

Centreville Press

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From Bibb County to the Big Leagues: The Charles Cleveland Story

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

Bibb County is known for its great athletes. Some notable mentions are Zac Stacy, Ben Jones, and many more. While all these athletes have had a journey to stardom, one in particular stands out from the rest. Charles Cleveland was born during a divided time in the nation's history. Cleveland, born on April 25, 1951, in Brent, grew up to become one of the greatest basketball players in Bibb County. He was part of the first integrated class at Bibb County High School. Before his team won the 1970 State Championship for Bibb and went on to play for the University of Alabama, he was simply Charles Cleveland.

Cleveland always had talent when it came to playing ball. Willie Cash is one of Cleveland's long-time teammates and friends. "We used to play basketball outside during break time.

We played ball from the 7th grade to the 12th grade. He was one of the best guys I ever met," Cash said. When asked what Cash's favorite memory of Charles was, the team winning the state playoffs was his answer. Cleveland went on to be named Class 3A MVP and MVP of the state tournament.

Cleveland was not only a great basketball player, but his character spoke volumes. "He was the best ball player I played with," Cash stated. Cash says that Charles encouraged his teammates to be their best both on and off the court. Charles's bright spirit and kind personality was shown through. He followed the golden rule by treating others the way he liked to be treated. For Cash, Charles was more than a teammate, he was like family. "He treated me like a brother, and I treated him like he was my brother," Cash expressed. Cleveland was a key player and significantly impacted his team for the better.

"He was the one that would score the most points, but he would give us an opportunity to score too," Cash said. Cleveland's legacy still continues to transform the lives of others. "I hope people remember him as one of the best ball players to come through Bibb County," Cash said.

Another person who was positively impacted by Charles Cleveland was John Ed Belvin. When John Ed Belvin first heard about Charles Cleveland in the 1970s, he didn't expect the player's talent or character to leave such a lasting impression.

"We'd heard all about Charles Cleveland," John recalled. "One night, a friend and I decided to go see him play at Davidson High School. This is where the current school building, Centreville Middle School stands. "We were the only white people in the gym, and I remember feeling uncomfortable until the coach looked at us and said, 'You boys come on in.'

From that point on, I knew this was something special," Belvin stated.

Cleveland, who stood 6-foot-5, quickly proved to be more than a great player. "The first time he got the ball, he pulled up from just past half court and made the shot," John said. "The roof almost came off. He was phenomenal."

By 1970, schools in Bibb County were fully integrated, and Cleveland and John found themselves not just teammates, but friends. "That summer before my senior year, we started practicing together," John said. "We didn't have racial problems. We were just good people who loved to play basketball."

That team went on to finish 33-1 and win the state championship. "We scored 100 points or more in 11 games that season," John said proudly. "At halftime of the championship, we were down by eight. But we never thought we were going to lose. We came out,



played our game, and won," John said.

Even with his extraordinary talent, Cleveland remained humble. "Charles never talked trash. He didn't lose his temper. He just let his playing do the talking," Belvin said. "He was one of the most mild-mannered, respectful athletes I've ever known."

Cleveland's professional career was hindered by bad timing and injuries. Drafted by the Philadelphia 76ers during the ABA-NBA merger, he was the final cut before the season began. Later, a shoulder injury derailed his shot at the

NFL with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"People wonder why he didn't have a long pro career," John explained. "It wasn't ability, he had all the talent in the world. It was just bad luck and circumstances beyond his control."

For John, the real legacy of Charles Cleveland wasn't the points scored, or the accolades earned. "He was a high-character guy," he said. "Charles showed us what it meant to be humble, even when you're the best player in the gym. That's what I'll always remember."



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NEWS

4-H: Shaping Tomorrow’s Leaders Beyond the Barnyard

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

When many people hear “4-H,” they might picture barns, animals, and blue ribbons at the county fair. While agriculture remains a proud and important part of 4-H’s legacy, the program’s reach goes far beyond raising chickens in the backyard. In Bibb County, 4-H is dedicated to cultivating the full potential of young people — equipping them with the skills, confidence, and values they need to succeed in every aspect of life.

Over the past few weeks, West Blocton Middle School students have had the chance to experience firsthand how 4-H combines fun, creativity, and practical learning. Through a variety of hands-on activities, Bibb County 4-H has been helping students explore the world around them while discovering their own unique strengths and interests.

