

Centreville Press

Volume 147 | Issue 49 | 75¢ | December 5, 2025 | www.bibbvoice.com



Let us know what is going on in your community!

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Christmas on the Cahaba Set to Shine at Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Tree Lighting Ceremony
THURSDAY

CHRISTMAS ON THE CAHABA
Bibb County, Alabama

TRAIN RIDES
INFLATABLE
FOOD TRUCKS
5:30-7:30
Lighting at 6:30
AT BMC WELLNESS CENTER

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

The holiday season in Bibb County is about to shine a little brighter. Christmas on the Cahaba has officially announced the return of its beloved Tree Lighting Ceremony, a tradition that brings families from all over the community together to kick off the Christmas season.

This year's event will take place on Dec. 4 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at the BMC Wellness Center, with the tree lighting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Organizers say the annual celebration is one of the town's most cherished gatherings, offering a festive, family-friendly evening full of holiday spirit. and explore a lineup of local food trucks serving seasonal treats. Parents are encouraged to take as many pictures of the trees as possible, as

last year's event had around 20-25 decorated trees.

Families can expect a variety of activities leading up to the big moment. Children will be able to enjoy train rides and bounce around on inflatable attractions.

In addition to the activities, the ceremony serves as an opportunity for neighbors to reconnect, celebrate community pride, and welcome the most joyful time of the year together. Many families have made the tree lighting part of their yearly traditions, returning each December to enjoy the holiday atmosphere.

Organizers hope this year's event will be the biggest yet, and they invite everyone to bundle up, bring their Christmas spirit, and enjoy an evening filled with lights, laughter, and memories.

Coldwater Lodge Donates to Elementary

Fire Danger Advisory Rescinded Statewide



Photo: Left to Right, Russell Baits, Secretary of Coldwater Lodge. Kristin Lightsey, Principal Woodstock Elementary. Dennis Littleton, Master of Coldwater Lodge.

Coldwater Lodge #148 recently donated \$500 to Woodstock Elementary School to be used for student needs. Knowing there are often needs that go unmet, Coldwater Lodge is committed to helping our local school provide for our children.



As drought conditions across the state improve with recent beneficial rainfall, the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) is rescinding the Fire Danger Advisory for all Alabama counties.

The agency is constantly monitoring conditions and will continue to make recommendations regarding outdoor burning to ensure the safety of Alabama's forestland and citizens.

The AFC continues to urge anyone conducting outdoor burning to follow safety recommendations, including not leaving a fire unattended until it is out (cold to the touch), having the

necessary equipment and personnel to control the fire, and having a garden hose or other water supply on hand for smaller debris burns. The agency also recommends exercising extreme caution and staying informed about local weather updates due to the potential for windy conditions this time of year.

Any prescribed fire applied to naturally occurring vegetative fuels for ecological, silvicultural, agricultural, or wildlife management purposes under specified environmental conditions requires a permit from the AFC. Burn permits can be obtained by

calling (800) 392-5679 and are available at no charge. Anyone who burns a field, grassland, or woodland without a burn permit may be subject to prosecution for committing a Class B misdemeanor.

The Alabama Forestry Commission is the state agency committed to protecting Alabama's invaluable forest assets as well as its citizens. To report a wildfire, call (800) 392-5679. For more information on the current wildfire situation in the state or any other forestry-related issues, visit the agency website at www.forestry.alabama.gov.

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NEWS

APT Confirms it Will Remain with PBS

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Alabama Public Television (APT) has officially confirmed it will continue its long-standing relationship with PBS, following public outcry over a proposal that suggested the network break ties with the national broadcaster. According to APT's executive director Wayne Reid, "some members of the Alabama Educational Television Commission (AETC) suggested Alabama Public Television break ties with PBS during a quarterly meeting," a possibility that sparked an overwhelming response from viewers across the state.

Reid shared that once the news became public, the reaction was immediate and intense. He noted that APT "received over twelve hundred emails, more than a hundred phone calls and dozens of cards and letters from viewers condemning this idea." The outpouring of support illustrated just how deeply Alabamians value accessible, high-quality educational programming – especially programming that can be accessed free of charge, regardless of income, location, or background.

According to Reid, Commission members not only heard from the public but "received your input, as well as a letter from Governor Ivey requesting the Commission to thoroughly

survey Alabama citizens to ensure your voices are heard." This emphasis on public feedback culminated in a decisive vote. As Reid explained, "The Commission voted overwhelmingly Tuesday, November 18th, to maintain PBS affiliation for at least the term of the current PBS contract, through June 30, 2026."

The decision comes at a time when free educational access remains essential for many Alabama families. PBS programs, and APT's mission at large, serve children, caregivers, teachers, and lifelong learners, offering resources that do not require subscriptions, high-speed internet, or expensive technology. Parents across the state depend on PBS Kids for early learning tools; educators rely on PBS documentaries and curricular content; and rural households look to APT as a crucial connector to reliable, high-quality information.

