Centreville Press

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Let us know what is going on in your community!



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Bibb County Pet Welfare to Host Spay and Neuter Event September 25

BY CANDACE JOHNSON REPORTER

Calling all pet lovers, the Bibb County Pet Welfare is offering residents an opportunity to care for their pets and support the community at the same time. The group will host a spay and neuter event on Sept. 25 from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Woodstock First

Baptist Church.

The event is designed to make spaying and neutering more accessible for local pet owners, helping to reduce pet overpopulation and promote healthier, longer lives for animals.

Appointments are required and will be scheduled on a firstcome, first-served basis. To secure a spot, participants must prepay when booking. Once registered, an invoice will be sent by email, and payments can be made using debit or credit card.

On the day of the event, pets will be safely transported to the Alabama Spay Neuter Clinic in Irondale for their procedures and

returned to the church by 4 p.m. the same afternoon. This initiative is part of Bibb County Pet Welfare's ongoing efforts to support both animals and families in the community. For more details and registration information, visit the Bibb County Pet Welfare Facebook

page.



Reentry Task Force Targets Workforce Development

MONTGOMERY – A group comprising cabinet members, legislators, state leaders and nonprofit advocates on Tuesday will hold its second meeting to carry out its charge from the Legislature to ensure Alabama's reentry systems are helping formerly incarcerated Alabamians succeed in life after prison.

Alabama's Reentry Task Force will implement strategies outlined in a final report from the Reentry Alabama Commission, which met over the past year to study ways to cut the state's recidivism in half over the next five years.

commission was originally formed in 2021 - and reauthorized in 2024 - toimprove the process of exiting prison on probation/supervision. The Task Force will take the research and findings from the report and use them to increase workforce participation among hat population while also eliminating barriers to successful reentry – from obtaining important documents and home plans to securing good-paying in-demand jobs and supporting families. Reducing recidivism reduces crime, and unemployment is a major factor that drives recidivism.

The Task Force will meet Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Alabama State House in Room 200. The meeting will be livestreamed on the Leg-

MONTGOMERY – A group comprising cabinet members, legislators, state leaders and islature's website via https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/livestream.

During the Alabama

Legislature's Regular Session, Senator Robert Stewart authored Senate Joint Resolution 80 which transitioned Reentry Alabama from a study commission into the new Alabama Statewide Reentry Task Force. Members include legislators appointed by Alabama State Senate and Alabama House of Representatives leadership as well as representatives from the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles, Alabama Department of Workforce, Alabama Supreme Court, Alabama Community College System, Ingram State Technical College, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, Alabama Department of Mental Health, Department of Human Resources, Alabama Medicaid, Alabama Department of Corrections, Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs and the Alabama District Attorneys Association. Additional appointments by the Task Force Chairman and Alabama Bureau of Pardons & Paroles Director Cam Ward include members representing municipal government, people with lived experience and justice advocates from the nonprofit sector.

The Task Force will meet quarterly through 2030 as it works to slash Alabama's recidivism rate.

Rep. Sewell Accepting Applications for Military Service Academy Nominations

U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell (AL-07) announced that her office is now accepting applications from high school seniors in Alabama's 7th Congressional District to be nominated to one of the U.S. military service academies.

"Nominating students in our district to attend our United States military service academies is one of my most satisfying duties as a Member of Congress," said Rep. Sewell. "After all, there is no greater act of

patriotism than choosing to serve as a part of our nation's armed forces. An education from a military service academy is a great way to jumpstart your career and develop exceptional leadership and interpersonal skills that will serve you well for years to come. I encourage all graduating seniors to consider this exciting opportunity."

There are five military service academies: the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), Naval

Academy (USNA), Coast Guard Academy (USCGA), Merchant Academy Marine (USMMA), and Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. Nominations are required for all but the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, to appointments which are made on the basis of their independent selection process.

To be considered for an appointment to a military service academy, an applicant must meet the eligibility requirements established by law and be legally domiciled within the boundaries of Alabama's 7th Congressional District. Students must complete a nomination application which can be found on Rep. Sewell's website here.

Applications should be mailed to Rep. Sewell's Birmingham office at the following address, and must be postmarked no later than Friday, November 21, 2025.

Office of Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell Attn: Military Service Academy Nominations Two 20th Street North, Suite 1130 Birmingham, AL 35203

Interested students are encouraged to attend one of the following information sessions, hosted jointly by the offices of Representative Terri Sewell, Senator Katie Britt, and Representative Gary Palmer:

 Central Alabama Community College

Time: September 22, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Address: 1320 Old Ridge Rd | Prattville, AL 36066

 M o u n t a i n Brook City Hall, Council Chambers

Time: September 25, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM Location: 56 Church St | Mountain Brook, AL 35213

For more information on military service academy nominations for 2025, visit https://sewell.house.gov/service-academy.



