

Centreville Press

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Arctic Air Arrives After the Weekend: What to Expect and How to Prepare for the Coming Freeze

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

After several days of gloomy skies, Alabama is finally seeing clearer mornings and brighter weather. Meteorologist James Spann reports that clouds have thinned across most of the state, making way for sunshine and afternoon highs in the 50s. The remainder of the week is expected to stay dry and seasonable, with northern counties reaching the 50s and the southern half warming into the 60s today and Friday. Morning temperatures will continue to dip into the 30s, bringing a crisp start to each day without extreme cold.

Earlier this week, long-range models hinted at a sharp surge of arctic air arriving this weekend, raising concerns about a sudden drop into bitter temperatures. Spann now notes that these mod-

els have backed away from that initial prediction. Instead, the coldest air is expected to hold off until late Sunday night into Monday, and even then, the core of the arctic outbreak should remain positioned north of Alabama. As a result, Saturday and Sunday will feel more like a typical December weekend. Cloud cover will likely dominate both days, and northern portions of the state may see pockets of light rain Sunday ahead of the incoming front. Once the front moves through, temperatures will fall quickly, with most areas dropping into the upper 20s to low 30s by Monday morning under clearing skies. Earlier predictions of teens for North Alabama now appear unlikely. Dry weather is expected to return early next week, though rain may make a comeback by



Wednesday night or Thursday.

With colder mornings just a few days away, now is an ideal time for Alabamians to prepare their homes for the first meaningful freeze of the season. Ensuring proper insulation throughout the house can significantly improve warmth retention; checking attics, walls, and crawl spaces and reinforcing insulation where needed can help conserve heat and lower energy costs. Sealing

gaps around windows, doors, and vents with weatherstripping, caulk, or foam insulation will also keep cold drafts at bay.

Homeowners should take time to make sure their heating systems are in top shape. Scheduling a professional inspection, replacing air filters regularly, and considering the installation of a programmable thermostat can improve both efficiency and comfort. Protecting plumbing is especially

important during freezing conditions. Wrapping exposed pipes in insulation or heating tape, particularly in unheated areas such as basements, garages, and attics, can prevent costly damage. During especially cold nights, allowing faucets to drip slightly can keep water moving and reduce the risk of pipes freezing.

Outdoor preparation is just as essential. Cleaning gutters and downspouts helps prevent ice dams and water backup, while trimming tree branches near the home reduces the likelihood of storm-related damage if heavy snow or ice accumulates. Families should also prepare a basic emergency kit with flashlights, batteries, blankets, non-perishable food, water, and first aid supplies in case of power outages. Those who own generators should

check them ahead of time and always operate them safely outdoors and away from windows. For homes with fireplaces or wood-burning stoves, a professional chimney inspection and cleaning ensures proper ventilation and reduces fire risk. Finally, disconnecting garden hoses, turning off outdoor faucets, and making sure snow removal tools are accessible will help prevent outdoor damage as temperatures fall.

Preparing your home for winter weather is one of the simplest ways to protect your property and keep your household comfortable and safe. With arctic air now expected to arrive after the weekend rather than during it, residents have a welcome window of time to get ready before the coldest mornings of the season so far settle in.

Holiday Mail Delays Expected as USPS Struggles Nationwide

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

It's no secret that frustration with the United States Postal Service has been steadily growing. Across the country, and here at home, residents have experienced an increasing number of issues ranging from delayed delivery to missing mail altogether. Lost packages, inconsistent delivery times, and long wait periods for essential items have become far more common over the past year, leaving many people understandably discouraged and searching for answers.

As we enter the busy holiday season, these existing challenges are expected to intensify. Mail volume always rises significantly in December, and USPS is once again preparing for a surge in letters, gifts, and online orders. With an already strained system, the seasonal influx of mail will likely lead to further congestion, slower delivery times, and additional delays. Community members are encouraged to remain patient and plan ahead whenever possible – sending pack-

ages early, monitoring tracking updates, and understanding that mail carriers are working under extreme pressure.

Local carriers, including those brought in from outside counties to help meet demand, are doing everything they can to keep routes moving. One of the most helpful ways residents can support them is by ensuring that mailboxes are easy to locate and clearly marked. A mailbox with a visible, legible house number significantly speeds up delivery and reduces the risk of misdelivered items. In rural areas especially, unclear or unmarked mailboxes can cause substantial setbacks for carriers who are unfamiliar with the route.