At Tuesday's special Commission meeting, APT welcomed community members who arrived to advocate for keeping PBS on Alabama's airwaves. Reid expressed gratitude, saying, "Thank you for your support. We were grateful to hear testimonials on the vital importance of PBS programming to your children and grandchildren, as well as yourselves and others in the community." Those testimonials underscored a shared truth:

free public broadcasting remains a lifeline for educational equity.

Reid continued that APT is "grateful for your powerful comments and your commitment to the future of public media in Alabama." Yet he also acknowledged that funding challenges lie ahead. He noted that "the elimination of CPB funding for APT has left us with a substantial gap for the current fiscal year in our Foundation budget." To continue providing accessible educational programming for everyone in the state, APT will increasingly rely on community support. As Reid explained, "we will rely on viewers like you to help us fill that gap."

Despite these financial hurdles, APT's leadership made it clear that public support carries immense weight in ensuring PBS remains accessible statewide. Reid emphasized that "your added support will demonstrate better than any other measure that PBS should be part of APT's schedule now and far into the future."

The future of Alabama's public broadcasting will depend on collaboration between viewers, educators, families, state leaders, and APT itself. And as Reid closed his statement, he offered a familiar, final message to supporters who stepped forward to protect the state's access to free, trusted educational content: "Thank you."



U.S. Mint Presses Final Pennies as Nation Ends Production After More Than Two Centuries



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

After more than 230 years of steady circulation, the United States has officially ended production of the penny, bringing an end to one of the country's most enduring and recognizable coins. According to the Associated Press, the final batch of pennies was struck on November 12, 2025, at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Treasury officials, including U.S. Treasurer Brandon Beach, were present to witness the historic moment as employees gathered on the factory floor to watch the last coins roll off the press.

The AP describes the scene as a reflective one, with longtime workers standing quietly while the final pennies were produced. Many of them had spent years watching billions of coins pass through the mint's machinery, and the end of the penny carried an emotional weight. Once the last coins were pressed, the AP reports that workers applauded and congratulated one another, recognizing that they were taking part in a milestone in U.S. monetary history.

The penny's long life began in 1793, when it had enough purchasing power to buy small necessities such as a candle, a biscuit, or a piece of candy. Over the centuries, however, its value steadily eroded. According to the AP, and as most of us all know these days, most modern pennies end up forgotten in jars, junk drawers, or change cups, rarely used in everyday transactions. In recent years, the economics of producing the coin became increasingly unsustainable. The AP notes that each penny cost nearly four cents

to manufacture, which far exceeded its face value and burdened taxpayers with tens of millions of dollars in annual losses.

Federal officials ultimately determined that the coin had outlived its practical usefulness. The AP reports that President Donald Trump ordered the penny's discontinuation, citing the rising costs of minting a currency unit that struggled to serve a meaningful function in a modern economy. While billions of pennies will remain in circulation and continue to be accepted as legal tender, the government will no longer produce new ones.

The end of penny manufacturing marks the first time in more than a century and a half that the U.S. has eliminated a coin due to low value. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, the last comparable change occurred in 1857, when the half-cent coin was discontinued. As with the half-cent, public sentiment toward the penny is mixed. The AP highlights that many Americans feel nostalgic toward the coin, associating it with childhood memories, good-luck traditions, and small habits like tossing one into a fountain.

Retailers, however, have faced more immediate challenges. Some stores, the AP reports, began rounding prices down to avoid giving short change. Others encouraged customers to bring exact amounts or even offered small incentives, such as free drinks, in exchange for customers' accumulated pennies as supplies dwindled. Banks in some places also rationed their remaining penny stock, an ironic development considering the long-standing perception

that the coin was overly abundant.

The shift away from the penny also carries broader economic implications. According to research from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, the disappearance of the coin will likely lead businesses to round all cash transactions to the nearest five cents. Their analysis estimates that this "rounding tax" could result in approximately \$6 million per year in additional consumer costs. The Richmond Fed also examined what might happen if the nickel were discontinued alongside the penny, concluding that the financial impact on consumers could escalate significantly — potentially reaching \$56 million annually.

Beyond economics, historians view the end of the penny as symbolically significant. The AP highlights commentary from scholars who see coins as cultural artifacts. They point out that coins represent more than currency: they reflect national identity, artistic expression, political priorities, and shared values. With images, mottos, and designs chosen intentionally, each coin carries a piece of the nation's story.

Although the penny will no longer be minted, its legacy remains visible in countless homes, registers, and collections across the country. For many Americans, the end of production marks the close of a familiar chapter, while billions of existing pennies will continue circulating as small reminders of the past. The final pressing in Philadelphia may have signaled the end of the penny's creation, but its imprint on American culture, and daily life, will linger for years to come.



*Please join us for our annual
Christmas Open House on
December 12th
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family a Happy Holiday!*

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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

On Friday, November 21, 2025, the BCHS Class of 1969 had another great time at Boondocks. It's always an adventure when they can all be together talking, laughing and reminiscing. They all cherish their time together and looking forward to next time.

Anniversary wishes go out to Larry and Judy Holsambeck who recently celebrated their 59th Wedding Anniversary. Also celebrating their Wedding Anniversary recently were Jeff and Sherry Loper. We wish all of you many more years of happiness together.

Belated birthday wishes go out to Charles Deason who celebrated a November birthday last week.

