

# Centreville Press

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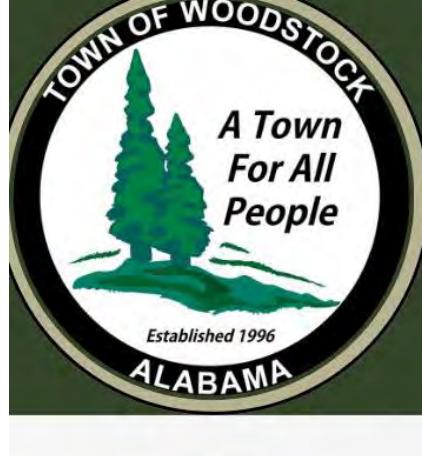
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## Town of Woodstock to Host Black History Month Celebration on February 27



### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Celebration!*



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FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 2026 • 6:00 PM

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

On behalf of Mayor Jeff Dodson and the Woodstock Town

Council, the Town of Woodstock is inviting the public to gather for an evening of reflection, inspiration, and celebration honoring

Black history and excellence within both the local community and across Alabama. The annual Black History Month Cele-

bration will take place on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Woodstock Town Hall, located at 28513 Highway 5 in Wood-

stock. Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend and take part in this meaningful event.

The evening will feature a powerful lineup of speakers whose lives and work reflect leadership, service, and resilience. April Rice, incoming Postmaster of Woodstock, will share her journey and commitment to serving the community. Stan Frierson, Battalion Chief of Training and Safety

for Birmingham Fire & Rescue and Dean of the EMS Education Institute, will speak on his experiences in public safety and education.

The keynote address will be delivered by Kirk Carrington, a Selma civil rights foot soldier, voting rights activist, eyewitness to history, and senior tour guide in Selma, Alabama. Carrington's firsthand experiences during the Civil Rights Movement offer a deeply personal con-

nnection to history, reminding audiences of the courage, sacrifice, and perseverance that helped shape the freedoms we continue to fight for today.

This annual celebration provides space not only to honor the past, but also to recognize the ongoing contributions of Black leaders, professionals, and advocates who continue to strengthen communities across the state. Through shared stories and reflection, the event aims to uplift voices, deepen understanding, and inspire continued progress.

The Town of Woodstock looks forward to welcoming residents and visitors alike for this special evening.

By coming together to commemorate Black history and excellence, the community reaffirms its commitment to unity, respect, and collective growth.

## United Way of West Alabama Recognizes 211 Day

Tuscaloosa, AL (February 11, 2026) – Today, February 11th (2/11) is National 211 Day – an annual observance celebrating the go-to, 24/7 three-digit (2-1-1) resource that helps millions of people in the U.S. and Canada – including those in Tuscaloosa and our surrounding counties: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Pickens and Sumter). The three-digit service – which has operated for more than 40 years – connects information about resources and services available in one's community.

Based on the latest 211 Impact Survey Data, 211 triaged 16.8 million requests and in West Alabama responded to more than 9,000 requests for immediate or long-term challenges.

211 is a vital resource leveraged by West Alabama residents who need assistance with disaster, food, health care, mental health, insurance, stable housing, utility payment, veteran services, child-care, and other related

needs. Other key facts about 211:

- 211 is 24/7, free and confidential and accessible in 99 percent of communities

- 211 is offered in more than 180 languages

- 211 specialists offer empathetic, non-judgmental care – and these trained specialists connect individuals and families to a range of available resources to meet their underlying needs, not just the one that prompted the call, text, or email.

“211 is an invaluable service. It goes beyond a general online search because it is supported by trained specialists who care and work every day to keep information current and reliable” said Torrey Price, 211 Helpline & Disaster Response Manager. “For 211 Day, we want our community to understand that 211 serves more than those seeking help. We also connect individuals, organizations, and volunteers who want to support neighbors in need.”

Established in 2000 by the Federal Communications Commission as the three-digit number to reach information and referral services for health, human, and social organizations, today 211 is a resource for help and hope in communities across North America.

While 211 is available every day of the year, it is especially helpful during times of disaster, such as hurricanes, flooding, and wildfires, by helping to spread accurate and vetted information—while ensuring 911 calls are reserved for physical emergencies.

For 211 Day, United Way of West Alabama encourages residents in West Alabama to:

- Call, text, or chat 211 if they or someone they know needs help

- Share 211 widely with their neighbors, family, and friends to connect others to help and supports

- Advocate to your local policymakers for the importance of and need to strengthen 211

## West Blocton Police Equip All Patrol Units with Life-Saving Medical Equipment

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

The West Blocton Police Department has taken another important step forward in strengthening public safety, thanks to the continued support of the Mayor and Town Council. All West Blocton patrol units are now fully equipped with basic first aid supplies and Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), expanding officers' ability to respond quickly and effectively during medical emergencies.

An AED is a critical life-saving device used when someone experiences sudden cardiac arrest. By helping restore a normal heart rhythm, AEDs can dramatically increase a person's chance of survival, especially when used within the first few minutes of an emergency. With these devices now available in every patrol vehicle, West Blocton officers are better prepared to provide immediate care while waiting for additional medical as-

sistance to arrive.

This investment reflects a proactive approach to community safety, ensuring that officers are not only first on scene but also equipped with the tools needed to act when every second counts.

Whether responding to a medical call, assisting at an accident, or encountering an unexpected health crisis, patrol officers now have enhanced resources to support residents in critical moments.

Town leadership's commitment to this initiative demonstrates a shared priority of protecting and serving the community in meaningful ways. The addition of AEDs and



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# NEWS

## Rural Hospital Investment Program Reaches \$20M Cap in Just One Month

MONTGOMERY — The Alabama Hospital Association (AlaHA) announced today that the \$20 million tax credit cap for the Alabama Rural Hospital Investment Program has been fully met, just one month after the program opened Jan. 5.

"This extraordinary response from individuals and businesses across the state speaks volumes about how much rural hospitals matter to the people they serve," said Vernon Johnson, chair of the AlaHA Board of Trustees and chief executive officer of Dale Medical Center. "Communities across Alabama stepped up immediately because they know access to local health care is essential to caring for families, supporting local jobs and sustaining community economies."

Approved by the Alabama Legislature during the 2024 legislative session, the Alabama Rural Hospital Investment Program was created to strengthen the financial stability of rural hospitals by encouraging private donations from individuals and businesses, with the added benefit of a state tax credit. Modeled after Georgia's highly successful HEART program, the initiative enables donors to invest directly in health care delivery systems serving their communities.

"As a nurse and someone who has spent years working on health care delivery issues at both

the state and federal level, I know how essential local hospitals are to the safety and well-being of families across Alabama," said Sen. April Weaver, R-Brierfield.

"When we worked to develop the Rural Hospital Investment Program, our goal was to give communities a practical way to support the hospitals that are so central to rural life," said Rep. Terri Collins, R-Decatur. "Seeing the cap met so quickly confirms that Alabamians understand the value of these hospitals, not only for health care, but for jobs and economic stability in their hometowns."

AlaHA President and CEO Danne Howard said the program's creation was made possible by strong legislative leadership and broad support across the Legislature.

"The success of this program would not have been possible without lawmakers who understood the vital role rural hospitals play in their communities," Howard said. "Alabama's hospitals are grateful to Sen. April Weaver, Rep. Terri Collins, legislative leadership and members of the Legislature for their support of the Alabama Rural Hospital Investment Program and their commitment to strengthening health care access across the state."

Howard said interest in the program was so strong that the cap could have been reached even sooner, reflecting the nor-

mal early administrative steps involved in launching a new statewide initiative.