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Centreville McCalla Vance Woodstock 205.926.4651 205.432.0255 205.633.0904 205.938.7813 Page 2 | Centreville Press **September 19, 2025**

NEWS



S'mores, Skills, and Scouting: Family Night in Woodstock

BY CANDACE JOHNSON REPORTER

An exciting opportunity is on the rise for those who love the great outdoors. On Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m., The Family Scouting Night: Campfire, Fun, and Friendship event will be hosted by Cub Scout Pack 477 of Scouting America at 15 Greenwood Drive in Woodstock.

This free community event invites families of all ages to join together for an evening of hands-on activities. Organizers say the program is designed

work, leadership, and form connections that developcharacter ment while introducing ing. Families can look children to the excitement of scouting.

chance to learn valuable life skills, from properly setting up a tent to practicing different methods of building a campfire. These activities not only teach outdoor survival skills but also help young people grow in confidence and responsibility.

Friendship is another key focus of the evening. As participants work together

to strengthen team- on projects, they'll extend beyond scoutforward to enjoying classic campfire tradi-Scouts will have the tions such as roasting marshmallows and sipping hot chocolate.

> The event is open to all children from kindergarten through age 18, along with their families. Leaders encourage anyone curious about scouting to attend, meet members of Pack 477, and see firsthand how scouting brings fun, adventure, and community together.

Access to information is the public's most valuable tool when it comes to protecting your homes, your communities, and your government.



Newspapers have the unique ability to reach a broad audience, regardless of the socioeconomic status, by providing public notices both in print and online.

The public notices appearing in your newspaper provide important information on issues such as rezoning for landfills, government contracts, and even traffic detours. It's your right to know how your tax dollars are spent and what could be coming to your neighborhood.

And when it comes to shining the light on government, public notices deliver.

Bibb County ERA Meeting



Submitted by Vickie Brown

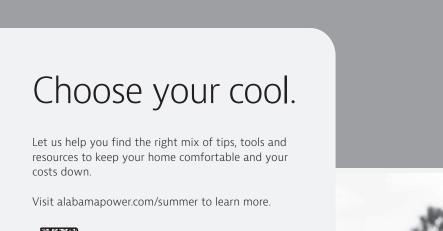
The Bibb County meeting of the year September 2nd at the Brent/ Centreville Library. Insurance changes and other topics were discussed and a brunch was provided for new mem-

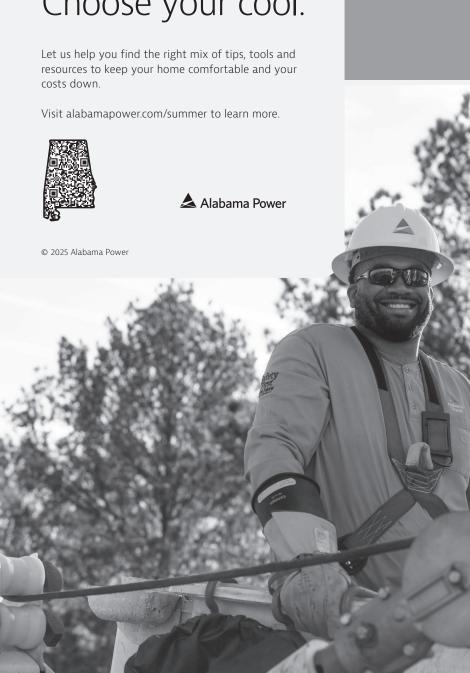
bers. The club celebrated being named a club of distinction by the Alabama ERA ERA held their first and for receiving a ing: state wide commutheir service projects in Bibb County. For the September meeting club members brought supplies for first year teachers in Bibb Coun-

ty for their new teacher mentoring program.

Suzanne Jones, nity service award for Faye Johnson, Janis Conway, Elaine Jones, JoAnn Medders, Billie Dailey, Felicia Jones, Barbara Smith, Sarah Lunceford, Susan Young, Becky Long,

Wanda Thompson, Vickie Brown, Judy Elliott, Avis Huey, Mary Beth Sansing Kornegay, Donna Cook. The October meeting will be at the Bibb Wellness Center October 7th at 10:30





Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Bibb County 4-H Youth Council Invites Students to Join

BY SHEILA DUNCAN

Bibb County middle and high school students have a new opportunity to sharpen leadership skills, connect with peers, and make a difference in their community. The Bibb County 4-H Youth Council is now accepting members for the upcoming year.

The council is designed to help youth build real-world skills such as leadership, teamwork, public speaking, and deci-

sion-making. Monthly meetings will be held, must pre-register by with dates to be an- calling the Bibb Counnounced soon.

dren, ages 5-8, are with an adult. Adults edu. interested in supportencouraged to apply participants are retransportation.

