

Centreville Press

Volume 147 | Issue 44 | 75¢ | October 31, 2025 | www.bibbvoice.com



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SNAP benefits suspended for November amid federal government shutdown

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) announced that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will not be distributed in November due to the ongoing federal government shutdown. The decision follows official guidance issued to DHR by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) on Friday, October 24, 2025.

According to DHR, recipients may continue using any benefits already loaded onto their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards prior to November 1 at authorized retailers. However, starting November 1, "FNS is suspending all November 2025 benefit allotments until... federal funding is provided, or until FNS directs State agencies otherwise." No new SNAP benefits will be issued until the suspension is lifted.

While the suspension halts new ben-

efit payments, DHR emphasized that the overall program remains active. Alabamians can still apply for SNAP and complete their required reporting and recertifications. Doing so will allow the agency to quickly issue benefits once funding resumes.

"SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded; therefore USDA (FNS) controls the issuance of these benefits on EBT cards," said Alabama DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner. "We know SNAP benefits are vitally important to the more than 750,000 Alabamians who depend on the more than \$140 million in support each month. Alabama DHR, along with many others, hopes Congress will come to a quick resolution on the federal government shutdown."

Buckner added that FNS plans to reimburse November administrative costs, which will help state agencies manage the financial strain caused by the shutdown.

Governor Kay Ivey's

office also released a statement following DHR's announcement, noting that Alabama cannot independently fund SNAP benefits in the absence of federal appropriations. "While the state does not have extra money to do Congress' job, Governor Ivey hopes to see U.S. Senate Democrats get on board to reopen the federal government," said Gina Maiola, communications director for Gov. Ivey's office.

The impact of the suspension will be significant across Alabama, particularly in communities with higher rates of food insecurity. According to the Center for American Progress, 15.6% of Bibb County residents, an estimated 3,434 people, receive SNAP benefits and will be directly affected by the halt in assistance.

As federal funding remains stalled, families who rely on SNAP are encouraged to seek temporary help through community food resources. DHR partners with several organizations, includ-



Stock image: Getty Images

ing Feeding Alabama and its network of local food banks, which can be found at feedingalabama.org.

Meanwhile, the Alabama Department of Public Health confirmed that the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) remains unaffected. "All WIC services, including appointments, benefits issuance, and nutrition education, remain available statewide," ADPH said in a statement to AL.com. The

agency also clarified that WIC and SNAP are separate programs and that WIC is not administered by DHR.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has confirmed it will not use its contingency fund — currently around \$6 billion — to fund SNAP for November. Operating the program costs roughly \$8 billion per month, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. In a letter obtained by USA Today, USDA stated that the contingency fund

"is not available to support FY 2026 regular benefits, because the appropriation for regular benefits no longer exists."

As Alabama DHR and food assistance organizations brace for the effects of the suspension, residents are encouraged to donate to local food banks and community pantries if they are able. For thousands of Alabamians, that support may help bridge the gap until federal benefits resume.

Centreville water department clerk charged with theft



BY MIKE HOBSON
REPORTER

mike.hobson@centrevillepress.com

October 28, 2025
City of Centreville announced today that former water department clerk Rebecca Diane Abercrombie was arrested on October 27, 2025 and has been criminally charged with theft of water department funds following an investigation by the Alabama State Bureau of

Investigation.

Bibb County District Court records confirm that Abercrombie has been charged with Theft of Property in the First Degree. The written complaint alleges that the Defendant did, between June 1, 2025 and October 14, 2025 knowingly obtain or exert unauthorized control over, to wit: \$21,000.00 in U.S. Currency, the property of Centreville Water Board, with the intent

to deprive the owner of said property.

The Defendant was taken to the Bibb County jail upon arrest. Court records show that she is eligible for release upon payment of a \$5,000 bond.

The Defendant has not been convicted and is presumed innocent until a court renders a final adjudication of this charged offense.



Centreville mayor election contest set for trial

BY MIKE HOBSON
REPORTER

mike.hobson@centrevillepress.com

October 27, 2025

In a brief hearing this afternoon before the Honorable Circuit Judge Marvin Wiggins the Centreville Mayor election contest filed by Incumbent Mayor Mike Oakley vs. Mayor Elect Barry Cooner ended up getting set for a December 5, 2025 trial date. The arguments were brief and the attorneys spent time in a bench conversation with the Judge discussing the trial planning details before the parties adjourned from the

Court.

Pending Motions to dismiss the contest were denied. The Court is now allowing the contestant(s) to conduct evidentiary discovery in preparation for the tryer of fact. In this case that will be the Judge, not a jury.