Congratulations to Tanner Hobson and Kayla Wyatt who were united in marriage at The Oaks in Centreville, Alabama on November 8, 2025. On November 21st they flew out to Jackson Hole, Wyoming for their Honeymoon.

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of Patsy Creel, 80, who passed away on November 19, 2025. Graveside service was held on November 24, 2025, at the Ashby Baptist Church Cemetery at the noon hour in Brierfield, Alabama. Patsy will be greatly missed by her family

and many friends. Recently over the weekend Charlotte West, Lisa Clark and Peggy Mcullough enjoyed lunch in Tuscaloosa. All had a great time with delicious food, lots of talking and laughter.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Lila Lowrey who passed away recently. Services were held on Saturday, November 29, 2025, at Rockco Funeral Home with burial in the Brent City Cemetery. Lila will be greatly missed.

Anniversary wishes go out to Odie and Doris Newman for December 6, 2025.

Birthday wishes go out to several that have birthdays in December: Scottie Stewart Watts, Jim Blumenfed, Karen Simmons Sewell, Carl Wikllbanks, Ryan Thompson, LaDonna Boyd Johnson, Gauge Boothe and Marcie Boothe.

We send out special birthday wishes to Ms. Johnnie Tidswell who will be celebrating her 97h birthday on December 4, 2025. Happy Birthday Aunt Johnnie. We Love You!

If you have news, call it in at 205-316-1181. Take Care - Gold Bless. Hope everyone had a nice and safe Thanksgiving.



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Bibb County News From 50 Years Ago
From the Archives of the Centreville Press
December 25, 1975
Excerpts.....

The car that kidnapers stole from Paul Harris after leaving the University of Alabama defensive end and his date, Wanda Bonham, tied in Union Church at Pondville was found Thursday morning last week. Tuscaloosa police in a helicopter spotted the white Grand Prix only two and a half miles east of the church.

Though left closeby, the car was not found until a week after the incident. Harris and Miss Bonham were left tied in the church aout midnight Thursday before they managed to free themselves and walk down a country road until they were picked up by hunters Friday, Dec. 12.

Apparently the kidnapers hid the car very well and Bibb County Sheriff Glenn Smitherman said that it could not be seen from the road. The City of Tuscaloosa used a helicopter to spot the car, which was 2 1/2 miles east of the church.

Harris and Bonham were abducted at Lake Tuscaloosa Dec. 11 about 10 a.m. The kidnapers took the two victims in Harris's car to Union Church and left them tied there around midnight. Before the kidnapers left theyu stole \$95 from Miss Bonham and \$12 from Harris. Harris was struck in the head with a pistol and the kidnapers drove off in his car, which was found last Thursday.

These armed, ski masked robbers, all wield-

ing shotguns and rifles robbed the Bank of West Blocton shortly after 9 a.m. of an undetermined amount of money.

Employees of the bank said the three came into the bank and ordered all the tellers to lie down on the floor while they cleaned out cash drawers. As they left the bank they were fired on by a local man who had been alerted that a robbery was in progress. He reportedly hit the automobile twice as it fled. No one was injured inside the bank.

Bibb County Deputy Billy Sims, alerted by a call a few minutes before a car matching the description of the getaway car was stolen near Centreville, spotted the vehicle on the River Bend Road and gave chase. Sims said the speeds reached over 100 mph at times and the man in the passenger side of the vehicle fired at him several times with a high powered rifle.

A fire broke out at the nearly completed Mt. Carmel Pastor's home shortly before the bank was robbed, apparently set by the robbers to create a diversion.

A massive manhunt was launched on foot aided by local airplanes and two helicopters. Over 50 armed officers were on the trail of the men. Bloodhounds were sent in from Atmore Prison to assist in the search over rugged terrain.

3 Masked Bandits Hit Blocton Bank



Three armed, ski masked robbers, all wielding shotguns and rifles, robbed the Bank of West Blocton shortly after 9 a.m. Monday, of an undetermined amount of money.

Employees of the bank said the three came into the bank and ordered all the tellers to lie down on the floor while they cleaned out 3 cash drawers. As they left the bank they were fired on by a local man who had been alerted that a robbery was in progress. He reportedly hit the automobile twice as it fled. No one was injured inside the bank.

Bibb County Deputy Billy Sims, already alerted by a call a few minutes before that a car matching the description of the getaway car was stolen, early Monday near Centreville, spotted the vehicle on the River Bend Road and gave chase. Sims said the speeds reached over 100 m.p.h. at times and the man in the passenger side of the car fired at him several times with a high-powered rifle. Sims continued the chase until the car left the River Bend road and went down a long road near the River Bend Bridge. The three abandoned the car and fled on foot. No money was recovered in the car.

Shortly before the bank was robbed, Eddie McMillan, of highway 28, near Centreville, phoned the Sheriff's office that he had been captured as he entered his home Sunday night at 11:30 and was tied with tapes and gagged with a pillow case. He said three men had entered his home and were waiting on him in the darkness. He said one of them fired a shot and yelled for him to "hit the floor." McMillan said they tied him to a bed and placed a radio in bed with him so he couldn't hear them talking. He said he managed to hear them cooking and eating. He said they came into the room several times during the night to check on him. He freed himself by biting the ropes with his teeth.