Another crucial step residents can take is securing large animals – particularly dogs – during typical delivery hours. Many carriers have reported hesitancy to exit their vehicles when dogs are loose on the property, which can lead to skipped deliveries or delayed attempts. Ensuring that pets are safely contained helps carriers feel secure and



allows them to deliver mail efficiently and confidently.

It's important to remember that these problems extend far beyond Bibb County. Communities nationwide are experiencing the same delays, the same frustrations, and the same strain on a system that is struggling to keep up. While it is natural to feel annoyed or inconvenienced, directing anger toward individual carriers, who are do-

ing their best under immense workload and pressure, only adds to their challenges.

The root of the issue is not the people delivering the mail, but a postal system that has been hampered for years by restrictive policies, insufficient funding, workforce shortages, and an ever-expanding modern demand that it has not been adequately equipped to handle.

As the holidays approach, a little pa-

tience and cooperation can go a long way. Preparing ahead, keeping mailboxes accessible, and ensuring carriers can deliver safely will help smooth out an already difficult season for everyone involved. And as frustrations arise, it's worth remembering that the carriers in our communities are working tirelessly to ensure every package and letter gets where it needs to go – even when the system itself is falling

short.

In moments like these, grace truly matters. A simple wave, a word of thanks, or a small gesture of kindness can make a meaningful difference to the carriers navigating these challenges every day. Supporting them not only strengthens our community, but also reminds us that we're all doing our best together.



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NEWS

Bibb County 4-H Announces Spring Talent Showcase Reschedule and Opens Registration for 2026 Shelby/ Bibb County Livestock Show

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN REPORTER

Bibb County 4-H is kicking off the new year with exciting updates for youth and families across the region, including the official rescheduling of their Competitive Events Talent Showcase and the opening of registration for the highly anticipated 2026 Shelby/Bibb County Livestock Show.

The previously scheduled December 2025 Talent Showcase at Centreville Middle School will now shift to Spring 2026, giving participants and parents more time to prepare. The Bibb County 4-H team shared that this new timeline will allow them to better equip families with the resources and guidance they need to step

confidently into competition. More information, including interest meeting dates and spring event details, will be released soon, so participants are encouraged to keep an eye on updates from the county office.

In addition to the spring showcase, Bibb County 4-H is thrilled to welcome youth from across Alabama to the 2026 Shelby/ Bibb County Livestock Show, happening February 13–14 at the Shelby County Exhibition Center in Columbia. Registration is now open through January 15 on 4-H Online (www.v2.4honline.com). Youth ages 9–18 are invited to participate in livestock showing events, while ages 5–18 may take part in passive events.

The show offers young people the opportunity to build responsibility, confidence, and hands-on agricultural experience in a supportive, community-driven environment.

Parents and participants with questions are encouraged to reach out to Bibb County 4-H Agent Holly Hall at 205-928-2981 or by email at hah0056@auburn.edu.

With a busy and exciting season ahead, Bibb County 4-H continues its mission of offering meaningful opportunities for youth to learn, create, compete, and grow. More updates will be shared soon as preparations for the spring Talent Showcase and February livestock show move forward.

Theatre Tuscaloosa Spreads Holiday Cheer with “Scrooge! The Musical” This December



Foreground: James Merrell (left) as “Scrooge” and William McCool as “Tiny Tim.” Background from left: Molly Page, Avie Doxey, Molly Doxey, Ben Stamps, and Mac Hackney, III. Theatre Tuscaloosa presents “Scrooge! The Musical” Dec. 12-21, 2025, in the Bean-Brown Theatre at Shelton State. Details at theatretusc.com. Photo by Porfirio Solórzano.

TUSCALOOSA, AL – Theatre Tuscaloosa welcomes the holiday season with “Scrooge! The Musical” with book, lyrics, and music by Leslie Bricusse on Dec. 12 - 21 in the Bean-Brown Theatre on the Martin Campus of Shelton State Community College (9500 Old Greensboro Road).