At issue, according to arguments presented by Joel Blankenship, attorney for Oakley, are three (3) ballots that were cast by parties claimed not eligible to vote in this election. The Judge asked if these challenged ballots could change the outcome of

the election and both parties acknowledged that could be the result. As it presently stands Barry Cooner was the winner of the August 2025 election by a 2 vote margin. The Judge told the parties that the case could be moved to the 2026 court calendar if the parties are not ready for trial by December 5.

The City is planning to swear in all new elected officials on Monday November 3, 2025. The Mayor Elect Barry Cooner and 5 councilmen are expected to officially take office on that date.



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NEWS



Emma Turner named to Troy University Provost's List

TROY, AL (10/27/2025)-- Emma Turner of Randolph, AL, has been named to the Provost's List at Troy University for Term 1 of the 2025-2026 academic year.

The Provost's List honors full-time undergraduate students who are registered for 12 semester hours and who have a grade point average of at least 3.65.

Term 1 includes students at TROY's campuses in Dothan and Montgomery, Ala., along with teaching sites outside of Alabama and online.

About Troy University

Troy University is a public, historic, international university with and more than 170,000 alumni. Students choose TROY for its quality academic programs, reasonable costs and availability of financial aid, outstanding faculty, and flexible in-class and online class offerings. Students on the Troy, Ala. campus enjoy a traditional college experience, while adult students are the centers of attention at campuses in Dothan, Montgomery and Phenix City, Ala., as well as at locations around the world and online.

Presentation at BMC Congregate focused on protecting seniors from financial scams

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Community members gathered at BMC Congregate on Thursday, October 23, for a free presentation on how to protect themselves and their loved ones from financial elder abuse. The event featured guest speaker Andy Stewart from Trustmark Bank, who shared valuable information about common scams, warning signs, and practical steps to stay safe.

The presentation addressed a growing issue that affects countless families each year — the financial exploitation of seniors. According to the event's discussion, one in ten seniors experiences some form of financial abuse, and many cases go unreported. Stewart emphasized that awareness is the first step to prevention, encouraging attendees to learn how to recognize and respond to red flags.

Participants were

guided through examples of what financial abuse can look like, including the misuse of money or property, pressure to sign documents, unusual bank withdrawals, or sudden changes in who manages someone's finances.

Stewart also highlighted some of the most common scams targeting older adults, such as fake calls or emails from "Medicare" or "Social Security," false prize or lottery winnings, fraudulent contractor or home repair offers, and so-called "grandparent scams," in which scammers pretend that a loved one is in urgent trouble.

The presentation encouraged seniors to remain vigilant and proactive in protecting their financial well-being. Practical advice included never sharing personal information over the phone, reviewing bank and credit card statements regularly, consulting a trusted person before



sending money, and reporting suspicious activity immediately.

The event underscored that while scams can happen to anyone, seniors are often targeted because of their trust, generosity, or perceived financial stability. By learning to identify warning signs and maintaining open communication with family and financial institutions, community members can better safeguard themselves and those they care for.

Through events like this, BMC Congregate and Trustmark Bank aim to empower local residents with knowledge, confidence, and the resources they need to prevent financial exploitation.

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BC Education Retiree's Association held October meeting at Bibb Wellness Center

The Bibb County Education Retiree's Association held their October meeting at the Bibb Wellness Center. The program was provided by Linda Burkes and members of the Senior Rhythm dance class she leads. They performed two line dances for the group and then invited everyone to join in on the Cupid Shuffle! Ms. Burkes and her class members emphasized how the dance class was a fun way for seniors to exercise and enjoy socializing with others. Katie Crumpler, BWC Director, provided an overview of all the classes seniors could participate in at the Wellness Center. Club members brought items to donate to the Bibb County Sav-A-Life.

Attended were: Elaine Jones. Faye Johnson, Mary Beth Sansing, Sarah Lunsford, Fran Kornegay, Sherry Cash, Linda Burkes, Vickie Brown, Karen Murphy, Joyce Rice, Glenda Snelson, Donna Cook, Alfreda Huff, Linda Cottingham and Sandra Horton.

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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

We wish to extend sincere sympathy to the family of Burlene Ingram, 83, who passed away on October 17, 2025. Services were held on October 23, 2025 at Brent Baptist Church with burial at Pineland Cemetery in Centreville, AL. Burlene will be missed by her family and friends.

Recently, Charlotte Lovelady West had lunch at Big Whiskey in Alabaster with BCHS Class of 69 besties Dot Darden Tidwell and Pam Ragland Long. Lots of talking, laughing and delicious food.

Birthday wishes go out to several in October; Byron Hicks, Dwight Wyers, Kelli Meigs, Joan Wallace, Brooke Jackson, Che

Griggs, Terri Cohn Justice, Brody Booth, Sandra Allen and on October 31, Bobby Watts.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Martha Colburn who passed away recently. Services were held on October 17, 2025.

