

Centreville Press

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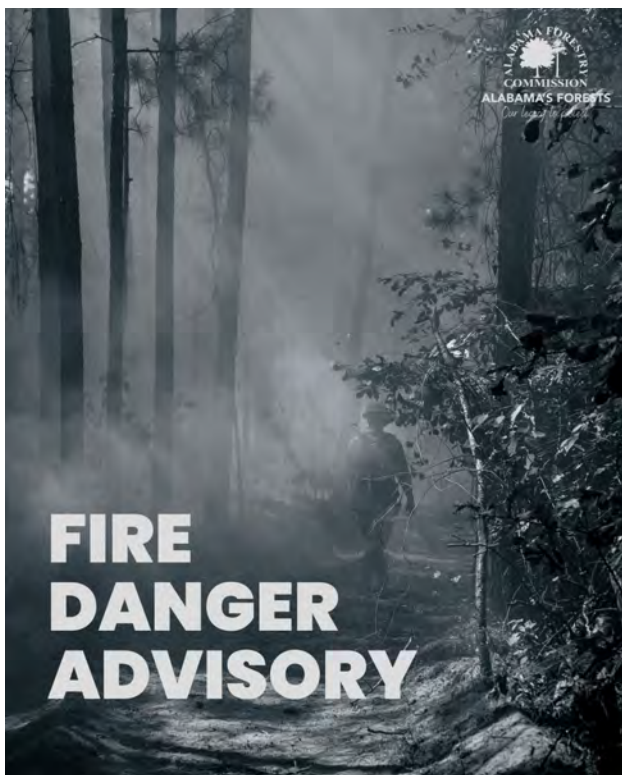


Let us know what is going on in your community!

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Statewide Fire Danger Advisory Issued for Alabama



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) has issued a statewide Fire Danger Advisory as drought conditions continue to worsen across Alabama. The advisory comes in response to an ongoing lack of rainfall combined with persistently high temperatures, creating an elevated wildfire risk — particularly in central parts of the state.

According to the AFC, the elevated fire danger will remain in effect until Alabama receives enough rainfall to ease the severe dryness. Residents are urged to take precautions to prevent accidental wildfires and protect both lives and property.

Officials strongly recommend avoiding any outdoor burning whenever possible until conditions improve. Those who must conduct a prescribed burn

are required to obtain a permit and should ensure that proper safety measures are in place. This includes having adequate equipment and personnel on site, keeping a reliable water source nearby, and remaining present until the fire is completely extinguished.

Even after a fire appears to be out, the Forestry Commission advises conducting post-burn patrols for several days to ensure no hidden embers remain. Firebreaks should be checked regularly to make sure they haven't been compromised. In residential areas, homeowners are encouraged to keep a water hose accessible when burning debris or yard waste and to soak the area thoroughly until it is cold to the touch after burning.

Under the current dry conditions, even small sparks can lead to large and fast-mov-

ing fires. Burning debris piles can smolder for several days, and embers can easily ignite dry grass or leaves outside the main burn area. Areas with deep layers of decaying leaves or organic matter beneath trees — known as duff — are especially at risk, as fires can continue burning underground and cause lasting damage to trees and soil.

Wildfires can also start from seemingly harmless activities. Driving vehicles through tall grass or using heavy equipment such as bush hogs, hay balers, or mulchers can create sparks that ignite dry vegetation. The AFC urges residents to use extreme caution with any outdoor machinery that produces heat or friction.

Bibb County residents are reminded that even though this is a statewide advisory, every community's actions make a difference in preventing wildfires. Something as small as choosing not to burn leaves, postponing equipment work, or reporting suspicious smoke can help protect homes, farms, and wooded areas across the county. Those who smoke are encouraged to dispose

of cigarettes in the safest manner possible, rather than tossing them out of a car window where it could land on dry leaves and possibly ignite. Even the smallest of decisions under these dry conditions can make all the difference in preventing fires from starting.

The Alabama Forestry Commission will continue to monitor both the strengthening drought and wildfire activity throughout the state. Officials will determine whether further restrictions, such as burn bans, are needed in the coming weeks.

Until then, residents are encouraged to stay alert, stay informed, and take proactive steps to reduce fire risk. For updates on fire safety, permitting, and current conditions, visit the Alabama Forestry Commission's website or follow the agency's official social media pages.

Be sure to do your part in staying vigilant and making responsible decisions during these dry times. The Centreville Press and The Bibb Voice reminds readers to stay fire-aware and do their part to keep Bibb County safe during this advisory period.