Based on “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens, “Scrooge! The Musical” is closely adapted from the music and screenplay of the 1970 musical film “Scrooge” starring Albert Finney. Bricusse was nominated for an Academy Award for the song score he wrote for the film, and most of those songs were carried over to the musical. This musical brings the warmth of the holidays and the true meaning of home to audiences as Scrooge learns to open his heart and embrace the spirit of community.

The cast includes returning Theatre Tuscaloosa actors Donald Falls II, Lilly Grantham, Melissa Grantham, Mac Hackney, Joseph Hardin, Jim Merrell, Molly Page, Logan Spradley, Jeff Terrell, and Shenika Williams. New to Theatre Tuscaloosa are performers Yeanu Akpom, Mayleigh Beavers, Korrie Brown, Shirey Brown, Ambria Clark, Avie Doxey, Corrine Doxey, Molly Doxey, Michael Green, Jr., Harper Lawrence, Andrew Ingram, Lizzie Lulue, William McCool, Avery McIver, Anna Grace Robbins, Angela Stamps, Ben Stamps, and Elana Woodall. They are joined by All-Star Cast members George

Thagard and Charles Prosser.

“I have always wanted to direct an adaptation of ‘A Christmas Carol,’ and I’m so glad that Theatre Tuscaloosa chose ‘Scrooge! The Musical.’ Leslie Bricusse’s music has become part of the holiday canon,” Director Matt Davis said. “It’s a treat to direct artists from the Tuscaloosa community, and the entire production staff and cast have been a dream to work with. It’s October, and I’m already feeling festive. There’s a certain joy when you work on a holiday show, and that joy really radiates out to the audience. I’m extremely excited to share that feeling with the community here.”

Davis, head of directing and stage management at The University of Alabama, leads this production as director. He is joined by Jennifer Gish Guffin, stage manager; Nicholas Vasilios Pappas, musical director; Micah Courtland, choreographer; Brad Caleb Lee, scenic designer; Matthew Reynolds, lighting designer; Jeanette Waterman, costume designer; and Jonathan Proctor, sound designer.

“We are thrilled to bring this classic ‘Christmas Carol’ story back to our stage in a new musical format,” Theatre Tuscaloosa Managing Director Adam Miller said. “Most of our production team is new to the Theatre Tuscaloosa artistic family, so we are excited to see how this show comes to life!”

Performance dates are as follows: Friday and Saturday, Dec.

12 - 13 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday and Wednesday Dec. 14 and 17 at 2 p.m.; Thursday and Friday Dec. 18 - 19 at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday Dec. 20 - 21 at 2 p.m. A pay-what-you-can preview performance will be presented on Thursday Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. “Scrooge! The Musical,” will be presented in the Bean-Brown Theatre at the Martin Campus of Shelton State Community College.

Tickets for “Scrooge! The Musical” are on sale now. Prices are \$26 for adults, \$22 for seniors, members of the military, and Shelton State Community College (SSCC) employees, \$18 for students, children, and groups of 10 or more, and \$10 for SSCC students. This play is appropriate for all ages.

Theatre Tuscaloosa’s 2025-26 season is presented in partnership with Shelton State Community College and is sponsored by BankFirst, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Tuscaloosa, WVUA23, and signature sponsor Claire Friday. “Scrooge! The Musical” is sponsored by Mercedes Benz US International, Bryant Bank, Capstone Village, The Arts Council of Tuscaloosa, and Signature Sponsors Dianne & Bill Teague. The 2025-26 radio sponsor is Townsquare Media, and the billboard sponsor is Lamar Outdoor.

More details are available at www.theatretusc.com or 205.391.2277.

Shelby/Bibb County Livestock Show

February 13-14

Open to all Alabama 4-H Youth!



Passive Events: 5-18 Showing: 9-18

Register in 4-H Online [v2.4honline.com] by January 15th!

Dairy Cattle: Friday, February 13, 2026
Beef Cattle: Saturday, February 14, 2026



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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

The Annual Brent-Centreville Christmas Parade will be on Friday, December 12, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. It will begin in Brent and then on to Centreville.

Recently, Charlotte Lovelady West had an early dinner with friend, Debra Rust. They ate at Big Whiskey in Alabaster and had a great time as they always do with a longtime friend.

Cheri Deason has returned home to Houston, Texas after spending the Thanksgiving Holidays with her parents, Charles and Anne Deason and sister, Lori Deason. While here, they celebrated Charles' birthday.