"The speed at which the cap was met shows just how eager Alabamians were to support their rural hospitals," Howard said. "The overwhelming response to this program demonstrates both the need and the opportunity to continue strengthening rural health care across the state."

The swift and generous participation of donors across the state reflected broad recognition of the impact rural hospitals have throughout Alabama, Joseph Marchant said.

"This was a clear show of local support," said Marchant, chair of the AlaHA Rural Hospital Constituency Section and chief executive officer of Bibb Medical Center. "Individuals and businesses invested because these hospitals care for their neighbors, provide jobs and anchor their communities. That level of engagement is incredibly meaningful."

With the inaugural cap reached in record time, Vernon Johnson said the next step is to build on the program's momentum.

"The support for this program is undeniable," Johnson said. "We look forward to working with policymakers to grow the program and increase the cap so even more rural hospitals and communities can benefit."

## Chipped EBT Cards Rolling Out Statewide



MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Human Resources is pleased to announce Alabama EBT cardholders will be receiving new, chip-enabled EBT cards.

After a successful pilot program in December 2025, chip-enabled EBT cards have been mailed to ALL cardholders across the state and will arrive in the coming days.

EBT cardholders will need to activate their new card when it arrives in the mail. To activate the chipped card, cardholders will now be prompted by EBT Customer Service to enter their card number, DOB, zip code, 3-digit security code, and the expiration date. New cards must be activated within 180 days after issuance. After activating the new EBT card,

cardholders should destroy the old card immediately.

Please note: All new cards are automatically defaulted to block out of state and online purchases. If a cardholder wishes to make a purchase outside of Alabama or online, they must first unlock their card via the ConnectEBT Mobile App, ConnectEBT website, or the EBT Customer Service phone number.

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grade, our clients can have more confidence that their benefits will be there when they purchase groceries.

This is not the end; we will continue to work and develop new and innovative ways to better protect our clients and their benefits."

Alabama DHR also recommends all EBT clients continue locking their card through the ConnectEBT app when it is not in use. Also, it is important that cardholders do not swipe these new cards. The chip is the most secure and effective option when using the card.

For EBT cardholders needing assistance with the new chip-enabled EBT card, please call EBT Customer Service at 1-800-997-8888.

## More Oil Drilling in Conecuh National Forest?



According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, oil production in the United States has been mostly up, up and away since the COVID pandemic. Actually, that's been the general trend since 2011 except for a couple of blips in economic history: An oil-price plunge in 2015-16 and then the aforementioned pandemic.

We've been the world's top producer each year beginning in 2018, and when the '25 numbers are all official, we'll likely have broken the all-time oil production record four years running.

We know some of the federal politics on the issue: President Trump cut regulations and effectively expanded drilling during his first term, and although President Biden promised to end drilling on public land, he didn't. Despite not entering into new pub-

lic leases, the Biden administration continued to approve drilling permits for existing leases, and by '23 the U.S. was breaking its own world records for drilling again.

Now, with the second Trump administration in charge, the White House is looking to again expand drilling on public lands as well as offshore.

And a proposal from the U.S. National Forest Service would put nearly all of Conecuh National Forest up for lease, reports AL.com's Margaret Kates.

It doesn't mean you'll see a derrick on each of the 83,000 acres.

The Bureau of Land Management, which handles oil and gas leasing, projected a demand for 11 new wells in the forest over the next 15 years, affecting up to 44 acres.

But it would mean more roads and traffic for sure. Other down-

sides include the potential for displaced hunting, fishing, camping and such.

And a big one for environmentalists: The Conecuh National Forest is a premier remaining longleaf pine forest ecosystem that is home to endangered species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and the gopher tortoise.

The Nature Conservancy's data shows that the Southeastern U.S. once had more than 90 million acres of longleaf forest -- and today that's down to around 5 million.

How much might the drilling affect the local environment? That's something that has some folks concerned.

Said local biologist Jimmy Stiles, who lives in the forest: "There are former oil sites that have been there for 20-plus years and still can't support native wildlife."

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## LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

### Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of Marjorie Jean Young Ivey who passed away on January 25, 2026. Services were held on February 5, 2026. Marjorie Jean will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Belated birthday wishes go out to Earl Watts who celebrated his 85th birthday recently.

Birthday wishes also go out to Sawyer James Suttle who recently celebrated his 1st birthday.

Among those with birthdays in February are Hazel McDonald, Sandra S. Horton, Georgia Magouirk, Karen Fancher Peak, John Poe, Jimmy King, Mike Royer, Amanda Sarah Webb.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Stevie Lee Smith who passed away on January 29, 2026 at the age of 67. Stevie will be greatly missed by his family.

and friends.

Jonette McCool Ross and Debbie McCool Perry of West Blocton spent the day recently with Mary Owens at Centreville.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Marcus Douglas Fondren, age 66 of Brent, AL who passed away on January 30, 2026 at UAB West. Services for Marcus were held on February 6, 2026 at Sardis Church in Heiberger, AL. He was laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery. Marcus will be missed greatly.

A fellowship luncheon was held at Brent Baptist Church on Sunday February 1, 2026 after morning services.

Anniversary wishes go out to Tom and Iva Claire who recently celebrated their wedding anniversary.

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

### Bibb Belles and Little Belles to host Tea Party on Feb. 22

BY CANACE JOHNSON  
REPORTER

The Bibb Belles and Little Belles will host a Tea Party on Feb. 22 from 3-5:30 p.m. at the River of Life Church. The Bibb Belles are a group of women who represent the Bibb County Chamber of Commerce and the local community, fostering leadership, ser-

vice, and professional development among young women. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet members of the organization. Tickets are \$10 each for 12 and under, and \$5 for adults. Guests are encouraged to dress in formal attire. For more information, contact Bibb Belle or sponsor.



### CENTREVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: February 3, 2026

By Lynn Hamric

Mayor Barry Cooner called the meeting to order at five o'clock. Present were Council members: Aaron Hood, Akeyla Holfield, Linda Lawrence, Dianne Epperson and Don A Mack, Sr.

Guest: Tom Ogletree, Davis Lawrence, Katie, Cheslock, Lynn Hamric, Chief Rodney Smith and City Clerk Tracy Griffin.

The meeting opened with prayer by Don Mack and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Linda Lawrence.

A motion to approve the minutes was made (Dianne Epperson), seconded (Linda Lawrence). Motion carried.

New Business: Police Chief Rodney Smith made the following report. The required CEU classes have officers signed up through June 26, 2026. Michael Shirley will have shoulder surgery (resulting from an on-the-job injury) on Wednesday and will be out on workman's comp leave until late April of early May de-

pending on rehab. One officer is still scheduled to leave the force in April. One officer will be on paternity leave for two weeks in mid-May.

Appreciation was expressed by the Police Chief for the Mayor getting J&L Tree Service to repair the flagpole at the police department.

The white digital sign has been repaired and will be back in service soon.

As a reminder, when the officer leaves in April the force will be down three officers.

There will be four police officers, including the Chief and two SRO's. These cover a 24/7 schedule. Officers from the county and Brent are assisting on their off days.

Mayor Cooner asked Chief Smith to provide the council (before the next meeting) a work schedule for the four officers.

Council member Epperson asked for the hours the SRO's are to work school traffic. After discussing the

hours it was decided the officers need to be on the job earlier (7:20) to coincide with the bus traffic. Mayor Cooner emphasized that public safety is the #1 concern. He reminded everyone that the Board of Education provides \$40,000 salary for the SRO's and the city covers the benefits.

The police car that was involved in an accident with a deer should be back in service soon. The other car is waiting on parts.

