

Centreville Press

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Donation Paves the Way for New Dialysis Services at Bibb Medical Center

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Bibb Medical Center is recognizing a meaningful partnership with Burkes Mechanical made possible through the Alabama Rural Hospital Investment Program, an initiative created to strengthen healthcare access and sustainability in rural communities across the state. Enacted by the Alabama Legislature in 2025, the program allows Alabama taxpayers, both individuals and businesses, to redirect a portion of their state income taxes to eligible rural hospitals, helping them enhance services, invest in equipment, and improve access to care close to home.

Through this program, Burkes Mechanical, led by Chip and Mistie Burkes, has made a significant \$450,000 investment in Bibb Medical Center. This contribution represents a major step forward for local healthcare and will allow the hospital to begin renovations in early 2026 to open a new dialysis center. The project would not be possible without the generosity and com-

mitment of Burkes Mechanical and its leadership, whose support reflects a deep belief in investing locally and strengthening community resources.

For many individuals living with kidney disease, dialysis is a life-sustaining treatment that must be received multiple times each week. In rural areas, limited access to dialysis services often requires patients to travel long distances, adding financial strain, emotional stress, and physical exhaustion to an already demanding medical journey. The addition of a dialysis center at Bibb Medical Center will help eliminate those barriers, allowing patients to receive essential care closer to home, surrounded by familiar faces and trusted providers.

This investment will have a lasting impact on health outcomes across the region. By reducing travel time and increasing access to consistent treatment, the new dialysis center will help patients better manage their health while easing the burden on families and caregivers. Bibb Medical Center's

partnership with DCI ensures that the dialysis services provided will meet high

standards of quality, compassion, and reliability, offering patients the care they need in a setting designed to support long-term wellness.

"Supporting BMC through this program helps keep our hospital strong while ensuring that our tax dollars stay right here in Bibb County," said Chip Burkes of Burkes Mechanical in a BMC release. "Mistie and I are proud to contribute and invest in the health of our community."

The Alabama Rural Hospital Investment Program is administered by the Rural Hospital Investment Program Board, which operates within the Office of the State Treasurer. The Board is responsible for reviewing and approving eligible rural hospitals that participate in the program, ensuring that contributions are directed where they can make the greatest impact. Community members and businesses interested in learning more about the program and how it supports Bibb Medical Center are



encouraged to explore resources available through the Alabama Department of Revenue's Rural Hospital Tax Credit, where program guidelines and procedures are outlined. Additional information can also be found through the Alabama Hospital Association.

Through partnerships like this one, Bibb Medical Center continues to build a stronger, more sustainable future for healthcare in Bibb County – one rooted in

local investment, community collaboration, and a shared commitment to ensuring that vital medical services remain accessible for those who need them most.

When community members choose to invest in their own, the impact reaches far beyond bricks and mortar of new buildings. It strengthens trust, preserves access to care for future generations, and sends a powerful message that the well-being of neighbors mat-

New Mapping Technology Strengthens Emergency Preparedness in Bibb County



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Bibb County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is expanding its emergency

preparedness capabilities thanks to a generous grant from the Tombigbee Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council. The council recently awarded \$5,381.95 to Bibb County EMA for the purchase of a large-scale map printer, a tool that will di-

rectly support first responders across the county.

The new printer will

allow Bibb County EMA to produce 24" x

36" detailed maps of buildings, roadways, terrain, and other critical infrastructure. These larger, clearer maps will play an important role in pre-incident planning, preparation, and training for first responders, including firefighters and law enforcement officers. Having high-quality, easy-to-read maps available before an emergency occurs helps responders move more efficiently and safely when seconds matter most.

In addition to training and planning, the pre-printed maps will assist in identifying key locations within an area, such as evacuation routes, access points, and areas of vulnerability. This enhanced level of detail supports faster decision-making during

emergencies and strengthens coordination across agencies when responding to incidents.

"Tombigbee RC&D has been a big part of helping our First Responders," said Kirk Smith, Bibb County EMA Director in a statement. "We thank you for all that you do."

This investment reflects a continued commitment to equipping Bibb County's emergency services with the tools they need to protect residents and respond effectively in times of crisis. Through strong partnerships like this one, Bibb County EMA is better positioned to plan ahead, train smarter, and serve the community with greater preparedness and confidence.

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NEWS

Severe Winter Weather Strains Blood Supply, Creating Urgent Need for Donors



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Recent severe winter weather across the region has had a ripple effect far beyond icy roads and canceled events. Disruptions to transportation, staffing, and scheduled blood drives have significantly impacted blood donation coordination, leading to a critical shortage of both blood and platelets. As conditions forced cancellations and limited travel, many donations simply couldn't happen — leaving hospitals and patients facing an in-

creasingly fragile supply.

Blood and platelets are essential, life-saving resources that cannot be manufactured. They are needed every day for trauma victims, cancer patients, individuals undergoing surgery, and those managing chronic or life-threatening conditions. When winter weather slows or halts donations, the effects are felt immediately in hospitals that rely on a steady, reliable supply to provide care.

This shortage is not abstract or distant — it's deeply personal. At

some point, it could be you or someone you love who needs blood or platelets to survive an accident, a medical emergency, or an unexpected diagnosis. In those moments, the availability of donated blood can mean the difference between life and death. Every donation made today helps ensure that when that moment comes, for anyone in our community, help is there.

Local residents in and around Bibb County have several options for donating, even if it's a bit of a drive. The Birming-

ham Red Cross Blood and Platelet Donation Center, located at 700 Caldwell Trace in Birmingham, is open most days with varying hours, often between 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Another convenient option is the UAB Blood Donation Center at 401 18th Street South,

with parking available at the corner of 4th Avenue and 18th Street.

According to the American Red Cross website: "The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage as requests from hospitals exceed the available supply, drawing down the blood supply by about 35% over the past month. The shortage is especially serious for platelets and type O, A negative and B negative blood. Without immediate action, patients face serious risk. Your help is needed right now."

Appointments can be scheduled using the Red Cross Blood Donor App or by visiting the Red Cross website, where locations and times are updated daily. Donors must be generally healthy and at least 17 years old, with no upper age limit to give. For the most accurate and up-to-date scheduling information, checking the

Red Cross website is strongly recommended by visiting www.redcrossblood.org.

As winter weather continues to affect donation efforts, the need for donors remains critical. Giving blood or platelets is one of the most direct ways to support the health and safety of our community — and one small act can save multiple lives. Now is the time to step forward and help ensure that life-saving care is available for everyone who may need it.

For me, as someone who's loved one is regularly requiring blood and platelet transfusions, I will be setting up weekly appointments to donate both. I hope you will consider joining me, or at least staying up to date on local blood drives. You may not think that your donation can make a difference — but I promise you, it can.

REENTRY TASK FORCE: PREP Poised to Strengthen Alabama's Workforce

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama's Reentry Task Force met

last week at the Alabama State House to address several priority topics, ranging from housing and barriers to employment to workforce shortages and the need for skilled workers in Alabama's defense industry.