Recently, the focus at West Blocton Middle was all about robots and coding — a topic that might surprise those who still associate 4-H only with farming. Students began by learning the definition of coding and discussing its real-world purpose. The lesson didn’t stop there; they also explored the growing number of career opportunities available in technology fields, including many that don’t require a traditional four-year college degree. Students then put their new knowledge into practice by “coding” a friend through an obstacle course, acting as game designers to give precise, logical

directions. The highlight of the day came when everyone had the chance to interact with Dash, a friendly robot that made the learning process even more engaging.

The eighth-grade classes also dove deeper into career exploration, researching their dream jobs and identifying the skills, salary ranges, and education required to pursue them. This activity helped students see that success can take many paths — and that with curiosity, initiative, and dedication, there are countless ways to build a fulfilling career.

In another recent session, the lessons shifted from technology to timeless life skills. Students at West Blocton Middle participated in a workshop on manners and etiquette — an area of development that’s just as important as technical knowledge. Students learned about respect, professionalism, and how to carry themselves with confidence in both formal and everyday settings. They practiced introducing themselves, making eye contact, and offering a proper handshake. One of the most meaningful parts of the lesson was the focus on gratitude and communication. Each student was encouraged to think of someone in their life to thank, then write and deliver a handwritten thank-you note — a simple but powerful exercise in thoughtfulness and appreciation.

These experiences reflect what Bibb County 4-H is all about: developing the whole person. Whether it’s building leadership through technology,

October 28th - 4:30 PM - BCHS Library

Bibb County 4-H Youth Council

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The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider.

gy, teamwork through projects, or character through acts of kindness, 4-H helps young people grow into well-rounded, capable citizens ready to make a positive impact on their communities.

For youth who want to take their involvement a step further, the Bibb County 4-H Youth Council is now forming for the upcoming year. Open to all middle and high school students in Bibb County, the Youth Council provides an opportunity to gain valuable experience in leadership, community service, marketing, activity planning, teamwork, public speaking, and decision-making. The first meeting will be held on October 28 at 4:30 p.m. in the Bibb County High School Library.

Students interested in joining or learning more can contact Holly Hall at (205) 928-2981 or HAH0056@auburn.edu. The Bibb County 4-H Youth Council is supported by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, a

partnership between Alabama A&M University and Auburn University, which serves as an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider.

From robotics to respect, Bibb County 4-H continues to show



that its mission goes far beyond agriculture — it’s about planting the seeds of leadership, curiosity, and

compassion in the next generation. (Photos: Bibb Co. 4-H)



Governor Ivey Announces Alabama Department of Workforce

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Alabama’s workforce system is entering a new era. Governor Kay Ivey announced Thursday, October 16, 2025, the creation of the Alabama Department of Workforce (ADOW) — a sweeping reorganization that she described as the most comprehensive workforce transformation in the state’s history.

The new department was officially unveiled during a ceremony on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol, where leaders from education, industry, and government joined community representatives from every county to celebrate what the governor called a major step toward strengthening Alabama’s economic future.

“Alabama’s workforce is our greatest competitive advantage,” Governor Ivey said. “This unified approach connects individual career advancement to statewide prosperity, ensuring that our human capital drives continued economic growth across all communities.”

Under the leadership of Secretary Greg Reed, ADOW will bring together a range of workforce programs that were previously scattered across multiple agencies. The goal, officials said, is to streamline access to career development services, improve efficiency, and address one of

Alabama’s most persistent challenges: a low workforce par-

ticipation rate that lags behind the rest of the nation, despite the state’s historically low unemployment.

Reed said the department’s mission is centered on “removing barriers” and “creating clear pathways connecting people to prosperity through integrated services.” One key priority will be reaching young adults who face what he called the “26 cliff” — the point when many lose access to healthcare coverage and other support systems as they age out of certain programs.

“We’re not just fixing problems—we’re building Alabama’s competitive future,” Reed said. “Alabama’s greatest resource is its people, and when they thrive, we all rise. This Department represents our commitment to meeting every Alabamian where they are and guiding them to where they want to be.”

To make that vision a reality, the department plans to strengthen local career centers and expand community-based outreach across the state. “We’re meeting people where they are—by making opportunities accessible for all through their own community connections,” Reed explained. The department also intends to use new digital matching systems and telecase management tools to help connect Alabamians with training and job opportunities in real time.