McMillan told officers the three left around 7:30 Monday morning and took his car and a pickup truck and a dump truck. Officers found the two trucks hidden in the woods near the River Bend Bridge. McMillan's car has definitely been determined as the one used in the bank robbery. Officers believe the men were going to go back to the bridge park the car in the woods and leave in the two trucks.

A fire broke out at the nearly completed Mt. Carmel Pastor's home shortly before the bank was robbed, apparently set by the robbers to create a diversion. A car apparently used to transport diesel fuel was found in the ruins. An attendant at Alabama Fried Chickens on highway 8 near West Blocton, reported that three men in a green automobile bought 2 gallons of diesel fuel shortly before the fire. These three men are believed to be the ones involved.

A massive manhunt was launched on foot aided by local airplanes and two helicopters, one from the Tuscaloosa Police Department and the other from the State Trooper headquarters in Montgomery.

Over 50 armed officers were on the trail of the men by noon Monday. As this story is being written late Monday afternoon, bloodhounds had been sent in from Atmore Prison to assist in the search over the rugged terrain.

Athletes Car Found

by David Hedstrom

The car that kidnapers stole from Paul Harris after leaving the University of Alabama defensive end and his date, Wanda Bonham, tied in Union Church at Pondville was found Thursday morning last week. Tuscaloosa police in a helicopter spotted the white Grand Prix only two-and-a-half miles east of the church.

Though left closeby, the car was not found until a week after the incident. Harris and Miss Bonham were left tied in the church about midnight Thursday, Dec. 11, before they managed to free themselves and walk down a country road until they were picked up by hunters Friday, Dec. 12.

Apparently, the kidnapers hid the car very well, and Bibb County Sheriff Glenn Smitherman said that it could not be seen from the road. "The City of Tuscaloosa used a helicopter to spot the car, which was two and a half miles east of the church. The Tuscaloosa police spotted it, flew low and pointed it out to us and landed nearby," Sheriff Smitherman said Thursday afternoon.

"Sgt. Graham of the Highway Patrol took the car to Tuscaloosa. Working on it are fingerprint experts from Montgomery and lab technicians," the Sheriff said. Harris and Wanda Bonham were abducted at Lake Tuscaloosa Thursday, Dec. 11 about 10 a.m. The kidnapers took the two victims in Harris's car to Union Church and left them tied there around midnight. Before the kidnapers left, they reportedly stole \$95 from Miss Bonham and \$12 from Harris. Harris was struck in the head with a pistol and the kidnapers drove off in his car, which was found last Thursday.

Harris was admitted to the State Health Center at the University for observation. Bibb County authorities said that there was a knot on Harris's head where he had been struck.

Claims Center To Open

Unemployment, compensation claims centers and local offices of the State Employment Service will be open to serve the public on December 26, a designated state holiday.

"We are concerned about the needs of jobless Alabamians during the Christmas season," commented Tom J. Ventresca, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. "For this reason, we will shorten the Yule holiday."

The unemployment compensation claims centers and local offices of the State Employment Service will be closed December 24 & and January 1.

YOUTH KILLED IN THIS CAR

Jackie Morrison, 13, of Cottondale, was killed instantly in this compact car Friday morning at the West Blocton-Vance intersection, when it was struck by a northbound pickup truck. Morrison was a passenger. Driver of the car was listed as Arthur Armstrong, also of Cottondale. He received serious injuries and is in Bessemer Hospital. Investigators said Armstrong apparently ran a stop sign on the Vance road.



ARMED SEARCHERS TRACKED BANK ROBBERS



STOLEN TRUCKS FOUND AT RIVER BEND

Two Charged With Pot

by David Hedstrom

Two teenagers were arrested and charged for the illegal possession of marijuana by Sheriff's Deputies Friday last week. The suspects are identified as David Stephen Ferguson, 18, of Brookwood and Billy Michael Englebert, 17, of Vance.

The two youths were in a car where a small amount of marijuana was found during a "routine stop" near Lucille on Highway 5 Friday about 10 p.m., Bibb County Sheriff Smitherman said Monday.

Bibb Tops Bond Goal

Mr. Ed Patridge, volunteer chairman for Bibb County, reports that sales of Series E and H Saving Bonds in his county amounted to \$3,900 in October, bringing him to 100 per cent of his county goal for 1975.

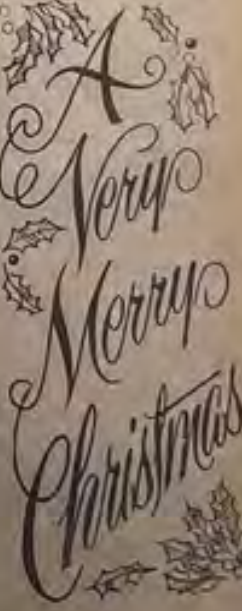
Over the state, sales amounted to \$4,938,685 in October. Nationwide, total sales for the month were \$563 million.