Chaired by Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles Director Cam Ward, the task force includes cabinet members, legislators, state leaders and nonprofit advocates charged with supporting formerly incarcerated Alabamians as they transition back into their communities. Members examine and recommend the implementation of programming that focuses on job training, education, mental health, drug treatment and soft skills.

The task force also addresses barriers to reentry success as part of its mission to lower recidivism, or reoffending, which reduces crime and helps create safer communities statewide.

As part of Thursday's meeting, U.S. Navy Maritime Industrial Base (MIB) Director of Strategic Partnerships Lindsay Cline presented information on the U.S. Navy's mission to accelerate shipbuilding programs. MIB will require 250,000 skilled maritime trades personnel over the next decade. To meet this demand, MIB has embraced innovative partnership opportunities in Alabama. The Alabama Department of Commerce and the Alabama Department of Workforce have played key roles in cultivating these partner-

ships.

One potential partner is the Alabama Bureau of Pardons & Paroles Perry County PREP Center, which offers a pipeline of highly trained and motivated Alabamians completing the PREP Program. Through its partnership with Ingram State Technical College and the Alabama Community College System, the Bureau offers comprehensive, in-house job training, education, substance use and mental health programming at the PREP Center. Graduates are prepared for success in life after prison or probation. The model has received national recognition for innovation, most recently as a finalist for the State Transformation in Action Recognition from the Council of State Governments.

The Bureau and Ingram State are in the process of increasing PREP's capabilities for welding and advanced manufacturing training. Plans include construction of a new welding bay at the PREP Center to help meet the state's growing demand for skilled welders.

"This is a gamechanger for the Alabamians we serve, and it will exponentially increase the success we're seeing at PREP, where nearly 500 Alabamians have graduated with less than 1 percent recidivating," Bureau Director Cam Ward said. "We're excited to provide highly trained welders who can not only help shore up critical skilled manufacturing needs for the state's workforce but also strengthen our nation's defense

capabilities. These are great-paying jobs that offer excellent benefits and significantly increase the likelihood of reentry success."

The welding bay will be a 30,000 square feet facility designed to complement PREP's existing certificate, licensing and training programs. Through its partnership between Ingram State and the Bureau, PREP offers core technical programs like carpentry, electrical training and Skills for Success Training. Skills for Success Training is part of the Alabama Community College System initiative that includes excavator operation, skid steer operation, CDL Class A and Class B training and fiber optics. These short-term credential programs align with high-demand industries and provide marketable skills and certificates for immediate employment.

In addition to the welding bay, PREP recently enhanced its CDL training program with the opening of an innovative driving simulator. The simulator expands access for participants interested in careers in logistics and transportation and allows trainees to prepare for CDL certification exams.

The Bureau also plans to replicate the PREP model by opening a similar facility in Thomasville, Ala., dedicated exclusively to women. Additional plans include leveraging the Bureau's network of Day Reporting Centers to recruit hundreds of nonviolent parolees and probationers interested in advanced welding training at PREP.

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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

We wish to extend sincere sympathy to the family of Jerry Donald Elam, age 83 of Duncanville, AL who passed away on January 27, 2026. Services for Jerry were held on January 22, 2026 at the Pleasant Hill Church in Centreville, AL. Burial followed in the adjoining cemetery. Jerry will be missed greatly by family and friends.

Among those having birthdays in February are Jessica Huey, Sara Tidwell, Terry Morton, Quack Lawrence, Pattie Elam Owens, Barbara Kornegay Allen, Kimberly Peak Schmidt, Hannah Watts, Tamera Luce, Luke Daniel and Jim Varnell.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Karleigh Lane Williams who passed away on January 12, 2026 at the age of 30. Karleigh will

be greatly missed by family and friends.

We send out belated Birthday wishes to Coach John Pratt, who recently celebrated his 85th birthday.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Carolyn Tubbs who passed away recently. Carolyn will be missed greatly by her family and friends.

We also send out sympathy to the family of Earl Mitchell, age 80, who passed away on January 24, 2026. Grave-side services were held on January 29, 2026 at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo. Earl will be missed by his family and many friends.

If you have news call it in at 205.316.1181. Take care and God Bless.

Bibb County Chamber of Commerce Reports Annual Banquet Success



(L-R) Cae & Wes Allen, Brian Hilson Chamber Director, Joseph Marchant Chamber President

BY MIKE HOBSON
REPORTER

mike.hobson@centrevillepress.com
The Bibb County Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet on January 27, 2026. The attending crowd was treated to reports from Chamber Director Brian Hilson, and Keynote Speaker Wes Allen. Allen is presently in the 2026 race for Alabama Lt. Governor. Allen and his wife Cae have a lasting and unique connection to Bibb County and its economic growth future. Cae's late father, Industrialist Scott Davis, had the vision and determination to develop an industrial site for Bibb County growth into the 21st Century. Scott Davis' heirs and survivors are seeing much of that vision continue to materialize with the industries that have already located to the Scott Davis Industrial Park over recent years.

Brian Hilson is Chamber Director and leads the Bibb County Industrial Development Authority. He noted that the Scott Davis Industrial Park presently has several prepared sites and each

of those available sites are under study by prospective new industries that may locate to Bibb. Hilson called the park a strategic part of the county's growth plan. In his remarks he said "Two things that stand out to me that are still Bibb County's most important assets: GEOGRAPHY AND LEADERSHIP. I say it often—we're one of the few rural counties in Alabama in a metro, and we're the only one in one metro and adjacent to another. That situation presents both advantages and challenges. Jobs are easily accessible in more populous counties, and the only way to keep more of our resident workforce at home is to create more and better jobs here."

The Governor's 2025 report of new & expanding industry was released recently, listing jobs and investments county by county, company by company, and Bibb County wasn't in it. Let me tell you why—the one new industry we announced last year—Rado Mechanical is a mechanical contractor,

an industry sector unfortunately not included among the state's list.

We have three other new industrial projects

that are basically complete and ready for public announcement in 2026, so this is already shaping up to be a good year. One of those we were set to announce in December 2025 but the company's travel schedule changed that—we'll have that announcement soon.

You can tell a lot about how successful a community can be in economic development just by the level of interest it's getting. We are working on industrial projects in all areas of the County. That's a good sign!

Every project we work on involves the State and other partners, and one of the programs Alabama offers provides grants to create new industrial sites. We'll find out in about three weeks if the SEEDS application we have made for another Bibb County site will be successful. Hilson also said that all of the county's mayors and many of the

county commissioners were present for this annual event, along with a spirited crowd of chamber members and supporters.

Bibb County Chamber President Joseph Marchant remarked that Bibb County would not have current momentum in industrial development without the county's continued support and extended a thank you to our County Commission and Administrator Brian Davis for their investment in the future of Bibb County. The Chamber also recognized this year's Chamber and EIDA Board of Directors including: Teresa Averette, Steven Carroll, Larry Dale Clark, Ashton Cottingham, Brian Davis, Crystal McMeekin, Joseph Marchant, Nicki May, John Rich, Billy Thompson, Gary Uber and Sandy Young.