First-time members ty Extension Office at Membership is free (205) 926-4310. For and open to all Bibb additional details or to County youth ages sign up, contact Holly 9–18. Younger chil- Hall at (205) 928-2981 or by email at also welcome to attend HAH0056@auburn.

To stay informed ing the program are about 4-H activities and other Bibb County as volunteers. Snacks Extension programs, and water will be pro- residents may subvided at meetings, but scribe to the Bibb County eNewsletter at sponsible for their own https://www.aces.edu/ go/bibb.

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LOCAL

WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK Tuesday, September 15, 2025 @ 5:00 P.M.

The Town Council of the Town of Woodstock, Alabama met in a Regular Council Meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday, September 15, 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: Ronnie Kinard, Lee Mears, Kellie Parks, Ernestine Johnson and Don Bowling. Town Attorney Boozer Downs, Police Chief Len Price and Director of Library and Media Services Michele Dickey were also present.

I. COUNCIL AP-PROVAL:

□ Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the September 2, 2025 minutes as previously submitted by email. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ernestine Johnson and the motion so carried.

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

S&R Tree Svc. – Tree Removal at Town Hall \$2,000.00

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

Council Mem-

ber Ronnie Kinard made the motion to approve the following expenses: Conference / Travel Expenses – Jessie Matthews Motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Mears and the motion so carried.

Council Member Don Bowling made the motion to approve the following: Bibb County Schools Foundation, Inc. (Classroom Grant) \$1,000.00

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

☐ Council Member Lee Mears made the motion approve the following invoices for the Police Department:

Tirehub – 2024 Tahoe

(New Tires) \$784.16 "Y" Auto Parts – 2024

Tahoe (Tire Mount)
\$125.00

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

☐ Chief Len
Price presented two
bids for equipping
the new 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe. Council
Member Don Bowling
made the motion approve the lowest bid
as follows:
Dana Safety Supply,
Inc.

\$15,336.43

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

☐ Council Member Kellie Parks made the motion to approve the following invoices for Park & Recreation: Coca-Cola – Concessions

\$365.29 US Foods – Concessions

\$915.65

Motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Mears and the motion so carried. II. MAYOR'S RE-PORT

A. Library Grant from Senator April Weaver Mayor Dodson announced that a grant for the Library had been received from Senator April Weaver in the amount of \$11,300.00.

B. Resolution #2025-09-03 – Exterior Painting for New Library

Three bids were presented for exterior painting of the new library. Council Member Ernestine Johnson made the motion to adopt Resolution #2025-09-03, awarding the lowest bid to JCC Painting, LLC in the amount of \$4,862.28. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kellie Parks and the motion carried unanimously.

C. First Financial Bank Certificate of Deposit Mayor Dodson stated to the Council that the Certificate of Deposit with First Financial Bank will be renewed on October 17, 2025. Rates will be discussed with the council upon availability.

D. Departmental Reports
Departmental Reports were discussed and read aloud by Mayor Dodson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments were heard.

There being no further business to come before the Town Council at this time, Council Member Ronnie Kinard made the motion to adjourn at 5:17 P.M. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lee Mears and upon being put to a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.



Centreville News

The BCHS Class of 1961 met on Friday, September 5, 2025 for their monthly breakfast, always having a great time.

Jim and Laura Blumenfeld recently spent several days in Nashville, TN for a church conference. Anniversary wishes go out to Jim & Laura who celebrated their wedding anniversary on September 6, 2025 while in Nashville.

We wish to extend sincere sympathy to the family of Don Murphy who passed away on Friday, September 5, 2025. Graveside services were held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at Haysop Baptist Church Cemetery. Don will be

A birthday celebra tion was held for Ms. Ruth Dailey on Sun-

missed greatly by his

family and friends.

day, September 7, 2025. We want to wish her many more "Happy Birthdays" to come.

From The Pen Cd Scenda Button

py Birthdays" to come.
Among those having birthdays in September are Iva Claire, Carla Hubbard, Hannah Peak Tyus, Katie Watts Moore, Judy Suttle, Bruce Graham, and Kristie Pipher.

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



ALGOP Praises Trump Decision to Bring U.S. Space Command to Huntsville

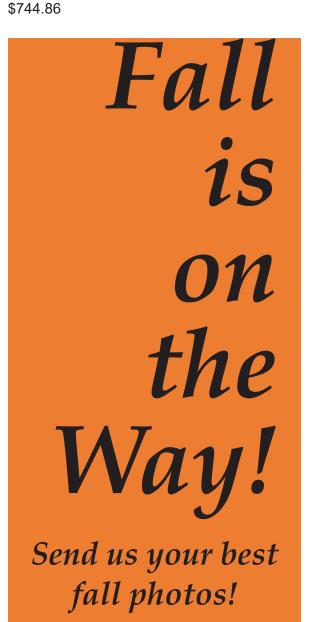
President Donald J. Trump announced today from the White House that U.S. Space Command will move its permanent headquarters back to Huntsville, Alabama. The decision restores Redstone Arsenal as the command's home after the Biden administration reversed the original 2021 selection. Both the Department of Defense Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office had previously confirmed

Huntsville as the best and most cost-effective location.