The agency’s long-term strategy positions it as the central authority on workforce

data, regulation, and service delivery, with a heavy emphasis on connecting education and employment. By aligning programs that were once siloed, state officials hope to eliminate gaps in the system and create what they describe as “seamless pathways” from the classroom to the workplace.

At the same time, ADOW aims to balance technology with human connection. Plans call for expanded use of virtual training platforms and real-time labor market analytics, paired with partnerships built through trusted community voices — a model that Reed said keeps “the fundamental human element of career guidance and support” at the center of the mission.

State officials and lawmakers have praised the new structure as a move toward more accountable, coordinated governance. “This represents the most ambitious workforce development initiative Alabama has undertaken,” Reed said. “We’re creating a foundation for lasting growth that benefits every community and ensures no Alabamian navigates their career journey alone.”

The Alabama Department of Workforce will now serve as the primary entry point for workforce services across the state, combining resources, training, and outreach to help Alabamians overcome barriers to employment and build a stronger statewide economy.

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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

The Fifth Annual Colors On The Cahaba will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025. Get ready, Mayberry fans! The iconic Mayberry Sheriff's Car will be making a special appearance from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Make plans to attend this event. Among those having birthdays in October are Kathleen Johnson, Eric Averette, Kelton Clinker, Lesland Clinker, Elaine Edwards, Mary Kinard, Susan Clark, Flora Steele, Reed Patridge and Kim Thomas. Sympathy goes out to the family of Shirley Tubbs Blackerby who passed away on October 9, 2025. Funeral services were held on October 14, 2025. Shirley will be greatly missed. A speedy recovery goes out to Larry Speights who has been in the hospital. We wish to extend sincere sympathy to the family of Virginia Short who passed away on October 12, 2025. A Celebration of Life was held on October 17. Virginia will be missed by her family and friends. Charlotte Lovelady West was the recent Monday overnite guest of her daughter Hilary Perry and family at Hoover. If you have news call it in at 205.316.1181. Take care & God Bless.

Vance Construction Ensures Safety for Drivers

BY CANACE JOHNSON REPORTER
If your morning commute includes passing through Vance, you might have come across construction off US-11. "The contractor is currently paving the northbound side where we have base and is working on drainage structures," ALDOT Communications and Public Relations Coordinator John McWilliams said. The construction crew are currently working to ensure safe travel for drivers. In order to do this, they are resurfacing and adding lanes to the roadway. As the weather gets cooler, workers will install a curb and gutter system. After that, the wearing surface, which will be a final layer of asphalt, will begin to be placed next spring. As of right now, the project is set to finish in late summer of 2026.



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West Blocton Middle School Celebrates Academic Excellence

West Blocton Middle School has proudly released its Honor Roll for the first nine weeks of the school year, recognizing dozens of students for their outstanding academic achievements. The school's administration highlights these successes as a direct result of strong partnerships between students, parents, and teachers.

A Community-Wide Achievement
The recently published list acknowledges students who earned places on both the A/B Honor Roll and the A Honor Roll. A/B Honor Roll students achieved a mix of A and B grades, while A Honor Roll students earned the highest distinction by receiving all A's. School leadership emphasized that this accomplishment extends beyond the students alone. "We recognize the roles of students, teachers, and parents in this achievement," said a representative for West Blocton Middle School. "Hard academic rigor and attendance are key to making good grades."

The Partnership Triangle
Academic success flourishes when a supportive triangle of collaboration exists between the school, home, and student.

For West Blocton Middle School, this means fostering a community where each party is invested in the child's education.

- Students showed dedication and discipline through consistent academic rigor and commitment to attending classes.
- Teachers provided the guidance and instruction necessary to help students master new skills and concepts.
- Parents are invited to participate in their child's education, providing the crucial at-home support and encouragement needed to reinforce classroom learning.

Parental Engagement: A Pillar of Success
Research consistently shows that when families and schools work together, students tend to earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, and stay in school longer. This focus on active parent involvement is a core component of West Blocton Middle School's approach to education. By welcoming and encouraging parental engagement, the school strengthens the entire learning ecosystem. As the school year progresses, West Blocton Middle School looks forward to celebrating continued student success and reinforcing the strong, collaborative relationships that make it possible. The achievements of these honor roll students set a positive tone for the rest of the year, demonstrating the power of a united community committed to academic excellence.