A motion to approve the 2025-2026 budget, was made with the understanding that line items may be adjusted as needed (Don Mack) seconded (Aaron Hood). Motion carried.

Board Appointees:

The composition and appointments for water and zoning boards will be re-visited within the next couple of weeks.

TruckWorx: A representative will meet with council members before the next council meeting.

A Proclamation on Black History Month was read by Councilman Don Mack. A motion to approve was made (Don Mack) seconded (Aaron Hood). Motion approved.

Grant Application: A grant request is being submitted requesting funding for a water well to supply the north section of the Centreville system, two water tanks, a fire truck and police cars. Bibb County has been underserved and has a good chance of receiving funding for the FY27 year.

Other Business: Don Mack announced the February 28th HD Davidson Founders Meeting at eleven o'clock. Historic Black Cemetery marker dedication on March 7th.

February 20-22 Severe Weather Awareness.

July 17-19 School Tax Weekend

Open Public Comment: None

There being no other business.

### CENTREVILLE WATER BOARD

Meeting Date: February 9, 2026

By Lynn Hamric

Josh Colburn, Chair, called the meeting to order at five o'clock. The meeting opened with prayer by Jimmy Marti followed by Linda Lawrence leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Additional board members Seth Young and Randy Burt were present along with Water Clerk, Leslie Sawyer. Guest Lynn Hamric was also present.

Larry Oikle reported three requests for bill adjustments due to irregular water usage. The Board denied one and approved two.

Larry brought to the Board a request for call-out pay for water department employees. Currently there are six employees, each on call-out every six weeks. The request was for overtime pay during this time. After a discussion including input from board members as to how their businesses handle call-out pay it was decided that the employee would receive straight time pay. This covers weekend and holidays.

Larry brought to the

attention of the board the age and condition of existing water meters. Various types and companies were discussed with Collins adding his engineering experience. It was decided that additional information for various companies will be obtained to include presentations from same.

This will continue to be discussed with no additional action taken. It currently requires two employees/truck three days to read meters electronically. If meters are read manually

Larry estimated that it would require five employees taking four days.

Mayor Cooner reported that an appropriate response has been forwarded by both him and Don Wallace, CPA, to Chase Bank. Receipt of same was acknowledged and the city advised further contact would be made if additional information is necessary.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

### Centreville Main Street Welcomes Ashton Cottingham as New Board President

BY SAVANNA LOGAN  
REPORTER

Centreville Main Street is proud to welcome Ashton Cottingham as its new Board President, marking an exciting new chapter for the organization and for downtown Centreville.

A familiar face across the community, Ashton is known for his leadership, generosity, and genuine heart for Centreville. His appointment reflects both his long-standing involvement with Main Street and his commitment to seeing the district continue to grow and thrive.

Having previously served as Treasurer, Ashton brings valuable experience and a strong understanding of the Main Street Alabama 4-Point Approach, a framework focused on community revitalization through economic vitality, design, promotion, and organization.

Ashton is deeply rooted in the local business and agricultural communities. He serves as an ALFA Insurance agent with

an office located in the Uptown portion of the district and is the owner of River City Cattle Company. He is also a proud member of both the Bibb County Cattlemen's Association and the Bibb County Chamber of Commerce, reflecting his dedication to strengthening connections across industries throughout the county.

Those who have worked alongside Ashton know him as a driving force behind Main Street's fundraising efforts and programming. His hands-on approach and steady leadership have

helped move initiatives forward, and his vision aligns closely with Centreville Main Street's mission to create a vibrant, welcoming, and thriving downtown.

Looking ahead, Ashton is especially excited about engaging young people in the future of Centreville. When asked what he is most looking forward to in the year ahead, he shared his enthusiasm for working with

local high school students through the new Centreville Main Street Ambassador Program, an initiative designed to help youth become more involved in their community.

"I am excited about working with local high school students as part of our new Centreville Main Street Ambassador Program to get them more involved," Ashton said. "I hope we can bring some new life to Uptown this year and I am looking forward to working to try to make Centreville a better place."

With Ashton stepping into the role of Board President, Centreville Main Street continues its momentum toward growth, collaboration, and revitalization. His leadership represents a strong blend of experience, community pride, and forward-thinking vision – qualities that will help guide the organization as it works to strengthen Uptown and create lasting opportunities for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

## EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

# Emerging Gubernatorial Candidates Reach For Issues To Run On

*Opinion by Mike Hobson*



The world of politics sometimes brings out the best, or the worst, of people you think you know something about. The 2026 Governor's race is going to boil the cauldron, with candidates looking for talking points they think may give them a vote getting edge over the competition.

Doug Jones, a long-time Democrat, has entered the race for Governor and his popular competitor, Former Auburn Coach and U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville, is his formidable Republican opponent.

Jones became well known in Alabama after Bill Clinton appointed him U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama (1997-2001). While in that role he prosecuted major civil rights cases, winning convictions against two members of the KKK for the 1963 bombing of the Birmingham 16th Street Baptist church. After his U.S. Attorney term Jones returned to private law practice in Birmingham and re-emerged on the political scene when former Senator Jeff Sessions resigned to become U.S. Attorney General.

Jones ran against former Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore, narrowly defeating Moore by a 50% to 48% margin. Jones became the first Democrat to win a U.S. Senate seat in about 25 years after an ugly race that forever humiliated and tarnished the reputation of Roy Moore. Jones served from 2018 to 2021 and was defeated in a landslide race by Tommy Tuberville in the 2020 election.

Jones' latest return to the political arena requires him to look for issues that may win votes against Tuberville in the current 2026 race for Governor. In the last few weeks Jones has taken sides in the recent maelstrom involving the Alabama Public Library System. Jones has taken a public stance in opposition to the current Alabama Public Library Service board's policies, particularly those seen as restricting access to certain books in public libraries. He has positioned himself as a defender of free speech, access to information, and supportive of public libraries — and has promised to overhaul the library board if elected, replacing members whom he says are pursuing a political agenda rather than serving community library needs. These positions seem to revolve around happenings with a single library board in Fairhope, over access by minors to books that contain prurient content. The APLS board has voted to withhold state funding from the Fairhope Public Library by a 3-2 vote.

On a livestream podcast last week Jones said "Well, I got to tell you, Jennifer, that buck stops and stops and starts with the governor of the state, and it will go down from that, and you will see in my administration that the governor will be a champion of public libraries, a champion of free speech, a champion of making sure libraries are free and have access to a lot of information."

tion. You are absolutely right, libraries", Jones argued on his X livestream. "So like so many of our freedom of speech rights, freedom of the press rights have been under siege in the last couple of years, particularly in Alabama when it comes to libraries."

"So the governor can do a couple of things," Jones explained. "The first thing that I can tell you I would do is I'd get rid of a few people on that library board, and have some people with some common sense and not some crazy political agenda that we see constantly, and so that they can work with public libraries to make sure that folks have access to information."

"Look and I understand that there are concerns about some books that are maybe inappropriate for young kids, that's those can be remedied without removing them," Jones said.

"Those things can be fixed without trying to ban books and do the kind of things that we've seen happening. Those things can be worked on with people to try to do the things that are the right things for that community, and libraries should answer to their communities, no question about that."