"This is a tremendous victory for Alabama and for the men and women who keep our nation safe," said Alabama Republican Party Chairman John Wahl. "Today a wrong was corrected, and we are proud of President Trump's leadership in ensuring Space Command is where it belongs—right here in Huntsville.' The Alabama Republi-

can Party also praised

the state's congressional delegation for their role in advocating for the move, including Senators Tommy Tuberville and Katie Britt, along with Representatives Dale Strong, Robert Aderholt, Mike Rogers, Barry Moore, and Gary Palmer. "Huntsville has long been at the heart of America's aerospace and defense industries," Wahl added. "This decision secures Alabama's place in protecting our nation's future."





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Community Calendar

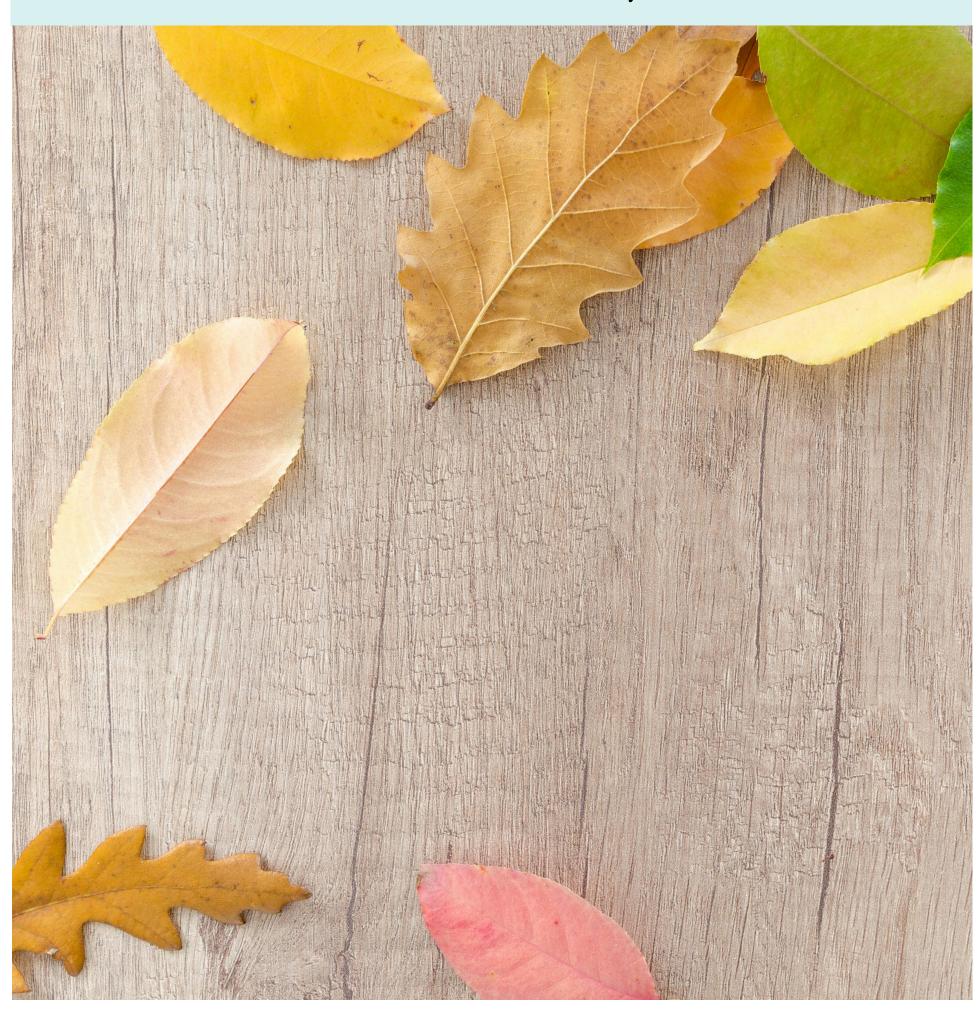
BioBlitz September 27th, 2025, from 7 AM – 5 PM Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park, 12632 Confederate Parkway, McCalla, AL 35111

Ridgeville Nazarene Church Fall Festival October 19th, 4:00 PM

Saturday, September 27th from 9 AM – 4 PM, Cahaba Critters hosting our National Alpaca Farm Day celebration—a family-friendly event with farm animals, food, vendors, and activities for kids. https://www.cahabacritters.org/

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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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

The Bibb County **Courthouse: A** Storied Landmark of Centreville

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE

REPORTER

A Beacon of Civic Life Since 1902. The current Bibb County Courthouse was constructed in 1902-03, firmly establishing its place in Centreville's downtown square.