First 9 Weeks Honor Roll

A Honor Roll
Rayleigh Averett, Easton Boltz, Kelby Boothe, Sophia Bovell, Jace Buford, Jade Caddis, Brantlee Clemmer, Easton Fisher, Madelyn-Kate Gray, Greyson Hagood, Caiden LaFoy, Brandon LaGrone, Eli Lewis, Josiah Nelson, Jasper Odom, Colby Poole, Mason Smith, Brennan Watts, William Chambliss, Cecilia Dickson, Adam Donis, Katie Head, Ava Herndon, Jameson Huffman, Rylan Johnson, Bobbi Kielman, Harper Lawley, Khloe McCullar, Abigail Morris, Leah Sanders, Jase Singleton, Baylee Thrasher, Lucy Blake, Connor Davis, Kelsey Haley, Tristin Hartzell, Alaina Hearle, Carter Heaton, Gavin Johnson, Kimber Kinard, Cayden Odom, Kayleigh Pisanos, Willow Sampley, Chance Sims

A/B Honor Roll
Caleb Allen, Alyssah Bates, Jeremy Blake, Austin Cook, Kynleigh Cross, Fatima Del cid Solares, Braxton Dial, Sarah Gilham, Joseph Godwin, Harmony Jones, Camden LaFoy, Keenan Sanders, Zayden Smith, Aubree Stacy, London Stacy, Dalton Terry, Clay Bowman, Tristen Brigins, Garrett Bussey, Molly Canterbury, Ella Carroll, Cole Culp, Hugo Diaz-Tax, Harley Edwards, Ryleigh Elam, George Gonzalez, Ryleigh Guy Andrews, Lukas Hartzell, Erica Head, Briella Holt, Jonah Hunt, Jaylen Inga, Crimson Jennings, Robert Knight, Logan LaFoy, Arayleigh Lewis, Elyse Manning, Luke Marchant, Jaxyn Naramore, Amilia Pitts, Madalynn-Kate Rich, Kilyn Tillman, Weston Wyres, Brons Anderson, Ayla Bates, Brantley Blake, Zillie Bush, Dezaray Davis, Carter Fancher, Payden Forsythe, Addelia Gaytan, Sofia Gilham, Keyri Henriquez, Sophia Johnson, Jackson Kelley, Esme Lopp, Henley McMickin, Andrew Palmer, Kyli Parker, Jason Pierce, Ava Pierson, Lilly Reach, Amber Russell, Kailynn Smith, Emma Strickland, Kali Super, Lukas Taylor, Ashley Terry, Madelyn Terry, Emma Tingle, Sophia Trammell

WBMS Students Celebrate Hispanic Heritage with a Vibrant Cultural Presentation

On October 21, 2025, West Blocton Middle School (WBMS) celebrated a successful day of student-led learning. A group of Hispanic students took the initiative to educate their peers about their countries of heritage. The special presentation, which was enjoyed by over 225 students, highlighted the rich cultures of Honduras, Mexico, and Guatemala through engaging and creative displays. The event, which was entirely organized and led by the students, created an immersive experience for the audience. Participants created colorful display boards, gave informative talks, and shared authentic artifacts with their classmates. The presentations were a testament to the students' hard work and passion for their heritage, providing a meaningful look into diverse traditions.

An interactive and delicious learning experience
In addition to visual displays, the presenters offered food and drink samples from their home countries, providing a delicious and tangible connection to their cultures. One group went above and beyond, captivating their classmates with a dynamic volcano demonstration while discussing Guatemala's Volcán de Fuego. This creative approach to education brought a new level of excitement to the classroom.

