

# Centreville Press

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## Governor Ivey signs Child Predator Death Penalty Act

MONTGOMERY – Governor Kay Ivey on Thursday signed the Child Predator Death Penalty Act. One of the governor's top priorities this legislative session, the new law provides the strongest legal protection for Alabama's children from child predators.

"For too long, the most vulnerable of our society have lacked the most stringent legal protection

from child predators," said Governor Ivey. "Through the Child Predator Death Penalty Act, Alabama now joins just a handful of states imposing the toughest penalty possible for child predators. Those who target the youngest among us for the vilest crimes will soon be met with the harshest punishment under the law."

The Child Predator Death Penalty Act,

sponsored by state Rep. Matt Simpson and state Sen. April Weaver, strengthens Alabama's criminal penalties against those who are convicted of felony sexual crimes against a child. Crimes of first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual assault of victims under the age of 12 would automatically become capital offenses punishable by death.

"With the signing of the Child Predator Death Penalty Act into law, Alabama has taken decisive action to ensure that the most horrific offenses committed against minors face the maximum punishment our legal system permits," said Rep. Simpson. "This law sends a clear message that we will not stand by while young lives are shattered. Those who commit such unspeakable crimes will be prosecuted to the fullest



extent of the law. I am grateful to Governor Ivey for her steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment to keeping our communities — and especially our children — safe."

The need for stronger punishment of child predators in Alabama was evidenced in 2025 after eight individuals were arrested and charged with rape, trafficking and sexual

torture of at least 10 children held captive in Bibb County. Some of the victims were as young as three years old.

"With the signing of the Child Predator Death Penalty Act, we are putting these sick individuals on notice that a cell on death row awaits them if they abuse the most innocent and defenseless among us," said

Sen. Weaver. "Alabama now has zero tolerance for those who prey on our children. I want to thank Governor Ivey for her support, as well as my colleagues in the Legislature for protecting our most vulnerable citizens."

The Child Predator Death Penalty Act becomes effective on October 1, 2026.



The Act was sponsored by state Rep. Matt Simpson and state Sen. April Weaver (pictured).

## Community Volunteers Deliver Handmade Baby Blankets to Labor and Delivery at BMC



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

A heartfelt act of community care unfolded this week as handmade baby blankets were delivered to Labor and Delivery at Bibb Medical Center, offering comfort and encouragement to growing families.

The blankets were created by Eula Gamble, who was joined by members of the Senior Women's Strength Class at BMC Wellness for the special delivery. Each blanket was made with care, reflecting hours of thoughtful work and a shared desire to support new parents during a meaningful season of life.

In addition to presenting the blankets,

the group took time to pray over each one, as well as over every delivery room. Their visit extended beyond a simple donation, becoming a moment of reflection and compassion meant to surround families with peace and encouragement as they prepare to welcome new life.

The gesture served as a reminder of the powerful role community plays in moments both big and small. While the blankets themselves provide warmth, the intention behind them carries even deeper significance — offering reassurance, connection, and care to parents who may be experiencing everything from excitement to uncertainty.

BMC staff expressed gratitude for the thoughtful contribution, noting that acts like these help create a supportive environment for patients and families alike. The volunteers' presence highlighted how local individuals can make a meaningful difference through simple, heartfelt actions.

The delivery stands as a testament to the strength of community bonds and the impact of collective kindness. Through handmade gifts and quiet prayers, these women demonstrated how compassion can be shared in tangible ways — bringing comfort to strangers and reminding everyone involved that they are not alone.



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# NEWS

## April Weaver Files Bill Creating New Crime of 'Interference with a First Responder'

BY MIKE HOBSON  
REPORTER  
mike.hobson@centrevillepress.com

Citing a desire to prevent the chaotic civil unrest and violence that is occurring in Minnesota from ever taking root in Alabama, State Sen. April Weaver (R-Brierfield) announced on Monday that she has filed legislation creating the new criminal offense of "Interference With A First Responder" across the state.

Under Weaver's legislation, the new crime of "Interference With A First Responder" occurs when an individual remains within 25 feet of a law enforcement officer, firefighter or emergency services

personnel after being told to vacate an area while first responders are performing their duties.

"When our brave first responders are carrying out their duties, they shouldn't have to worry about zealous agitators or bad actors interfering of inciting trouble," Weaver said. "This bill makes it clear that when first responders instruct you to back off, refusing to do so will win you a free ride to jail in the back of a police cruiser while wearing a shiny pair of handcuffs."

To be charged with the offense, an individual must also impede or interfere with a first

responder's ability to perform his or her duties; threaten a first responder with physical harm; or strike, kick, shove or otherwise make physical contact with a first responder.