Birthday wishes go out to several that have birthdays in December: Grace Cohn, Teresa Bamberg, Norma Lawley, Jasper Lightsey, Pat Cunningham, Jackie Horton, Carey Lynn Cottingham, Eleanor Hallman and Sharon Mitchell.

Charlotte West spent Thanksgiving Day with Paul and Hilary Perry and family and Mallie

Kate returned home with Charlotte for the night. On Friday, they enjoyed Black Friday shopping in Centreville and Tuscaloosa. After that, they travelled to Hoover to meet the family for Mallie Kate's 14th birthday at Longhorn's where they had dinner. All had a fun evening.

Those joining Larry and Vicki Speights for Thanksgiving Day and a large meal were children and grandchildren, Jim and Laura Blumenfeld and Lily, Casey and Stacy Brewer, Phoenix and Jonah, also Angie Reese and family. Stopping by on Friday were Laura Blumenfeld and children, Liam and Lily.

Anniversary wishes go out to Glenn and Debbie Grammer who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

The annual West Blocton Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

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

Bibb County News From 50 Years Ago
From the Archives of the Centreville Press

REVILLE PRESS

Cahaba Veneer Star Production



CAHABA VENEER EMPLOYER & EMPLOYEES

From left to right are Buddy Fuzzell (President), John Wallace, Clyde Day, Bobby Day, James Henry Jackson and L. C. Simmons.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1975, PAGE 12

What Is Bibb County Alabama
Doing For The Bicentennial Year?

After 18 months of planning and study, the charter for the Bibb County Historical Association was drawn up and signed last week. This is the first Historical Association Bibb County has ever had, and we feel this is going to be a very important aspect of the Bicentennial year and other years to come.

To give you a little history of the association, there has always been people in Bibb County, who were vitally interested in its heritage; people like Mrs. Josiah Kennedy of Centreville, Dr. Mike Mahan of Brierfield, and the UDC to mention just a few. But we have never had an organization strictly for the purpose of historical preservation, one that, as a legal non-profit organization, can dedicate its time to Bibb County's heritage. Therefore, after consulting with other counties, who had heritage associations, the Bibb County Commissioners appointed a group of people to work toward forming an historical association. These people were Mr. Jack Crouch, Mr. Millard Dailey, Mrs. Josiah Kennedy, Mr. S. M. Mahan, Sr., Dr. S. M. Mahan, Jr., Mr. Jim Oakley, Mr. John Rudolf, Mrs. Susan Rudolf, and Mr. Billy Thompson.

Now that we have a charter, which is a fancy contract, we need to put life into the association. This means every person in Bibb County can now become an active member of the Bibb County Historical Association. There will be only a piece of paper unless we have the support of all the people in Bibb County. Our first official meeting will be on November 2, 1975 from 3:00 to 4:00 at the Centreville Courthouse. There will be refreshments afterwards at Mrs. Josiah Kennedy's Inn. The purpose of this meeting is to sign members, and elect officers. We will also be discussing our first major project.

The people and land of Bibb County have a very great and abundant heritage going as far back as any in the United States. We cannot allow our heritage to be forgotten. Much of our heritage as our historic dwellings and landmarks have been neglected. If this continues, they

will not be here in the next generation and will fall into ruin.

According to Mr. Warner Floyd, executive Director of the Alabama Historical Commission, more people visited Hisotric sites last year than all the football games in the State. This will be increasing in 1976. It is predicted that 200,000 people will travel the Bicentennial Trail (this is a national trail made up of Historic sites) and Bibb County has three places on this trail. The Bibb County Courthouse Square, Montebriar, home of Josiah and his son William Gorgas, and the Brierfield Furnace. This is very important for Bibb County and Tourism is a very clean, healthy industry.

These are just three of the many historic sites in our County and we want to work on many more. With the continued cooperation of County Officials and the support of all the people in Bibb County, the Hisotrical Association will be one of the most active organizations. We have a great heritage and we cannot neglect it.

