears was absent. Police Chief Len Price, Town Attorney Boozier Downs and Director of Library and Media Services Michele Dickey were also present.

COUNCIL APPROVAL: Council Member Ernestine Johnson made the motion to approve the July 7, 2025 minutes as previously submitted by email. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ronnie Kinard and the motion so carried.

Council Member Don Bowling made a motion to approve the April & May 2025 Financials and the FY 2024 – May 2025 Woodstock Music Festival Financials. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ronnie Kinard and the motion so carried.

Council Member Ronnie Kinard made the motion to approve the following invoice:

ALM Membership Dues 2025 – 2026 \$1,784.00

Motion was seconded by Council Member Kellie Parks and the

motion so carried.

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

Moore & Arnold Surveying – Land Survey/Playground Property \$150.00

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

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to approve the ALM 2025 Regional Orientation Training for the Mayor & Council Members (including conference fees, accommodations, meals and mileage).

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

Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the following cost for Town Hall maintenance: Stanley Roofing – New Roof for Town Hall \$31,280.00

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

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to approve the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe Patrol Vehicle and to sell the 2014 & 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe’s on govbid.com. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ronnie Kinard and motion so carried.

MAYOR’S REPORT Bibb County Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events

Mayor Jeff Dodson announced the upcoming Bibb County Chamber of Commerce events. The Town Clerk

is permitted to attend.

Resolution #2025-07-07

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to adopt Resolution #2025-07-07 for the Municipal Paving Project #3 (Shamblin Woods Road), awarding the bid to the lowest responsible bidder: Southeastern Sealcoating, Inc in the amount of \$77,331.09. Motion was seconded by Council Member Kellie Parks and the motion carried unanimously.

Avenu – Alcohol & Tobacco Contract Renewals

Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the Avenu Alcohol & Tobacco Contract Renewals for a 3-year period effective 8/1/2025.

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

Bucks Loop Road Discussion regarding Buck Loop Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments were heard. Kendall Criswell, Outreach Specialist from Ready Resources, Education, and Advocacy for Drug Free Youth, presented to the Council.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council at this time, Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to adjourn at 5:42 P.M. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ronnie Kinard and upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Alabama Extension Launches Statewide Survey to Identify Community Needs

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has launched a statewide survey to better understand the educational and community development needs of Alabamians—and is inviting citizens across all 67 counties to take part.

The survey, developed by a team of Extension agents, county directors, specialists and administrators, is designed to gather input on local priorities related to agriculture, youth development, natural resources, community health, economic development, and more. Residents are encouraged to share what programs and services would make the greatest impact in their communities.

“This effort is about listening,” said Eve Brantley, associate director for Alabama Extension. “Whether you’re a farmer, a parent, a business owner, or simply someone who wants to improve your community, your voice can help shape the future

of Extension programming where you live.”

The needs assessment survey is part of a two-step approach. Extension professionals across the state first identified emerging and ongoing needs based on their direct work with Alabamians. Those insights helped shape the public-facing survey now being launched.

“Each county in Alabama is different,” said Beau Brodbeck, assistant Extension director for field operations. “By asking residents to rank and identify their most pressing needs, we can prioritize the right programs for the

right places—and ensure we’re using our people and resources where they’re needed most.”

The results will inform both local and statewide planning processes, including Alabama Extension’s Program of Work (POW) development.

The survey, which can be found at <https://www.aces.edu/go/stakeholdersurvey>, takes just a few minutes to complete and is open to all Alabama residents.

For more information about Alabama Extension, contact your local Extension office or visit [aces.edu](https://www.aces.edu).