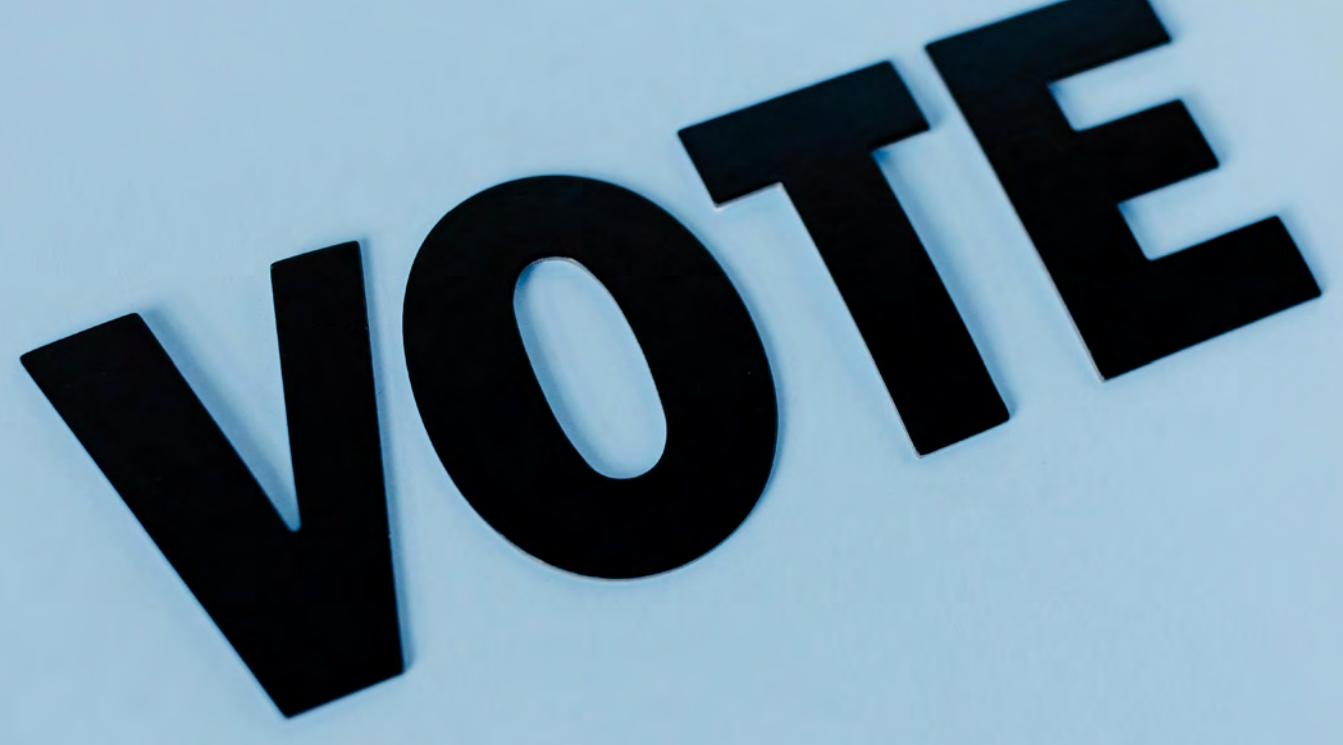
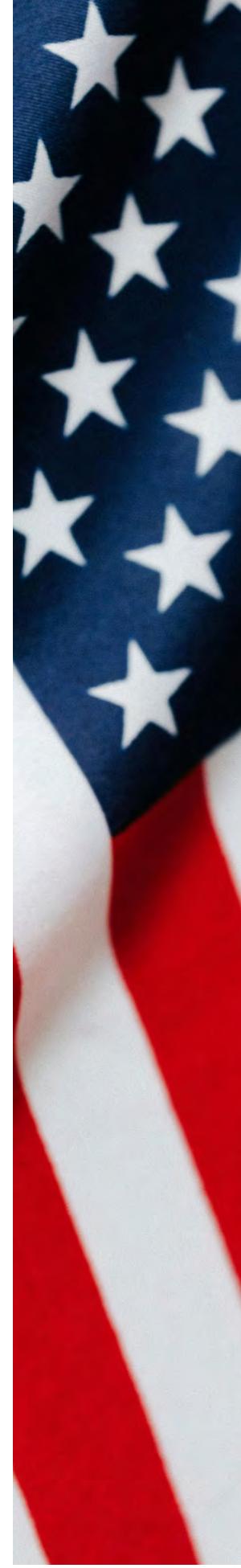
The truth is different that the spin Jones is weaving over public libraries and sacred first amendment rights. The APLS board has not attempted or recommended that any books be banned or removed from the Fairhope Library. They have recommended moving sexually explicit materials into sections of the library that limit access by minor children, a position that most sensible adults can support, yet the local Fairhope board has refused.

If you care about your children, and your parental rights to make decisions about them, you should be following what is going on in Alabama with the administration of public libraries. You should be wary of those who accuse their opponents of being militant book banners or book burners. Don't be fooled by the same "Roy Moore tactics" we witnessed and suffered through in earlier political battles. Do your own research on the issue and be careful when you go to the ballot box in 2026.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article is an opinion. The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect the views or opinions of Bibb Community Media, The Bibb Voice or the Centreville Press.

Resources: <https://yellowhammernews.com/as-governor-doug-jones-vows-to-oust-crazy-alabama-public-library-board-members-over-political-agenda/>

<https://www.bibbvoice.com/2025/11/16/rebecca-watson-parental-rights-are-not-censorship/>