Anniversary wishes go out to Billy Wayne and Robin Broadhead who recently celebrated their 43rd Wedding Anniversary.

Belated birthday wishes go out to Scottie Watts of Clanton who celebrated his birthday on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

If you have news, call it in to 205-316-1181. Take Care and God Bless.

West Eoline News

By Jane Hannah

YAY IT'S FALL Y'ALL!!!! Nice and cool with MANY leaves on the ground.

The Thompson's (Chad & Tracey) have traveled to Biloxi, MS and Orange Beach with friends for fun times recently. They have had problems with some local dogs killing their chickens and pigs. Dog owners should be aware that once they are aggressive like this, you should take action to keep in a fence, retrain or put down. Chad is closing in the carport ceiling to keep critters out of the attic area. Hopefully the cats will no longer use the vehicles as a ladder.

Jera Fortner visited with Jane Hannah, LaShelle & Ronnie & Kaydi Kinney October 20 & 21. Ronnie & LaShelle went out to dinner, celebrating their Anniversary and Gigi (Jera) got to sleep with Kaydi ... until near midnight.

Jo Kitchen enjoyed her Ft. Worth, TX visit with family. Her granddaughter, Carly Garcia and family recently moved there and Mimi Jo kept great grandchildren Judah & Olive until a credible daycare was found.

Sistas Betty Rainwater, Carol Schladerbach, Cindy Fowler, Geneva Mullins, Jane Hannah, Pennie Mitchell plan to meet

NEVER TOO LATE TO CELEBRATE. I was privileged to have Steak & Shrimp with Tracey & Lou Holladay Saturday, October 25th plus a belated birthday cake! It took two months to get together. THANKS and much LOVE

Wayne Deason enjoys company and has a guest book registry. Stop by often and sign in!!

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS to these: Jo Kitchen, Lisa Deason, & Anita Helms 2nd, Josh Ervin 4th, Carolyn Caddis 6th, Nora Campbell 7th, Janet Fancher 8th, Terri Bowman 10th, Alyssa Mullins 15th, Cody Fortner 16th, Haden Mullins , & Hunter Mullins 17th, Demarkus Nicketleson 19th, Zane Glidewell 20th, Paula Ervin & Addison Deason 21st, Jera Fortner 23rd, Hayden Carter 25th, Abel Watkins 26th, Dale Mitchell & Josh Cottingham 27th, and Grayson Passeri on the 30th.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Daniel & Haley Kitchen 11-9.

Have a great month. Call 478-396-2513, if you have news to share.

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CENTREVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: October 8, 2025

by Lynn LHamric

Mayor Mike Oakley called the meeting to order at five o'clock. Dianne Epperson gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Nichols.

Roll Call:
Linda Lawrence – Present
Dianne Epperson – Present
Brad Colburn – Absent
Don Mack – Present
Mie Nichos – Present

Linda Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes and Don Mack Seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:
• A motion was made (Don Mack) and seconded (Dianne Epperson) to approve the Resolution of Engagement. This gives the City Attorney, Mitch Kemmer authority to request the Examiners for Public Accounts to review all accounts under the City of Centreville. Motion carried.

• DHR Building Lease – Mayor Oakley presented a twenty-two page lease for the DHR building, owned by the City of Centreville. The cover page lists August 18, 2025, and Mayor Oakley stated this is to go into effect January 1, 2026. This is the first time the Council has reviewed the recently negotiated lease. After a frank discussion where the Mayor indicated the new lease will considerably increase the annual amount of income, a motion to table was made in order to allow the Council time to review before approving

(Don Mack) and seconded (Dianne Epperson). Motion carried.

New Business –
• Main Street reported on recent activities with Jeff McGee providing information on the November 1, 2025, Cahaba Auto Fest on the Court Square. In addition to the auto show there will be a raffle for two racing vehicles. Flyers were distributed. There will be a live band. There will be NO alcohol sold/provided. November 6th a croup will be in town to reveal the CMS new Branding. CMS has received two large signs to indicate Main Street Alabama Designated District. For additional information contact Centreville Main Street.

• Police Report – September 2025

Calls – 103
I/O Reports – 27
Arrest – 2
Dog Calls – 5
Patrol Request – 68
Accidents – 5
Tickets – 49
Warnings – 33
Calls inside city limits – 93
Calls outside city limits – 10

*Skid car training is being conducted this week in Vestavia Hills for six officers.

* Six additional smoke detectors are needed. Six have been installed in the Police Department and six at City Hall. Due to the number of rooms these additional ones are needed.

* Letters have been given to every homeowner in Deerhaven

(Dog Ordinance).

*Complaints have been filed about dogs in the vicinity of Hwy 25/Crawford Drive. All dogs captured will be taken to the animal shelter in Brent.