The EIDA Board Members are Karen Burkelew, Mayor Jeff Dodson, Willie Dunn, John Downs, Judge Stephanie Kemmer, Councilman Fred Lynch, Joseph Marchant and Mike Nichols.

Centreville Mayor Election Contest Set for Trial

BY MIKE HOBSON
REPORTER

mike.hobson@centrevillepress.com

The election contest for the Office of Centreville Mayor is presently set for trial on the 26th day of February, 2026 in the Circuit Court of Bibb County. The election challenge was filed by former Mayor Mike Oakley vs. Barry Cooner, who took the office of Mayor in November 2025. The former Mayor

has alleged in his challenge that certain votes were cast in the election by ineligible voters and alleges certain absentee ballots cast were ineligible; and that these questioned votes changed the outcome of the election in Cooner's favor. But for these votes the outcome would have favored Oakley, according to the written complaint.

Filings in the court case identify 3 absentee

votes and challenges their compliance with Alabama Code 17-11-9, claiming they should not be counted. This provision of Alabama law sets out the process for filing an absentee ballot.

The challenger has also identified 6 votes cast by persons who allegedly do not comply with Alabama Code 11-46-38 (voter residency requirements). The challeng-

er's attorney has filed pre-trial witness and exhibit lists. Expected witnesses have been served with subpoenas compelling each to appear at trial.

Presiding Fourth Circuit Judge Marvin Wiggins will conduct the trial and process. Oakley is represented by Attorney Joel Blanksmith of Bachus, Brom, and Taylor LLC. Cooner is represented by local attorney Michael L. Murphy.

Jenna Tidwell of Centreville selected to UA Early College Fall 2025 Director's List

TUSCALOOSA, AL (01/29/2026)-- A total of 595 students enrolled in UA Early College during Fall Semester 2025 at The University of Alabama were named to the director's list with an academic record of 3.6 or higher.

The director's list recognizes students enrolled in classes through the UA Early College program. UA Early College allows high school students to get a head start on their college courses. High school sophomores, juniors and seniors enrolled in UA Early College can choose from more than 80 different online and on-campus courses and earn up to 30 hours of college credit.

The fall 2025 list includes the following students:

Jenna Tidwell of Centreville, AL attends McCully Hill Christian School.

For more details visit news.ua.edu.

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Dean's, President's Lists Students Named for UA Fall 2025 Term



TUSCALOOSA, AL-- A total of 15,388 students enrolled during Fall Semester 2025 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs and 12 colleges and schools.

Local students include:

Brody Bircheat of Brent was named to the Deans List.

Hannah Dellinger of Brent was named to the Presidents List.

Aubrie James of Brent was named to the Deans List.

Sacaria Stabler of Brent was named to the Deans List.

Katie Sue Mott of Brierfield was named to the Deans List.

Hannah Daniel of Centreville was named to the Deans List.

Aubrey Franklin of Centreville was named to the Deans List.

Anna Freeman of Centreville was named to the Deans List.

Kaitlyn Howard of Centreville was named to the Presidents List.

Tyler Hudson of Centreville was named to the Deans List.

Alexis Joiner of Centreville was named to the Presidents List.

Malli Lackey of Centreville was named to the Presidents List.

Kayce McKenzie of Centreville was named to the Presidents List.

Audrey Waits of Centreville was named to the Presidents List.

Sadie Rae Wallace of Centreville was named to the Deans List.

Evary Ryan of Lawley was named to the Presidents List.

Evelyn Amoroso of Randolph was named to the Presidents List.

Samantha Brothers of West Blocton was named to the Deans List.

Shian Dudley of West Blocton was named to the Presidents List.

Caleb Fancher of West Blocton was named to the Presidents List.

Catherine Hammond of West Blocton was named to the Presidents List.

Mylee Simmons of West Blocton was named to the Deans List.

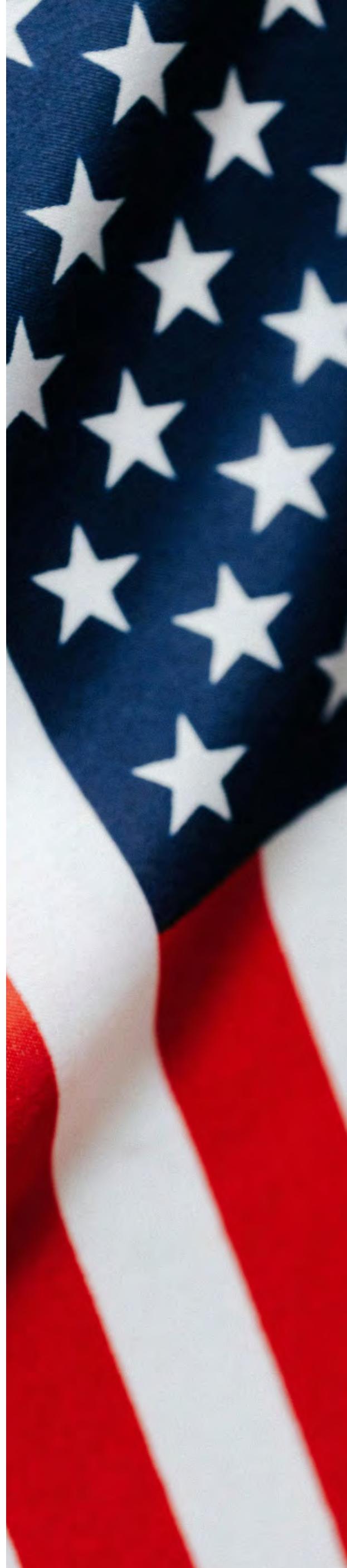
Demi Smith of West Blocton was named to the Presidents List.

Lillian Johnson of Woodstock was named to the Deans List.

Hunter Mears of Woodstock was named to the Presidents List.

Lauren Pouncey of Woodstock was named to the Deans List.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS



Steve Clouse – A Good Man

Inside the Statehouse
By Steve Flowers

February 4, 2026:

My lifetime friend, Steve Clouse, turns 70 this week. He was born February 7, 1956. I hope his legislative colleagues and friends wish him a Happy Birthday. He truly is a good man.

Steve was born and raised in Ozark and has represented his home County of Dale as well as neighboring Houston County for 32 years – almost half of his life and well over 72% of his adult life. He was first elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1994 at age 38. He will be re-elected to his ninth, four-year term this year.

Steve Clouse is not only the Dean of the Wiregrass delegation in the House, he is the stalwart, respected leader and heart and soul of the Wiregrass delegation. Coincidentally, when Steve came to the House in 1994, he was the only Republican in the Wiregrass, House or Senate. Today, all Wiregrass Senators and House members are arch Republicans. The Wiregrass is one of the most Republican Regions of the State.

Steve is currently Chairman of the House Transportation Utilities and Infrastructure Committee. However, his most important leadership role was as Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, where he wrote the General Fund Budget for over a decade.

Steve has always had a keen interest and knack for Alabama politics. He also has an astute marketing mind. When he first ran for the House, he coined the phrase, "Put Clouse in the House." If he were to have an opponent, he could say, "Keep Clouse in the House." He is truly a man of the House.