Centreville Mayor Election Contest Scheduled For Hearing



BY MIKE HOBSON
REPORTER

mike.hobson@centrevillepress.com

The election challenge contest filed by Mayor Mike Oakley against Mayor Elect Barry Cooner has been set for a hearing on October 27. This will be the first time the parties are scheduled to appear in court on this case. Bibb County Circuit Judge Marvin Wiggins has been assigned to this case.

Both parties have filed Motions in advance of the hearing. The parties have filed a joint motion

to allow for the parties and/or his designated representatives to examine certain election materials from the August 26, 2025 Election, including the ballots that were cast and other election re-

lated documents, such as absentee ballots, provisional ballots, poll worker lists, and voting lists.

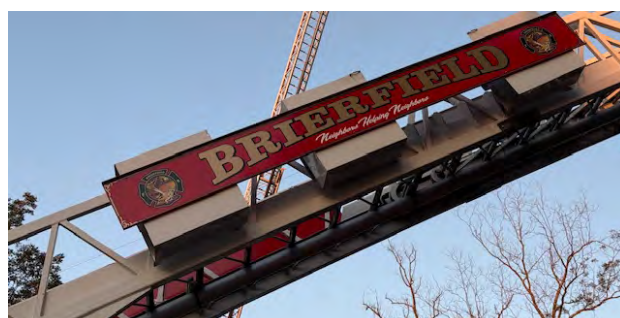
Mayor Elect Cooner has filed motions to dismiss which the court will consider.

Judge Marvin Wiggins entered an Order on Friday October 3 granting the document examination requests, however, no date has been specified for that examination to take place.

Under Alabama law (Code of Alabama 11-46-21(c)) elected municipal officials take office on the first Monday in November following the election.

Whether the election contest will be adjudicated by that date is unknown as of this writing.

Brierfield Fire & Rescue Awarded FEMA Grant for New Pumper Tanker



portion and is working diligently to ensure the new apparatus is designed to meet the needs of the community for many years to come.

In a statement posted to their Facebook page, Brierfield Volunteer Fire & Rescue expressed gratitude to both their members and other individuals who contributed to the successful grant proposal. Their combined effort and dedication made this achievement possible, high-

lighting the community spirit and teamwork that underpins the volunteer fire service.

For residents of Brierfield and surrounding areas, the new pumper tanker represents more than just a piece of equipment. It is an investment in public safety, community resilience, and the ability to respond efficiently in emergencies. The department's leadership notes that improvements like this are essential in areas without hydrants,

where water supply can often limit firefighting efforts. With the additional capabilities of the new tanker, firefighters will be better equipped to protect homes, businesses, and natural resources across multiple counties.

As the apparatus committee moves forward with design and acquisition, community members can look forward to seeing the new pumper tanker in service in the near future.

In a county like Bibb, which lacks a city- or county-funded fire department, the dedication and hard work of volunteer fire departments like Brierfield is nothing short of life-saving. These volunteers put in count-

less hours training, maintaining equipment, and responding to emergencies, often at personal expense, to protect their neighbors and local property. Their commitment ensures that even in areas without hydrants or municipal resources, residents have access to skilled emergency response. Supporting these departments, whether through federal grants like FEMA, local fundraising, or community involvement, is essential to keeping our communities safe and resilient.

If you see one of your local volunteer firefighters out and about, be sure to offer them your appreciation and thanks.



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NEWS

Awareness Saves Lives: Bibb Medical Center Empowers Women Through Early Detection

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month — a time to honor survivors, remember those we've lost, and emphasize the life-saving power of early detection. For Bibb County residents, access to advanced breast imaging technology and compassionate, highly trained professionals is closer to home than many realize.

In rural communities, the commitment of local healthcare providers like Bibb Medical Center is vital. Their investment in top-tier technology and compassionate staff ensures residents have access to quality care close to home — care that can truly save lives. At Bibb Medical Center, the Radiology Department is equipped with state-of-the-art 3D mammography technology, offering clearer, more detailed images that improve the accuracy of breast cancer detection. This advanced imaging allows physicians to identify abnormalities

earlier and with greater confidence, giving patients the best possible chance for successful treatment and recovery.

Radiology Technician Anna-Marie Stewart, who joined the Bibb Medical Center team in March 2022, shared in a recent post by BMC that serving her own community is at the heart of her work. "What drew me here was the opportunity to serve a close-knit community while continuing to grow in my career," Stewart said. "It is extraordinary to be able to serve the community you and your family are a part of."

Stewart's dedication reflects the spirit of Breast Cancer Awareness Month itself — using knowledge, compassion, and technology to save lives. "Awareness saves lives," she emphasized. "Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a powerful reminder of the importance of early detection and education. It creates space for conversations, encourages women to prioritize their health, and spreads hope

through stories of survival."

