

Centreville Press

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West Blocton's Greyson Hagood to Represent Alabama in Jr. Dragster Series

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

At just 12 years old, Greyson Hagood of West Blocton Middle School is proving that nothing, not even deafness, can stand in the way of chasing dreams. Born with sensorineural hearing loss and other medical challenges, Greyson has been selected to compete in the 4th annual BTE King of the Coast Series Jr. Dragster Christmas on the Coast. Out of 200 applicants, only 63 racers nationwide were chosen.

For Greyson, the selection was years in the making. He submitted an application every year until finally being accepted.

"When I heard my name called, I didn't believe it," Greyson said. "I jumped up and started yelling, and then all my racing friends just started

yelling in our group call. I was so happy!"

Greyson's passion for racing runs deep. Inspired by his father, uncles and grandfather, he started racing after his Poppa bought him his first junior dragster. "I loved watching my dad and my Uncle Chad and Uncle Brian race when I was little," he said. "He would be proud of me right now, but I know he is watching over me."

His parents, Nikki and Michael Hagood, said their son's determination has always set him apart. "He has every reason not to be here or not to try these things, but he uses that to fuel his fire," Nikki said.

Greyson began wearing cochlear implants at age six after struggling to communicate. "At five years old, he had fewer than 10 words in his vocabulary because he was

trying to read lips, and he just couldn't," Nikki said. Today, he speaks fluently and has become a top student.

"He has been a force to be reckoned with since the day he was born," Nikki said. "He's overcome every obstacle."

Greyson hasn't let his challenges slow him down in the classroom either. He consistently earns straight A's. "It's not always easy, but I work hard, and I have good teachers too," he said, adding with a laugh: "I'm not allowed to say who my favorite teachers are because the others get jealous."

Greyson will represent both Bibb County and the state of Alabama in December. The Jr. Dragster Christmas on the Coast event runs Dec. 18-22 and will be streamed on Motor Mania TV.



Ivey awards \$3.7 million across 13 local road projects in final Rebuild Alabama round of 2025



MONTGOMERY — Governor Kay Ivey on Friday announced more than \$3.7 million in state funding is being awarded to cities and counties for 13 road projects across Alabama, highlighting her ongoing commitment to enhancing Alabama's infrastructure.

The grants are the final round of funding made available this year under the Alabama Department of Transportation's (ALDOT) Annual Grant Program created by the Rebuild Alabama Act. The Rebuild Alabama Act, overwhelmingly passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Ivey in 2019, requires ALDOT to establish an annual program setting aside

a minimum of \$10 million off the top of the state's share of gas tax revenue for local projects.

"Supporting all Alabama citizens for generations to come has always my mission. From our students' education to the state's infrastructure, Alabama continues to make strides for future generations of Alabamians," said Governor Ivey. "Through the Rebuild Alabama Act, we are delivering on that promise to make meaningful investments in local roads and bridges across the state. I am proud to say that Alabama is keeping our commitment to safer, stronger and more connected communities."

Of the awarded proj-

ects, cities and counties also contributed more than \$2.4 million in local matching funds. All projects are required to move forward within one year of the awarding of funds.

Since the passage of the Rebuild Alabama Act, ALDOT's Annual Grant Program, alone, has awarded more than \$70 million in state transportation funding for local projects. More than 500 road and bridge projects across all 67 counties have been made possible by Rebuild Alabama.

For more information about the Annual Grant Program, visit the program's dedicated webpage at <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/RAAGrantProgram.html>.



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NEWS

Alabama SEEDS Program Aiding Cities in Commercial Development Projects



BY MIKE HOBSON
REPORTER
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L I M E S T O N E
C O U N T Y, Alabama — A strategic grant through Alabama's SEEDS program is helping fast-track development at a promising North Alabama industrial site, reinforcing the region's growing position as a hub for advanced industry and manufacturing.

The Frazier-White Site, a 430-acre property in Decatur-Limestone County, has received nearly \$88,000 through the Alabama Site Evaluation and Economic Development Strategy (SEEDS) Act to support critical site readiness activities.

The award will help fund a \$154,000 due diligence initiative that includes environmental and cultural assessments, wetlands delineation, species studies and other key evaluations necessary for industrial recruitment.