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

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

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Ashby Baptist
Brierfield 665-1111

Bethel Baptist Brent
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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
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Four Points Baptist
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Green Pond 938-7769

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Lucille Baptist
West Blocton 966-3556

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Woodstock 938-7096

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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
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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
Centreville 926-4115

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
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West Blocton

West Blocton First Baptist
938-7392

BIBLE
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Woodstock 938-7763

CATHOLIC
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
Brent 926-6430

CHURCH OF GOD
Church of God of Prophecy
at Eoline
256-393-9625
Pastor Shane Pate

Church Of God Of Prophecy
West Blocton 938-2788

Caffee Junction Church Of
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

**CHURCH OF THE
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Centreville 926-5393

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West Blocton, AL
513-254-8241

West Blocton Bible
Methodist Church
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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
Brierfield 205-665-4730

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United Methodist Church
North Scottsville Road
451-3624

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Ridgeville Church Of The
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Brent

Spencer Church Of The
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PENTECOSTAL
New Life West Blocton
Pastor Greg Brock
205.441.2809

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926-4261

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205-938-2344

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

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First Brent Seventh Day Ad-
ventist
926-6328

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Fellowship Community
926-6800

Scottsville Union Church
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Scottsville 205-503-6096

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926-9455 or 361-2763
Pastor Butch Tucker

Yahweh's Harvest
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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



Power in the Blood

“Power in the Blood” is one of the most beloved and enduring hymns in Christian music, known for its joyful proclamation of the saving and cleansing power of Jesus Christ. With its upbeat tempo and strong gospel message, this hymn has brought comfort and encouragement to worshipers for more than a century. Its simple yet profound lyrics remind believers that there is victory over sin, healing from brokenness, and freedom through the blood of Jesus.

The hymn “Power in the Blood” was written in 1899 by Lewis Edgar Jones, an American hymn writer and gospel singer. Born in Illinois in 1865, Jones studied at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, a hub for evangelism and music ministry at the time. He was deeply involved in the Christian ministry, both as a layman and as a writer, often composing hymns during periods of revival and spiritual awakening across the United States.

Jones wrote many hymns during his lifetime, but none gained as much popularity or lasting influence as “Power in the Blood.” His background in ministry and his passion for evangelism is evident in the hymn’s message of redemption and transformation.

The central theme of “Power in the Blood” is the cleansing and saving power found in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Each verse poses a question about the burdens and battles of life—such as sin,

evil, and pride—and then answers with the triumphant refrain:

“There is power, power, wonder-working power In the blood of the Lamb.”

The hymn emphasizes that no matter how great the need, the blood of Jesus is greater. It calls sinners to salvation, the weary to renewal, and the broken to restoration.

Unlike many slow and meditative hymns of its time, “Power in the Blood” is written in a lively, march-like rhythm. This upbeat style helped it spread quickly through tent revivals, camp meetings, and Sunday services, especially in rural and Southern congregations where gospel music flourished. Its energetic tone matched the revivalist spirit of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Over the decades, the hymn has been recorded and performed by countless gospel artists and choirs. It remains a staple in many hymnals and continues to be sung in churches around the world today.

More than 125 years after it was written, “Power in the Blood” still resonates with believers. Its timeless message reminds us that the cross is not just a symbol of sacrifice, but of victory. In a world searching for hope and healing, this hymn stands as a bold declaration of faith: there is still power in the blood of Jesus. Whether sung in a grand sanctuary or a small country church, the words of Lewis E. Jones continue to stir hearts and point souls to the redeeming love of Christ.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Tattle Tales: 1. Someone left their automobile running for 8 hours until a neighbor turned it off. 2. Someone purchased a pre cooked brisket at a GREAT PRICE of \$16.42 (however that was the pound cost). The deal totalled \$63.72. Hope it’s good!

Amy Ellison had her first therapy on her hand on Thursday. For full use and recovery, it will take two years of therapy. Ruth Deason drove her to Tuscaloosa and therapy lasted almost two hours. Afterwards, Ruth, Jo Kitchen, Carol Schladerbach and Jane Hannah enjoyed dinner at Juan’s. Stacey & Chad Thompson also dined at Juan’s and I stayed to visit with them.

GET WELL prayers for Robbie Todd admitted to UAB Bessemer last week. She is home now but seeing her doctor on another issue. Pray for Jim Kirkendall who suffered injuries from a 4 wheeler wreck Sunday afternoon . The EMT thought he might have a punctured lung and the ambulance took him to UAB. Tests revealed five broken ribs. More tests

Monday Prayers requested for LaShelle Kinney undergoing an ankle replacement 8-6.