Steve is truly a man of Ozark, also. He is Ozark, through and through. His father, Jimmy Clouse, had deep roots in Dale County. Steve worked with his father in the oil distribution business until his Dad passed away a few years ago.

Steve has been a devout member of the First Methodist Church. He and his wife, Dianne, live right across the street from the Methodist Church. They don't have far to go so it makes it hard for him to skip. He parks his white truck right out front of his antebellum style home, right on Main Street, which tells his constituents, "I'm at home, come see me with your problems." Believe you me, small town legislators get more cries for help than you can imagine. Especially if you're Steve Clouse, who knows most of his constituents personally. He has fixed many a Dale countian's problems and potholes over the past four decades.

I often use the saying Alabama is a Big Front Porch. When it comes to me and Steve Clouse, that adage is definitely apropos.

I have never, not known Steve Clouse. We played together as little boys. Steve's mama was Ruth Price. She grew up in Pike County. My mama, Gloria Grant Flowers and Ruth Price Clouse were like sisters all their lives. They were best friends as girls and teenagers and continued their friendship after Mrs. Ruth married Jimmy Clouse and moved to Ozark. Mama lived all her life in Troy. When Steve and I were little boys, our mamas would bring us to Troy and Ozark to play together. We became like brothers rather than friends. We are still more like brothers. I don't think it is just a coincidence that we have the same first name. I also had a sister named Kay and he has a sister named Kay. We are pretty sure our mamas collaborated on that.

When it got time for Steve to go to college, he chose the University of Alabama where I was finishing up. He pledged the same fraternity that I and a good many Southeast Alabama boys were in, Sigma Nu.

Our legislative districts connected for the 16 years I was in the House. We had almost identical pro-business conservative voting records. People still, today, get us confused because we have similar names. He tells me that often in our almost weekly phone conversations. "Someone called me you the other day." My response to him, "I'm sure you told them that you were a lot younger and better looking."

Steve Clouse is one of the best men I've ever known. He epitomizes honesty and integrity. I cannot believe that my young friend and little brother is 70. Alabama is a Big Front Porch.

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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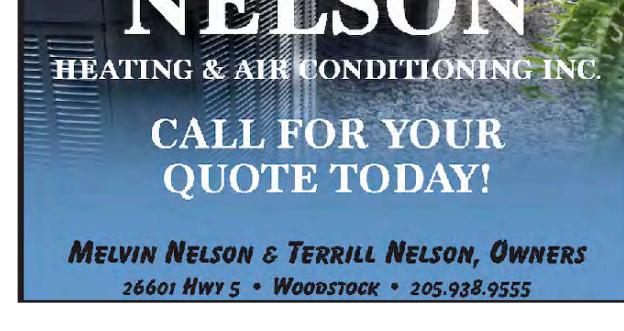
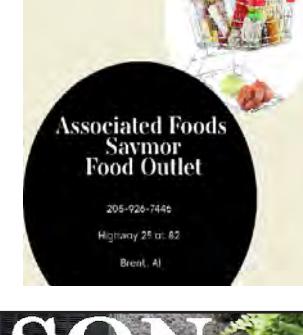
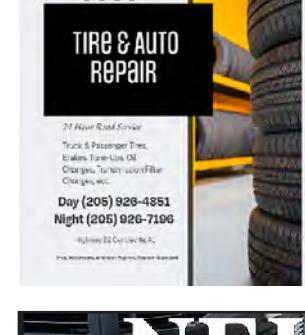
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Brent Baptist Brent 926-7687	Shady Grove Baptist Randolph 366-1163	Smith Hill Baptist West Blocton 938-2379
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Haysop Baptist Centreville 205-310-1316	Church Of God Of Prophecy West Blocton 938-2788	Church Of God Of Prophecy West Blocton 938-2788
Hopewell Primitive Baptist West Blocton 553-7603	Church Of God 205-477-5468	Church Of God 205-477-5468
Johntown Baptist West Blocton 938-7621	River of Life Church of God 9225 Hwy 82, Brent 205-926-7600	River of Life Church of God 9225 Hwy 82, Brent 205-926-7600
Liberty Baptist West Blocton 938-2090	West Blocton Church of God Cty Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988	West Blocton Church of God Cty Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988
Liberty Baptist Duncanville 759-9647 / 759-4074	CHURCH OF GOD	Victory Tabernacle Church 1008 Walnut Street Centreville 926-9455 or 361-2763
Liberty Freewill Baptist 926-6496	Church Of God Of Prophecy at Eoline 256-393-9625	Pastor Butch Tucker
Little Hope Primitive Baptist Centreville 926-4236	Church Of God Of Prophecy West Blocton 938-2788	Yahweh's Harvest 926-9044
Lowerytown Baptist West Blocton 938-2436	Church Of God 205-477-5468	EPISCOPAL
Lucille Baptist West Blocton 966-3556	River of Life Church of God 9225 Hwy 82, Brent 205-926-7600	The Church Of The Holy Comforter Montevallo 665-2769
Mission Baptist Woodstock 938-7096	West Blocton Church of God Cty Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988	St. Andrews Episcopal Church 925 Plowman Street Montevallo 665-1667
Mt. Carmel Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST	HOLINESS
Mt. Ebell Baptist Brent 926-9223	2300 South Scottsboro Rd Centreville 926-5393	Deliverance Temple Holiness Four Points 926-5565
Mt. Grove Baptist 938-3410	EPISCOPAL	Word of Faith Worship Center Centreville 926-4555
Mt. Moriah Baptist West Blocton 926-5425	The Church Of The Holy Comforter Montevallo 665-2769	Free Will Apostolic Holiness Antioch 926-9252
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church Brent 926-9009	St. Andrews Episcopal Church 925 Plowman Street Montevallo 665-1667	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsboro Road Brent 926-5009
Mt. Tabor Baptist Brent 926-7156	HOLINESS	Associated Foods Savmor Food Outlet
Mt. Zion Baptist Centreville 334-366-5903	Deliverance Temple Holiness Four Points 926-5565	Every Sunday 11:00 a.m.
New Hebron Baptist West Blocton 938-2101	Word of Faith Worship Center Centreville 926-4555	Sandy Chapel Community Church 926-4934
New Hope Missionary Baptist Randolph 334-366-1199	Free Will Apostolic Holiness Antioch 926-9252	Free Will Apostolic Holiness Antioch 926-9252
New Life Baptist Church Centreville 205-541-7072	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsboro Road Brent 926-5009	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsboro Road Brent 926-5009
New Pleasant Valley Brent 926-9045	Trinity Spirit Holiness Church Centreville 926-4321	Associated Foods Savmor Food Outlet
Pinegrove Missionary Baptist Brent 225-0139	METHODIST	205-926-7445 Highway 28 or 62 Brent, AL



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN

"In the Garden"

Are you a morning person? Admittedly, I'm quite envious if you are as I've tried my whole life to be. Mornings are lovely, and even lovelier still if you are a believer who invites the presence of the Lord to join you as you sip your coffee or tea, watching the sun rise in the sky and the world wake up alongside it.