*Most of the equipment in the Police Department is covered under warranty. This has saved thousands of dollars. The cost of these warranties is minimal to the savings.

*A list of equipment that should be surplus will be provided at a future meeting for Council review and action.

*The BCHS Homecoming parade was a success with only a self-inflicted injury. Thanks was given to Brent and the County for their assistance. The Centreville Street Dept. was extremely helpful as usual.

*The 2025-2026 budget is complete as far as the Chief can provide.

* The Chief is in the process of interviewing candidates for department positions. So far only one applicant is certified. There are applicants who would be required to attend the Academy in January 2026.

*Mie Nichols stated he had conversed with the Marion Police Department Chief and they are in need of equipment. We should think about this when looking at surplus.

The meeting went into Executive Session.

The regular meeting resumed.

It should be noted that Mayor Oakley had left the meeting and

Mike Nichols presided over the remaining time.

There being no financial report listed on the Agenda, Dianne Epperson asked the City Clerk, Tracy Griffin if there was a report, and if they would receive checks. Clerk Griffin indicated by holding one copy and approaching the council members stating there was one copy they could look at. She did not intend to provide them with hard copies to be posted on Facebook. There was discussion about someone posting the financial report on Facebook. After a heated discussion, by council members and the Clerk, Councilwoman Linda Lawrence left the Council Chamber and copies were provided. Clerk Griffin stated if anyone in the public desires to see the financial information they can go to City Hall and see her. In the middle of this discussion, Clerk Griffin brought up the issue of individuals (not named) discussing how she handled the ballots for the recent election, presumably the August 26 election. Clerk Griffin stated the ballots were in a secure location at city hall and only three (unnamed) individuals have access. There was considerably more “discussion” but it is not included in this reporters comments.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2025.



Patriot Pipeline initiative adds enrollment incentives with new program at MMI

MARION, AL – Marion Military Institute (MMI) and its Army ROTC Early Commissioning Program have developed a ten-year strategic partnership to incentivize future Army officers to enroll at the nation's oldest military junior college. The agreement was signed on Thursday, Oct. 23 between MMI President COL David J. Mollahan, USMC (Ret) and MMI Professor of Military Science LTC Joshua P. Hollingsworth, USA.

Through the newly-designated Patriot Pipeline initiative, MMI Army ROTC now has

a vehicle to offer more competitive financial incentives for 10 incoming college freshmen, nominated annually by the Alabama congressional delegation. Beginning in Fall 2026, in addition to their ROTC scholarship, those selected through MMI's Patriot Pipeline will receive an MMI room & board scholarship.

In addition, all non-scholarship freshmen contracting into MMI's Early Commissioning Program will be granted in-state tuition. All those having earned an ROTC scholarship will now receive tuition

& fee deferment until contracting.

MMI's Early Commissioning Program is only one of four in the nation offering this accelerated path to becoming an Army officer in just two years, upon earning an associate's degree, instead of the traditional four. Through congressional outreach, LTC Hollingsworth, an Alabama native, aims to recruit more highly-competitive candidates to MMI Army ROTC from our state.

"I'm proud to be part of a team that's breaking down barriers for our future of-

ficers," said LTC Hollingsworth. "Thanks to President Mollahan and the MMI executive staff, we're creating real opportunities for students who want to serve, lead, and make a difference. That's what this agreement is all about."

High school students interested in learning more about the Patriot Pipeline or any MMI Army ROTC opportunities should contact recruitment officers Mr. David Stilwell or CPT Noah Kambili: dstilwell@marionmilitary.edu / 334-683-2332 or nkambili@marionmilitary.edu.



EDITORIALS & OPINIONS



Small-Town Thanksgiving

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE
REPORTER

In small towns across America, Thanksgiving has long been more than a holiday—it's a cherished tradition that brings communities together in ways that go far beyond the dinner table. While the first Thanksgiving is traced back to the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag in 1621, it was the generations that followed who shaped the holiday into what we know today, especially in rural communities where gratitude, family, and fellowship remain at the heart of celebration.

In the early days of small-town America, Thanksgiving wasn't always marked by grand feasts or football games. Families would gather after the fall harvest to share a simple meal of what they had grown or hunted—cornbread, root vegetables, wild game, and whatever else the land provided. Churches often held special services of thanksgiving, where neighbors would come together to sing hymns, pray, and give thanks for another year's blessings.

As the 1800s progressed, Thanksgiving became more organized across the country. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it a national holiday, calling for a day of "thanksgiving and praise." In small towns, this proclamation united communities in new ways. Local newspapers printed Thanksgiving reflections, stores closed early, and families

traveled by horse and wagon to share meals with distant relatives.