When my brother C H Deason builds something, he builds it to last. Twenty years ago he built a bench in the corner of my kitchen. Last week, he and Ronnie tore it out to allow room for some cabinets. The removal wasn’t easy. Thanks brother for all you do for me.

Jo Kitchen enjoyed birthday party time with some of her immediate and extended family last Saturday. On Sunday she enjoyed time spent with her son Bobby BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES were called in for MARCUS FONDREN - August 2nd Birthday. Pray you were blessed with a joyful day .

HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week Alan Fortner, Ed Todd & Kesley Petty 8-8, JoAnn Medders 8-9, Candice Carter & Christopher Green 8-10, and Quinley Petty 8-12.

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



Birthday wishes go out to several that have birthdays in August Patricia Frederick, Pail Hightower, Elaine Gilliland, Tonya Bigham, Fal Romino, Davis Patridge, Butch Suttle, Fred Riser, Susan Parker Williams. The Joyful Hearts of Brent Baptist Church met on Monday, July 28, 2025.

Anniversary wishes go out to Pail and LaDonna Johnson who recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Patricia Caddis has returned home after spending ten days with her daughter Rebecca and family in Seattle Washington.

Hope you had a great birthday Florence Elam.

Charlotte West recently spent Monday night with her sister, Sharon. On Tuesday they took a road trip to have lunch and visit their “Adopted Little Sister”, Janet Lott Maddox in her beautiful home at Pike Road, AL. they enjoyed a delicious lunch and a four hour visit.

Belated birthday wishes go out to Marlie Giles.

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

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NEWS

J&S Drugs Remodel Advances with Community Support, Bringing Fresh Updates to Centreville Pharmacy

BY SHEILA DUNCAN REPORTER

Remodeling is in full swing at J&S Drugs, with exciting changes already taking shape. As progress continues, renovations will soon shift to the other side of the building, bringing even more improvements for customers to enjoy. Pharmacist Seth Young shared, “J&S Drugs has been a part of Centreville for decades, and this remodel marks an exciting step forward for both us and our customers. Thanks to the support from the Centreville Main Street Façade Improvement Plan, we’re able to enhance our building with a more welcoming and historically appropriate design. This project will help us create a better experience for our custom-

ers, expand our offerings, and continue strengthening our role as a trusted community pharmacy. We’re grateful for the support of

Centreville Main Street and our neighbors as we work to keep J&S a place that serves Centreville well for years to come.”



Proposed Legislation

Proposed Legislation from page 3

It is not unique to Bibb County. This type of thing goes on in a lot of other places and there are many law enforcement officers who work cases just as horrific as this one. “ Sheriff Wade went on to express his support for the proposed legislation.

Attorney General Steve Marshall expressed his thanks to Sheriff Wade for the work that has been done to bring the current defendants to the justice system. He said “this is not the first time that Alabama has considered the question of capital punishment for these types of cases. At a point earlier in time it was the law. “ Marshall also praised the diligent

work by the Central Alabama Child Advocacy Center (Bibb County) for their work in this and other cases where the victims are children.

In his closing remarks Representative Simpson said “I have an ace in the hole and that ace up my sleeve is Senator April Weaver. She is an incredibly effective legislator. She is passionate. She is a fighter. I have had the chance to work side by side and help legislation and she has since become a Senator. I can’t tell you how happy I was to get that call from Senator Weaver who said, this cannot stand anymore. What do we need to do? She is absolutely essential and she is the difference between last year and this year. “

This bill has not been pre-filed for the 2026 session yet while legislators continue to tweak the language of the bill and track it with what other states have already put in place.

Attorney General Marshall closed by saying how much respect he holds for the manner in which Bibb County Sheriff Jody Wade has utilized the resources of his small office to investigate and resolve this case. He said” I’ve seen a lot in 25 plus years as a prosecutor, the scope and depth and the depravity of what has been described, and I think we’re still going to learn more when we allow the facts to be tried. They are the worst that I’ve ever seen.”