"In the Garden" was written by C. Austin Miles in March of the year 1912. A pharmacist whose true passion was music, Miles left the medical field after he published his first gospel song with Hall-Mack Company. He later went on to become the editor and manager of that music publishing company and served them for 37 years.

Described as an affable man with an extraordinary wit and sense of humor, Miles was said to always have a small flower pinned to his lapel. One of his favorite hobbies was photography, and he had built his own darkroom for developing film. On one such day that he was waiting for film to develop, he opened up his Bible as he often did for inspiration for his songwriting. Picking up his Bible with no particular passage in mind, the pages fell open to John 20 where it describes the story of Mary coming to the garden to visit the tomb of Jesus. But instead of finding him in the tomb, she was overjoyed to find Him standing nearby and was able to recognize him when he spoke to her.

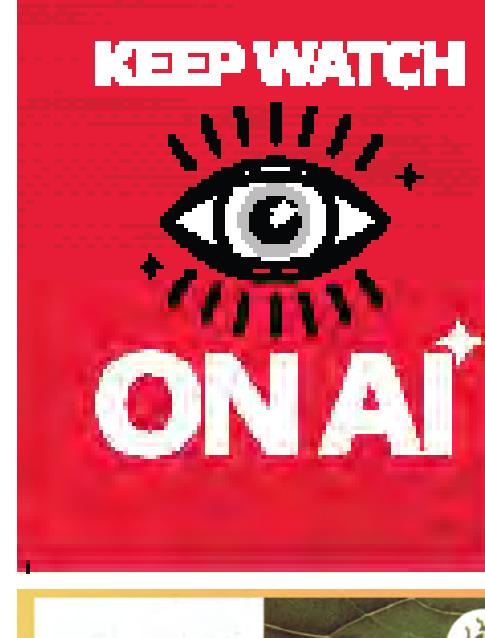
Imagining himself into that glorious moment of meeting in the garden, he described that he gripped his Bible, his muscles tense and vibrating. He recorded himself thinking, "This is not an experience limited to a happening almost 2,000 years ago. It is the daily companionship with the Lord that makes up the Christian's life." Afterwards he

penned a poem in his inspiration from this story as told in Scripture, which was later set to music and became the well-known and beloved hymn, "In the Garden."

Regarding himself, Miles said: "It is as a writer of gospel songs I am proud to be known, for in that way I may be of the most use to my master, whom I serve willingly although not as efficiently as is my desire."

Are you familiar with the calm of a peaceful morning? Miles must have been, because as he writes of moments when "the dew is still on the roses" it's hard not to imagine early, warm sunlight streaming through the leaves as the world awakes. What peace one can find in those quiet moments - and what peace our Lord affords to us as believers in our quiet moments with Him as well. Have you ever heard "the sound of His voice" that "is so sweet the birds hush their singing"? If you ever have, it is without a doubt that "the melody that He gave to [you] within [your] heart is ringing."

What a beautiful truth we can rest upon that the Maker of all creation lowered Himself to us through Jesus our Savior, who when we call on Him and invite Him to us – into our hearts, souls, and lives – that He will walk with us, talk with us, and tell us that we are His own. The Prince of Peace Himself affords us by His presence the "peace that passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) if we so choose to walk with Him as our feet find their path on this side of heaven. But what a glorious time it will be when instead of hearing the voice of my Lord through the gentle whisper of the wind in the leaves, I will instead hear it myself one blessed day right next to me.



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Come grow with us at Bibb Medical Center's Nursing Home! We are seeking dedicated RNs and LPNs to join a team that values compassion, teamwork, and quality resident care. In this role, you'll help residents maintain their highest level of well-being, supervise support staff, and make a meaningful difference every day. Full-time and part-time opportunities available. Alabama nursing license required; geriatric experience preferred but not required. **Full benefits available.**

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A LOOK BACK AT 1976



HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME AUXILIARY

Shown above are the members of the Bibb County Hospital and Nursing Home Auxiliary group recently organized to do in-hospital and nursing home work with the patients. The organization was initiated by the new Administrator, Terry J. Smith. Additional members are urgently needed and persons interested are urged to call Mrs. Dale Ellinghauser (926-4638) or Mrs. James Ray Carroll (938-2443) in West Blocton.



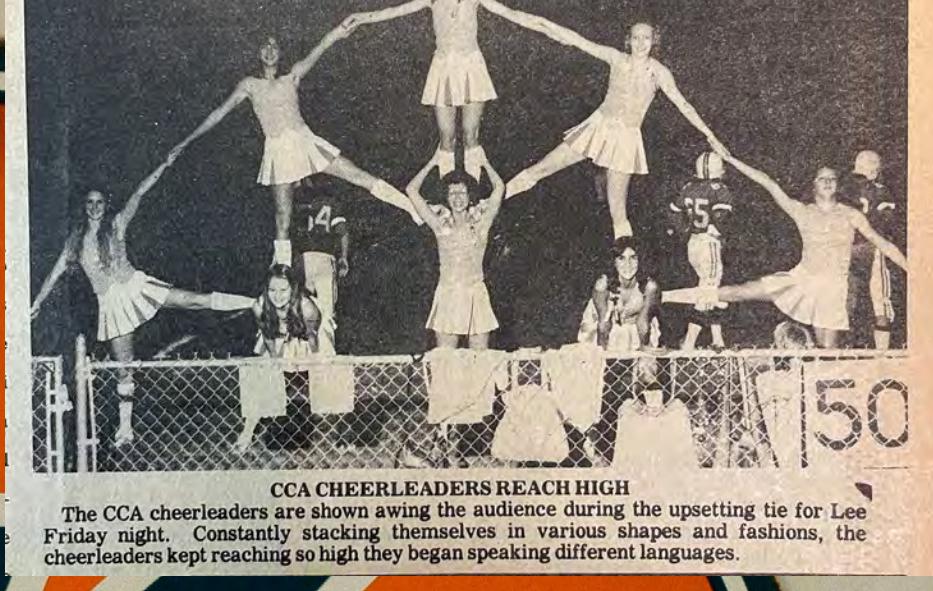
BCHS SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

Bibb County High School Senior Class Officers for 1976-77 are, from left to right, (standing) Karen Fancher, Secretary; Jeff Sulman, President; Glenda Lightsey, Reporter; (sitting) Linda Hardenbergh, Treasurer; and Rosalyn Tubbs, Vice-President.