By the early 20th century, small-town Thanksgivings began to take on the shape we recognize today—complete with roast turkey, dressing, and pumpkin pie. Schools and churches hosted plays or pageants depicting the first Thanksgiving, and local organizations often prepared baskets of food for those in need. In many rural communities, those acts of kindness remain a proud tradition.

Before the days of television, Thanksgiving afternoon was often spent outdoors—neighbors gathering for friendly games of football, children raking piles of leaves, and families visiting with one another long into the evening. It was a time to pause the year's hard work and reflect on life's simple joys.

Even today, small towns carry the spirit of those early celebrations. You'll still find church potlucks, community dinners, and kitchens filled with laughter and the scent of pecan pies cooling on the counter. Thanksgiving in small-town America remains a reminder that gratitude doesn't depend on abundance—it grows from a thankful heart and a close-knit community.

As the leaves fall and the air turns crisp, may we all pause, as generations before us did, to count our blessings, cherish our families, and give thanks for the simple goodness of home.



Nonpartisan Municipal Elections Have Become Partisan

Inside the Statehouse

A Guest Opinion Column By Steve Flowers

Political pundits and observers and political players have espoused the long-held belief in the mantra "all politics is local." I have changed my tune on this well-known adage and belief. My observation is that today it is the opposite, "all politics is national."

Folks either vote straight Republican or straight Democratic. Most, about 90%, of all white Alabamians vote straight Republican, they may not pull the straight Republican lever, but they only mark Republican names. They would come as close to voting for a Communist as they would voting for a Democrat and most of them are of the belief that Democrats are Communists.

Most folks who vote Democratic in this state are African Americans. They vote 96% straight Democratic, and they do generally pull the straight Democratic lever. By the way, all states do not allow for pulling one lever and voting straight down the line for all Republican or all Democratic candidates.

In Alabama, this straight party voting has always existed, but it had a tinge of localism in it until the last few decades. It galvanized about the time that Barack Obama became President. Alabamians have been voting Republican for President and Congress since 1964, but

they would still split their ticket and vote for their local legislator or sheriff who was still running as a Democrat.

The national political landscape had become extremely different around that time. The national Republican Party became, and still is, extremely conservative, and the national Democratic Party has become extremely liberal. That scenario has not changed. A local sheriff is painted with the same brush in voters' minds as the President. Folks do not pick and choose. Their vote from top to bottom is, "I am a conservative Republican, and I vote for all Republicans from President to Sheriff," or "I am a liberal Democrat, and I vote straight down the line for all Democrats."

This nationalization of partisan voting is driven primarily by social issues, and believe you me, there is definitely a marked contrast between the conservative Republican Party's philosophy and the liberal Democratic Party's philosophy. George Wallace would run for President as a third party candidate and proclaim, "there's not a dime's worth of difference between the Republican and Democratic Parties." He certainly could not shout that demagogic diatribe with a straight face today.

This national party label trend not only

crept but leapt into Alabama's traditionally nonpartisan municipal elections this year. By law, mayoral and city council elections are nonpartisan. That now is in title only. The "all politics is local" rule has been tossed aside in even local mayoral races.

The prime example was in Mobile, the state's second largest city. Mayor Sandy Stimpson chose to not run for a fourth term after 12 years of leading the Port City. He not only endorsed, but openly campaigned and raised money for his chosen successor, Spiro Cheriogotis, who is a former Republican elected District Judge. Cheriogotis won, very narrowly, over Democratic State Representative Barbara Drummond in a runoff. Drummond led in the first primary. Both parties made it a party battle, trumpeting national party themes.

The national and state Democratic Party leaders and donors overtly championed longtime Democratic Representative Barbara Drummond's campaign as a Democrat versus Republican battle. She was openly endorsed by former Vice President, Kamala Harris, and Senator Raphael Warnock.

The Alabama Republican Party countered with openly partisan efforts for Cheriogotis. Alabama GOP Chair John Wahl said, "Voters deserve

to know the facts about candidates and where they stand on the issues. We are not shy about fighting for strong conservative principles whether it's in Washington, Montgomery, or at City Hall." The Republican Party even launched a comprehensive campaign program for the Mobile runoff election that provided their chosen candidate with targeted resources, including direct mail, grassroots mobilization, and even voter contact by text message and digital advertising. Wahl continued, "Historically, the Republican Party has not been engaged in municipal elections, but that changed this election cycle. When there is a race with a clear Republican and a clear Democrat, the Alabama GOP will always stand with our Republican candidate."

With Cheriogotis, only winning with 50.4% of the vote, it is obvious that the party label made the difference.

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.