Americans now own over \$67 billion (\$67,238 million) worth of E and H Bonds and Freedom Shares. E and H holdings account for over one-fifth of the privately-held portion of the Public Debt.

BCAVS Sets Adult Classes

Registration for adult classes will be held at the Bibb County Area Vocational School at 6 p.m. on January 6, 1976. Adults who are interested, please register at this time.

J.E. Chapman, Director



EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Upcoming Year
will See the End
of an Era for Long-
Time Alabama State
Leaders

With the first of December upon us, we are nearing year end and just weeks away from the start of 2026.

The upcoming year will be significant in Alabama for a number of reasons. First and foremost, there will be a sea change of leadership at the top of the state. Governor Kay Ivey, Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth and Attorney General Steve Marshal are all term limited and thus will be leaving office after their long service to the state. With Senator Tommy Tuberville seeking to move to the Governor's office, we will have a new senator for Alabama in the United States Senate next year. In addition, there will be a number of retirements from the Alabama House of Representatives and State Senate.

In a little bit over a month from now, Governor Kay Ivey will be gearing up for her last state of the state address before the Alabama Legislature. She has served as governor since being sworn into office in the Spring of 2017 after the resignation of then Governor Robert Bentley. She has since won two elections on her own in 2019 and 2023 gaining the distinction as having the longest consecutive tenures of any governor of Alabama. Governor Ivey has served through the depths of the pandemic and through record budgets and economic

success in the state. She has made some controversial moves through the years, but has remained as one of the most popular governors in the Nation. Thus, the governor will want to prioritize what is important to her legacy as she completes her term in office. So with her last year in office, we will see what is on Governor Ivey's to-do list as she prepares to finish her final months in office.

It will be interesting to see what will be on the agenda for Governor Ivey and these other state officers as they close out the end of their terms. Usually, an election year means controversial issues and hard decisions are kicked down the road. However, there are plenty of important challenges that need to be addressed now, like Alabama's failing criminal justice system, chronic education woes and infrastructure issues with the state's roadways.

Hopefully, these officials will use their last year in office to take on the state's pressing problems and do what they can to help solve them before they leave office.

Paul DeMarco is a former member of the Alabama House of Representatives and can be found on X, formerly Twitter, at @Paul_DeMarco

2026 Governor's Race and All
state Races Right Around the
Corner

Inside the Statehouse
A Guest Opinion Column By Steve Flowers

We all knew that this 2026 election year was going to be a big year in Alabama politics.

There was no way it was going to be a "yawner" with openings in the Constitutional offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Agriculture Commissioner, and State Auditor.

The 2026 election year began on May 19, when campaign fundraising could begin. Our elections will be May 19, 2026. Our Republican Primary that day, and subsequent runoffs four weeks later, will be our election for all state-wide offices. Winning the Republican Primary for state office is tantamount to election in Alabama.

Qualifying for all offices will begin in just a few weeks on January 5, and end on January 23, then we will have whirlwind sprint to the May election.

In addition to the Constitutional offices, all 105 State House Seats and all 35 State Senate Seats are up for election. Our State Legislative Seats are becoming analogous to Congressional Seats when it comes to incumbency. Very few incumbents are ever defeated or even challenged. Over 80% of the legislature is running unopposed. Currently there are only two State Senate Seats open due to retirement. The makeup of the State Senate will remain 28 Republi-

cans and seven Democrats.

We were all looking for a donnybrook brawl for Governor, like we used to have in bygone days in the governor's race. In past times, the Governor could not succeed themselves, so we would have a wide-open governor's race every four years. Governor Kay Ivey is term limited, and this time last year, it looked like we might have an old fashioned, full field governor's race.

However, Coach Tommy Tuberville's decision to leave his safe U.S. Senate Seat to run for Governor has taken all the oxygen, excitement, and uncertainty out of the governor's race. Any of his potentially serious contenders for the Brass Ring of Alabama politics headed for the hills or scattered like quail at the beginning of hunting season. Instead of having an easy reelection jaunt to a second six-year term in the United States Senate, Tuberville is looking at a cakewalk into the Governor's office. Tuberville has no viable opponent with the endorsement of every major business group, and over \$7 million in the bank. If that's not a recipe for election to Governor, I don't know what is. The Democrats may make a futile effort to thwart Tuberville's triumphant march with a Hail Mary residency challenge. However, if you want a safe bet, you should probably bet that Tuberville's residency

will be on Perry Street in Montgomery come January of 2027.

Our popular State Treasurer, Young Boozer, will be re-elected to his unprecedented fifth term as Treasurer. Young will probably be unopposed.

Former State Supreme Court Justice Jay Mitchell has stepped down from the High Court to run for Attorney General. Judge Mitchell will be favored to win this race. He is being challenged by veteran Blount County District Attorney Pamela Casey, and also, Assistant Attorney General Katherine Green Robertson. Robertson could be a viable candidate due to an incredible \$1.5 million being funneled into her campaign by dark money, clandestine, out-of-state Right Wing entities.

Derek Chen will be heavily favored to win the open State Auditor's post. He has been endorsed by every major business group, including ALFA, Business Council of Alabama, Manufacture Alabama, and Alabama Forestry, as well as almost every GOP group in the state. He has worked the state diligently for over a year and may very well receive the endorsement of President Trump. He has been one of Trump's most ardent supporters during Trump's entire tenure in politics.