WBHS Homecoming Court BCHS Homecoming Court

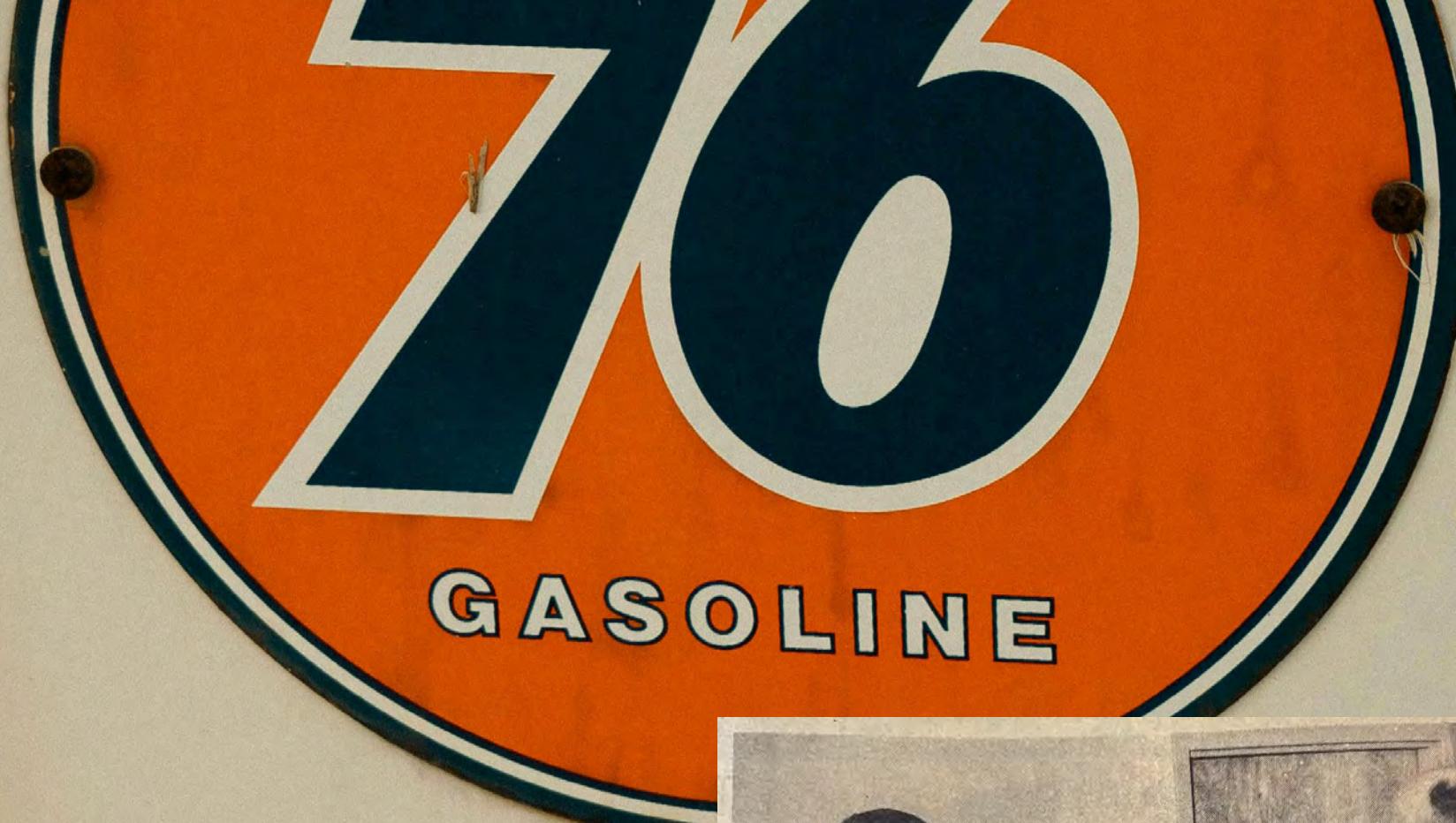
WBHS Homecoming Court: Miss Cathy Liddle, center, will reign Friday as Queen of West Blocton. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billie G. Liddle of Marvel. Senior Maid is Miss Renee Carroll, left, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Ray Carroll, of West Blocton. Junior Maid is Miss Darlene Bush, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Bush of West Blocton.

BCHS Homecoming Court: The Bibb County High School Homecoming Court are, from left to right (seated) Becky Gammie, Ann LaGrone, (standing) Valerie Fondren, Rosalyn Tubbs and Letta Kornegay. The Homecoming Queen will be chosen just before the ball game against Midfield Friday night.



CCA CHEERLEADERS REACH HIGH

The CCA cheerleaders are shown awing the audience during the upsetting tie for Lee Friday night. Constantly stacking themselves in various shapes and fashions, the cheerleaders kept reaching so high they began speaking different languages.



New Doctor Here; Another Sought

by David Hedstrom

The Bibb County Hospital Board welcomed a new medical doctor already practicing with Dr. William Owings in Centreville and for the first time met an obstetrician who wishes to practice here during a meeting of the hospital Thursday. The two doctors are, respectively, Dr. Glen D. Heggie from Detroit, Mich. and Dr. Sampat S. Shivanagi of India. Both are specialists in their field. Dr. Heggie, who was born and raised in India, has been practicing here since 1973 and then at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Mich., after he was discharged from the U.S. Army with the rank of Major, 1st Inf. Div., in 1975.

With Dr. Heggie, Dr. Heggie served as the surgeon and commander of the Nellingen Health Clinic, Nellingen, West Germany. The clinic there had the capacity of serving 6,000 people.

What is known is that Dr. Heggie has already bought a house in Brent, though he temporarily resides at the Bibb County Hospital. He will move into his new home with his wife, Mrs. Gladys Sybil Heggie, and his two children, Melanie, 5, and David, 1, move down from Detroit.



NEW DOCTOR AND PROSPECTIVE DOCTOR WELCOMED TO COUNTY
Dr. William Owings, left, and Bibb County Hospital Board Chairman, Jim Oakley, Jr., right, welcome Dr. Glen Heggie second from left, and Dr. Sampat Shivanagi to Bibb County. Dr. Heggie has moved here and is in full-time practice with Dr. Owings. Dr. Shivanagi is in America from India, on a fellowship grant from Johns Hopkins University and is being sought for a possible location here in Bibb County.



MCKINNEY AUTO PARTS BUILDING NEAR COMPLETION

McKinney Auto Parts in West Blocton, will soon be open for business in the new 10,000 square foot building next door to the present location. They have formed a purchasing and sales connection with Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts, a national concern which will give them buying and selling price advantages. Opening date is tentatively set for November 1.

BCHS Student



NEW FACES IN BRENT

After incoming Brent City Mayor Jerry Pow was sworn into office by outgoing Mayor Melford Worrell Monday morning, Mayor Pow did the same for two new city council members. From left to right, Mayor Jerry Pow, Councilman Leroy (Spud) Burt and Councilman John Goodson, Jr.



Brierfield Furnace-Next State Park?

The Rise And Fall Of Brierfield Furnace

by David Hedstrom

This is a condensation of "A Brief History of Bibb Furnaces," by Stanley Michael Mahan, Jr., of Brierfield Furnace.

Following the Battle of New Orleans, Nathanial Macon, then two groups now and 14 men, were sent to the area to find Indian trails winding through the terrain of what is now Bibb County. At what became Indian Creek, they established Brierfield's official Bicentennial landmark on the standard road map.

It is reported that the anticipated future of Brierfield is revealed by the general price of iron in 1815, which was more than any other metal in the world.

Apparently, much of this land is now owned by the state of Alabama.

At what became Indian Creek, they established a thriving Indian village.

It is reported that the Indians were here for a long time.

After the Indians were gone, the site was used for a mill.

Following the Civil War, the mill was destroyed.