3D mammography, also known as tomosynthesis, allows radiologists to view the breast in thin layers, reducing the need for callbacks and detecting cancers that might otherwise be hidden by overlapping tissue. It's one of the most effective tools available in the fight against breast cancer — and it's available right here in Bibb County.

Stewart encourages women to schedule their mammograms and take charge of their health. "As mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends, we so often put others before ourselves," she said. "Now is the time to prioritize our health so we can continue to be there for the people we love."

For anyone feeling nervous about their first mammogram, Stewart offers reassurance.

"It's normal to feel nervous, but I want women to know they're not alone. Our team is here to guide them, answer questions, and make their experience as comfortable as pos-



BMC's Anna Marie Stewart prepares a mammography machine for use.

sible. The exam is quick, and the peace of mind it provides is invaluable."

Bibb Medical Center's commitment to advancing local healthcare goes beyond technology — it's about ensuring that every patient feels seen, supported, and valued. The hospital's radiology team works closely with physicians and specialists to provide coordi-

nated, compassionate care from screening through follow-up. This personalized approach means that women don't have to travel far for high-quality imaging or answers about their health. In a rural community like Bibb County, where access can make all the difference, having these resources close to home reflects the hospital's dedication to both innovation and

the wellbeing of every resident.

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month and beyond, Bibb Medical Center reminds all women: schedule your mammogram, know your body, and make your health a priority. Whether you decide to get your mammogram for the first time or the tenth time, BMC is with you every step of the way.

Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences Breaks Ground In Demopolis



BY MIKE HOBSON
REPORTER

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MONTGOMERY — The Alabama Rural Hospital Foundation, a private non-profit designed to provide direct funding for rural hospitals across Alabama, was unveiled today by its organizers.

Jamie Troutman, a Cullman economic developer and former member of the State Health Coordinating Council, serves as president of the foundation's board and said its work will help combat the rural healthcare crisis taking place in less developed regions of the state.

"More than a half-dozen rural hospitals in Alabama have been forced to close as a result of funding issues, and out of the 52 remaining, roughly half are considered to be at risk of closure, with 20 of them on the verge of shutting their doors any day," Troutman said.

"Access to healthcare affects the physical health of Alabamians in rural areas, but it also determines the economic health of the places they live, and our foundation's goal is to improve both of those vital quality-of-life factors."

According to a news release, the foundation will leverage the expertise of its board members, many of

whom lead the largest healthcare systems operating within the state, to advance the health, well-being, and economic development in rural Alabama.

To help achieve its fundraising and philanthropic goals, the foundation will participate in the Alabama Rural Hospital Investment Program, which was created through legislation passed by State Rep. Terri Collins (R-Decatur) and Sen. April Weaver (R-Brierfield) and allows individuals, businesses, and corporations to receive dollar-for-dollar state tax credits for donations they make to benefit rural hospitals.

In addition to Troutman, members of the Alabama Rural Hospital Foundation board are Doug Brewer, CEO of Whitfield Regional Hospital in Demopolis; Dawn Bulgarella, CEO of UAB Health System and its 15 hospitals; Jason Davis, vice president of Alabama Power's Southeast Division; Lee Lawson, president and CEO of the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance; Mark Nix, president and CEO of Mobile's Infirmary Health, which serves the healthcare needs of 11 Gulf Coast counties; Jeff Samz, president and CEO of Huntsville Hospital Health System and its 14 hospitals; Russ Tyner, president and CEO of Baptist Health

Montgomery and its three hospitals; and Evie Mauldin, counsel/senior vice president of Bank Independent, which services 18 communities across northwest Alabama.

In Demopolis, Alabama ground was broken for the Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences.

State and national leaders joined educators, healthcare professionals, philanthropists, and local officials in a ceremony that was called a milestone for education and workforce development in rural West Alabama, according to a news release.

"This school represents more than bricks and mortar," said Gov. Kay Ivey, who boosted the school in the Legislature and its location in the state's Black Belt. "It is fresh potential for our young people and a milestone in addressing healthcare needs here in Alabama."

The groundbreaking was at a 10-acre campus site next to Whitfield Regional Hospital and, among those attending, was Kate Herman of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Bloomberg Philanthropies has committed \$26.4 million to ASHS as part of its \$250 million initiative to launch healthcare-focused CTE high schools in 10 communities across the country.

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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

A graveside service was held for Vernie Fondren on October 11, 2025 at Hillcrest cemetery, adjacent to Mount Carmel church and cemetery in West Blocton, Alabama.