Positioned just 1.5 miles from Interstate

65 and adjacent to two four-lane highways, the Frazier-White Site boasts rail access, robust infrastructure and proximity to a highly skilled labor force.

It was recently assessed by Greenville, South Carolina-based Global Location Strategies and ranked among the top-tier industrial sites in the state across all three SEEDS site models — Balanced, Labor-Intensive and Capital-Intensive.

"This SEEDS grant represents a smart investment in Limestone County's future," said Ellen McNair, Secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce. "By accelerating the development of this industrial site, we're strengthening the region's ability to compete for high-impact projects that bring new jobs and long-term growth."

"Alabama is focused on making sure our communities are ready for opportunity — and this is a strong step in that direction," she

said.

A strategic grant through Alabama's SEEDS program is helping fast-track development at a promising Limestone County industrial site. (Image: Limestone County EDA)

Local leaders say the SEEDS investment is a critical step in unlocking the site's long-term potential.

"These grant funds mark a significant step forward in preparing the Frazier-White Site for development," said Bethany Shockney, President & CEO of the Limestone County Economic Development Association (LCEDA). "With its strategic location, robust infrastructure and access to a skilled labor force, this site has potential to serve as an economic engine for our community, region and state."

The site's rail connectivity has also drawn attention from major transportation partners.

"Norfolk Southern is proud to support the

development of rail-served sites like the Frazier-White Site," said Tyler Preast, Senior Industrial Development Manager for Norfolk Southern. "This SEEDS award represents a meaningful investment in Decatur-Limestone County and reinforces the value of rail in driving economic growth and American reindustrialization."

Regional momentum

The SEEDS grant has generated strong support among local and regional stakeholders.

"The Frazier-White Site's top-tier ranking and strategic location make it an ideal site for bringing quality jobs and industrial growth to our county," said Limestone County Commission Chair Collin Daly.

"This property represents one of Decatur and Limestone County's most strategic industrial assets, and this funding moves us closer to making it market ready," added Decatur Mayor Tab

Bowling. "By advancing due diligence, we are strengthening our ability to attract advanced manufacturing and other high-value industries that will benefit our region's economy."

Regional collaboration is a hallmark of the project's success, with leaders across county lines embracing its broader economic impact.

"This investment is a critical step in enhancing the site's readiness and visibility for future development," said Jeremy Nails, President & CEO of the Morgan County Economic Development Association. "Strategic site evaluation and preparation strengthen our regional competitiveness and help position North Alabama for long-term economic growth."

With the SEEDS funding now secured, LCEDA said it will advance to the next phase of positioning the site for prospective industries and headquarters in sectors

including advanced manufacturing, aerospace, aviation, agriculture technology, and food products.

SEEDS impact

The SEEDS program is a key part of Alabama's long-term commitment to expanding economic opportunity in communities across the state by accelerating site development and enhancing rural competitiveness.

The first two rounds of SEEDS funding totaled over \$53 million and supported 56 sites statewide, helping local communities and economic development organizations advance critical site readiness efforts.

Applications for Round 3 of the state's SEEDS grant program opened on July 1, with a total of \$23.2 million available to support site assessment and development efforts across Alabama. The application window closes on Sept. 30.



**YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S BEEN REZONED
OR HADN'T YOU HEARD?**



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.

Centreville News
By Brenda Hubbard

Sympathy goes out to the family of Linda Mahan of Brierfield, who passed away on September 18, 2025. Linda will be greatly missed.

The BCHS class of 1969, met at the home of Jim and Anita Headley on Saturday, September 20, 2025, with plenty of delicious food, fun, fellowship and beautiful weather. All reporting a great time.

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of Peggy Smith, who passed away on Friday, September 19, 2025. Graveside services were held on Tuesday, September 23 at Pineland Memorial Park. Peggy will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Several with birthdays in September are Raclee Nix, Casey Dunkin, James Owens, Mickey Wix, Jada Hubbard Woodruff, Seth young and Abby McCary.

The joyful hearts of Brent Baptist church met on Monday, September 22 at 10 am

with lunch at the noon hour.