Centreville Press

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The Centreville Press (USPS #098-880) is published each Friday by Bibb Community Media Inc., Centreville, AL 35042.
Yearly Subscription Rates: \$37.00 in-county, \$45.00 out-of-county, and \$50.00 out-of-state.
Periodicals postage paid at Centreville, AL 35042.
POST MASTER: Send address changes to Centreville Press, P.O. Box 127, Centreville, AL 35042

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Brent Baptist Brent 926-7687	Pondville Baptist Brent 926-9211	Brent Methodist 190 Tabernacle Rd. Brent, AL
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Deer Creek Missionary Baptist Church Centreville 225-0460	Shady Grove II Baptist West Blocton 938-0120 Pastor 834-2557	Bible Methodist West Blocton 938-0091
Ebenzer Baptist Church Brierfield 665-4865	Shiloh Baptist Centreville 926-7041	Hopewell A.M.E. Zion Harrisburg 926-5777
Enon Baptist Centreville 926-4517	Six Mile Baptist Brierfield	New Hope AME West Blocton 540-8016
Eoline Baptist Eoline 926-7448	Smith Hill Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	Tabernacle United Methodist Lawley
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	Church Of God Of Prophecy West Blocton 938-2788	Green Pond Presbyterian Presbyterian Church Rd 205-938-2344
Liberty Freewill Baptist 926-6496	North Bibb Church of Christ Woodstock 477-6121	Pleasant Hill Upper Cumber- land Presbyterian Church Centreville 926-4409
Little Hope Primitive Baptist Centreville 926-4236	West Blocton Church of Christ West Blocton 938-7108	SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST First Brent Seventh Day Ad- ventist 926-6328
Lowerytown Baptist West Blocton 938-2436	Evangelist Temple Brent 926-6430	NON-DENOMINATIONAL Fellowship Community 926-6800
Lucille Baptist West Blocton 966-3556	CHURCH OF GOD Church of God of Prophecy at Eoline 256-393-9625 Pastor Shane Pate	Scottsville Union Church Co. Rd. 9 Scottsville 205-503-6096
Mission Baptist Woodstock 938-7096	Church Of God Of Prophecy West Blocton 938-2788	Victory Tabernacle Church 1008 Walnut Street Centreville 926-9455 or 361-2763 Pastor Butch Tucker
Mt. Carmel Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	Caffee Junction Church Of God 205-477-5468	Yahweh's Harvest 926-9044
Mt. Ebell Baptist Brent 926-9223	River of Life Church of God 9225 Hwy 82, Brent 205-926-7600	The Refreshing Place Church 24865 Hwy. 5 Woodstock, AL 35188 Pastor Wayne Keeton
Mt. Grove Baptist 938-3410	West Blocton Church of God City Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988	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	CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST 2300 South Scottsville Rd Centreville 926-5393	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



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"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" is one of the most beloved Christian hymns, sung in churches around the world as a heart-felt declaration of faith and surrender. Simple in words yet powerful in meaning, the song's origins trace back to a moving story of courage, conviction, and the cost of discipleship.

The hymn originated in India during the 19th century, inspired by the last words of a man from the Garo tribe in Assam. This man, whose name is not recorded in history, had converted to Christianity through the work of Welsh missionaries. His decision to follow Christ was met with fierce opposition from his village and leaders.

According to the account, when he and his family refused to renounce their new faith, they were brought before the village chief.

Under threat of death, the man was given the chance to deny Jesus, but he calmly replied, "I have decided to follow Jesus." His wife and children were killed before his eyes, yet he remained steadfast, reportedly saying, "Though none go with me, still I will follow." Finally, as he himself faced death, he declared, "The cross before me, the world behind me."

These final words of faith deeply moved the chief, who later confessed his own belief in Christ. The martyrdom of that family sparked a revival in the village, and eventually throughout the region.

Years later, the story reached a missionary named Sadhu Sundar Singh, who was inspired to put the man's words into song. The lyrics were set to a traditional Indian folk melody, giving the hymn its distinctive and simple beauty. It was later translated into English and spread to the Western world, becoming a staple in revival meetings and evangelistic services.

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" has since become more than a hymn—it's a personal anthem for believers everywhere. Its message reminds Christians that faith often requires courage and commitment, even when the path is lonely or difficult.

The song's refrain, "No turning back, no turning back," continues to echo through generations as a timeless reminder that following Christ means surrendering all and trusting Him completely.

From the mountains of India to churches across the world, this hymn stands as a testament to one man's unwavering faith and the transformative power of the Gospel.

The Power of a Gentle Heart

BY WHITNEY BUZBEE

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." — Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Kindness is one of those quiet virtues that often gets overlooked in a world that celebrates strength, success, and self-sufficiency. Yet, in Scripture, kindness is anything but weak—it's a reflection of God's heart. When we show kindness, we are mirroring the very nature of our Creator.

Kindness doesn't always look like grand gestures. It's often found in the small, unseen moments—a gentle word to someone who's struggling, a helping hand when no one else steps forward, or a prayer whispered for a friend who's hurting. These acts might seem simple, but they carry eternal weight.