The three best 2026 donnybrook races will

be for Secretary of State, Lt. Governor, and State Agriculture Commissioner. The Secretary of State race will be between current State Auditor Andrew Sorrell and Alabama's brightest rising political star, Caroleene Dobson. Caroleene has a commanding lead in fundraising and has received impressive endorsements, also.

The Agriculture Commissioner race should really be a good one. There are three well-qualified candidates. Mobile State Senator Jack Williams, Baldwin County prominent farm family heiress, Christina Woerner McInnis, and Marshall County farmer and grocer, Corey Hill, will be vying for this important post.

The best race of 2026 may well be for Lt. Governor. It is now a three man race between Agriculture Commissioner Rick Pate, Secretary of State Wes Allen, and former Alabama football star AJ McCarron.

It will be a good political year.

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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Ashby Baptist Brierfield 665-1111	Randolph Baptist 366-4296	Friendship Bible Method- ist Church 205-225-4000 Co. Rd. 16 Brent, AL
Bethel Baptist Brent 205-225-4780	Reno Baptist Church Caffee Junction 477-5058	Ada Chapel Bible Methodist Church 12540 N. Scottsville Rd. West Blocton, AL 513-254-8241
Bethlehem Baptist Centreville	Rising Star Baptist Centreville 926-4115	West Blocton Bible Methodist Church 355 Camellia Lane, West Blocton 205.826.5763
Bibb Baptist Association Centreville 926-7866	Rehobeth Baptist Lawley 663-2907	Mt. Sinai Church Centreville 256-577-8137
Bibbville Baptist Woodstock 938-2015	Schultz Creek Baptist West Blocton 938-9766	James Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church 926-5607
Brent Baptist Brent 926-7687	Shady Grove Baptist West Blocton 938-0120 Pastor 834-2557	Bible Methodist West Blocton 938-0091
Cahaba Valley Baptist Centreville 926-5927	Shiloh Baptist Centreville 926-7041	Hopewell A.M.E. Zion Harrisburg 926-5777
Calvary Baptist Centreville 926-4079	Six Mile Baptist Brierfield	New Hope AME West Blocton 540-8016
Camp Branch Baptist Church 2590 Camp Branch Rd West Blocton	Smith Hill Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	Tabernacle United Meth- odist Lawley
Cedar Grove Baptist West Blocton 938-0828	Thomas Mill Baptist Centreville 926-6882	Waymon Chapel AME Brierfield 205-665-4730
Centreville Baptist Centreville 926-7069	Union Baptist Church 722 Magnolia St West Blocton	West Scottsville United Methodist Church North Scottsville Road 451-3624
Community Baptist Centreville	West Blocton First Baptist 938-7392	NAZARENE Ridgeville Church Of The Nazarene Brent
Deer Creek Missionary Baptist Church Centreville 225-0460	BIBLE Grace Bible Woodstock 938-7763	Spencer Church Of The Nazarene Brent
Ebenzer Baptist Church Brierfield 665-4865	CATHOLIC Church Of The Holy Spirit Tuscaloosa 553-9733	PENTECOSTAL New Life West Blocton Pastor Greg Brock 205.441.2809
Enon Baptist Centreville 926-4517	St. Thomas The Apostle Church Montevallo 663-3936	First United Pentecostal Church of Centreville
Eoline Baptist Eoline 926-7448	CHRISTIAN Marvel Christian Union Montevallo 345-7018	PRESBYTERIAN Brent Presbyterian P.C.A. 926-4722
Faith Baptist West Blocton 938-7220	CHURCH OF CHRIST Centreville Church Of Christ 926-LOVE	Centreville First Presbyterian P.C.A. 926-4261
First Baptist Church of Woodstock 205-938-7479	North Bibb Church of Christ Woodstock 477-6121	Green Pond Presbyterian Presbyterian Church Rd 205-938-2344
Four Points Baptist Centreville 926-7775	West Blocton Church of Christ West Blocton 938-7108	Pleasant Hill Upper Cum- berland Presbyterian Church Centreville 926-4409
Green Pond Baptist Green Pond 938-7769	Evangelist Temple Brent 926-6430	SEVENTH DAY ADVEN- TIST First Brent Seventh Day Adventist 926-6328
Haysop Baptist Centreville 205-310-1316	CHURCH OF GOD Church of God of Proph- ecy at Eoline 256-393-9625 Pastor Shane Pate	NON-DENOMINATIONAL Fellowship Community 926-6800
Hopewell Primitive Baptist West Blocton 553-7603	Church Of God Of Proph- ecy West Blocton 938-2788	Scottsville Union Church Co. Rd. 9 Scottsville 205-503-6096
Johntown Baptist West Blocton 938-7621	Caffee Junction Church Of God 205-477-5468	Victory Tabernacle Church 1008 Walnut Street • Centreville 926-9455 or 361-2763 Pastor Butch Tucker
Liberty Baptist West Blocton 938-2090	River of Life Church of God 9225 Hwy 82, Brent 205-926-7600	Yahweh's Harvest 926-9044
Liberty Baptist Duncanville 759-9647 / 759-4074	West Blocton Church of God Cty Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988	The Refreshing Place Church 24865 Hwy. 5 Woodstock, AL 35188 Pastor Wayne Keeton
Liberty Freewill Baptist 926-6496	CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST 2300 South Scottsville Rd Centreville 926-5393	God's House of Prayer 489 Co. Rd. 162 (Heiberg- er) Marion, AL 36756 334-683-4933 Every Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Little Hope Primitive Bap- tist Centreville 926-4236	EPISCOPAL The Church Of The Holy Comforter Montevallo 665-2769	Sandy Chapel Community Church 926-4934
Lowerytown Baptist West Blocton 938-2436	St. Andrews Episcopal Church 925 Plowman Street Montevallo 665-1667	
Lucille Baptist West Blocton 966-3556	HOLINESS Deliverance Temple Holi- ness Four Points 926-5565	
Mission Baptist Woodstock 938-7096	Word of Faith Worship Center Centreville 926-4555	
Mt. Carmel Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	Free Will Apostolic Holi- ness Antioch 926-9252	
Mt. Ebell Baptist Brent 926-9223	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsville Road Brent 926-5009	
Mt. Grove Baptist 938-3410	Trinity Spirit Holiness Church Centreville 926-4321	
Mt. Moriah Baptist West Blocton 926-5425		
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church Brent 926-9009		
Mt. Tabor Baptist Brent 926-7156		
Mt. Zion Baptist Centreville 334-366-5903		
New Hebron Baptist West Blocton 938-2101		
New Hope Missionary Baptist Randolph 334-366-1199		
New Life Baptist Church Centreville 205-541-7072		
New Pleasant Valley Brent 926-9045		
Pinegrove Missionary Baptist		