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. 7/25

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

MILTON MCKINNEY DBA MCKINNEY WRECKER gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 09/03/2025, 10:30 AM at 4901 TRUMAN ALDRICH PKWY, WEST BLOCTON, AL 35184-2101, pursuant to subsection 32-13-3 of the Alabama Statutes. MILTON MCKINNEY DBA MCKINNEY WRECKER reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

1HGCD5636VA250488 1997 HOND ACCORD
1HGGC22552A028887 2002 HOND ACCORD

1N4AL3AP2JC279871 2018 NISS ALTIMA
2FTRF17W04CA96975 2004 FORD F150
2FTZF1723XCA12052 1999 FORD F150
2G1FD1E38F9106923 2015 CHEV CAMARO
2G1WB5EKXA1178329 2010 CHEV IMPALA
3KPF24AD4PE552633 2023 KIA KORTE
Centreville Press
July 25 & August 5, 2025

Notice of Public Sale

Highway 11 Recycling gives notice of foreclosure of lien and intent to sell these vehicles on September 15, 2025 at 10am at 11400 Woodland Lake Rd. McCalla, AL 35111, pursuant to subsection 32.13.3 of the Alabama Statutes. Highway 11 Recycling reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

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VIN # - 1FTMF1CW0AKE80259 Ford - F-450
VIN # - 1FDX46P15EC08161 Centreville Press
August 8 & 15, 2025

PROBATE NOTICE

In the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama
In Re: Estate of Ronald Cooper, deceased
Case No 2025PC048

Notice of Appointment to be published by Personal Representative
Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to Amy Cooper, personal Representative on the 31st day of July, 2025 by the Honorable Stephanie Kemmer, Judge of 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 time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Personal Representative
Amy Cooper
Hilyer Law Firm, PC
Elizabeth Hilyer
307 2nd Ave. N
Clanton, AL 35045
Centreville Press
August 8, 15 & 22, 2025

In the matter of the estate of John William Breaesseale, deceased
Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama
Case No. 2025PC052
Notice of Publication

Take notice that Letters of Administration have been granted to Cody Breaesseale on the 21st day of July, 2025 by the Honorable Stephanie Kemmer, Judge of Probate of Bibb County Probate Court, Alabama and that all parties having claims against said

estate should file the same with the probate Court of said county within the time allowed by law, or they will be barred.

Done this day of July 21, 2025
Judge of Probate
Stephanie W Kemmer
Lindsey Eastwood
Eastwood Estate & Probate Law
2001 Park Place, Suite 510
Birmingham, AL 35203
Centreville Press
July 25, August 1 & 8, 2025

In the Probate Court of Bibb County, Alabama
In the matter of the estate of Evelyn Allean Chambers, Deceased
Case No. 2025-PC057
Notice of Publication

Take notice that Letters of Administration having been granted to Kevin Chambers, personal Representative of the estate of Evelyn Allean Chambers, deceased, on the 21st day of July, 2025, by the Honorable Stephanie W. Kemmer, Judge of the Pro-

bate Court 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 of the same will be barred.

Anthony B. Johnson
Johnson Law Firm
Post Office Box 188
Centreville, AL 35042
Centreville Press
August 1, 8 & 15, 2025

BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION POSITION PART-TIME SHERIFF'S OFFICE CLERK

Minimum Requirements: Must be at least 18 years of age and must possess a high school diploma/GED or equivalent. Prior clerical experience is preferred. Part time is considered 19 hours per week.

Description: Sheriff's office clerk primarily handles administrative tasks including but not limited to answering phone calls, greeting visitors, managing files, processing paperwork related to arrests and investigations, maintaining records, collecting payments, providing basic information to the public, all while adhering to legal procedures and maintaining confidentiality within the sheriff's office. Other duties may include basic accounting, managing and ordering office supplies, distributing mail, and any other duties specified by the Sheriff. The pay range will be \$11.80-\$12.80 depending on experience.

Application may be obtained at the Bibb County Commission Office located at 157 S.W. Davidson Drive, Centreville, AL 35042. Applications will be accepted until August 22, 2025. If additional information is needed, please call 205-926-3114.