The building replaced an earlier courthouse from 1858–59 that had shown signs of decay and eventually proved inadequate for the county's needs.

Renowned Southern architect William Sharkey Hull, who designed over twenty courthouses across the South, is the mind behind Centreville's courthouse.

The structure exhibits Victorian eclectic and Romanesque influences, Revival featuring robust brick construction, ornate stone lintels and sills, a dentilled cornice, distinguished and pediment, а prominent corner tower topped by a dome.

The laying the courthouse cornerstone on July 15, 1902 was a momentous event, highlighted by ceremony led by Grand Master R. W. Cunningham of the Alabama Masons. Citizens—including Masonic lodge members-attended in force, celebrating as construction wrapped the following up summer. Reportedly, building cost the about \$34,000, and its courtroom accommodated over a hundred spectators—a point of pride for local officials.

Standing prominently in the Centreville Historic District, the courthouse is a key contributing structure recognized on the National Register of Historic Places since 1978

Notably, Confederate Monument, dedicated in 1910, stands in front of the courthouse, alongside a memorial honoring WWII Medal

of Honor recipient Ross F. Gray—adding layers of historical memory to the site

Over the decades, the building has seen renovations that modernized its interior for practical use while preserving its historic exterior integrity. Today, the courthouse remains operational and continues to serve as both a functioning seat of county government and a cherished historical landmark.

County The Bibb Courthouse is more than bricks mortar-it's a vessel of community legacy. Its architectural grandeur speaks to the pride and aspirations of 20th-century early Centreville. As longstanding center of justice and civic life, it continues to symbolize governance, heritage. public space. and courthouse's preservation enriches the downtown district, connecting residents and visitors alike to the county's past.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation



A Revolution, Charlie Kirk

An OPINION Written by Trey Deason

A Father. A Husband. A Child of God. A politrical activist for a generation the world said was lost... now dead. Charlie Kirk, just 31 years old, was gunned down while speaking God's truth to young Americans. He filled lecture halls, gymna¬siums, campus auditoriums with patriotism that brought glory to God. His voice has been silenced. His legacy has not.

He prayed with students who had never touched

Bible. He debated than politics. They professors twice his age and stood fearless when mocked. He told a wander-ing generation they did not mocked, have to remain poor, broken, or hopeless:

"You don't have to stay poor. You don't have to accept being worse off than your parents. You don't have to feel aimless and unhappy. You don't have to support leaders who lied to you and took advantage of you for your vote." Thousands listened. Thousands believed.

Without Kirk. Donald Trump would have surely lost the recent election. Through Turning Point USA, he built an army of young conservatives, bold in their convictions Professor educators exposed who indoctrinated instead of educated. His rallies were more

were revivals, calls to return to God, family, and country.

Charlie Kirk was slandered, and attacked. Yet he pressed on because the mission was not his own, it was God's. Imagine now the holy words he longed to hear: "Well done, my good and faithful servant." Proverbs 17:5 declares: "Whoever mocks the poor shows contempt their Maker; whoever gloats over

disaster will not go unpunished." Charlie lived that truth. He gave the poor in spirit reason to rise, the lost reason to hope, and he always pointed to Christ.

His life was and unashamed of revolution. Evil struck their faith. He gave him down, but the students the courage revolution cannot be to speak when silence killed. The seeds he was demanded. His planted will grow into Watchlist a harvest no darkness can touch. His voice is gone. His movement lives on.

Small-Town Alabama: A Tapestry of History and Heritage

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE

REPORTER

From the rolling hills of the Appalachian foothills to the quiet banks of the Black Belt rivers, Alabama's small towns have long served as the backbone of the state's story. Each one, though modest in size, holds a rich history that speaks to resilience, community, and tradition.

Many of these towns sprang up in the 19th century as railroads expanded across the South. Depots and tracks brought commerce, and small communities grew around cotton gins, sawmills, and general stores. Places like Brent, Woodstock, and Centreville became vital stops along the line, where farmers traded their harvests and families gathered supplies. courthouse square often stood at the heart of town life. In counties such as Bibb and Hale, historic courthouses still tower over brick storefronts. reminders of the days when court sessions, political rallies, and community gatherings filled the square with activity.