“Jesus, Hold My Hand”

When Albert E. Brumley penned Je-
sus, Hold My Hand
in 1933, he could
not have imagined
the reach his simple
prayer-song would
one day achieve. To-
day, more than 90
years later, the hymn
continues to be sung
in churches, revivals,
and concerts across
the country, reminding
generations of believ-
ers of their need for
God’s guiding pres-
ence.

Brumley, an Okla-
homa native and one
of the most prolific
gospel songwriters in
American history, is
best remembered for
I’ll Fly Away. Yet Jesus,
Hold My Hand stands
among his most cher-
ished compositions.
First published in
Gems of Gladness
by the Hartford Music
Company, the hymn
quickly found its way
into church hymnals
and gospel song-
books.

The song’s mes-
sage is direct and
heartfelt: a traveler in
a “pilgrim land” asking
for Christ’s steadying
hand. “I need Thee
every hour,” the lyrics
declare, echoing the
words of Isaiah 41:13
— “For I, the Lord your
God, will hold your
right hand... Fear not,
I will help you.”

Its popularity grew
steadily, boosted by
early recordings. The
Prairie Ramblers re-
leased the first known
recording in 1941, fol-
lowed by a Columbia
Records issue in 1948.
Over the decades,
gospel greats, local
quartets, and church
choirs alike have
added their voices to
the song, ensuring its
place in America’s sac-
red soundtrack.

Historians note
that Brumley’s style
blended folk simplicity
with gospel devotion.
His music resonated
with everyday people
struggling through the
Great Depression and
the uncertainties of the
mid-20th century. In
Jesus, Hold My Hand,
worshippers found
words for their fears
and faith alike.

The hymn has also
been confused with
an older 19th-centu-
ry song titled Jesus
Holds My Hand, writ-
ten by John M. Ev-
ans and W. Howard
Doane. Though the
themes are similar,
Brumley’s composition
remains distinct — and
far more widely sung.

From camp meetings
to funerals, the hymn’s
reach has been re-
markable. Its endur-
ing popularity lies in its
simplicity: an honest
prayer for strength. In
an age of uncertainty,
just as in 1933, believ-
ers still find comfort in
the reminder that they
do not walk alone.

Plain & Simple Caramel Apple Crisp

- For the filling:**
- 5–6 medium apples (Granny Smith or Honeycrisp), peeled, cored, and sliced
 - 2 tbsp lemon juice
 - ½ cup brown sugar
 - 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
 - 1 tsp cinnamon
 - ¼ tsp nutmeg
 - Pinch of salt
- For the crisp topping:**
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
 - ¾ cup all-purpose flour
 - ½ cup brown sugar
 - ½ cup granulated sugar
 - 1 tsp cinnamon
 - ½ cup cold unsalted butter, cubed
- For serving (optional):
- Warm caramel sauce
 - Vanilla ice cream or whipped cream

- Instructions:**
- Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.
 - Prepare the filling: In a large bowl, toss sliced apples with lemon juice, brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt until evenly coated. Spread into prepared baking dish.
 - Make the topping: In another bowl, stir together oats, flour, sug-
ars, and cinnamon. Cut in cold butter with a pastry cutter or your
fingers until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
 - Assemble: Sprinkle topping evenly over apples.
 - Bake for 40–45 minutes, or until apples are tender and topping is
golden brown.
 - Serve warm drizzled with caramel sauce and a scoop of vanilla
ice cream.
- This dessert is perfect for chilly evenings, family gatherings, or
as a sweet finish to Sunday dinner. It fills the house with that warm,
spicy fall aroma while baking!