## Centreville Press

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David Daniel.....President  
Thomas Michael Hobson .....Editor  
Lynn Hamric.....Reporter  
Savanna Logan.....Reporter  
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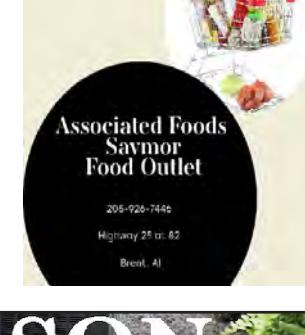
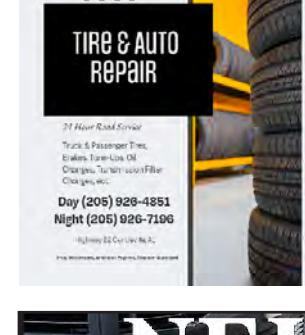
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Bethlehem Baptist Centreville	Rising Star Baptist Centreville 926-4115	West Blocton Bible Methodist Church 355 Camellia Lane, West Blocton 205-826-5763
Bibb Baptist Association Centreville 926-7866	Rehobeth Baptist Lawley 663-2907	Shady Grove Baptist Randolph 366-1163
Bibbville Baptist Woodstock 938-2015	Schultz Creek Baptist West Blocton 938-9766	Shady Grove II Baptist West Blocton 938-0120 Pastor 834-2557
Brent Baptist Brent 926-7687	Shady Grove Baptist Randolph 366-1163	Mt. Sinai Church Centreville 256-577-8137
Cahaba Valley Baptist Centreville 926-5927	Shiloh Baptist Centreville 926-7041	James Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church 926-5607
Calvary Baptist Centreville 926-4079	Six Mile Baptist Brierfield	Bible Methodist West Blocton 938-0091
Camp Branch Baptist Church 2590 Camp Branch Rd West Blocton	Smith Hill Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	Hopewell A.M.E. Zion Harrisburg 926-5777
Cedar Grove Baptist West Blocton 938-0828	Thomas Mill Baptist Centreville 926-6882	New Hope AME West Blocton 540-8016
Centreville Baptist Centreville 926-7069	Union Baptist Church 722 Magnolia St West Blocton	Tabernacle United Methodist Lawley
Community Baptist Centreville	West Blocton First Baptist 938-7392	Waymon Chapel AME Brierfield 205-665-4730
Deer Creek Missionary Baptist Church Centreville 225-0460	<b>BIBLE</b> Grace Bible Woodstock 938-7763	West Scottsville United Methodist Church North Scottsville Road 451-3624
Ebener Baptist Church Brierfield 665-4865	<b>CATHOLIC</b> Church Of The Holy Spirit Tuscaloosa 553-9733	<b>NAZARENE</b> Ridgeville Church Of The Nazarene Brent
Enon Baptist Centreville 926-4517	St. Thomas The Apostle Church Montevallo 663-3936	Spencer Church Of The Nazarene Brent
Eoline Baptist Eoline 926-7448	<b>CHRISTIAN</b> Marvel Christian Union Montevallo 345-7018	<b>PENTECOSTAL</b> New Life West Blocton Pastor Greg Brock 205-441-2809
Faith Baptist West Blocton 938-7220	<b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> Centreville Church Of Christ 926-LOVE	First United Pentecostal Church of Centreville
First Baptist Church of Woodstock 205-938-7479	North Bibb Church of Christ Woodstock 477-6121	<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> Brent Presbyterian P.C.A. 926-4722
Four Points Baptist Centreville 926-7775	West Blocton Church of Christ West Blocton 938-7108	Centreville First Presbyterian P.C.A. 926-4261
Green Pond Baptist Green Pond 938-7769	Evangelist Temple Brent 926-6430	Green Pond Presbyterian Presbyterian Church Rd 205-938-2344
Haysop Baptist Centreville 205-310-1316	<b>CHURCH OF GOD</b> Church of God of Prophecy at Eoline 256-393-9625 Pastor Shane Pate	Pleasant Hill Upper Cumberland Presbyterian Church Centreville 926-4409
Hopewell Primitive Baptist West Blocton 553-7603	Church Of God Of Prophecy West Blocton 938-2788	<b>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</b> First Brent Seventh Day Adventist 926-6328
Johntown Baptist West Blocton 938-7621	Caffee Junction Church Of God 205-477-5468	<b>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b> Fellowship Community 926-6800
Liberty Baptist West Blocton 938-2090	River of Life Church of God 9225 Hwy 82, Brent 205-926-7600	Scottsville Union Church Co. Rd. 9 Scottsville 205-503-6096
Liberty Baptist Duncanville 759-9647 / 759-4074	West Blocton Church of God Cty Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988	Victory Tabernacle Church 1008 Walnut Street Centreville 926-9455 or 361-2763 Pastor Butch Tucker
Liberty Freewill Baptist 926-6496	Evangelist Temple Brent 926-6430	Yahweh's Harvest 926-9044
Little Hope Primitive Baptist Centreville 926-4236	<b>CHURCH OF THE</b> LORD JESUS CHRIST 2300 South Scottsville Rd Centreville 926-5393	<b>EPISCOPAL</b> The Church Of The Holy Comforter Montevallo 665-2769
Lowerytown Baptist West Blocton 938-2436	River of Life Church of God 9225 Hwy 82, Brent 205-926-7600	St. Andrews Episcopal Church 925 Plowman Street Montevallo 665-1667
Lucille Baptist West Blocton 966-3556	West Blocton Church of God Cty Rd. 21 Smith Hill 205-966-4988	<b>HOLINESS</b> Deliverance Temple Holiness Four Points 926-5565
Mission Baptist Woodstock 938-7096	Victory Tabernacle Church 1008 Walnut Street Centreville 926-9455 or 361-2763 Pastor Butch Tucker	Word of Faith Worship Center Centreville 926-4555
Mt. Carmel Baptist West Blocton 938-2379	Yahweh's Harvest 926-9044	Free Will Apostolic Holiness Antioch 926-9252
Mt. Ebell Baptist Brent 926-9223	<b>EPISCOPAL</b> The Church Of The Holy Comforter Montevallo 665-2769	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsville Road Brent 926-5009
Mt. Grove Baptist 938-3410	St. Andrews Episcopal Church 925 Plowman Street Montevallo 665-1667	Associated Foods Savmor Food Outlet Highway 28 or. 82 Brent, AL
Mt. Moriah Baptist West Blocton 926-5425	<b>HOLINESS</b> Deliverance Temple Holiness Four Points 926-5565	Free Will Apostolic Holiness Antioch 926-9252
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church Brent 926-9009	Word of Faith Worship Center Centreville 926-4555	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsville Road Brent 926-5009
Mt. Tabor Baptist Brent 926-7156	Free Will Apostolic Holiness Antioch 926-9252	Trinity Spirit Holiness Church Centreville 926-4321
Mt. Zion Baptist Centreville 334-366-5903	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsville Road Brent 926-5009	<b>METHODIST</b>
New Hebron Baptist West Blocton 938-2101	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsville Road Brent 926-5009	TNT TIRE & AUTO REPAIR
New Hope Missionary Baptist Randolph 334-366-1199	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsville Road Brent 926-5009	Associated Foods Savmor Food Outlet Highway 28 or. 82 Brent, AL
New Life Baptist Church Centreville 205-541-7072	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsville Road Brent 926-5009	Associated Foods Savmor Food Outlet Highway 28 or. 82 Brent, AL
New Pleasant Valley Brent 926-9045	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsville Road Brent 926-5009	Associated Foods Savmor Food Outlet Highway 28 or. 82 Brent, AL
Pinegrove Missionary Baptist Brent 225-0139	Real Truth Holiness Church 646 S. Scottsville Road Brent 926-5009	Associated Foods Savmor Food Outlet Highway 28 or. 82 Brent, AL



## "Jesus Paid It All"

Has your mind ever wandered during a church service? Don't worry, you're not alone. The author of the well-known and beloved hymn "Jesus Paid It All" penned the lyrics while sitting in her normal spot up in the choir loft of Monument Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland on a hot summer day in the year 1865.

During a lengthy prayer that the pastor seemed to have no intention of ending any time soon, Elvina M. Hall began pondering the beauty in the meaning behind what Jesus did on the cross and our dearest need for salvation. As her mind wandered, words began to flow from her mind so quickly that she had to write them down immediately before they left her. Without paper on hand, she scribbled them into the back of her hymnal. The words she wrote were: "Jesus paid it all. All to Him, I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow. He washed away, and when before the throne I stand in him complete. Jesus died my soul to save. My lips shall still repeat."

After the service, Hall took the lyrics she had just penned and showed them to her pastor, Rev. George W. Schreck. Coincidentally, earlier just that same week, the

church organist, John Grape, had approached Rev. Schreck with a new melody he had written that he titled "All to Christ I Owe." Thinking that this tune paired with Hall's lyrics could make a great song, Rev. Schreck brought the two together to collaborate. After completing the hymn together, they then sent the completed hymn to Professor Theodore Perkins, who was a publisher of the Sabbath Carols Periodical. Once the song received its first publication, the rest is history.

Growing up in a small, Southern Baptist church, hymns were all I knew until I was a teenager. While my friends always thought the hymns were boring and hard to understand, I always adored how poetic they were. Like Hall, when I found my mind wandering during a service (because hey, it happens), usually I would reach forward to flip through the hymnal and read the lyrics to my favorites, mulling over the words' reverence to my God. I still believe there is just something so beautiful about the ebbs and flows of these many melodies and verses within these beloved hymns a good deal of us know and love.

What a mighty God we serve. Indeed, it is "all to Him [we] owe."

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## A LOOK BACK AT 1976

### I.D. Tags Found 32 Years Later



LOIEL H. FRANKS  
World War II photo

Loiel Hillman Franks of West Blocton was a 20-year-old aerial gunner in the Navy when he was killed in a 1944 mid-air crash of two planes in Virginia.

Clarence Franks, a brother who still lives in West Blocton, said Wednesday that about a week after the crash the Navy sent a casket with what was supposed to contain the remains of his brother's body.