Jesus lived a life marked by kindness. He noticed the people others overlooked—the leper, the tax collector, the woman at the well. His kindness wasn't conditional; it flowed from His compassion and love for every soul. If we are to follow Him, we must do the same.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the early church, he urged believers to "clothe" themselves with kindness (Colossians 3:12). That imagery is powerful—it means kindness should be something we put on daily, just as we put on our clothes. It's not optional or occasional; it's a choice we make every day to reflect Christ's love to those around us.

Kindness also has a ripple effect. A single kind act can soften a hardened heart, heal a broken spirit, or spark faith in someone who feels forgotten. In a dark world, kindness shines like a light, pointing others toward Jesus.

Is there someone in your life who needs to experience God's kindness through you? Maybe it's a neighbor, a co-worker, or even a family member. Ask God today to give you opportunities to share His love in tangible ways.

Plain & Simple Southern Pecan Delight

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted

Cream Cheese Layer:

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup whipped topping (like Cool Whip)

Pudding Layer:

- 1 large box (5.1 oz) instant vanilla or butterscotch pudding mix
- 3 cups cold milk

Topping:

- Remaining whipped topping (about 2 cups)
- Extra chopped pecans for garnish

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine melted butter, flour, and chopped pecans. Press evenly into the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish. Bake for 15–20 minutes or until lightly golden. Cool completely.
2. Cream cheese layer: Beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Fold in 1 cup whipped topping. Spread evenly over cooled crust.
3. Pudding layer: Whisk pudding mix with cold milk until thickened, about 2–3 minutes. Spread over cream cheese layer.
4. Top it off: Spread remaining whipped topping over pudding. Sprinkle with chopped pecans.
5. Chill: Refrigerate 2–3 hours before serving for best results

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EVENTS

Bibb County Schools to host Special Education Parent Night

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The Bibb County Board of Education will host a Special Education Parent Night on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Board Room.

This Parent Resource Night is designed to connect families, educators, and specialists in a supportive and collaborative setting. The event will focus on Behavior Strategies and Sensory Supports, offering parents practical guidance to help children with diverse learning needs succeed both at home and in the classroom.

Guest speakers Savannah Simmons, BCBA, and Kelley Stringfellow, OTRL,

will share their expertise on how to manage challenging behaviors, create sensory-friendly environments, and encourage positive engagement for students with special needs. These topics are especially beneficial for parents who want to better understand their child's behavior and how sensory experiences can impact learning and emotional regulation.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to attend to gain valuable tools and connect with others navigating similar experiences. The evening will also provide an opportunity to ask questions, share insights, and learn about available school and community resources.

Those planning to attend are asked to

RSVP by emailing downsj@bibbed.org or calling 205-926-9881, extension 6022.

The Bibb County School System continues to emphasize the importance of family involvement in education, particularly when it comes to supporting students with unique learning needs. Events like this serve as a reminder that collaboration between parents and educators is vital for student growth and success.

By creating a welcoming and informative environment, the Special Education Parent Night aims to equip families with knowledge and confidence while strengthening relationships between home and school.

Special Education Parent Night

Join us for a Parent Resource Night!

Date: November 18, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Board of Education, Board Room

RSVP: Email downsj@bibbed.org or call 205-926-9881 ext. 6022

Topics: Behavior Strategies and Sensory Supports

Speakers:

Savannah Simmons, BCBA

Kelley Stringfellow, OTRL

Extension Office to host Fall Wreath-Making Class at Tannehill



Fall Wreath Making Class

Saturday, November 8th, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Tannehill Historic Ironworks Park Event Center

12632 Confederate Pkwy, McCalla, AL 35111

Join us for a wreath-making workshop! Extension Agent Lynn Dickinson will lead the workshop using natural items that can be found anywhere in Alabama's forests. Materials for the workshop will be provided. The cost for attendance is \$15 per person.

Register online at www.aces.edu/go/BibbFallWreath25

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or free language access services, contact Lynn Dickinson at 334-303-8360 or rhodela@aces.edu by 10/18/2025.

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System will host a Fall Wreath-Making Class on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Tannehill Historic Ironworks Park Event Center, located at 12632 Confederate Parkway, McCalla, AL 35111.

The seasonal workshop will be led by Extension Agent Lynn Dickinson, who will guide participants through creating their own fall wreaths using natural materials that can be found throughout Alabama's forests. All materials for the workshop will be provided, and the cost to attend is \$15 per person.

This hands-on event offers an opportunity for participants to learn creative and sustainable ways to bring a touch of nature into their homes while celebrating the colors and textures of the fall season.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to register online at www.aces.edu/go/BibbFallWreath25 to reserve a spot. Space may be limited due to class size, and early registration is recommended.