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After the


**BIBB COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



WHO WE ARE

Bibb County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a local unit of government dedicated to conserving and protecting natural resources—especially soil and water—on private lands. Alabama has 67 districts, one in each county, each led by a five-member board of appointed supervisors.

We promote the wise use and stewardship of Bibb County's natural resources by providing local leadership, technical assistance, education, and access to state and federal programs that help landowners make lasting, positive changes across the landscape.

Our Priorities

- Sustainable Forestry – Encouraging woodland management that balances ecological health with long-term economic returns.
- Soil Health – Promoting practices that build fertility, improve structure, and foster biodiversity.
- Water Quality Improvement – Improving water quality on private lands to keep Alabama's rivers, lakes, and aquifers clean for drinking, fishing, recreation, and long-term ecosystem health.
- Agricultural Viability – Helping farms remain productive and resilient while adopting conservation practices.
- Education – Making people passionate about conservation through education and awareness.
- Mission Statement – Our mission is to provide service, leadership, and assistance to all citizens for the wise use of conservation and development of our natural resources.

Soil and Water Matters!

DISTRICT BOARD & STAFF

Jeff James, Chairman
Sammy Holdensbeck, Vice Chairman
Jim Martin, Secretary/Treasurer
Rechelle Komegay, Supervisor
Kenneth Colburn, Supervisor
Debbie Clements, District Administrative Coordinator

MEETINGS

District board meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am at the district office and are open to the public.

CONTACT US

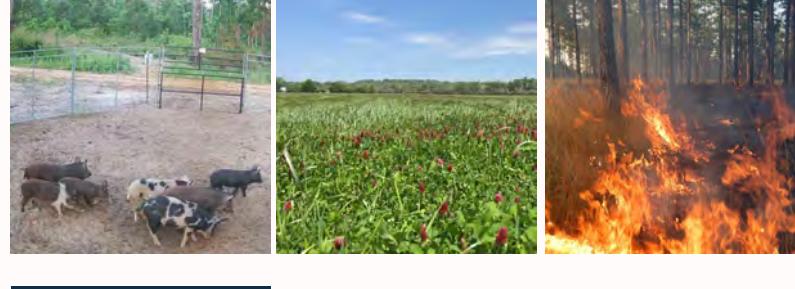
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**BIBB COUNTY
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CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

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NET-FERAL SWINE TRAP

Resource Concern: Water Quality

Rebate Amount: \$3,000.00

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Resource Concern: Erosion Control

Rebate Amount: \$12,000.00

PREScribed BURN

Resource Concern: Forestry

Rebate Amount: \$2,417.89

"I deeply appreciate the state's assistance in purchasing a feral swine trap. The program is an asset to the state of Alabama and to us personally. With this trap in place, I can actively manage the feral swine population -- reducing potential damage to both my property and the surrounding environment."

Matt Johnson, Bibb County

Soil and Water Matters!



CONSERVATION IN ACTION



CONSERVATION BY THE NUMBERS

- 500+ children reached through youth programs: Water festival, Forestry Awareness Week, Now, Arbor Day Events, and conservation contests.
- 50+ adults educated on conservation topics: NRCS programs, SWCD CIP programs, and local events.
- 20+ landowners received conservation technical assistance.
- \$300 awarded in the Conservation Stewardship poster/essay contest, with 75+ student participants.

Local Working Group

Bibb County Soil & Water Conservation District has their Annual Local Working Group on August 28, 2025. We had 25+ adults attend the meeting. We had speakers from Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Bibb County SWCD to cover topics from how to get started with a farm and tract number with FSA and programs provided by NRCS and Bibb County SWCD.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

PARTNERSHIP WITH DISTRICT

The Soil and Water Conservation District plays a crucial role in facilitating the implementation of NRCS initiatives and offerings within our county. Through these programs, we jointly pursue the objective of aiding landowners in protecting Bibb County's natural resources. In the fiscal year 2025, over \$407,495.95 in NRCS funding significantly impacted Bibb County in the form of disbursements to participants. NRCS technical guidance and local personnel and operational expenses.

NRCS FY2025 CONSERVATION IMPACT

PAID OUT
EQIP: \$62,784.86

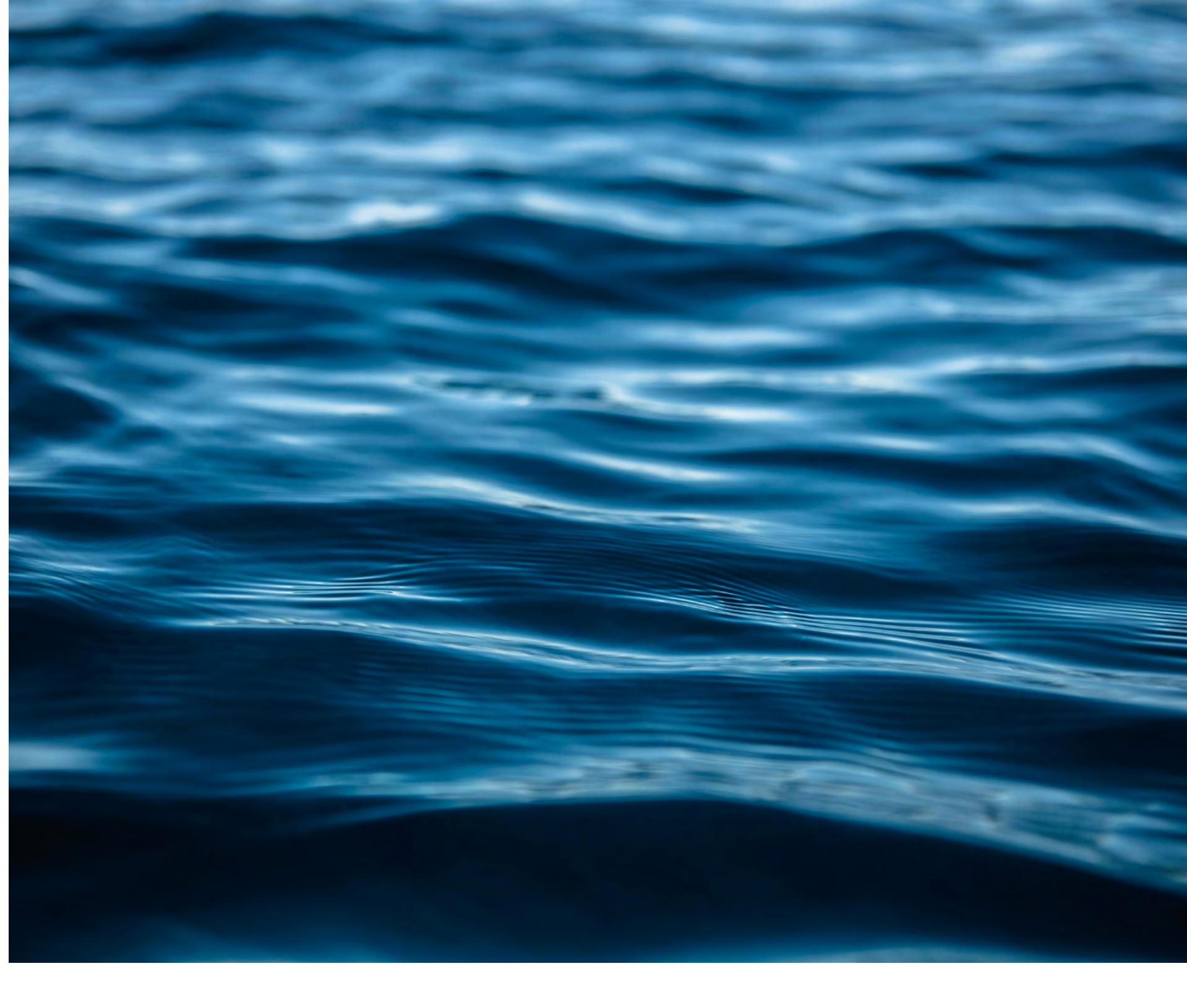
OBLIGATED
EQIP: \$177,967

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices that address resource concerns on their land.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Through CSP, participants take additional steps to improve resource condition, including soil quality, water quality, air quality and habitat quality.