In order to give you an example of the importance of our membership drive, let me mention the Brierfield Furnace. This will be our first major project, and its success or failure depends entirely on the people of Bibb County. The Furnace is on Kimberly Clark's Land, and because of the efforts of Jack Crouch, Kimberly Clark has granted the Bibb County Historical Association a land lease. This is, however, a conditional lease, the conditions of this lease state that is will depend entirely upon the success of the Association. In other words, we need all of you to be active members. This is no small accomplishment and there will be lots of hard work and lots of fun for everyone. Let's all work together and make Bibb County a place to remember!!!

There are many people who have put in many hours toward the organization who were not mentioned by name. We thank you and Bibb County thanks you for your dedicated work. Our next article will be on the membership drive and the Brierfield Furnace.

LAWLEY NEWS
(This Week's News)

We extend our sympathy to the family of Mr. Earl Gentry in the death of their wife and mother, Mrs. Flo Gentry who was buried Saturday in Tabernacle and to Mrs. Alvis Lawrence Adair whose husband was buried Saturday in Wetumpka.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Wallace and family of New York are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fondren Wallace.

The Saturday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Norvin Lovelady were Miss Mary Crawford, Monroe, La., Mrs. Mable Goodwin of Bessemer, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Posey and Morris of Bessemer.

Mr. and Mrs. Winford O'Neal and David were the Sunday guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chessler Brewer of Holt.

Miss Edna Mims visited in Birmingham, Friday and Saturday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Lovelady, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lovelady, Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Lovelady and Mr. and Mrs. Norvin Lovelady were the supper guests Saturday night of Mrs. Billie Tibbs of Jemison.

Several from this community attended the funeral Saturday of Mrs. Ila Gentry.

The guests Saturday of Mrs. Willia Latham were: Mr. and Mrs. Homer Baisden, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Baisden and Jason of Hueytown, Mr. Max Latham and Sherri of Brent, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bolding and Billie Howard of Randolph and Mr. Jim Latham, Tammie and Terri of Maplesville.

The guests Sunday of Mrs. Latham were: Mr. and Mrs. Rayford Bridges and family, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Findley and family of Tuscaloosa, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Lawley and family and Mrs. Loraine Lawley and Margaret of Holt. They also attended the Lawley Reunion at the Community Center.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

APA Journalism Foundation responds to UA suspending publications

The Alabama Press Association Journalism Foundation is stunned by the recent decision by the University of Alabama to suspend the publication of two student magazines, citing that these publications were not in compliance with federal regulations of DEI initiatives and may be in violation of federal antidiscrimination laws.

The two magazines are Nineteen Fifty-Six, a publication focusing primarily on black students, and Alice, a magazine focusing on women's issues.

The recent actions by the university's leaders is a complete failure to act in the best interests of its students.

As an organization rooted in the First Amendment, the APA Journalism Foundation finds these actions contrary to the principles of the Constitution of our country.

These actions tell the students that you are not important, your voice doesn't matter, and you cannot make a difference, so don't even try.

The world needs more journalists, and those journalists must come from all walks of life with all sorts of experiences.

Silencing any voice is unacceptable and un-American. It is even more so when it is done by a public university.

Change often starts with a whisper, and we hope the university will reconsider this action and allow these publications to continue.



Alabama faith leaders call on congressional delegation to extend health care tax credits

Dozens of pastors and faith leaders urge swift congressional action as premiums set to spike for nearly 500,000 Alabamians

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Faith leaders from across Alabama have released a joint letter calling on the state's congressional delegation to immediately extend the enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits before they expire on Dec. 31.

The letter, organized by the Cover Alabama coalition, warns that failure to act will result in catastrophic premium increases and widespread loss of health coverage for Alabama families.

Nearly 500,000 Alabamians enrolled in ACA marketplace coverage for 2025, the highest in state history. As families choose their 2026 coverage options right now, faith leaders say Congress must provide certainty and safeguard the health of their congregations and communities.

"Our faith traditions teach us that every human life is sacred and that caring for the sick and vulnerable is a moral obligation," the letter states. "Access to health care is not a privilege for the wealthy. It is a matter of justice and human dignity."

If Congress allows the enhanced tax credits to lapse, premiums in Alabama are projected to rise by an average of 93% according to KFF. An estimated 130,000 Alabamians will lose their

coverage entirely because they will no longer be able to afford it. A 60-year-old couple earning \$85,000 a year, the letter notes, would see their monthly premium skyrocket from about \$600 to more than \$2,600.