Homecoming will be held at New Life Baptist Church on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 10:30 am. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Franklin D Wilson, age 92 of Randolph, who passed away on September 21, 2025. Services were held on Wednesday, September 24 at Rehoboth Baptist Church at 11am with burial in the adjoining cemetery. Frank will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Odie and Doris Newman recently vacationed for a week in Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming Enroute to Colorado, they spent first night in Dodge City, Kansas, reporting a great trip, visiting many points of interest.

Virginia Kornegay Dean of Atlanta, Georgia, arrived on Friday morning for a few days with her friend Charlotte Lovelady West. Friday during the day,

they watched the BCHS homecoming parade and game on Friday night. On Saturday, they joined the BCHS class of 1969 for a get together at the home of Jim and Anita Headley, where a great time was had for all in attendance.

Sunday morning, they attended worship service at Shady Grove Baptist Church, where Jim Headley brought a wonderful message. Lunch with friends after the service.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Vernie Fondren, who passed away recently. Ms. Vernie will be missed by her family and many friends.

A speedy recovery goes out to Rhonda Levert, who is undergoing tests at this writing.

Call your news in at 205-316-1181, take care and God Bless

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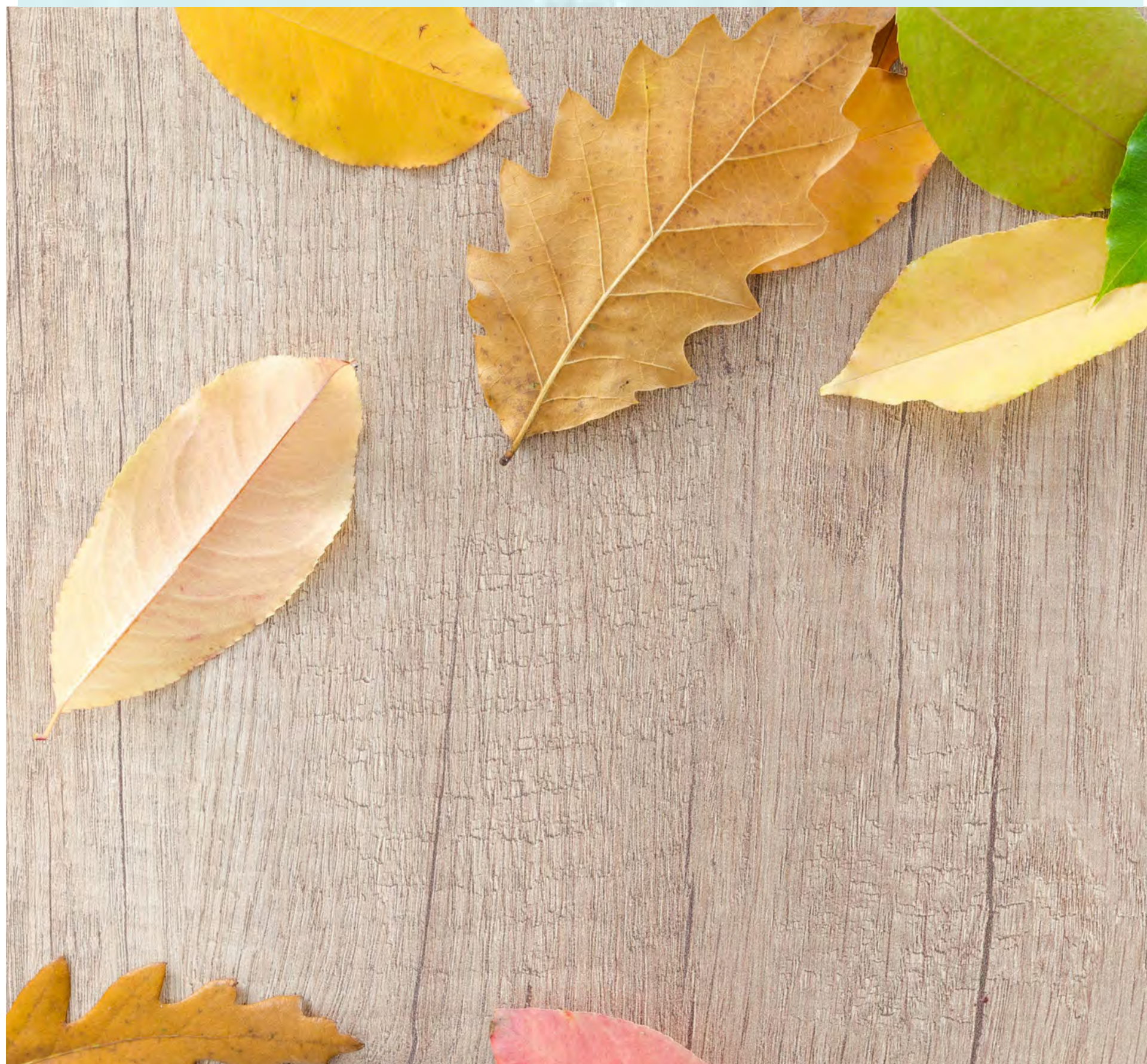
September 5th: Brierfield Ironworks Movie Night! This is a FREE event. There will be food trucks available. Movie will be outdoors, so bring your blankets or lawn chairs!