Celebrate the Season with the Fall Floral Arrangement Workshop

BY SAVANNA LOGAN REPORTER
Fall is (finally) in the air, and what better way to embrace the season than by creating your own autumn-inspired floral arrangement? The Alabama Cooperative Extension System invites community members to join the Fall Floral Arrangement Workshop on Monday, November 4, at Heardmont Park in Shelby County. This hands-on event combines creativity, learning, and seasonal fun in one beautiful afternoon. Participants will design their own floral arrangements using a festive pumpkin "vase", blending the bright colors of fall blooms with the rustic charm of harvest décor. Under the guidance of horticulture experts, attendees will learn both the art and the science behind floral design and seasonal gardening. The workshop will feature Jacob Turner, who will share valuable insights on how to grow your own pumpkins and flowers successfully — covering tips on soil preparation, planting timelines, and maintenance techniques to help your garden thrive. Lilly Oaks will then lead participants through the creative process of building their floral arrangements, offering step-by-step instruction and design inspiration suitable for all skill levels. The event runs from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited to 25 attendees, ensuring a personalized and engaging experience for everyone. The cost to participate is \$40 per person, which includes all materials needed

AUBURN extension ALABAMA A&M and AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Fall Floral Workshop

Learn how to create your own floral arrangement with a fall flare & take home your own creation

November 4, 2025

Online pre-registration is required
Seating is limited

to complete and take home your arrangement. Pre-registration is required, and early sign-up is encouraged as spots are expected to fill quickly. Participants can reserve their place online at <https://www.aces.edu/go/Shelby-Pumpkin>. The Fall Floral Arrangement Workshop offers a perfect opportunity to connect with nature, express creativity, and celebrate the beauty of the autumn season. Whether you're looking to learn a new skill, enjoy a relaxing afternoon, or simply bring a touch of fall into your home, this workshop promises an experience that's both enriching and memorable. For more information or questions about the event, contact Jacob Turner at (334) 401-9164.



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





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Witches OF West Blocton

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Witches Take Flight Over West Blocton This Halloween

Church 220 Invites Community to Celebrate Fall with Family Festival

**BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER**

Church 220 is gearing up for its annual Fall Festival on Oct. 26 from 5–7 p.m. The event will take place at 21610 Youngblood Parkway in McCalla and is open to families

across Woodstock and surrounding communities. This free, family-friendly event will feature trunk-or-treating, hayrides, a pumpkin-decorating contest, and a local food truck offering festive treats.

Organizers say the evening promises something for everyone, from children looking to fill their candy buckets to parents eager to enjoy the crisp fall air and fellowship.

**BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER**

Main Street in West Blocton will soon be filled with broomsticks, laughter, and plenty of candy as the town hosts its first-ever Witches of West Blocton Witches Ride during the 2025 Halloween on Main celebration. The spooky spectacle will take place Friday, Oct. 31, at 6:30

p.m. The event invites riders ages 16 and older to put on their best witch hats and costumes for a festive “flight” down Main Street. Families and children are encouraged to line up on the streets, catch candy, and enjoy Halloween fun. Organizers say this inaugural witch ride is all about community spirit and creativity.

Participants can expect a mix of “magic and mischief” as they pedal or glide their way through town. Those interested in participating can register online. Space is limited, so early sign-ups are encouraged. For more information or to secure a spot, visit the Town of West Blocton’s official Facebook page.



EDITORIALS & OPINIONS



Alabama Silver Haired Legislature Meets in Montgomery, Alabama with ATRC regional representatives

Montgomery, AL – The Alabama Silver Haired Legislature (ASHL) convened October 14-16, 2025, in Montgomery to discuss and advance issues vital to the well-being of Alabama’s senior citizens. The purpose of the ASHL is to provide representation by seniors throughout the state to inform the Alabama Legislature of specific needs affecting constituents in their districts. During the session, members passed a series of resolutions focused on enhancing the quality of life for older adults in our region and across the state. The top ten resolutions, as voted by the body, will now move forward to

the Governor and the Alabama State Legislature for consideration as potential legislation. Representing the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission (ATRC) region at the session were (left to right): Chairperson Shirley McClurkin of District 68, and Representatives Josephine Blackwell of District 71, Gerry Burford of District 69, and Richmond Chaney of District 65. The representation and advocacy of these representatives is crucial to ensuring the voices and needs of Alabama’s seniors in our area are heard at the state level.

In case you missed it: 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

Mayor’s Races Settled This Year

Inside the Statehouse A Guest Opinion Column By Steve Flowers

When it comes to governing and how it affects your daily life, the most important vote you cast is for mayor of your city.

Most of our elections for mayor and city council were held in August. As is usually the case, the incumbents were reelected to most mayorships and city council. There were some significant upsets. However, for the most part, the city fathers will be back for four more years. City governing is where the rubber meets the road in Alabama and throughout the nation.