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LIFESTYLE



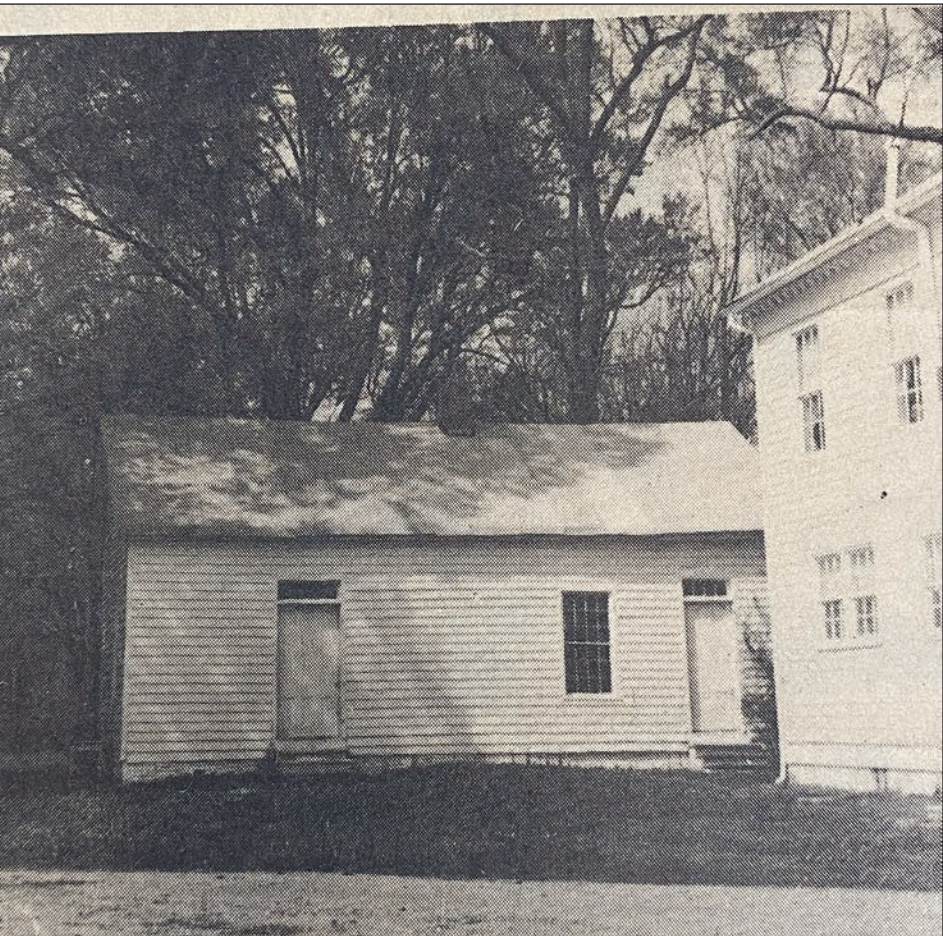
Welcome to our historical journey, where we delve into the rich tapestry of our past through the pages of The Centreville Press. Below, you will find articles from what we call the “morgue” – a collection of past articles that once graced our newspaper. These narratives provide a fascinating glimpse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