"These are our neighbors, church members, elders, young parents and people living with chronic health conditions," the letter states. "Losing coverage will force them into impossible choices between paying medical bills, putting food on the table or keeping a roof overhead."

Faith leaders emphasize that this is not a partisan issue but a moral one. Eighty-seven faith leaders urge Alabama's congressional delegation to act quickly and collaboratively to protect the people they were elected to serve.

"Allowing these enhanced tax credits to expire, knowing the harm it will cause, would be a profound moral failure," the letter says. "We urge you to act now. Permanently extend the enhanced ACA premium tax credits so Alabama families can continue to access the care they need to live healthy and dignified lives."

The full letter sent to the Alabama congressional delegation appears below. Interviews available upon request.

Letter to Alabama congressional delegation

Honorable Members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation,

We, the undersigned pastors and faith leaders from across Alabama, write with urgency to ask you to protect the health and well-being of our congregations. Nearly 500,000 Alabamians enrolled in Affordable Care Act (ACA) health plans in 2025, more than any previous year. As families across our state are making decisions about their 2026 coverage right now, Congress must act quickly to pass a bipartisan bill that extends the enhanced ACA premium tax credits before the December recess.

Our faith traditions teach us that every human life is sacred and that caring for the sick and vulnerable is a moral obligation. Access to health care is not a privilege for the wealthy. It is a matter of justice and human dignity. Families in our congregations and communities are already stretched thin. They cannot bear additional financial burdens simply to access essential medical care.

Without action from Congress, the impact in Alabama will be severe. Premiums are projected to increase by an average of 93 percent for Alabamians. As a result, an estimated 130,000 Alabamians will lose their health coverage in 2026 because they will no longer be able to afford it. For example, a 60-year-old couple making \$85,000 per year would see their monthly premium increase from about \$600 per month to more than \$2,600 per month.

These are our neighbors, church members, elders, young parents and people living with chronic health conditions. Losing coverage will force them into impossible choices between paying medical bills, putting food on the table or keeping a roof overhead.

As elected leaders, you have a responsibility to promote the common good and protect the people of Alabama. Allowing these enhanced tax credits to expire, knowing the harm it will cause to families across our state, would be a profound moral failure.

We urge you to act now. Permanently extend the enhanced ACA premium tax credits to ensure that Alabama families can continue to access the care they need to live healthy and dignified lives.



Centreville Press

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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
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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
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"I Need Thee Every Hour"

"I need thee every hour" – since these lyrics were written by Annie Sherwood Hawks, they have become a constant refrain in the hearts and minds of many across generations. Such a simple but powerful plea perpetuates across time when people find themselves needing to be near to the Savior, whether it be "in joy or in pain."

Hawks, the author of the hymn "I Need Thee Every Hour", wrote over 400 hymns in her lifetime. Born in 1835, she remained a prolific writer until her death in 1918. Having a love for writing poetry even at a very young age, her poems were published in local newspapers near her hometown of Hoosick, New York. After marrying Charles Hawks, they moved to Brooklyn where she met a pastor named Robert S. Lowery at Hanson Place Baptist Church. Already an accomplished composer (writing a mix of music and lyrics to around 500 gospel songs in his lifetime), when Lowery heard some of the words Hawks had written, he loved them so much that he offered to write music to accompany her lyrics.

A mother to three children, the lyrics of "I Need Thee Every Hour" came to Hawks on an ordinary day of taking care of her children and home around April of the year 1872. Later after penning the hymn, Hawks wrote: "I remember well the morning when in the midst of the daily cares of my home, I was so filled with the sense of the nearness of the Master, that wondering how one could live without him either in joy or pain, these words 'I Need Thee Every Hour' were ushered into my mind. The hymn was wafted out to the world on the wings of love and joy, rather than under the stress of great personal sorrow. It was not until long years after when the shadow of a great loss fell over my way that I understood something of the comforting in the words I have been permitted to write."

When originally published in the year 1873, the Bible verse John 15:5 was included underneath the title: "Without me ye can do nothing." This hymn worshipfully reveres a deep dependance on the Lord with each stanza dwelling on a different facet of how dearly we need our Savior: our need for the peace only He can provide; our need for help in resisting temptation alone; our need to find the true meaning of life; our desire to see the promises of God fulfilled; and how dearly we need His presence in our lives.