The WMU of Brent Baptist Church met on Tuesday night, October 7, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Joe Patridge Jr, who passed away recently. A Celebration of Life was held on October 11, 2025 at Calvary Baptist Church in Scottsboro, Alabama. Joe will be greatly missed.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Kristi Holifield Dearman, age 50, who passed away on October 2, 2025. Services were held on October 8, 2025 with visitation at New Life Baptist with graveside service at 11am at Pineland Memorial Park. Kristi will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

A great time was had at the New Big Whiskey in Alabaster celebrating Patricia Hubbard's birthday and Lee Belcher's retire-

ment, the food and service was outstanding. Those present were Lee Belcher, Nancy Scott, Glenda Kane, Charlotte West, Joanne Smith, Peggy Langford, Judy Brantley and Patricia Hubbard.

Anniversary wishes go out to Brock and Kelsey Horsley, who recently celebrated their third wedding anniversary.

Birthday Wishes go out to several that have birthdays in October. Lucy Blake, Julian Lynell Thomas, Heather Caffee, Crystal Phipps, Jonetta McCool Ross, Helen Brasfield, Dawn Randolph, Janie Hubbard, Lanny Stewart, Helen Crocker Mitchell, Leslie Wolfe, Will Latham, Louise Elam and Bethany Watts.

A speedy recovery goes out to Faye Manning, who recently underwent surgery.

The Young at Heart of Centerville Baptist church met recently.

If you have news, call it in at 205-316-1181, take care and Good Bless you.

AARP Alabama Urges Medicare Beneficiaries to Review Coverage During Open Enrollment



Montgomery, AL — AARP Alabama reminds Medicare beneficiaries that Medicare Open Enrollment is now underway and runs through December 7, 2025. This is the annual opportunity for individuals to review their current Medicare coverage and make changes to ensure their health and financial needs are met in the coming year.

- During Open Enrollment, beneficiaries can:
- Switch between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage
 - Change Medicare Advantage plans
 - Join or switch Medicare Part D prescription drug plans

AARP Alabama encourages everyone to take their time reviewing options and to seek unbiased, trustworthy information. Beneficiaries can visit Medicare.gov to compare plans available in their area or speak with a State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselor for free, personalized guidance. Alabama

SHIP counselors can be reached by calling 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463).

"It's important not to rush this decision," said Candi Williams, AARP Alabama State Director. "Review your Annual Notice of Change from your current plan carefully. Make sure your coverage still fits your needs, especially if your health or prescriptions have changed."

AARP Alabama also warns beneficiaries to be on alert for scams, which tend to increase during Open Enrollment. Be cautious of unsolicited calls or messages offering Medicare plans. Never share your Medicare number or personal information with anyone you don't know and trust.

For more information and resources, visit aarp.org/Medicare, Medicare.gov, or call 1-800-AGELINE to speak with a SHIP counselor.



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Hello, October

ForestHer Workshops October 21st – October 23rd Manooka Park,
1922 County Road 146, Jemison, AL 35085 \$40 Registration Fee

BMC Fall Festival October 31, 5:30 - 8:30

Trunk or Treat with the Cops, Centreville Court Square, Oct. 31, 6-8





Help Child Find Locate Children with Disabilities

What Is Child Find?

Child Find is a statewide effort by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Department of Rehabilitation Services to locate, identify, and evaluate children with disabilities from birth to age 21.

How Does Child Find Work?

Early Intervention and Special Education Services work closely with community service agencies, parents, and local school systems to locate children with disabilities. A toll-free number is provided for parents or other persons interested in information about referring a child from birth to age 21.

Why Is Child Find Important?

It helps the child, the family, and the provider to plan appropriate services and link families to services for students meeting eligibility requirements in the following disability areas:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Hearing Impairment■ Deaf-Blindness■ Intellectual Disability■ Multiple Disabilities■ Orthopedic Impairment■ Other Health Impairment■ Emotional Disability | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Speech and Language Impairment■ Visual Impairment■ Specific Learning Disabilities■ Autism■ Traumatic Brain Injury■ Developmental Delay |
|--|---|

For more information about Child Find, contact your local school system, local coordinating council, or call

Jennifer S. Downs 205-926-9881 Ext. 6022

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Alabama State Department of Education
Eric G. Mackey, Ed. D.
State Superintendent of Education