The family wasn't allowed to open it and "we had no way of knowing what was in it," Franks, an employee of the B.F. Goodrich plant in Tuscaloosa, said.

Funeral services for the Navy man were held in the West Blocton Methodist Church and he was buried in nearby Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

A Virginia Electric Power Co. crew discovered a badly burned engine of an airplane while digging a trench in Virginia Beach on Friday. More digging turned up gauges and expended .50 caliber machine gun shells.

Lineman Thomas E. Salch was intrigued by the mystery engine and returned to the site Sunday. He found more shells that appeared to have exploded in a fire. Salch called Oceana Naval Air Station, and the station's flight support officer, Lt. Cmdr. Allan Myer, went to the scene.

On Monday and Tuesday, Myer uncovered more shells, a radio, three bomb racks, flare gun shells, a fuel cell, parachute buckles that were still snapped and an identification tag.

It was the "Dog tag" that provided the clue to the fate of the plane and its crew. The tag bore the name "L. H. Franks," along with his blood type, religion, serial number and T-143.

Myer learned from the Bureau of Naval Personnel that Franks died in an airplane crash May 18, 1944.

A search of old newspaper files showed two planes collided in mid-air near Kempsville. Four Navy men were killed and one managed to parachute to safety. Franks was aboard the plane from which the pilot escaped.

Clarence Franks says he wants his brother's identification tag and "anything else of his brother's that is found."

Franks said he had not been contacted as of Wednesday afternoon by the military about the matter. (He later was.) He said he had called Myer but that he was out on a flight. He said he was going to ask Congressman Walter Flowers' office to look into the matter.

### Two Escape In Sunday Break

by David Hedstrom

Two Bibb County Jail prisoners allegedly used an eight-inch knife and a piece of pipe to overcome jailer Austin LeVert of Centreville before escaping Sunday afternoon. The two escapees have not been apprehended, according to Bibb County Sheriff Glenn Smitherman Tuesday.

The two escapees are identified as Randy Hollinquest, 19, of Bessemer and Presley James Bailey, 26, of Birmingham. Sentenced to 15 years in the state penitentiary for the armed robbery of Hattie's Grocery in Woodstock in 1975, Hollinquest was to be tried this week for a previous escape in August. Bailey was being held here for jumping parole in Birmingham and driving without a license, Smitherman said.

LeVert said in a written statement that he was the only county official at the jail Sunday when he opened the "No. 2" cell to place an unidentified inmate inside where several other male prisoners were kept about 3:40 p.m. Hollinquest jumped LeVert before he could close the door, he stated.

"We started scuffling," LeVert said. "I was attempting to push him back in the door when Bailey ran out the door to help Hollinquest."

"Bailey had a piece of pipe and kept hitting the wall about me. Hollinquest had a knife about eight inches long in his left hand," LeVert said and Smitherman explained that someone had smuggled the weapons to the two convicts. "At one time he (Hollinquest) laid the knife to my throat. He kept the knife in front of me where I could see it."

Finally, the escapees forced LeVert to the floor, picked him up

and "just threw" him into the cell and locked him inside. A "female inmate" who had been sleeping upstairs came down during the struggle, saw what was taking place and woke up a "male inmate" sleeping on the third floor.

The male inmate "came down one flight of stairs and saw Hollinquest and Bailey on the main (first) floor," LeVert stated. "The inmate went back up the stairs to put his shoes on, and came back to the main floor. The escapees had gone."

The male inmate quickly released LeVert with an extra key kept at the desk. LeVert reported that the other inmates in the cell did not assist the escapees and did not attempt to harm him.

Once he was released, LeVert found that a window in the dining room window was open--the obvious escape route. He also discovered that the wire connecting the microphone to the police radio had been cut and that the microphone had been tossed into a rest room. This is reminiscent of the receiver Hollinquest cut from a telephone when he robbed Hattie's Grocery in Woodstock on May 7, 1975.

LeVert called Centreville Police Chief James Lawrence at his home by telephone and Lawrence alerted city and county police. LeVert got the radio back into operation about 4 p.m.

The two black escapees should be considered armed and dangerous. Though Hollinquest only used the knife to threaten LeVert, he cut the driver of a beer truck he stole in Bessemer during his first escape in August, Smitherman reported earlier. The Birmingham police apprehended Hollinquest just after the beer truck hijacking and returned him to the custody of Bibb County.

#### USS KITTY HAWK CHANGE OF COMMAND



Captain Samuel W. Hubbard, Jr., Commanding Officer of USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) will be relieved by Captain Edward J. HOGAN, JR., in ceremonies aboard the aircraft carrier, November 20, 1976.

Captain HUBBARD has commanded the KITTY HAWK since May 15, 1975. During this period, the carrier made her tenth Western Pacific Cruise, which ended on December 15, 1975. The seven-month deployment saw the KITTY HAWK and Air Wing ELEVEN participate in many operational exercises to maintain high state of readiness. On the transit home to San Diego the HAWK stopped at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to refuel and embark approximately 350 male relatives of crewmembers. The family members participated in Operation Tiger, a program designed to allow relatives of Navy men to experience life at sea. The "Tigers" rode with the KITTY HAWK for the six-day transit from Hawaii to San Diego.

KITTY HAWK arrived at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard on March 12, 1976 for a complex overhaul period which is scheduled to last approximately 12 and one half months. KITTY HAWK currently has a crew of approximately 2,500 people and will accomplish over 1,700,000 man hours of overhaul related work. She will be the first carrier to get the NATO Seasparrow missile defense system, one of many alterations scheduled during the overhaul.

Captain HUBBARD is a native of Centreville, Ala. He graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) in August 1951 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Captain HUBBARD entered the Navy as a Naval Aviation Cadet in November 1951. He was commissioned Ensign and designated a Naval Aviator in April 1953. In June 1967, then Commander HUBBARD, graduated from the Command and Staff Course of the Naval War College. In October, 1967, he reported to Fighter Squadron 62 as Executive Officer and subsequently took command of the squadron in August 1968. He served as Commander Carrier Air Wing NINETEEN aboard USS ORISKANY from May 1971 to June 1972.

Captain HUBBARD graduated from the National War College in July 1973, and received a Master of Arts Degree in International Affairs from George Washington University. He assumed command of USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148) in September 1973 and was relieved in February 1975.

Captain HUBBARD has been awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat V, the Air Medal with numeral fourteen in lieu of the second through fourteenth awards, and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V and stars in Lieu of second through fourth awards for combat in Southeast Asia.

Captain HUBBARD is married to Elizabeth Lee Whiteley, of Newton, Mass. They have four children, Lynn, Kathryn, Jessica and Benjamin.

### School Projects Slated For Bibb

CENTREVILLE — Construction of a new Bibb County Junior High School gym to replace the one that was destroyed by fire last winter is expected to begin about the first of the year.

A.D. Lovelady Construction Co. of Plantersville

was the low bidder for a package of three Bibb

County school projects when

bids were opened Wednesday afternoon at the

office of Bibb County

Superintendent of Education

Luman Kornegay.

Lovelady's bid was \$803,000 for construction of

the gym, remodeling and

renovations to Bibb County

Junior High and an addition

to the Brent Elementary

School.

Kornegay said the gym

would include two

classrooms, stage, dressing

rooms for boys and girls,

storage space and offices for

physical education teachers.

The new gym will be located near the site of the old gym but farther from Highway 82.

Renovation of the junior

high school includes both

interior and exterior work.

Exterior work is expected to

start before Christmas. Most

interior work will be done

when school is out in May.