Churches. anchored these

communities. white-clapboard Baptist chapels to Methodist meeting houses, the sound of Sunday hymns has echoed through Alabama towns for generations. Many of these congregations remain active, serving both spiritual homes and keepers of local heritage.

Economic shifts, the decline of cotton, and the closing of local industries left many downtowns quiet. Yet in recent decades, there has been a renewed effort to preserve history and spark revitalization. Festivals, farmers' markets, and historical societies helped breathe life back into many of these communities, reminding residents and visitors alike of the charm that never faded.

Today, walking down the main streets of towns like Marion, Greensboro, Maplesville feels like stepping into another era. Restored familystorefronts, owned cafés, and historical markers tell stories of generations who worked hard, endured hardships, celebrated milestones together.

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Pleasant Sabine Baptist

Randolph Baptist 366-4296

Caffee Junction 477-5058

Centreville 926-3867 Pondville Baptist

Reno Baptist Church

Rising Star Baptist

Rehobeth Baptist

Lawley 663-2907

Centreville 926-4115

Schultz Creek Baptist

Shady Grove Baptist

Shady Grove II Baptist

West Blocton 938-0120

Centreville 926-7041

Randolph 366-1163

Pastor 834-2557

Shiloh Baptist

Six Mile Baptist

Smith Hill Baptist

West Blocton 938-2379

Thomas Mill Baptist

Centreville 926-6882

Union Baptist Church

Woodstock 938-7763

Tuscaloosa 553-9733

The Apostle Church Montevallo 663-3936

<u>CHRISTIAN</u> Marvel Christian Union

CHURCH OF CHRIST Centreville Church Of Christ

North Bibb Church of Christ

Montevallo 345-7018

Woodstock 477-6121

Church of Christ West Blocton 938-7108

CHURCH OF GOD Church of God of Prophecy

Church Of God Of Prophecy

Caffee Junction Church Of

River of Life Church of God

West Blocton Church of God

CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST 2300 South Scottsville Rd

The Church Of The Holy Comforter

HOLINESS
Deliverance Temple Holiness

Free Will Apostolic Holiness

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

Episcopal

West Blocton 938-2788

Evangelist Temple Brent 926-6430

256-393-9625 Pastor Shane Pate

West Blocton First Baptist

CATHOLIC Church Of The Holy Spirit

722 Magnolia St West Blocton

938-7392

BIBLE Grace Bible

St. Thomas

926-I OVF

West Blocton

at Eoline

God

205-477-5468

9225 Hwy 82, Brent 205-926-7600

Cty Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988

Centreville 926-5393

Montevallo 665-2769

Andrews

925 Plowman Street Montevallo 665-1667

Four Points 926-5565

Centreville 926-4555

Antioch 926-9252

Centreville 926-4321

Brent Bible Methodist 812-675-1543

210 4th St. Brent, AL

Brent Methodist 190 Tabernacle Rd.

Brent, AL

<u>METHODIST</u>

Church

Brierfield

West Blocton 938-9766

Brent 926-9211

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD New Life Assembly of God Woodstock 938-2938

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

BAPTIST ntioch 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

Lowerytown Baptist West Blocton 938-2436

Lucille Baptist West Blocton 966-3556

Mission Baptist

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Mt. Zion Baptist Centreville 334-366-5903

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New Hope Missionary Baptist Randolph 334-366-1199

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Mt. Sinai Church Centreville 256-577-8137

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

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West Scottsville United Methodist Church North Scottsville Road

451-3624

NAZARENE Ridgeville Church Of The Nazarene

Spencer Church Of The Naz-**Brent**

PENTECOSTAL New Life West Blocton Pastor Greg Brock 205.441.2809

United Pentecostal Church of Centreville

<u>PRESBYTERIAN</u> Brent Presbyterian P.C.A. 926-4722

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Green Pond Presbyterian Presbyterian Church Rd 205-938-2344

Pleasant Hill Upper Cumberland Presbyterian Church Centreville 926-4409

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST First Brent Seventh Day Adventist 926-6328

NON-DENOMINATIONAL 926-6800

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

Victory Tabernacle Church 1008 Walnut Street 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