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

The History of Halloween: From Ancient Rituals to Modern Traditions

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE
REPORTER

Every October 31st, neighborhoods across America come alive with costumes, candy, and carved pumpkins glowing on porches. While today Halloween is best known as a fun-filled evening for children and families, its history stretches back thousands of years and reflects a fascinating blend of ancient customs, religious traditions, and cultural change. The origins of Halloween can be traced to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in), celebrated over 2,000 years ago in what is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France. Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, a time the Celts associated with death and darkness. They believed that on the night of October 31st, the boundary between the living and the dead was blurred, allowing spirits to roam freely. To ward off harmful spirits, people lit bonfires and wore disguises made of animal skins. As Christianity spread through Europe, many pagan traditions were re-shaped to fit into Christian observances. In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III established November 1st as All Saints' Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. The night before became known as All Hallows' Eve—

eventually shortened to Halloween. Over time, the mix of pagan and Christian customs gave the holiday its unique character. When Irish and Scottish immigrants came to America in the 19th century, they brought many Halloween traditions with them. Carving turnips into lanterns to ward off spirits eventually transformed into the American custom of carving pumpkins, thanks to the plentiful supply in the New World. Children began dressing up and going door-to-door asking for treats, a practice that evolved into the modern tradition of trick-or-treating. By the mid-20th century, Halloween had grown into a community-centered celebration, shedding much of its superstitious roots and becoming more about fun and festivity. Today, it is one of the most popular holidays in the United States, second only to Christmas in consumer spending. Though its beginnings were steeped in ancient fears about the unseen world, Halloween has become a night of creativity, laughter, and community. From Samhain bonfires to jack-o'-lanterns and candy buckets, the history of Halloween shows how traditions evolve—and how people across centuries have found ways to celebrate both the mystery and the joy of the season.



Alabama Arise unveils 2026 roadmap for change in Alabama

Arise members emphasize need to close health coverage gap, advance child nutrition

Expanding health care access and improving maternal and infant health will remain top goals on Alabama Arise's 2026 legislative agenda. The organization also will continue advocating for state funds to help public schools provide free school meals to every student.

Nearly 600 members voted in the last week to affirm Arise's legislative priorities. The seven priorities chosen were:

- Health equity, including policies to close Alabama's health coverage gap for adults with low incomes and to protect access to maternity care.
- Hunger relief, including legislation to allow more public schools to provide no-cost breakfast and lunch for all of their students.
- Adequate state budgets, including equitable public education funding for every student and state funding for affordable housing and public transportation.
- Inclusive democracy, including no-excuse early voting and removal of barriers to voting rights restoration for disenfranchised Alabamians.
- Justice reform, including legislation to apply Alabama's ban on judicial override of jury sentencing decisions retroactively, as well as improvements to the state's sentencing and parole systems.
- Tax reform to build a more just and sustainable revenue system, including eliminating the rest of Alabama's state sales tax on groceries and replacing the revenue equitably.
- Worker power to advance the health and safety of Alabama families, including legislation to remove tax incentives from companies that violate child labor laws, as well as efforts to extend paid parental leave protections to

more workers.

"Alabama Arise believes in dignity, equity and justice for everyone," Alabama Arise executive director Robyn Hyden said. "Our legislative priorities seek to empower Alabamians of every race, income and background to reach their full potential. And they reflect our members' commitment to building a healthier, more just and more inclusive Alabama for all."

The urgent need to close Alabama's coverage gap and protect affordable Marketplace plans

Arise members believe Medicaid expansion is a path toward a healthier future where all Alabamians can afford the health care they need. Expanding Medicaid would reduce racial health disparities and remove financial barriers to health care for adults with low incomes. Expansion also would support thousands of new jobs across the state. And most importantly, it would save hundreds of lives every year.

Alabama is one of only 10 states yet to expand Medicaid. Medicaid expansion would ensure health coverage for nearly 200,000 Alabamians caught in a coverage gap. Most of these residents earn too much to qualify for the state's bare-bones Medicaid program but too little to afford private plans.

The number of Alabamians in the coverage gap could soar in 2026 if Congress fails to renew enhanced Premium Tax Credits for Marketplace plans under the Affordable Care Act. If lawmakers allow the credits to expire, about 130,000 Alabamians would lose their health coverage, and premiums for many others would nearly double.

Those setbacks would add further strain to the health care infrastructure that serves all Alabamians. About two dozen rural hospitals in Alabama are at immediate risk of closure, and four labor and delivery units have shut down since 2023. These closures have reduced care options in a state that already has one of the nation's worst maternal mortality rates.

"Everyone should be able to get the health care they need when they need it," Hyden said. "Congress must act quickly to protect affordable Marketplace coverage for hundreds of thousands of Alabamians. And our state policymakers need to step up to close Alabama's health coverage gap once and for all. This investment would pay off in the form of healthier families and stronger economic growth in communities across our state."

No-cost school meals help Alabama children learn and thrive

Another key step toward a healthier Alabama is to ensure every public school can offer no-cost meals to every student. Hundreds of Alabama schools provide no-cost meals through the Community Eligibility Provision, but some schools cannot participate in the program.