"We hope to move into the

new building when the 1978-

79 school term starts next

August," Kornegay said.

The interior work includes

lowering the ceiling, com-

pletely rewiring the school, a

new heating system, air

conditioning, and carpeting.

The exterior work will

include reworking the

columns in the front of the

building, cleaning the brick,

a new roof and redoing

woodwork.

A library and two

classrooms will be added to

the Brent Elementary

School. This project will

include central air condi-

tioning and heating.

### One Escapee Caught

by David Hedstrom

Bibb County Jail escapee Presley James Bailey, 26, of Birmingham turned himself in by walking into the Birmingham office of his probation officer Tuesday. The other prisoner who broke jail Dec. 5, Randy Hollinquest, 19, of Birmingham is still at large.

Bailey was interrogated by local police Friday when he was returned to the Bibb County Jail to face a charge of escape, which carries a penalty of one additional year in jail.

It is not known if Bailey could help police trace the whereabouts of Hollinquest.

Bibb County Sheriff Glenn Smitherman said there was no evidence to support a rumor that Hollinquest had been shot by police or unknown parties in Birmingham. No police agency in Jefferson County had reported Hollinquest shot or arrested and his body has not been located living or dead, the sheriff said Friday.

### Announcement

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## School News

### Brent Elementary School 2nd 9 Weeks A, A/B Honor Roll:

Teachers: M. Gray-Raposo	2nd Grade A/B Honor Roll:	Teachers: Hunter-Todd	3rd Grade A/B Honor Roll:	Teachers: C. Gray-Tinker	4th Grade A/B Honor Roll:
<b>2nd Grade A Honor Roll:</b> Ava Clements Rock Jones Cooper McMillian Jackson Pridmore Tucker Smith Hannah Smitherman AvaNichole Hanchey Messiah Hill Xaya Hill Faith Jones Asher Kirk Aybree Moore Norianna Rutledge Ashton Taylor Zander Tyler David Smith Aaron Trobaugh Ivy Murphy Colt Seales Jordyn Allen Easton Buckalew Eden Espay Henry Mitchell Zane Price Zeke Watkins	Annalysia Bray Amari Craighead John Austin Steele Kenzi Swindle Jakobe Abercrombie Mar'Kaila Alexander Ethan Billingsley Kylen Harris Lillian James Erixon Lopez Emma Watkins Maddie Carter Zoey Coley Aaliyah Cutts Noriyah Fuller Canaan Gray Raylynn Hunter Christian McKenzie Addison Grogan Jamaya Stacy Alphonso Huckleberry Parker Wilkins Blayr Carter King'Stence Cash Jamison Cottingham Ayden George Kinslee Huckleberry Hayden Lagrone	<b>3rd Grade A Honor Roll:</b> Ava Bray Rheft Clements Jackson Crumpler Grant Hines Parker Hudson Monroe May Luke Whatley Adalynn Williams Lilli Kornegay Caden Smith William Cruz Angel Gonzalez Nova Stone I'Leayah Billingsley Catherine Cook Bryson Corley Easton Duncan Annabelle Holmes Emory Kinard River Miller Virginia Davis Jax Downs Sadie Gann Cameron Heard Lucas Hobson Adilee Holifield Jack Phelps Elijah Purifoy	Aumireya Abercrombie Camden Acker Alberth Albarado Cano Allyssa Bailey David Burns Tegan Coffin Jazmyn Crews Nasir Cutts Blakely Hollifield Kingston Johnson David Orellano Portillo Major Tidwell Ambrielle Ward Corbin Quimby Alisson Barillas Reese Allen Logan Oats Peyton Graves Kenijah Leverette Yehayli Cifuentes Amabala White Amarion Abercrombie Oaklyn Acker Thea Guthrie Michael Sims Trey'Shawn Tabb Briggs Wirsberger Mac Downs Waylen Frazier Unique Hill Noah Jackson Aubrey Wheat Ania Wilson Chase Council Jaleah Crews Emily Donaldson Zaylan Holifield Adalida Kennedy Joshua Ramos Liam Rice Josiah Rutledge	<b>4th Grade A Honor Roll:</b> Titus Farley Blair Gilbert Cesar Mazariego Molina Fran Mitchell Brayson Ray Aleigh Taylor Coleigh Taylor Jayce Taylor Avery Williams Riley Carter Jade Crocker g Jayden Goree Jace Hudson Aaliyah Melton Acen Batte Kashlyn Burton Bradley Colburn Beau Huffman Malachi Jackson Akeelan Naugher Brayden Rinehart Braxton Sanders Lexi Taylor Zoey Thomas Gunner Wehrenberg Kobe Clark Saylor Geohagan Reagan Melton Halle Moore Elijah Purifoy Johnny Smith Colton Smitherman Kiyan Steward Greyson Traughber Jorja Tyner Gannon Burns Elijah Guy Keleigh Howell Colin Hubbard Maggie Robertson	Nicholas Cash Karsin James Miguel Kinard Ava Prevost Matthew Shirley Ryder Spain Connor Buzbee Markayla Coleman Madison Dennis Kyla Parker Aiden Phillips Kanen Smith Jazmine Suttle Ayden Buzbee KyLah DeHart Justice Dobyne JaLaila King Andrew James Kenyiah Ross Paris Sims Jorja Tyner Kaitlyn Sanders Darius Underwood

### BCCA Employees of the Month



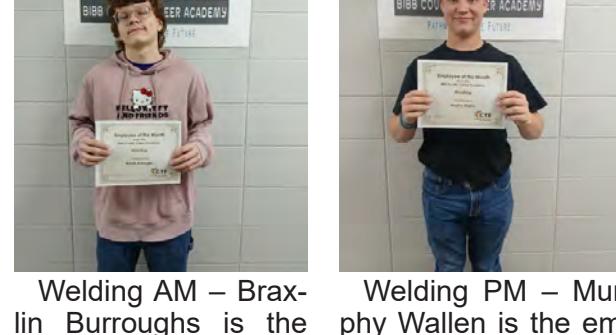
Electrical AM – Travis Wampler is the employee of the month for the morning electrical class. This is Travis's second semester in the program. He enjoys learning a trade that his family has been involved in for generations. Travis says the program has allowed him to develop his skills and learn more about the trade he wants to pursue after graduation. He plans to go straight to work after graduation doing what he has learned at BCCA.



Automotive Technology AM – Hunter Spencer is the employee of the month for the automotive technology morning class. This is Hunter's third semester in the program. He enjoys working hands-on in the shop. Hunter says the program has helped him learn valuable skills at a young age and gain the knowledge he needs for the future. After graduation, he plans to go straight to work after graduation doing what he has learned at BCCA.



Automotive Technology PM – Landon Davis is the employee of the month for the automotive technology afternoon class. This is Landon's first semester in the program. He enjoys learning how educational and hands-on the trades can be. Landon says the program has given him more knowledge about what he wants to pursue, and he plans to go straight to work after graduation doing what he has learned at BCCA.



Welding AM – Braxlin Burroughs is the employee of the month for the morning welding class. This is Braxlin's second semester in the program. He enjoys welding and gaining hands-on experience in the shop. Braxlin says the program has given him the tools and skills to fabricate and weld, and he plans to pursue a career in welding after graduation. He intends to attend a two- or four-year college or university to continue studying the welding program at BCCA.



Welding PM – Murphy Wallen is the employee of the month for the afternoon welding class. This is Murphy's third semester in the program. He enjoys learning new things and expanding his skills. Murphy says the program has helped him learn trades he can apply in the future.