"I need Thee, O I need Thee; every hour I need Thee. O bless me now, my Savior – I come to Thee." The depth of the dependency on the Lord through these simple words in the refrain of this hymn have carried many a person throughout some of the hardest times and hottest fires that an earthly life inevitably issues. But as our omniscient and omnipotent Almighty knows what we need before we ever even think to ask him (Matthew 6:8), He will both provide what we need and sustain us through every hardship we may ever face. Just as God gifted Hawks with the lyrics to "I Need Thee Every Hour" before her heart truly needed them, the Lord will also preemptively provide the peace we need to rejoice in the highs and to draw ever nearer to Him in the lows if we invite Him to do so in every facet of our fragile lives.



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NEWS

Six Mile Cabin’s Pioneer Roots

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

We previously delved into the historical Six Mile log cabin now owned by the Weaver Family and located along U.S. Highway 25 in the Six Mile community. Now we continue to explore the important history and background of the original owners, the Clabaugh family, and their roots. Bibb County is known for its historical significance, with its rich history beginning in 1818 and Alabama entered Statehood. Bibb County made history, being known as a major producer of iron and coal, and being named after Alabama’s first governor. Something that you may not have known about the area’s pioneers are their ties to Former U.S. Presidents and historical wars and battles. John Clabaugh was a member of the Clabaugh family, whose family migrated to Alabama from East Tennessee, and finally to Texas. The early 19th century was a time of great change and national expansion for the country. During the War of 1812, tensions escalated between the United States and Great Britain. Because of this, General Andrew Jackson called upon volunteers from Tennessee,

which gave the state its current nickname: “The Volunteer State.” Among these volunteers was John Clabaugh. Clabaugh left his family to enlist as a private in Captain John Roper’s Company, Colonel William Lillard’s 2nd Regiment of the East Tennessee Volunteers. Under General Andrew Jackson, Clabaugh fought against the Creek Nation in the infamous Battles of Talladega and Horseshoe Bend. After being discharged on Feb. 8, 1814, John returned safely to his Tennessee family with new experiences and ready to take advantage of the newly obtained territory. John Clabaugh and his wife Elizabeth embarked on a migration with Elizabeth’s extended family. From there, they likely moved along the Tennessee River then to the Alabama wilderness, and finally settled in Bibb County, Alabama. This migration made them among Bibb County’s first pioneer families. Once settled, Clabaugh quickly became active in civic life. As a constable, he maintained law and order in a county still shaping its governance. He helped manage elections and oversaw road maintenance in

his militia district, ensuring that vital infrastructure kept pace with the needs of a growing population. In religious life, the family was connected to Cahaba Valley Baptist Church in Brierfield, a congregation that remains active today. Clabaugh quickly became involved in religious life as well, establishing himself within the Cahaba Valley Baptist Church, which still stands in Brierfield. John Clabaugh established a farm located at Six Mile Creek, which provided vital resources such as fertile land, crops, and access to water. It was also a source for local trade, which further helped contribute to the county’s economy. John’s farm on Six Mile Creek provided fertile land, water access, and a base for both family sustenance and local trade. In the agricultural economy of the 1800s, such farms were essential to community survival and economic growth. Today, his contributions are preserved in the historical record and in the ongoing rehabilitation of landmarks like the Weaver Cabin, reminders of the families who helped shape Bibb County’s identity. Built in the 1800s, the Six Mile log cabin is a rare surviving ex-



ample of early settler craftsmanship. The cabin’s preservation links directly to the pioneer era when families like the Clabaughs cleared land, built homes, and established farms along Six Mile Creek. Rehabilitation efforts honor that history while providing a tangible connection for future generations. As Bibb County continued to grow,

its developing communities eventually needed more than farms, churches, and hand-built roads; they needed the financial structure to support expanding commerce. The Clabaugh family’s influence extended into this next chapter as well. Historical records indicate that members of the family were connected to the formation of the Real Estate Banking

Company in Selma, reflecting their role in the broader economic growth of central Alabama. This involvement shows how early settlers like the Clabaughs helped shape not only the civic and religious foundations of Bibb County but also the emerging financial networks that would later support towns such as Centreville, Brent, and the wider region.