We have several mayors retiring this year, who will go into the annals of their city history as probably the greatest mayor their beloved hometown has ever had. Sandy Stimpson is retiring as Mayor of Mobile after 12 years. He has been one of the best mayors in Port City history, probably only rivaled by Arthur Outlaw. Gary Fuller probably has been the greatest mayor in the history of the legendary city of Opelika. His decades reign has been marked with progress beyond compare. He has left his Lee County bailiwick in remarkably sound financial condition. Joe Lee is retiring after 22 years as Mayor of Moody. He has overseen the transformation of his St. Clair County town from a population of 1500 to 15,000. He has left an indelible mark.

Two of our state’s most popular and accomplished mayors,

Tommy Battle of Huntsville and Walt Maddox of Tuscaloosa, were elected without any opposition within the past year.

Dothan’s popular Mayor, Mark Saliba, was overwhelmingly reelected by a six to one margin to an unprecedented third term in August. Troy Mayor Jason Reeves was first elected to the City Council in 1996 at 24 years old. Sixteen years later, he was elected mayor at age 40. He was unopposed for reelection to a third term as mayor this year. If he completes this term, he will be the longest consecutive serving city official in Troy’s history. He will probably make it. He is only 53.

Phenix City’s popular longtime Mayor Eddie Lowe won a fourth term unopposed. Chuck Ables was re-elected to his fourth term as Mayor of Geraldine.

Opelika elected veteran City Council President, Eddie Smith, a retired banker and Opelika native to succeed the legendary Gary Fuller as Mayor. Smith has been Mayor Fuller’s longtime ally. They have worked lockstep together over the years to keep Opelika very sound financially. Eddie Smith will be a good mayor.

Spiro Cheriogotis won a razor thin runoff over Barbara Drummond to become the Mayor of Mobile, succeeding Sandy Stimpson.

The most impressive victory of the year was turned in by Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin. He won a whopping 75% of the vote on the way to reelection to his third term. He beat eight opponents without a runoff, including a veteran County Commissioner and a vocal longtime State Representative.

Vestavia Mayor Ashley Curry trounced a token opponent on the way to reelection to a third term. He got 87% of the vote. Mountain Brook voters, for the first time, elected a female to serve as mayor. City Council leader Graham Smith ran unopposed. Trussville elected City Council member Ben Short as mayor. Short won an impressive victory, beating two very viable opponents without a runoff. Homewood elected popular City Council member and cross-country runner Jennifer Address as the first female mayor in their city history.

In one of Alabama’s fastest growing and most prosperous cities, Athens, voters reelected their popular and accomplished Mayor Ronnie Marks to a fifth, four-year term. In another booming Huntsville area suburban city, Madison, voters elected a female Mayor Ranae Bartlet. She beat two opponents without a runoff.

Albertville’s outstanding Mayor Tracy Honea won reelection to an unprecedented fourth, four-year term, impressively. Kent

Lawrence was elected to lead the major City of Decatur. Their longtime Mayor, Tad Bowling, retired. Dale Phillips eclipsed four opponents to win the mayor’s post of the growing City of Northport. In Guntersville, incumbent mayor Leigh Dollar won a fourth four-year term. Mark Jones was elected Mayor of Jacksonville and will do a good job.

The two biggest and impressive upsets of the year occurred in Hoover and Ozark, where two current Police Chiefs beat the incumbent mayors. In Hoover, veteran Police Chief Nick Derzis beat two-term Mayor Frank Brocato by a 56%t to 44% margin to become mayor of the state’s fifth largest city. The most impressive victory was in the Wiregrass City of Ozark. Veteran Police Chief and Law Enforcement officer, Charles Ward, trounced incumbent Mayor Mark Blankenship 72% to 28%. Ward is beloved in Ozark. He will be a proud mayor for his hometown.

The mayor’s office is where the rubber meets the road.

See you next week.

Steve Flowers is Alabama’s leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature. Steve may be reached at steve@steveflowers.us.

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 tradi-

tions 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 cen-

tury, 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.