25 YEARS AGO

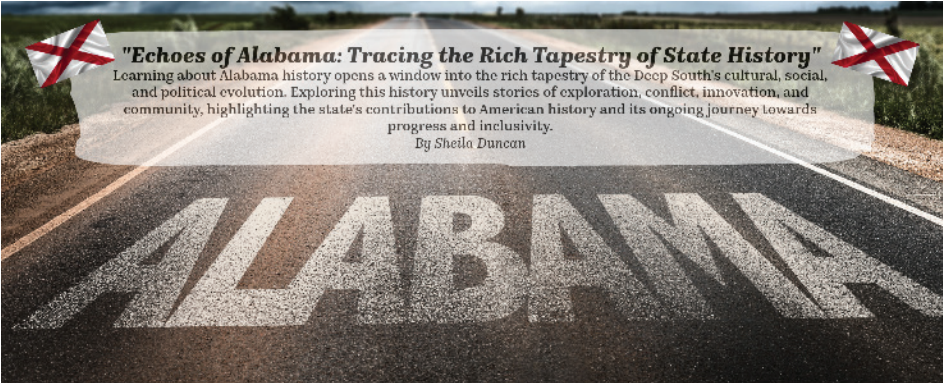


The 2000-2001 Bibb County High School cheerleaders recently attended the U.C.A. Cheer Camp at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The girls came home with several honors. (Seated L-R) Jana Sanderson, Ashley Donner - Co-Head, Haley Brown - Head, Ashley Batte. (Center) Bethany Hatcher, Tanya Nichols, Jackie Lott. (Standing) Brittany Lee, Heather Brown, Lakida Walker, Shelley Smitherman, Jami Carlee and Marla Murphy.

50 YEARS AGO



This building once housed the Centreville Academy until Dr. Moren moved the building to this site to serve as a kitchen and dining room. The England family uses it now as a store house.



Rickwood Caverns: A Living Treasure Beneath Alabama’s Soil

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

Nestled in the hills of Blount County, just north of Birmingham, Rickwood Caverns State Park has been a hidden gem of Alabama for generations. But beneath its peaceful, wooded surface lies a world that dates back over 260 million years—an ancient ocean bed now transformed into a stunning underground wonder.

The caverns were known to locals as far back as the 1890s, with etchings from curious visitors still visible on the cave walls today. However, it wasn’t until the early 1950s that the true story of Rickwood Caverns began to unfold. Eagle Scout leader Eddie Rickles, along with friend Sonny Arwood, rediscovered the cave while exploring with a Boy Scout troop. Combining their last names, they christened the area “Rickwood,” and by 1954, the duo had opened the caverns to the public.

Visitors flocked to see the spectacular underground formations, including stalactites, stalagmites, flowstones, and even fossilized marine life embedded in the cave walls. One of the early highlights came in 1958, when the first underground wedding took place in a chamber known as the “Bridal Room”—a ceremony that was even broadcast on television.

In June of 1974, the State of Alabama purchased the property, officially making it part of the state park system. The park now spans around 380 acres, offering not only cave tours but also hiking trails, picnic areas, a campground, and a spring-fed Olympic-size swimming pool.

Known as a “living cave,” Rickwood continues to grow and change, shaped by mineral-rich water that flows through its chambers. The popular “Miracle Mile” tour takes guests deep into the cavern, where they can spot natural rock formations with names like the “Frozen Castle” and “Bridal Column.” Blind cave fish, albino crawfish, and tricolored bats also call the underground lake home.

Despite its natural beauty, Rickwood Caverns faced

hardship in 2015 when statewide budget cuts forced its temporary closure. Thanks to strong community support and advocacy, the park reopened in 2016 and has since thrived, with the help of local nonprofit Friends of Rickwood Caverns.

Today, the park continues to shine—especially during the holiday season, when it transforms into

“Wonderland Warrior,” a magical, lit-up cave experience that draws visitors from across the state.

Rickwood Caverns State Park is more than just a tourist attraction—it’s a journey through Alabama’s deep natural past and a reminder of the power of community to preserve the treasures we hold dear.



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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

NEWS



The site is commonly referred to as “Old Union Baptist Church” in the Talladega National Forest, south of Brent, Alabama. Though exact founding records are scarce, it appears to date from the early 1800s, possibly around 1800 as local tradition suggests.



With Passion and Purpose, Sweetin Leads Bibb County’s Band Forward

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

A new chapter has begun for the Bibb County High School and Centreville Middle School band programs. Damon Sweetin has stepped into the role of Band Director for both schools, bringing a renewed focus and passion for music education.

Originally from Gadsden, Alabama, Sweetin previously served as Band Director at South Lamar School in Millport. His journey into music education was inspired by his own high school band director, whose enthusiasm left a lasting impression.

“I could see his love and passion for music in what he did, and I realized that this was what I wanted to do as well,” Sweetin said. “I taught my first two years at a very small school and wanted a change of pace. I saw that this school was in need of a new director and was very interested in the opportunity.”

Looking ahead to the school year, Sweetin’s goal

is to engage students with music that resonates both personally and publicly.