Movie starts at 7pm.

September 6: 1st Saturday Night Singing @ Cedar Grove Church 6 pm. Guest singers will be Beyond Blessed with Yolanda Mitchell. Everyone is invited.

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.



EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Fewer Papers on the Porch: Small Towns Feel the Decline of Print News

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE
REPORTER

Not long ago, the sight of a rolled-up newspaper on the front porch was as common in Bibb County as the morning dew. Neighbors shared clippings, swapped editions at the café, and waited each week for the latest local happenings. Today, however, fewer porches see a paper, and fewer hands unfold its pages.

Across the country, print newspapers are shrinking, and small towns like ours feel it most. Rising printing costs, dwindling ad sales, and the speed of online news have all taken a toll. Some families have switched to reading headlines on their phones, while others no longer subscribe at all.

Local newspapers have always been more than a way to keep up with the headlines. They've carried birth announcements,

ball scores, church news, and the faces of friends and neighbors. Without them, communities can feel a little more disconnected.

Still, there is hope. While some papers have folded, others have found ways to adapt—printing slimmer editions while keeping an online presence strong. And there remains a loyal group of readers who simply prefer the feel of newsprint in their hands.

As one retired teacher put it, "You can scroll through your phone all day, but there's nothing like sitting on the porch with a real paper."

Whether the paper comes by porch, post office, or phone screen, the need for good local news is as strong as ever. The challenge for small-town journalism is finding a way to keep that hometown voice alive for the next generation.

Alabama Ranked As Top Choice For Doing Business

Governor Kay Ivey on Wednesday announced that Alabama has been ranked among the nation's top 10 states for doing business by "Area Development" magazine, reflecting the state's strong economic fundamentals and business-friendly environment.

In the publication's 2025 Top States for Doing Business report, Alabama ranked No. 8 overall, scoring especially high in categories that are crucial to attracting investment and fueling job growth. The state earned the magazine's top ranking for Favorable Property Tax and placed in the top 10 in eight additional categories, including Overall Cost of Doing Business (No. 3).

"Alabama's high ranking in this respected national survey confirms what we already know: Our state is open for business and built for success," said Governor Ivey. "By keeping taxes

low, cutting red tape and investing in our people and infrastructure, we've created an environment where companies can thrive and communities can grow."

The annual "Area Development" survey evaluates how well states perform across key economic development factors such as tax structure, incentives, workforce readiness and site availability. Alabama ranked:

- No. 1 — Favorable Property Tax
- No. 3 — Overall Cost of Doing Business
- No. 3 — Favorable Regulatory Framework
- No. 4 — Business Incentives Programs
- No. 6 — Cooperative Local and State Government
- No. 6 — Site Readiness Programs
- No. 7 — Workforce Training Programs
- No. 7 — Availability of Sites
- No. 9 — Energy Cost

Alabama Forests Remain Under Attack From Southern Pine Beetle



BY MIKE HOBSON
REPORTER

mike.hobson@centrevillepress.com

Given that it's smaller than a grain of rice, it might be hard to believe that the minuscule southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) could cause massive damage to forests! These beetles have been a well-known foe of the southern United States for centuries.