Whether participants are experienced crafters or simply looking for a fun seasonal activity, the wreath-making class provides a relaxed, creative environment to connect with others and enjoy Alabama's natural beauty.



BALL-O-WEEN



The BACK PAGE

Hunter Education Course
set for November 15 at
Brierfield Ironworks Park

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Residents of Bibb County and surrounding areas will have an opportunity to learn how to hunt safely, responsibly, and confidently this fall at a Hunter Education Course scheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park.

The event will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and is open to participants ages 10 and older. The course is free to attend, lunch will be provided, and registration is required through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) at www.outdooralabama.com.

This eight-hour course is mandatory for anyone born on or after August 1, 1977, who wishes to obtain a hunting license without supervision. It fulfills the Alabama Hunter Education requirement, a crucial step in ensuring that hunters are knowledgeable about state laws, firearm safety, and ethical

hunting practices before heading into the field.

The class will be led by Officer Katie Burks and will cover a range of important topics including firearm handling and safety, wildlife conservation, proper identification of game, survival skills, and hunting ethics. Instructors will also discuss the importance of respecting both wildlife and other hunters in the outdoors.

For additional details or questions, participants may contact Officer Katie Burks at 334-375-0908.

While the course provides a pathway toward legal licensure, its true purpose runs deeper — it's about saving lives and protecting Alabama's outdoor community. Hunting is a time-honored tradition across the state, offering families and friends a way to connect with nature, provide food, and support conservation efforts. But it also carries risks when safety is not prioritized.

According to statistics released by ammo.com, more than

14 million Americans apply for hunting licenses each year, making hunting one of the most widely practiced outdoor activities in the nation. However, the same report highlights that most hunting accidents are caused by human error, accounting for approximately 80% of all incidents.

The most common cause of firearm-related hunting accidents, the report notes, is a hunter's failure to properly identify their target, which accounts for 37% of all firearm-related incidents. Other risks, such as tree stand accidents, continue to pose significant dangers, resulting in an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 injuries each year.

While overall hunting safety has improved over the past several decades, the statistics remain sobering. In 2001, 9% of all reported hunting accidents were fatal, emphasizing that even experienced hunters can face life-threatening situations if precautions are not taken. The data also shows



HUNTER
EDUCATION
Course



WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025

WHERE: BRIERFIELD IRONWORKS HISTORICAL
STATE PARK

240 FURNACE PKWY
BRIERFIELD, AL 35035

TIME: 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
(LUNCH IS PROVIDED)

AGES: 10 YEARS & OLDER

REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT: OUTDOORALABAMA.COM

QUESTIONS: OFFICER KATIE BURKS
334-375-0908



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or free language access services, contact Michelle Giddens at meg0046@auburn.edu by 11/3/2025.

THIS IS THE MANDATORY 8 HR. COURSE NEEDED TO OBTAIN A HUNTING LICENSE W/OUT SUPERVISION FOR THOSE BORN AUGUST 1, 1977 & AFTER

that rifles are involved in 25% of firearm-related hunting accidents, while shotguns account for 23%.

Courses like the one at Brierfield are designed to prevent these tragedies by instilling responsible habits and awareness early on. By teaching proper firearm han-

dling, target identification, and the importance of preparation, instructors aim to ensure that every hunter returns home safely after a day in the field.

As the event organizers emphasize, hunting safely not only protects individual hunters but strengthens the reputation of

the hunting community as a whole. Whether participants are new to hunting or seasoned outdoorsmen refreshing their knowledge, this day-long class offers an opportunity to gain confidence, reinforce safety principles, and join Alabama's community of responsible hunters.



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Stress Awareness Week

Stress is something we all experience, it's a natural part of life, but when it builds up, it can take a toll on our health, energy, and overall happiness. This Stress Awareness Week, we're reminding our community that small steps toward balance can make a big difference.

BMC Wellness Center is here to help you find that balance with fitness classes for all ages, friendly faces, and a community that encourages you every step of the way. Whether you're here to move, unwind, or connect, we invite you to take time for yourself and discover how good it feels to stress less and live well.

NOVEMBER

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FISHING DAY

BMC FALL SOCCER
DIVISION CHAMPIONS

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COACHED BY
EVAN WHEAT

9U

COACHED BY
RICARDO
HERNANDEZ

14U

COACHED BY
JUSTIN TIDWELL

EMPLOYEE OF
THE MONTH

Melanie's coworkers describe her as compassionate, dependable, and always willing to help. She goes above and beyond for residents, families, and staff, bringing warmth and positivity to everyone she encounters. Melanie's dedication and kind spirit shine through her in all that she does, making her a true example of excellence and care at Bibb Medical Center!