“We aim to play quality music that students enjoy and that the community can appreciate,” he said. “I motivate students by being encouraging and setting obtainable goals. “We keep students engaged in band by playing music they enjoy and relate to while also exposing them to music they may have never heard before.”

This year’s halftime show, titled “The Elements: Earth, Wind, and Fire,” promises to be a crowd-pleaser. The setlist includes “Enter Sandman” by Metallica, “In the Air Tonight” by Phil Collins, “Great Balls of Fire” by Jerry Lee Lewis, and “In the Stone” by Earth, Wind & Fire. The bold and dynamic mix is sure to energize the stands.

Sweetin’s personal favorite piece is “The Great Gate of Kiev,” the powerful final movement from *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

“This was the last piece I played in college, and it’s

a wonderful piece to both perform and conduct,” he shared.

Reflecting on his teaching career, one standout moment was receiving superior ratings and Best in Class at the West Alabama Marching Festival during his first year of teaching.

“It was a huge accomplishment for my band and will always be a great memory of mine,” Sweetin said.

With his vision, enthusiasm, and focus on student growth, Damon Sweetin is poised to lead Bibb County’s band program to new heights.



Backpack Giveaway Hosted by Verizon Wireless on Sunday, July 27

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

Backpacks, smiles, and school spirit filled the air as Verizon Wireless kicked off its annual community Backpack Giveaway, bringing together local partners to help students start the new school year prepared and confident.

Verizon Wireless held

a community Backpack Giveaway on Sunday, July 27, providing school supplies to local students just in time for the new school year. Several community partners joined the effort, including the Alabama Department of Corrections, Hometown Chiropractic, Brent Police Chief Karl McMillian, and Sara Martin, candidate

for Mayor of Brent. Each helped distribute backpacks and school essentials to children in attendance.

Bibb Correctional Facility also contributed to the event by collecting supplies at their facility to support the giveaway.

(Source Ryann Thompson w/Bibb Correctional Facility)



Overnight Moth-Spotting Adventure at Cahaba Biodiversity Center

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

Nature lovers, night owls, and curious minds were invited to an unforgettable Overnight Moth-Spotting Adventure in celebration of National Moth Week — a global citizen-science and education initiative founded in 2012 to raise awareness about the importance and beauty of moths.

Hosted at the Cahaba

Biodiversity Center in Bibb County, this unique event took place under the evening sky and offered participants the chance to learn, explore, and appreciate these remarkable nocturnal pollinators. There are around 9000 different species known to Alabama!

The evening kicked off at 5:00 PM with a short briefing and a delicious dinner, followed by a guided moth-spotting session led by knowledgeable naturalists. Guests learned how to identify different species, explore moth ecology, and understand their vital role as pollinators and indicators

of environmental health.

Highlights of the event included dinner that was served upon arrival followed by a guided nighttime moth observation with expert insight. You can stay overnight on-site at the beautiful Cahaba Biodiversity Center and wake up to breakfast and light refreshments in the morning

Whether you’re a seasoned naturalist or just beginning your journey into wildlife observation, this event was a perfect way to immerse yourself in the fascinating world of moths.



Bibb County’s Dennis Stripling Leads Appalachia Leaders at Pittsburgh Seminar

BY SHEILA DUNCAN
REPORTER

What a great week in Pittsburgh! The Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) held its annual Professional Development Seminar, bringing together leaders from across 13 states in the Appalachian region to learn, share ideas, and work together.

Dennis Stripling, a native of Bibb County and the President of DDAA as well as Executive Director of WARC, helped open the event alongside ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin. They spoke about the power of teamwork and regional cooperation.

PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates. They learned how the stadium has helped revitalize the North Shore area with

new public spaces, LED screens, and entertainment spots, turning it into a lively economic and cultural center.



The seminar included many interesting sessions and chances to network. One exciting part was a tour of Mill 19, a former steel mill that has been transformed into a center for advanced manufacturing and sustainability. Tenants there include the ARM Institute (Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing), Carnegie Mellon University’s Manufacturing Futures Institute, and Catalyst Connection. Mill 19 shows how old buildings can be reinvented to support Appalachia’s future.

The group also visited

FARM DAY SWAP

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