From the 1975 file...

A fine week for Hobsons

The Hobsons are former residents of Centreville where Clell coached at Bibb County High School. This clip from ALABAMA SPORTS MAGAZINE.....

The second week of September, 1975, will not be easily forgotten at the Clell Hobson home in Bessemer. Sons Mike and Butch enjoyed perhaps their finest athletic hours to date. Mike, star fullback for Jacksonville State University, broke a 30-year record with a four-TD performance against Alabama A&M in JSU’s opening game while Butch (third baseman) was called up to the major leagues by the Boston Red Sox. Mike’s effort earned the senior from Bessemer Gulf South Conference offensive Player of the Week honors. It was the first time Hobson has won such an honor, but probably not the last. “MIKE IS PROBABLY the most underrated player in the conference,” head coach Clarkie Mayfield said after learning of the honor. “We (the coaches) also tend to take his play for granted, but this, I feel, is a great compliment. He is a great blocker, strong runner, a top pass receiver, and a super young man.” Brother Butch, who played football and baseball at Alabama, was called up to the major leagues after a fine summer of double AA ball at Bristol, Conn. Clell, who coached both Mike and Butch at Bessemer, is now a principal in the city school system. He also played college football, lettering three years at Alabama. A sister, Lirka, was a JSU cheerleader last year.

BUILDING

Masonic Lodge Remodeled

By David Hedstrom

The remodeling of the Masonic Building at Centreville is now being completed since work started the first week of August. A date for Open House will be announced soon. “We are proud of it, we intend for it to be one of the prettiest small lodges in the state.” Mr. Dan Cottingham, Treasurer of the Lodge of the Eastern Star, said. The most noticable changes at the building was the transferral of the lodge from the third floor to the first floor and the modernization of the interior and the exterior front. Air conditioning and centralized heating has also been added.

The BACK PAGE

No Freeze, All Festivities: West Blocton Parade Shines with Grand Marshal Kevin Steele

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

West Blocton is gearing up for one of its most beloved holiday traditions, and this year's Christmas Parade is shaping up to be brighter and more exciting than ever. After days of concern that an arctic blast would bring bitter temperatures to the area,

the much-discussed cold snap has officially been pushed back — meaning residents can enjoy Saturday evening's parade without the teens-level chill originally predicted.

With the frigid weather now expected after the weekend, West Blocton can celebrate in comfort as Main Street fills with lights, music, and hometown

cheer.

And at the front of it all? A familiar face and a name that carries deep pride in the world of football.

The Town of West Blocton is honored to announce longtime defensive coach Kevin Steele as the Grand Marshal of the 2025 West Blocton Christmas Parade. Steele,

an American former football coach and player, has spent decades shaping some of the strongest defenses in college football, holding coordinator roles at Miami, Auburn, LSU, Clemson, and Alabama. His leadership, dedication, and impact on athletes over the years make him a meaningful choice to lead this

year's festivities.

The parade kicks off at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13, rolling down Main Street in the heart of West Blocton. Families can expect a festive evening complete with sparkling floats, holiday music, and the kind of spirited small-town celebration that brings the community together year after year.

With comfortable temperatures and the arctic blast waiting until next week, the town is encouraging everyone to bundle up just enough and come enjoy the magic.

No arctic blast, no excuses — see you at the parade, West Blocton!



BMC HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER

CANDY CANE LANE

Community Tree Lighting Ceremony!
Join us on **Friday, December 19th** from **5:30pm-7:30pm** for a cozy evening of holiday cheer! Enjoy food trucks, live music, caroling, and festive fun leading up to the *official tree lighting at 6:30pm*. Bring your family, bundle up, and help us kick off the season in the sweetest way!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: DAWN JONES, CRNP



For seven years, Dawn has been an essential part of BMC, serving as an RN, Director of Chronic Care Management, Director of BMC at Home, and now as a Nurse Practitioner. She earned her ADN from Jefferson State, BSN from Chamberlain, and MSN/NP from UAB, but it was her time in home health that shaped her calling. There, she discovered the importance of truly seeing the patient, building meaningful connections, and providing care that honors dignity and comfort. As she steps into her NP role, Dawn remains dedicated to Bibb County and to delivering compassionate, comprehensive care right at home.