Soil and Water Matters!



The BACK PAGE

What's Happening in February at BMC Wellness Center

(205) 926-3360

BMC WELLNESS CENTERbmcwellness.com**Adult Soccer | 5:00pm**

Thinking about playing adult co-ed soccer this season? Join us for a Q&A interest meeting to learn more about what to expect. We'll go over the upcoming season, registration details, league format, and answer any questions you may have.

UPCOMING EVENTS*** GALENTINE'S BODY SCULPT CLASS**

February 10th, 6:45pm

With Rebecca Fondren

Create Galentine's Day with a special Body Sculpt class focused on confidence, community, and fun. Same class format with extra Galentine's energy, music you help choose, and a sweet treat to finish. Bring a friend and come move with us!

*** 3-Point Shootout**

February 21st, 12:00pm

Open to anyone 18 and up, with a \$10 entry fee for members and nonmembers. Cash prize on the line, bragging rights guaranteed!

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

February is shaping up to be an exciting month at BMC Wellness Center, with op-

portunities for community members of all ages to get moving, connect, and try something new. One of the biggest announcements this

month is the opening of registration for Spring 2026 Soccer. Youth Soccer and Adult Co-Ed Soccer registration opens February 9, offering

players a chance to stay active, build skills, and be part of a supportive, team-focused environment. Whether your child is stepping onto the field for



Get ready to hit the field!

Spring 2026 Soccerbmcwellness.com/programs

Youth Soccer and **Adult Co-Ed Soccer** registration opens **February 9th**, offering opportunities for players of all ages to stay active, build skills, and be part of a supportive community. Whether you're signing up a young athlete or joining an adult league, our soccer programs focus on development, teamwork, and fun! Spots are limited, so mark your calendar and be ready to register.

YOUTH SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Our Youth Soccer and Swimming scholarship application period is open February 1st-28th. We believe every child deserves the chance to play, learn, and grow through sports!



the first time or you're considering joining an adult league, BMC's soccer programs emphasize development, teamwork, and fun. Spots are limited, so families and players are encouraged to mark their calendars and register early.

are encouraged to attend together and enjoy a night of movement and connection.

Later in the month, basketball fans can join the 3-Point Shootout on February 21 at 12:00 p.m. The event is open to anyone 18 and older, with a \$10 entry fee for both members and non-members. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top shooters, along with bragging rights guaranteed.

Adults interested in joining co-ed soccer this season can also attend a Q&A Interest Meeting on Adult Soccer, taking place at 5:00 p.m. This meeting is a great opportunity to learn more about the upcoming season, registration details, league format, and what to expect on and off the field, with plenty of time to ask questions.

February also brings several engaging events at the Wellness Center. On February 10 at 6:45 p.m., BMC will host a Galentine's Body Sculpt Class with Rebecca Fondren. This special class is designed to celebrate Galentine's Day with a focus on confidence, community, and fun.

Participants can expect a familiar Body Sculpt format with extra Galentine's energy, music chosen by the group, and a sweet treat to finish. Friends

scholarships are open February 1-28. These scholarships help ensure that every child has the opportunity to play, learn, and grow through sports, regardless of financial barriers.

For more information on programs, events, or scholarships, visit bmcwellness.com/programs or contact BMC Wellness directly. February is full of ways to move, connect, and be part of a thriving community at BMC Wellness!

BMC**HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER****HEART WALK**

BMC Wellness Center
Wednesday, February 25th | 10:00am-2:00pm

BMC SPECIALTY CLINIC - HEART SOUTH

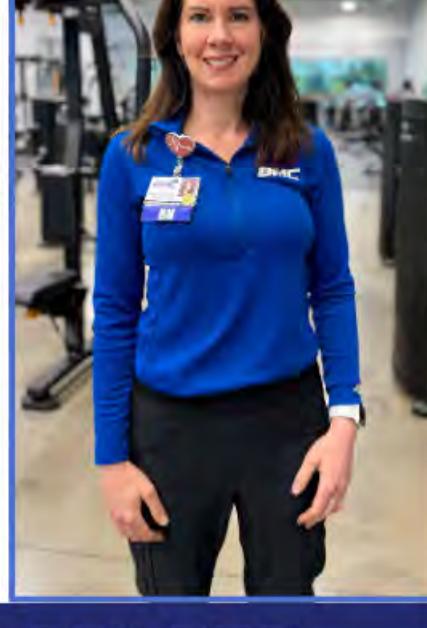
Our clinic can connect you with the area's most respected and highly trained specialist physicians!

Our physicians address each case with a comprehensive approach, combining personalized, compassionate care with modern technology and minimally-invasive techniques to produce the best patient outcomes possible. Skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of all cardiovascular conditions.

Contact your primary care provider to request a referral.

BMC JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**Bess Russell**

Bess has been a valued member of Bibb Medical Center since August 2018. What she loves most about working with us is the strong sense of teamwork and connection across departments, where everyone works together with a shared focus on patient care. Each day, Bess strives to make those around her feel valued by giving her time, effort, and best work to every interaction. Bess was drawn to a career in nursing through a calling to serve others, with a passion for prevention, education, and helping people navigate challenges before they become bigger obstacles.

**T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE \$20**

Purchase a BMC Heart Walk t-shirt in support of American Heart Month. Shirts can be purchased at the BMC Wellness Center Front Desk.

**SENIOR INDEPENDENCE MONTH**

As we age, our bodies naturally experience changes in muscle mass, bone density, and flexibility. Without regular movement, these changes can lead to a higher risk of falls, injuries, and loss of mobility. The good news? Exercise can slow down, prevent, or even reverse many of these effects!

Benefits of Regular Exercise for Seniors:

- Improves Balance & Stability: Reduces fall risks and enhances confidence in movement.
- Builds Strength & Endurance: Supports daily activities like carrying groceries or climbing stairs.
- Boosts Heart & Lung Health: Increases stamina and promotes overall well-being.
- Enhances Flexibility & Mobility: Helps with joint health and ease of movement.
- Supports Mental Health: Reduces stress, anxiety, and improves cognitive function.

WELLNESS CENTER

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