The southern pine beetle was first recorded in the southeastern United States in the late 1700s. Though they are originally native to the southeast, warming winter temperatures have allowed the beetle's range to expand up the east coast in recent decades.

Southern pine bark beetles cause more damage to southern pine timber than any other forest insect in Alabama. On average, the state loses 60,000 pine trees a year during a southern pine bark beetle outbreak that totals approximately \$800,000 in economic loss. Of course, during an epidemic episode, the amount of economic and timber loss is greatly increased.

Southern pine bark beetles generally attack less vigorous or stressed pines, especially ones weakened by a continual drought, storm damage, strong winds, severe fires, old age, prevailing diseases, tree competition, and other insect infestations. Most

southern pine species, if not all are vulnerable, but depending on the particular beetle, some pines are more susceptible than others.

With three groups of southern pine bark beetles in the southeast wreaking havoc on pine trees; each one has its own distinguishable features and characteristics. The three groups of southern pine bark beetles are the southern pine beetle (SPB), the Ips engraver beetle (IEB), and the black turpentine beetle (BTB). Each beetle will initiate an attack based on specific causes and each will basically attack a different area of the tree. Even its rate of spread to the next pine is scantily different based on the beetle species.

Of the three, the SPB is the most aggressive and more likely to attack healthy pines. The IEB and the BTB tend to only attack weakened, stressed, or damaged trees. The IEB and BTB, however, have a slightly greater host list than the SPB. The SPB generally does not attack slash or longleaf pines unless these pine species are extremely stressed.

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) issued an alert about the Southern pine beetle in 2024. The AFC said it has identified almost 5,000 trouble spots, with an average of 191 trees killed at each spot.

"Unfortunately, this is

the highest number of beetle spots we've experienced in the state in the last 23 years, State Forester Rick Oates said in a recently issued statement. "The agency has conducted aerial surveys in 51 counties so far, with more counties anticipated over the next couple weeks. Both Mississippi and Georgia are also counting numerous spots. So, it looks as if this is an especially active pine beetle year not just here in Alabama, but across the Southeast."

Alabama U.S. Senators Katie Britt and Tommy Tuberville are taking action to combat the Southern Pine Beetle

U.S. Senator Katie Britt (R-Ala.) joined Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) and several of her Senate colleagues in reintroducing the Emergency Pine Beetle Response Act of 2025. The bill seeks to help private landowners, timber cutting and hauling businesses, and local municipalities respond to forest-related disasters, including pine beetle outbreaks that ravage our forests.

"Pine beetle infestations devastate forests to the tune of millions of dollars in economic losses, particularly in states like Alabama. Outbreaks spread fast and have a direct impact on those whose livelihoods depend on healthy pine forests for timber production. I am proud to support

this important legislation that strengthens existing federal programs and helps Alabama landowners respond when facing this disaster," Senator Britt said.

The Emergency Pine Beetle Response Act of 2025 would strengthen existing federal programs and give the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) tools to combat ongoing pine beetle infestations. It would introduce a cost-share mechanism to help landowners, loggers, haulers, and tree removal services implement expensive disaster mitigation techniques.

It would also authorize the USDA to issue grants to states and municipalities for infested tree removal and related activities, as well as administer program assistance following national disaster designations and pine beetle infestations.

"The end of drought conditions didn't end the pine beetle infestation or lessen costs to combat them. There is a real need to tailor USDA disaster programs to truly help states like Mississippi where most of its forests are privately owned or within city limits. Most of these folks do not have the upfront money to carry out timely or thorough eradication work," Senator Hyde-Smith said. "The Emergency Pine Beetle Response Act addresses these issues effectively."

This legislation will apply not only to drought, but to other natural disasters that increase the likelihood for outbreaks such as wildfires, hurricanes or excessive winds, floods, or other events within 12 months prior. Read the full text of the bill here.

The Emergency Pine Beetle Response Act of 2025 is cosponsored by Senators John Kennedy (R-La.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), and Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.).

Centreville Press

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“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE
REPORTER

Few hymns have offered such comfort to weary hearts as “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.” For well over a century, Christians around the world have sung its words in times of joy and sorrow, reminding themselves of the steadfast arms of God that never let go.