Cosmetology PM – Tessa Tan is the employee of the month for the cosmetology morning class. This is Tessa's fourth semester in the program. She enjoys the fun, hands-on experience. Tessa says the program has helped her develop a strong work ethic.



Modern Manufacturing AM – Sofia Hemenway is the employee of the month for the modern manufacturing morning class. This is Sofia's second semester in the program. She enjoys learning about the career fields around her and becoming comfortable using different equipment. Sofia says the program has introduced her to many opportunities that will help her in the future.



Agriscience AM – Kenneth Johnson is the employee of the month for the agriscience morning class. This is Kenneth's second semester in the program. He appreciates his teachers and the support they provide. Kenneth says the program has given him a place to learn important life skills. After graduation, he plans to attend a two- or four-year college or university to continue studying the program he is taking at BCCA.



Modern Manufacturing PM – Ethan Jackson is the employee of the month for the modern manufacturing afternoon class. This is Ethan's fifth semester in the program. He appreciates the opportunities the program provides and the experiences he has gained. Ethan says the program helped him realize what he wants to do after school, and he plans to go straight to work after graduation doing what he has learned at BCCA.



Electrical PM – Justin McGee is the employee of the month for the afternoon electrical class. This is Justin's sixth semester in the program. He enjoys being around others and working on projects in the shop. Justin says Bibb County Career Academy has helped prepare him for the skills and expectations he will need in the workforce. After graduation, he plans to go straight to work doing what he has learned at BCCA.



Business Information Technology AM – Shikerri Hill is the employee of the month for the Business information technology morning class. This is her second semester in the program. She enjoys the environment, the people, and the work, and she loves learning new things every day. Shikerri says the program has expanded her mind through all the skills she has learned, and she truly enjoys being in this class. After graduation, she plans to attend a two- or four-year college or university to continue studying the program she is taking at BCCA.



Business Information Technology PM – Annabell Welch is the employee of the month for the business information technology afternoon class. This is Annabell's second semester in the program. She enjoys spending time in class working on assignments that will impact her future career. Annabell says the Career Academy has helped expand her experience in programs related to her future studies and work life. After graduation, she plans to attend a two- or four-year college or university to continue studying the program she is taking at BCCA.



Agriscience PM – Caleb Jones is the employee of the month for the agriscience afternoon class. This is Caleb's first semester in the program. He enjoys working on projects and spending time with his friends while learning new skills. Caleb says the program has helped him learn how to use new power tools and improve his communication skills with others.



## The BACK PAGE

# Bibb County 4-H: Summer Camp Registration, Hands-On Learning, and Competitive Events Ahead

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

It's an exciting season for Bibb County 4-H, with summer plans taking shape

and youth across the county staying engaged through hands-on learning, creativity, and skill-building experiences.

Registration is now

open for 4-H Summer Camp 2026, and campers ages 9-13 are invited to join in for a fun-filled, mythical-themed getaway June 24-26 at the 4-H

Center in Columbiana, Alabama. Camp costs \$175, and participants must be enrolled in 4-H before registering. Nine-year-olds are welcome as long as they turned nine prior to January 1, 2026. Families can register online through v2.4honline.com. For assistance with enrollment or camp registration, Holly Hall is available at (205) 928-2981 or hah0056@auburn.edu

or hah0056@auburn.edu.

Beyond summer planning, local students have been busy learning and exploring through recent 4-H programming. Last week, 4-H spent two days at West Blocton Middle School, where youth learned about the history of fishing and the economic impact of commercial and recreational fishing at both national and global levels. Students also took part in water testing activities, checking a nearby waterway for E. coli and discovering traces present, while school water fountains tested clean. The experience wrapped up with a creative parking-lot fishing activity

that brought learning full circle in a fun and memorable way.

This week, 4-H visited homeschool coop groups and Brent Elementary, where students built LED flashlights while learning about circuits and electricity. These hands-on STEM activities helped youth better understand how everyday technology works and encouraged curiosity through problem-solving and teamwork.

Looking ahead, Bibb County youth ages 9-18 are invited to participate in Bibb County 4-H Competitive Events Day on March 14, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Centreville Middle School. Participants must be enrolled in 4-H online and may enter up to two events. Youth will compete

within age divisions, following official contest rules available through Alabama Extension. Competitive Events Day celebrates the mastery young people develop through 4-H projects, highlighting growth in knowledge, skills,

confidence, and creativity. Events range from gardening and woodworking to public speaking, baking, graphic design, and storytelling.

Registration for competitive events is available through 4HOnline, with a \$30 participation fee. For questions or registration support, families can contact Holly Hall at hah0056@auburn.edu or (205) 928-2981.

Through programs like summer camp, school enrichment, and competitive events, Bibb County 4-H continues to help young people build belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery—skills that last far beyond childhood. Families interested in joining 4-H are encouraged to get involved, explore upcoming opportunities, and become part of a community dedicated to helping youth grow, learn, and thrive. Now is a great time to connect with Bibb County 4-H and discover all the ways your child can be part of something meaningful.



## ALABAMA 4-H TEEN CAMP

MAY 27-29, 2026

REGISTER IN 4-HONLINE

ALABAMA 4-H CENTER, COLUMBIANA, AL

## BMC HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER

### HEART WALK

We are excited to invite you to participate in our upcoming Community Heart Walk at BMC Wellness Center, an event focused on promoting heart health, wellness, and community connection. The Heart Walk brings together local families, organizations, and businesses to walk, connect, and raise awareness for healthy lifestyles. This is a great opportunity to show your support for community wellness and connect with the community.

We would love for your business to be part of this meaningful event by joining us in one (or more) of the following ways:

- Forming a walking team
- Hosting a booth or providing giveaways
- Promoting the event within your business

### BASEBALL FIELD PRACTICE AVAILABILITY

Our baseball and soccer fields are available for local teams, coaches, and families to reserve for practice time. Whether you're prepping for your next big game or just need a safe place to train, we've got the space. Easy to book, easy to access, just bring your crew and let us take care of the rest.

Visit [bmcwellness.com/recfields](http://bmcwellness.com/recfields)



### SWIMMING LESSONS

[bmcwellness.com/swimming-lessons](http://bmcwellness.com/swimming-lessons)

Private swimming lessons are available! From Mommy & Me classes to adult instruction, lessons with Bess Russell are designed to build water confidence at every age.

Spring Break Swimming Lessons will take place March 23rd-25th and are available for children ages 3 and up.

Level 1 classes are designed for swimmers with no experience in the water without floaties, while Level 2 classes are for swimmers who are comfortable venturing into open water without floaties. Class sizes are limited to ensure quality instruction.

**Families interested in financial assistance may apply during our scholarship application period, which runs throughout the month of February. Scholarships may be used toward spring season registration and swimming lessons.**



February 25th, 10:00am-2:00pm

### 3-Point Shootout

February 21st, 12:00pm

Join us for a 3-Point Shootout at the BMC Wellness Center! Open to participants 18 and older with a \$10 entry fee. Come compete, test your shooting accuracy, and enjoy a fun basketball event.

Register at the Front Desk or at [bmcwellness.com](http://bmcwellness.com)

### YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

**Kickoff with us!** At BMC Wellness Soccer, our mission is to create a safe, welcoming environment where local players can reach their highest potential. We focus on structured, age-appropriate training for all ages and skill levels, encourage teamwork through a balanced "everyone plays" approach, and invite parents to get involved through volunteer opportunities.

Our program is designed to build confidence, develop skills, and foster a lifelong love of the game, all while keeping the experience fun and community-centered.

Visit [bmcwellness.com/soccer](http://bmcwellness.com/soccer) for more information!



**APPLY NOW**