Arise will advocate for additional state funding that local districts can use to match federal funds to offer no-cost meals. Legislators this year approved \$17.3 million to expand school breakfast and continue Alabama's participation in SUN Bucks, which provides \$40 in food benefits per summer month for hundreds of thousands of Alabama children.

Stronger investment in school meals is more urgent amid threats to federal funding for the

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Alabama and other states could run out of money for WIC in a few weeks if Congress does not renew its funding. And the federal budget law enacted in July will make fewer people eligible for SNAP while shifting more costs to states.

Children and communities across Alabama would enjoy immediate and long-term benefits from no-cost meals in public schools. No-cost meals would reduce child hunger in a state where nearly 1 in 4 children face food insecurity. Extending the reach of school meal programs would help reduce behavioral problems and improve attendance and test scores. Reducing food insecurity for children also can help improve their mental health and overall health as teenagers and adults.

"It's hard for children to focus in school when they're hungry," Hyden said. "Lawmakers should ensure that WIC and SNAP continue to provide food assistance for families across our state. And our legislators should invest in no-cost school meals to reduce hunger and help every Alabama child succeed both in the classroom and throughout their lives."

Alabama Arise is a statewide, member-led nonprofit organization advancing public policies to improve the lives of Alabamians who are marginalized by poverty. Arise's membership includes faith-based, community, nonprofit and civic groups, grassroots leaders and individuals from across Alabama.

Centreville Press

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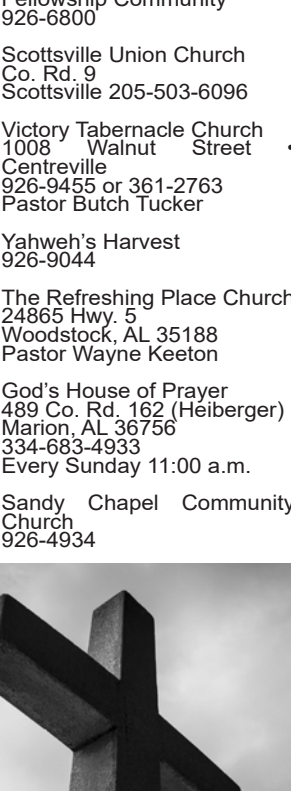


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Enon Baptist Centreville 926-4517	Six Mile Baptist Brierfield	New Hope AME West Blocton 540-8016
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Faith Baptist West Blocton 938-7220	Thomas Mill Baptist Centreville 926-6882	Waymon Chapel AME Brierfield 205-665-4730
First Baptist Church of Woodstock 205-938-7479	Union Baptist Church 722 Magnolia St West Blocton	West Scottsville United Methodist Church North Scottsville Road 451-3624
Four Points Baptist Centreville 926-7775	West Blocton First Baptist 938-7392	NAZARENE Ridgeville Church Of The Nazarene Brent
Green Pond Baptist Green Pond 938-7769	BIBLE Grace Bible Woodstock 938-7763	Spencer Church Of The Naz- arene Brent
Haysop Baptist Centreville 205-310-1316	CATHOLIC Church Of The Holy Spirit Tuscaloosa 553-9733	PENTECOSTAL New Life West Blocton Pastor Greg Brock 205.441.2809
Hopewell Primitive Baptist West Blocton 553-7603	St. Thomas The Apostle Church Montevallo 663-3936	First United Pentecostal Church of Centreville
Johntown Baptist West Blocton 938-7621	CHRISTIAN Marvel Christian Union Montevallo 345-7018	PRESBYTERIAN Brent Presbyterian P.C.A. 926-4722
Liberty Baptist West Blocton 938-2090	CHURCH OF CHRIST Centreville Church Of Christ 926-LOVE	Centreville First Presbyterian P.C.A. 926-4261
Liberty Baptist Duncanville 759-9647 / 759- 4074	North Bibb Church of Christ Woodstock 477-6121	Green Pond Presbyterian Presbyterian Church Rd 205-938-2344
Liberty Freewill Baptist 926-6496	West Blocton Church of Christ West Blocton 938-7108	Pleasant Hill Upper Cumber- land Presbyterian Church Centreville 926-4409
Little Hope Primitive Baptist Centreville 926-4236	Evangelist Temple Brent 926-6430	SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST First Brent Seventh Day Ad- ventist 926-6328
Lowerytown Baptist West Blocton 938-2436	CHURCH OF GOD Church of God of Prophecy at Eoline 256-393-9625 Pastor Shane Pate	NON-DENOMINATIONAL Fellowship Community 926-6800
Lucille Baptist West Blocton 966-3556	Church Of God Of Prophecy West Blocton 938-2788	Scottsville Union Church Co. Rd. 9 Scottsville 205-503-6096
Mission Baptist Woodstock 938-7096	Caffee Junction Church Of God 205-477-5468	Victory Tabernacle Church 1008 Walnut Street Centreville 926-9455 or 361-2763 Pastor Butch Tucker
Mt. Carmel Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	River of Life Church of God 9225 Hwy 82 Brent 205-926-7600	Yahweh's Harvest 926-9044
Mt. Ebell Baptist Brent 926-9223	West Blocton Church of God City Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988	The Refreshing Place Church 24865 Hwy. 5 Woodstock, AL 35188 Pastor Wayne Keeton
Mt. Grove Baptist 938-3410	CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST 2300 South Scottsville Rd Centreville 926-5393	God's House of Prayer 489 Co. Rd. 162 (Heiberger) Marion, AL 36756 334-683-4933 Every Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Moriah Baptist West Blocton 926-5425		Sandy Chapel Community Church 926-4934
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church Brent 926-9009		
Mt. Tabor Baptist Brent 926-7156		