The hymn was written in 1887, born out of both Scripture and grief. Elisha A. Hoffman, a well-known hymn writer, penned the lyrics after reflecting on Deuteronomy 33:27: “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” He sent his text to Anthony J. Showalter, a music teacher and pub-

lisher from Georgia. Showalter had just written to two former students who had each lost their wives. In searching for words of comfort, the verse in Deuteronomy stirred his heart. Inspired, he composed the tune and asked Hoffman to complete the lyrics. Together they created one of the most enduring hymns in church history.

The message was simple yet profound: no matter what trials or losses we face, we can lean fully on the strength, love, and faithfulness of God. The refrain captures that promise: a safe, unshakable refuge in the everlasting arms of the Lord.

The hymn quickly spread across de-

nominations, hymnals, and revival meetings. Its popularity only grew through the years, finding its way into gospel recordings, church choirs, and even films such as Night of the Hunter (1955) and True Grit (2010).

Yet at its heart, “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” is not about fame or history—it is about hope. The same comfort that sustained grieving friends in the 19th century continues to sustain believers today. When life feels uncertain, the hymn reminds us of the unchanging truth: God’s arms are always strong enough to carry us.



Be Ready

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE
REPORTER

One of the most sobering and encouraging promises of Scripture is that Jesus Christ will return. Just as He ascended into heaven, He will come again to gather His people and bring final victory. The Bible reminds us, “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come” (Matthew 24:42).

We live in a world full of distractions—busyness, responsibilities, and the pursuit of comfort. It’s easy to lose focus and forget that eternity is nearer than we think. But the call of Christ is clear: live ready. Being ready doesn’t mean living in fear of the unknown; it means living with

hope, purpose, and faithfulness.

Readiness begins in the heart. We must ask ourselves: Have I placed my trust in Christ as Savior and Lord? Am I walking daily in His grace and seeking to honor Him in my words and actions? Readiness is not about perfection but about devotion. A heart that is surrendered to Christ will naturally watch and wait with joy for His appearing.

Readiness also shapes how we live toward others. Jesus taught us to love our neighbor, serve with humility, and forgive freely. When He returns, He should find us living as reflections of His love in the world. Each act of kindness, each word of encouragement, and each

step of obedience is a way of preparing for His return.

The early church often greeted one another with the word “Maranatha”—Come, Lord Jesus! That same longing should be alive in us today. Instead of being anxious about the future, we can rest in the assurance that Christ’s return will set all things right.

Let us live with lamps full of oil, like the wise virgins in Jesus’ parable (Matthew 25). Let us be found faithful stewards of the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted to us. And let us encourage one another daily, reminding each other that the King is coming.

Plain & Simple Spooky Halloween Monster Munch

Ingredients:
6 cups popped popcorn (plain or lightly salted)
2 cups pretzels (mini twists or sticks)
1 ½ cups candy corn
1 cup chocolate candies (M&M’s or Reese’s Pieces work great)
1 cup mini marshmallows
12 oz white chocolate or almond bark (for drizzling)
Halloween sprinkles (optional, but fun!)

Instructions:
Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
In a big bowl, combine the popcorn, pretzels, candy corn, chocolate candies, and marsh-

mallows.
Melt the white chocolate or almond bark according to package directions until smooth.
Drizzle the melted chocolate over the mixture, tossing gently to coat everything.
Spread the coated mix evenly on the baking sheet and add sprinkles while the chocolate is still wet.

Let it cool and harden completely (about 30 minutes).
Break into clusters and serve in bowls or bag it up in cute Halloween treat bags!
Tip: For extra “spook,” toss in candy eyeballs before the chocolate hardens—kids love it!

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PHOTOS BY BRIDGET STOKES



The BACK PAGE

2025 Airing of the Quilts offers unique cultural experience

The 2025 Airing of the Quilts Festival – set for Saturday, Oct. 4, in the Gee’s Bend community of Wilcox County – promises to spotlight the area’s world-renowned quilt-makers while also celebrating the community’s cultural significance.

Now in its fourth year, the 2025 Airing of the Quilts Festival added global sportswear brand adidas as its presenting partner for an event that honors the living history of Gee’s Bend from the area’s origins to its significant role in the American Civil Rights Movement and its current fame as one of America’s most renowned artist communities.