Centreville Press

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

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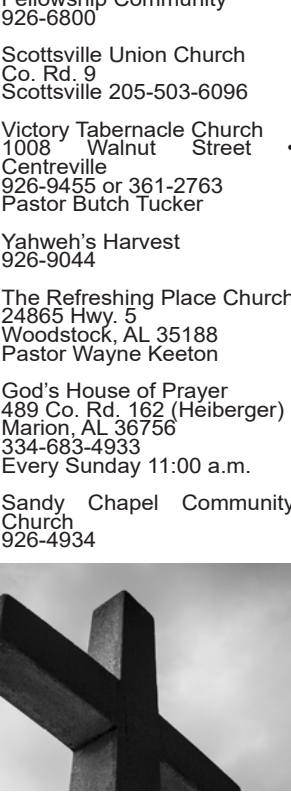


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Mt. Carmel Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	River of Life Church of God 9225 Hwy 82 Brent 205-926-7600	Yahweh's Harvest 926-9044
Mt. Ebell Baptist Brent 926-9223	West Blocton Church of God City Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988	The Refreshing Place Church 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 HIGH SCHOOL

VS. FAIRFIELD

PHOTOS BY BRIDGET STOKES



WEST BLOCTON HIGH SCHOOL
VS. PLEASANT GROVE

PHOTOS BY KANDI SMITH



The BACK PAGE

Building Skills, Confidence, and Community Through BMC Youth Basketball

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

In partnership with the Bibb County High School Basketball Booster Club, BMC Wellness is proud to announce the start of the 2025–2026 BMC Youth Basketball Season. This program offers an exciting opportunity for children across Bibb County to develop their athletic abilities, build lasting friendships, and experience the many benefits that come from participating in a team sport. More than just a league, it's a community built on growth, connection, and positive values.

The mission of the BMC Youth Basketball League is to provide the youth of Bibb County with a structured and supportive environment to learn and enjoy the game of basketball. Guided by qualified adult leadership, the program emphasizes sportsmanship, teamwork, and the fundamentals of the sport. Participants

are encouraged not only to improve their skills on the court but also to grow in confidence, discipline, and character. Through practices and games, young athletes learn lessons that extend well beyond basketball — how to communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and handle both success and challenge with grace.

Team sports like basketball can play a powerful role in a child's emotional, social, and physical development. On the emotional level, they help children build resilience, manage pressure, and take pride in their progress. Socially, they foster friendships, empathy, and cooperation as players learn the importance of working toward shared goals. Physically, basketball promotes coordination, endurance, and overall health, helping children stay active and engaged. The BMC Youth Basketball Program brings all of these elements

together in a fun, organized, and encouraging setting.

The league will work closely with the head coaches at Bibb County High School to ensure that player development remains a central focus throughout the season. Coaches and parents involved in the BMC Youth League will also have access to the PlayerSpace Mobile App, a convenient communication tool that allows families to view practice times, game schedules, and league updates all in one place. The app creates a smooth line of communication between coaches, parents, and players, ensuring that everyone stays informed and connected throughout the season.

This year's league will feature coed divisions for ages 5 through 14, with games and practices held at both Bibb County High School Gym, located at 220 Birmingham Road in Centreville, and the

BMC Wellness Center at 285 Hospital Drive, also in Centreville. The registration fee is \$90 for nonmembers and \$75 for BMC Wellness members. Families with more than one child participating can receive a sibling discount by using the code SIB1 for \$10 off the second child's registration.

Registration for the 2025–2026 season closes on October 27, 2025. Late registrations will not be guaranteed and will incur a \$40 late fee. Players and coaches will take part in evaluations on November 8, 2025, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Bibb County High School Gym. These evaluations are mandatory for coaches. Games are scheduled to begin the week of December 6, 2025, with possible game days on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Families can register online at bmcwellness.com/programs/youth-basketball. Those without computer ac-



cess, or who prefer to pay by cash or check, can register in person at the BMC Wellness Center front desk, open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For questions or assistance with registration, families may contact BMC Wellness at 205-926-3360 or by emailing info@bmcwellness.com.

For many young athletes, participation in youth basketball becomes about far more than learning the game. It's about building character, developing relationships, and discovering what it means to be part of a team. Programs like BMC Youth Basketball create an environment where children can thrive both on and off the court — gaining not just athletic experience, but the confidence, empathy, and perseverance that will serve them throughout life.

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.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

BMC MEMBERS \$75
NONMEMBERS \$90

PROGRAM DIVISIONS
5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13/14

CLOSES:
OCT 27

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5:00 PM

5:30PM

6:30PM

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