Come See & Hear
Brent Vernon



Brent Bible
Methodist Church
November 16, 2025
10:30 a.m.
Public Invited



“He Lives”

Few songs have captured the joy of the Christian faith quite like “He Lives.” Written in 1933 by Alfred Henry Ackley, the hymn has become a favorite across churches, especially during Easter celebrations, with its triumphant refrain, “You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.” Alfred H. Ackley was both a pastor and musician, deeply devoted to sharing the message of Christ through song. Born in 1887 in Pennsylvania, Ackley studied music in New York and London before serving as a Presbyterian minister. His training gave him the tools to combine strong theology with memorable melody.

The inspiration for “He Lives” came during the Easter season of 1932. Ackley had been preaching about the resurrection of Jesus when a young man asked him, “Why should I worship a dead Jew?” Shocked by the question, Ackley’s heart burned with conviction. He responded, “He lives! I tell you, He is not dead, but lives here and now!” That very evening, Ackley sat down and poured out his faith into the lyrics and music that would become “He Lives.” The hymn quickly spread through churches, Sunday schools, and revivals. Its simple chorus made it easy to remember, while its bold declaration of a living Savior resonated deeply with worshippers. Over the years, it has been included in countless hymnals and continues to be sung worldwide nearly a century later. Ackley himself went on to write over 1,500 hymns and gospel songs, but none would reach the same level of recognition as “He Lives.” His words continue to echo each time congregations lift their voices to declare the hope of the resurrection. From a question of doubt came a song of triumph—a reminder that the Christian faith is not built on a memory of the past, but on the living presence of Christ today.



Faith Like Abraham’s

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE

When we read the story of Abraham in Scripture, we are reminded what it means to trust God even when the path ahead is unclear. Hebrews 11:8 tells us, “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.” Abraham’s faith was not rooted in knowing the details, it was rooted in knowing God. When the Lord called him to leave his homeland, his family, and everything familiar, Abraham stepped out on nothing but God’s promise. That kind of trust doesn’t come from circumstances lining up neatly; it comes from believing that God Himself is faithful. One of the greatest tests of Abraham’s faith came when God asked him to offer Isaac, the son of promise. Genesis 22 shows us Abraham walking up the mountain, trusting that God could even raise Isaac from the dead if necessary. His faith was not passive—it was active obedience born out of confidence in God’s character. We often find ourselves in situations where God asks us to trust Him without full understanding. It may be a new season in life, an uncertain future, or a trial that feels too heavy to carry. Like Abraham, we don’t always know where the road leads—but we can know Who leads us. Faith does not eliminate questions or fears, but it anchors us in God’s unchanging promises. Romans 4:20-21 reminds us that Abraham “did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.” Today, may we hold fast to that same persuasion—that God is faithful, that His promises are true, and that our steps of obedience will never be wasted.

Plain & Simple Pumpkin Spice Dump Cake

Ingredients:	Sprinkle the dry cake mix evenly over the pumpkin mixture (do not stir).
1 (15 oz) can pumpkin puree	
1 (12 oz) can evaporated milk	
3 large eggs	
1 box yellow cake mix	Drizzle melted butter evenly over the top.
1 cup melted butter (2 sticks)	
	Bake 50–55 minutes, until golden brown and set in the center.
Instructions:	
Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).	
Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.	
In a large bowl, whisk together pumpkin puree, evaporated milk, and eggs until smooth. Pour into the baking dish.	Serve warm or chilled, with whipped cream or ice cream. It tastes like pumpkin pie and cobbler combined!