“The festival gives visitors the opportunity to meet quilters, learn about the area’s history, and become immersed in the area’s incredible cultural significance,” said Kim V. Kelly, executive director of the Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy.

The festival, which was named to Garden & Gun magazine’s 2025 Bucket List, drew 2,100 people to Gee’s Bend in 2024, and

organizers expect at least 2,500 visitors this year.

Gee’s Bend quilters have garnered international fame for their unique quilt-making, and the festival honors the community’s history of quilt-making with interactive programming, food trucks, entertainment and live musical performances. Visitors to the Airing of the Quilts also take part in quilting demonstrations and storytelling from the descendants of generations of Gee’s Bend quilters.

This year’s festival features the unveiling of an exhibition dedicated to Dinah Miller (née Jenkins), who was kidnapped in Africa and brought to Alabama in 1860 aboard the last known slave ship to enter U.S. waters, the Clotilda. The exhibit is titled “Between History and Memory: Dinah Miller’s Legacy in Gee’s Bend.”

Miller settled in Gee’s Bend in 1890 and is the earliest known quilter in the area. Her descendants rank among the area’s most renowned quilters.

“This new exhibition

will clearly celebrate Dinah’s life, tell her unique and inspirational story, and honor her immense contributions to the Gee’s Bend community,” Kelly said.

On Oct. 2, during the week before the festival, Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy will also debut its newly designed quilt workshop/learning space and posthumously dedicate the facility to the Rev. Lonnie Brown Jr., a community advocate who passed away earlier this year. The facility was built thanks to funding from The Daniel Foundation of Alabama and a grant from the Alabama State Council of the Arts.

The new workshop space will be open for use and tours during the festival. “This facility will give visitors an opportunity to sit down and learn about them, learn about their history and get an intimate lesson in their artistry throughout the year, not just during the festival,” Kelly said.

The Airing of the Quilts Festival is hosted by organizing sponsors Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy,

Sew Gee’s Bend



Heritage Builders, and Souls Grown Deep. This festival is open to the public.

The event is free with a recommended contribution of \$40 to support the Gee’s Bend quilt-making community. For the second straight year, the festival will offer a hop-on/hop-off bus service for \$25 that will visit the homes of Gee’s Bend quilters, as well as the festival.

“The Airing of the Quilts is clearly one of

the very best cultural events in the Black Belt,” said Pam Swanner, director of the Alabama Black Belt Adventures Association (ALBBAA). “Our organization is honored to support this annual event, and I urge anyone who hasn’t been to the festival to make plans now. You’ll be enriched by the quilt-makers’ artistry, enjoy shopping the many vendors, listening to great music and feasting on delicious locally

prepared dishes. This immersive cultural experience can’t be found anywhere else in the world.”

The Black Belt includes the following 23 counties: Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choc-taw, Clarke, Conecuh, Crenshaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Montgomery, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Rus-sell, Sumter, Tusca-loosa and Wilcox.

BMC HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and at Bibb Medical Center, we want our community to know that support is always available. Mental health is just as important as physical health, and BMC offers Behavioral Health services to help you take the first step toward healing. For additional information and local community resources, scan the QR code provided or visit bibbmed.com/social-services.com.

We invite you to wear teal/purple on World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10th) with us.



The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 to provide free and confidential support for anyone experiencing mental health distress or a loved one in need of guidance.

UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE

Join us for a free group session to learn the basics of Medicare before open enrollment begins October 15th. Molly Averette will cover the difference between Medicare and Medicaid, how to avoid calls that may change your insurance without your knowledge, and what to know as open enrollment approaches.

Thursday, September 11th
at BMC Wellness Center
Morning Session: 10:30 am
Evening Session: 5:30 pm



CHOLESTEROL EDUCATION MONTH

Did you know? Your liver makes all the cholesterol your body needs. Cholesterol helps build cells, hormones, bile acids, and vitamin D.

HDL and LDL aren't cholesterol; they're lipoproteins that carry cholesterol. **LDL** ("bad") delivers cholesterol to the bloodstream. **HDL** ("good") removes it.

Too much in the blood can clog vessels, so healthy levels matter:

Total cholesterol: < 200
LDL: < 100
HDL: ≥ 40