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☒ Licensed Practical Nurse – Nursing Home (Night Shift)

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NEWS

Play It Forward: Give the Gift of Opportunity This Holiday Season at BMC Wellness

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The holidays are a time for generosity, connection, and making sure every child feels supported as they chase their dreams. This year, the BMC Wellness Center is inviting the community to “Play It Forward” by helping local kids step onto the court, field, or pool with confidence.

With 50 ornaments available, each representing a child, community members can sponsor a young athlete’s participation in one of our youth programs. A gift of just \$50 covers one child, opening the door to teamwork, growth, and lifelong wellness.

Whether it’s learning new skills, discovering their strengths, or simply having a safe place to belong, your donation can brighten a child’s entire season. Giving during the holidays isn’t just about tradition – it’s about creating moments of joy, confidence, and possibility for those who need it most.

Anyone can donate online at bmcwellness.com/youthprograms, or by stopping by the BMC Wellness Center Front Desk.

Together, let’s make a difference, one child at a time. Together, let’s “Play It Forward!”



Healthy Skin Month Brings Special Offers to BMC Wellness Center



BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

November is National Healthy Skin Month, and Bibb Medical Center is using the occasion to remind residents to take extra care of themselves as the weather gets colder, and the holiday season ramps up. Throughout the month, BMC will highlight a variety of skin-care services designed to help you look and feel your best — whether you’re hoping to improve your skin routine or simply treat yourself to a little self-care.

The BMC Wellness

Center will offer personalized consultations, professional-grade Obagi products, chemical peels, and additional skin care treatments. Staff will be available to answer questions and help visitors choose the best options for their individual needs and skin types.

To help residents kick off their holiday shopping early, BMC has also released a Holiday Gift Guide featuring several seasonal deals. Community members can enjoy 10% off personal training sessions, stretch

packages, and skin-care services, making it a great time to invest in wellness or purchase a thoughtful gift for someone special. There is also a discounted rate on annual Wellness Center memberships for those looking to commit to their health in the new year.

All gift options and discounts can be purchased at the BMC Wellness Center front desk. Those interested in learning more about Healthy Skin Month offerings or holiday specials can visit the BMC website for full details.



The BACK PAGE

Bearden Farm Christmas Lights Welcome the Community for Another Bright Holiday Season

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The holiday season has officially arrived in West Blocton, and Bearden Farm is ready to light up your nights with their annual drive-through Christmas light display on Bearden Lane. This beloved local tradition invites everyone, families, friends, neighbors, and visitors alike, to bundle up, take a drive, and enjoy a festive glow that brings joy to all ages. The lights are on nightly from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., beginning Thanksgiving night and continuing throughout the season.

This year, the Bearden family wants to offer a warm welcome to the community and clear up a few questions they've recently received. While the popular radio-synced light show at the end of Bearden Lane is not currently running, there's a good reason: a brand-new show is in the works. Setup has taken longer than expected, and although there's



hope that parts of it may shine before the season ends, the full experience will likely debut next year.

In the meantime, visitors are encour-

aged to come out and enjoy the rest of the decorations, which reflect countless hours of hard work, creativity, and holiday spirit. A great deal of time,

effort, and financial investment has gone into making Bearden Farm a magical stop for families looking to celebrate the season, but the Bearden's love

for their community is the truest reason behind all that they do.

So gather your loved ones, make a cup of cocoa to-go, and head down Bearden Lane

in West Blocton for a beautiful evening of Christmas lights and community cheer.

The more the merrier — see you there, and happy holidays!

BMC HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER

GIVE THE GIFT OF WELLNESS THIS SEASON

From skin care favorites to personal training, stretch packages, memberships, and more! Our Holiday Gift Guide is filled with simple, meaningful ways to treat yourself or someone you love.

Visit us at BMC Wellness Center to purchase. Gift certificates available



CAHABA LILY HOLIDAY CAFE OPENING SOON! STAY TUNED!



SPRING 2026 COURSES

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Classes available at Bibb Medical Center

BIO 103
Online with Virtual Student Hours Available

ENG 101-BC1 CRN 21419
Mondays and Wednesdays
3:40 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MTH 099-B50 CRN 21001
Mondays and Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. - 7:55 p.m.

MTH 100-B50; MTH 100C-B50
CRN 20999 CRN21000
Mondays and Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Advising | Tutoring | Meet with an SSCC representative

Contact → admissions@sheltonstate.edu

Senior Social Holiday Event

December 19th, 10:00am

Join us for a cozy holiday morning filled with music, gingerbread decorating, hot chocolate/cider, and more!

BMC WELLNESS CENTER



2025 Fall Tumbling Showcase

Our Fall Showcase was full of energy, smiles, and so many impressive skills! We are so proud of our athletes and all of the hard work they put in this season!

2026 Spring Tumbling Registration is officially open!

bmcwellness.com/tumbling