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**BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION POSITION
FULL TIME SHERIFF'S DEPUTY**

DEPUTY SHERIFF- The Bibb County Sheriff's Department is seeking a full time Deputy to enforce the laws of Bibb County and the State of Alabama. The successful applicant will need to have a high school degree and must meet all state minimum standards for law enforcement officers. Applicants must possess a valid Alabama driver's license and be insurable under County insurance coverage. Beginning salary is \$22.00/hr. The position also offers a benefit package.

Application may be obtained at the Bibb County Commission Office located at 157 SW Davidson Drive, Centreville, AL 35042. Applications will be accepted until Friday, October 17th, 2025. If additional information is needed, please call 205-926-3114. Bibb County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**BIBB COUNTY COMMISSION POSITION
FULL 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.

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 other duties specified by the Sheriff. The pay range will depend on experience. This position offers a benefit package.

Application may be obtained at the Bibb County Commission Office located at 157 SW Davidson Drive, Centreville, AL 35042. Applications will be accepted until Friday, October 17th, 2025. If additional information is needed, please call 205-926-3114. Bibb County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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BIBB COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

VS. OAK GROVE

PHOTOS BY BRIDGET STOKES



WEST BLOCTON HIGH SCHOOL

VS. FAIRFIELD

PHOTOS BY KANDI SMITH



The BACK PAGE

Third Annual BMC Fall Festival to be Held on Halloween Night



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Centreville is once again getting ready for a night of community, creativity, and fun as Bibb Medical Center prepares to host its Third Annual BMC Fall Festival on Friday, October 31st. This family-friendly event has quickly become a beloved local tradition, offering Bibb County residents a safe and festive way to celebrate Halloween while enjoying the best of small-town togetherness.

The Fall Festival will take place at the BMC Wellness Center, located at 285 Hospital Drive in Centreville, and will feature an evening full of ac-

tivities for children and adults alike. The festivities officially begin at 4:45 p.m., when vendors and food trucks open to the public. Local food favorites, small businesses, and bounce houses will be on-site, giving families the chance to grab a bite, shop, and enjoy the fun before the trick-or-treating begins.

At 5:00 p.m., the Monster March kicks off — a Halloween parade around the track where kids, families, and even furry friends can show off their creative costumes. The march has quickly become a highlight of the festival, setting a joyful tone for the evening and offering a

chance for everyone to shine before the candy-filled excitement begins.

Starting at 5:30 p.m., festivalgoers can participate in Trick-or-Treat Around the Track, where local churches, businesses, and community groups will hand out candy to children in a safe and welcoming environment. Attendees are encouraged to bring a bag and join the fun — but are reminded that candy will not be distributed before 5:30 p.m.

The night will conclude with one of the most anticipated parts of the Fall Festival: the Costume Contests, beginning at

6:30 p.m. Participants will have the chance to compete for titles such as Best Individual Costume (Kids), Best Individual Costume (Adults), and Best Group Costume Overall. Each year, the costume contests showcase the creativity and spirit of Bibb County, from homemade outfits to group ensembles that bring the Halloween spirit to life.

This year's Fall Festival will also include a special opportunity for families to commemorate the occasion with professional photos before the main event. Madalyn Drake Photography will host a Halloween Photo



Booth from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Greentree, 61 Forest Circle in Centreville. For just \$10 per digital file (cash or Venmo accepted), families can stop by to capture their costumes and Halloween memories before heading over to the BMC Wellness Center for the evening's festivities.

For many families, the BMC Fall Festival represents more than just a night of fun, it's

a reminder of what makes Bibb County special: a community that looks out for one another, celebrates together, and supports the people and places that make Bibb County feel like home.

With delicious food, fun activities, creative costumes, and cherished traditions, this year's Third Annual BMC Fall Festival promises to be a Halloween night to remember.

BMC HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER



MEDICARE COUNSELING SERVICE



We will be offering **FREE Medicare Counseling** every Wednesday from 9:00AM - 3:00PM. Make sure you are enrolled in the best plan for 2025. You may be eligible for additional benefits.

Open Enrollment:
Oct 15 - Dec 7

- ✔ Individual Counseling
- ✔ Couple Counseling
- ✔ Plan Comparisons
- ✔ Individualized Recommendations

Why seek help?

There is a lot of information that gets sent out this time of year. Don't make the wrong choice and get stuck with a plan that doesn't match your medical needs for 2024.

Meet with Molly Averette, Director of Social Services, at BMC Wellness Center for more information. To make an appointment, visit our website or give us a call 205-926-3360.



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OCT 27



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- 4:45 PM Food Trucks Open
- 5:00 PM Monstrer March
Kiddo's bring a ride and show off your costumes in a parade around the track
- 5:30PM Trick or Treat Around the Track
**Candy will not be distributed before 5:30pm*
- 6:30PM Costume Contest