BY WHITNEY BUZBEE REPORTER

When Albert E. Brumley penned Jesus, Hold My Hand in 1933, he could not have imagined the reach his simple prayersong would one day achieve. Today, more than 90 years later, the hymn continues to be sung in churches, revivals, and concerts across the country, reminding generations of believers of their need for God's guiding presence. Brumley, an Oklahoma native and one of the most prolific gospel songwriters in American history, is best remembered for I'll Fly Away. Yet Jesus, Hold My Hand stands among his most cherished compositions. First published in Gems of Gladness by the Hartford Music Company, the hymn quickly found its

and gospel songbooks. The song's message is direct and heartfelt: a traveler in a "pilgrim land" asking for Christ's steadying hand. "I need Thee every hour," the lyrics declare, echoing the words of Isaiah 41:13 — "For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand... Fear not, I will help you." popularity grew Its steadily, boosted by early recordings. The Prairie Ramblers released the first known recording in 1941, followed by a Columbia Records issue in 1948. Over the decades, gospel greats, local quartets, and church choirs alike have added their voices to the song, ensuring its place in America's sacred soundtrack. Historians note that Brumley's style blended folk simplicity with gospel devotion. His music

way into church hymnals resonated with everyday people struggling through the Great Depression and the uncertainties of the mid-20th century. In Jesus, Hold My Hand, worshippers found words for their fears and faith alike. The hymn has also been confused with an older 19th-century song titled Jesus Holds My Hand, written by John M. Evans and W. Howard Doane. Though the themes are similar, Brumley's composition remains distinct — and far more widely sung. From camp meetings to funerals, the hymn's reach has been remarkable. Its enduring popularity lies in its simplicity: an honest prayer for strength. In an age of uncertainty, just as in 1933, believers still find comfort in the reminder that they do not walk alone.

Faithful Unto Death

Whitney Buzbee

Chris-Throughout tian history, countless men and women have given their lives rather than deny their Savior. They were mocked, beaten, imprisoned, and even killed—but their faith unshaken. stood These martyrs are not remembered simply because of how they died, but because of how they lived—fully devoted to Christ. Jesus Himself prepared His disciples for this reality: "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18). Following Him has always

required courage, and for some, it has meant sealing their testimony with their blood. The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse of those who suffered for Christ: "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death" (Revelation 12:11). This verse reminds us that the strength of the martyrs was not their Their endurown. ance came from the Lamb who was slain, and their testimony flowed from hearts captured by His love. As believers today, we may not face the

same life-and-death choices, but we are still called to live sacrificially. Every day brings opportunities to lay down pride, comfort, or selfish desires in order to faithfully follow Christ. While we may never wear the crown of martyrdom, we are still called to carry our cross. Let us remember the martyrs not as distant heroes, but as brothers and sisters who walked the same path of discipleship we are on. Their stories challenge us to examine our own faith: Do we value Christ above all else? Are we willing to stand firm when pressured to compromise?

Plain & Simple Caramel Apple Crisp

By: Whitney Buzbee

For the filling:

5-6 medium apples (Granny Smith or Honeycrisp), peeled, cored, and sliced 2 tbsp lemon juice ½ cup brown sugar 2 tbsp all-purpose flour 1 tsp cinnamon 1/4 tsp nutmeg Pinch of salt

For the crisp topping:

1 cup old-fashioned oats 3/4 cup all-purpose flour ½ cup brown sugar ½ cup granulated sugar 1 tsp cinnamon ½ cup cold unsalted butter, cubed

For serving (optional): Warm caramel sauce Vanilla ice cream or whipped cream

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish. Prepare the filling: In a large bowl, toss sliced apples with lemon juice, brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt until evenly coated. Spread into prepared baking dish.

Make the topping: In another bowl, stir together oats, flour, sugars, and cinnamon. Cut in cold butter with a pastry cutter or your fingers until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Assemble: Sprinkle topping evenly over apples.

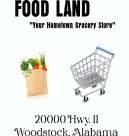
Bake for 40–45 minutes, or until apples are tender and topping is golden brown.

Serve warm drizzled with caramel sauce and a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

This dessert is perfect for chilly evenings, family gatherings, or as a sweet finish to Sunday dinner. It fills the house with that warm, spicy fall aroma while baking!







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BIBB COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

CHOCTAWS VS. ACA

PHOTOS BY BRIDGET STOKES



CHOCTAWS VOLLEYBALL



BCHS Homecoming Court

From left to right:

Matilyn Thomas, Ki'Zharia Clark, Takyla Pewee, ShyAnne Crim, and Dakayla Jackson



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WEST BLOCTON HIGH SCHOOL

PHOTOS BY KANDI SMITH



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The BACK PAGE

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center Celebrating 20th Anniversary



MONTGOMERY, Ala. - The Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTCAC) in Camden has showcased the works of more than 600 Black Belt artists of all mediums of paint, pottery, wood work, basket one-of-aweaving, kind jewelry and much more since its creation in 2005. They have welcomed visitors from all 50 states and 36 countries.

BBTCAC officials will celebrate the organization's commitment to economic development through arts, arts education and cultural heritage tourism on

Thursday, Oct. 2, at its 20th Anniversary Celebration. The event will be at BBTCAC headquarters at 209 Claiborne Street in Camden.

"We appreciate the incredible support we've received for the last 20 years, and our 20th Anniversary Celebration gives us a chance to honor our first two decades and renew our dedication to helping the Black Belt prosper," BBTCAC Executive Director Sulynn Creswell said. "We hope people will join us on Oct. 2 and enjoy an incredible evening

filled with music, food entertainment and fellowship - all in the heart of Alabama's Black Belt."

Tickets for Anniversary Celebration can be purchased online on the BBTCAC website or in person at BBTCAC in downtown Camden. Cost is \$65 for individuals and \$120 per couple. Sponsorship opportunities are also avail-

Only 250 tickets are available, so organizers encourage people to purchase their tickets in advance through BBTCAC's website.

The 20th Anniversary Celebration tures the unveiling of a commemorative portrait by Johnna Bush, a work that interprets the theme "Rooted in Traditions ... Cultivating the Arts of Tomorrow." Bush and the artists represented in the painting will be available to sign commemorative prints of the artwork at the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

In addition, musical

begins at 4:30 p.m., with Marengo County musician Toney Nixon, Wilcox County musician TaDarius Dukes and The Dallas County BBQ Ensemble, a local bluegrass band, scheduled to perform. There will also be a silent auction, and the menu includes preevent appetizers and a dinner buffet. The formal program starts at 6:30 p.m., and Bush's artwork will be unveiled at 7 p.m.

"The Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center does amazing work to help promote the artistic talent found throughout the Black Belt while strengthening tourism development by preserving the region's rich cultural heritage," said Alabama Black Belt Adventures Association director Pam Swanner, whose organization is supporting the 20th Anniversary Celebration. "We are proud to be a part of this event that promises to be an amazing and memorable night in the Black Belt."

BBTCAC programs, including art shows, art camps, festivals, exhibitions, lectures and art classes, draw an average of 14,000 visitors and students annually. Since the organization's inception in October 2005, more than 600 artists have been served and the sale of artists' work has generated more than \$2.3 million (70 percent is returned to the artist and 30 percent supports BBTCAC programming and operations).

The "Rooted Traditions Cultivating the Arts of Tomorrow" theme will continue through September 2026 in an effort to promote arts economy, arts education and the future of the arts in Alabama's Black Belt.

"We're extremely proud of the work we've done, and we look forward to a wonderful evening to celebrate our 20th anniversary," Creswell said.

The Alabama Black Belt Adventures Association is committed to promoting and enhancing outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities in the Black Belt in a manner that provides economic and ecological benefits to the region and its citizens. For information, go to https://alabamablackbeltadventures.org.

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3)organization based in Camden. The organization started with the objective to stimulate the economy in Alabama's Black Belt through the sale and promotion of fine arts and heritage crafts, as well as the provision of arts education opportunities. Strategically located in Wilcox County, the heart of Alabama's Black Belt, BBTCAC serves as the centerpiece of an arts economy revitalization involving artist development and arts education, which encourages residents and visitors to experience arts, culture and place. For information, go to https://www. blackbelttreasures. com.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER

HANDS-ON LEARNING. REAL-WORLD IMPACT.

Last Friday, Centreville Middle School and West Blocton Middle School 8th graders experienced a hands-on career fair at Bibb Medical Center, exploring emergency response, nursing, therapy, pharmacy, and the many other vital roles that keep healthcare moving forward.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Outside, students got an up-close look at a rescue vehicle and ambulance. Crews walked them through the equipment used in emergencies and explained how quick decisions and teamwork save lives. It gave the students a glimpse into what it's like to be on the front lines when every second counts.





INSIDE THE EMERGENCY ROOM

Our classroom transformed into a mini ER, complete with a stretcher, IV poles, EKG machine, crash cart, and even a training dummy in bed. Our ER team demonstrated how critical care works behind the scenes and showed real X-rays to explain how doctors make decisions in urgent situations.



PHARMACY AND LIFE-SAVING SKILLS

Students also visited the pharmacy station to learn how medications are safely prepared. At the HOSA booth, they practiced CPR techniques. At Burke's booth, they explored electrical and mechanical skills through hands-on activities.







HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

Students explored nursing, medical billing, and coding, even practicing skills like taking blood pressure. They discovered how both frontline and behind-thescenes roles work together to shape future careers in healthcare.

SKILLS BEYOND THE HOSPITAL FLOOR

Students also got to see careers outside of direct patient care. The maintenance team gave demonstrations with power tools, while IT staff showed how technology supports the hospital every day. Each station gave students the chance to see that healthcare careers go far beyond doctors and nurses.









FUN, FITNESS, AND TEAMWORK

To keep things interactive, students joined therapy staff for wheelchair races, learned how environmental services staff keep facilities safe and clean, and more. The mental health table encouraged students to pause and reflect with an interactive coloring sheet. Plus, a photo booth added a fun keepsake to remember the day!