The crime would be classified as a Class A misdemeanor, the highest class of misdemeanor in Alabama, punishable by up to 1 year in jail and a fine of up to \$6,000.

Weaver noted that "Interference With A First Responder" would not apply to the obstruction, impairment, or hindrance of the making of an arrest, which is already addressed in other sections of the Alabama Code.

## Education Retiree's Association February Meeting



Seated: Suzanne Jones, Vickie Brown, Donna Cook. Standing Janis Conway, Sarah Lunceford, Fran Kornegay, Judy Elliott, Avis Huey.

The Bibb County Education Retiree's Association held their February meeting at the West Blocton Library. The purpose of the Bibb County ERA's mentoring program is to encourage and support teachers in their first year of teaching. Research shows that one in five teachers leave the profession within the first

five years of teaching. The Bibb County ERA's ongoing mentoring program has provided resources on classroom management, organizational skills and other components of ensuring a successful first year teaching.

## New 483 Area Code Implementation Set for February 23, 2026

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Scheduled implementation of the new 483 area code overlay that

covers the 334 area code region is slated for Feb. 23, 2026.

The new area code ensures customers will have enough supply of new telephone numbers to

serve the area. Numbering resources for the 334 area code are scheduled to exhaust by the

third quarter of 2026.

This action follows the mandatory 10-digit dialing period, which allowed customers to become

accustomed to dialing 10 digits when

making calls.

New customers, or customers requesting an additional telephone line, may be assigned the

new 483 area code, pending activation. The implementation will not affect existing service for

customers within the 334 area code region. The Alabama Public Service Commission approved the new 483 area code overlay on March 6,

2024, for Alabama area code 334, which serves Selma, Montgomery, Prattville, Pike Road,

Tuskegee, Auburn, Opelika, Phenix City, Eufaula, Dothan, En-

terprise, Troy, Greenville and a large area of central and southeast Alabama.

No changes will be made when dialing three-digit numbers, such as 911 and others.

The mission of the Alabama Public Service Commission is to ensure a regulatory balance

between regulated companies and consumers in order to provide consumers with safe,

adequate and reliable services at rates that are equitable and economical. For more information, visit

psc.alabama.gov.

## ANYTOWN ALABAMA: Teen Leadership Experience



Anytown Alabama is a life-changing experience for young people. Each year, teens say Anytown opened their eyes to a larger world - they feel better prepared for college and work - the experience is one they'll never forget. Many former campers enjoyed it so much they returned to be counselors. Some even introduced the concept at their colleges.

This year, ACE Alabama, owner and operator of Anytown, is excited to partner with the UAB Institute for Human Rights. Anytown will be hosted on the UAB campus.

Invite your teen to apply for Anytown Alabama NOW. They will live in UAB dorms and meet young people from across the state.

Through dialogue, workshops and activities, students learn leadership and communication skills to help create a more accepting, empowered community founded on respect and understanding. Students will also learn about international perspectives of leadership and community building.

Anytown's safe, structured environment gives teens space, training, and tools to grow personally and professionally into leaders. Anytown alumni have gone on to become teachers, doctors, lawyers, business owners, chiefs of staff to mayors, parents of their own Anytown Alumni and more.

June 7th - 13th fifty lucky 9th - 12th graders (including May

2026 graduating Seniors) will attend Anytown Alabama Teen Leadership Summit at UAB.

The application deadline is March 15th so do it now!

Apply here: [www.ACEalabama.org/AnytownAlabama](http://www.ACEalabama.org/AnytownAlabama).

The fee for Anytown Alabama covers room, board, leadership materials. Delegates must provide their own transportation to the UAB campus.

\*Full and partial scholarships are readily available. We are committed to making sure no student misses this life-changing opportunity.

Students from across the State of Alabama are invited to apply.

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# LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

## Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

The BCHS Class of 1961 met on Friday, February 6, 2026 for their annual monthly breakfast.

Anniversary wishes go out to Matthew and Ashley Pipher who celebrated their wedding anniversary on February 7, 2026.

We wish to extend sincere sympathy to the family of Gary "Wade" Rowland, age 56, who passed away on January 31, 2026. Services were held on February 11, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. at Haysop Baptist Church. He was laid to rest at Haysop Cemetery. Wade will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Odie and Doris Newman recently attended a birthday celebration for Mary Jo Griffin and daughter, Rachael Griffin.

Belated birthday wishes go out to June Cohn who recently celebrated her 85th birthday.

Those having lunch at Olive Tree on Sunday, February 8, 2026 were Larry and Vickie Speights, Children and grandchildren, Jim and Laura Blumenfeld and Lily, Casey and Stacie Brewer, Phoenix and Johah. This was their 20th anniversary lun-

cheon celebration of the kidney transplant of Stacie and Laura. Stacie receiving the kidney from Laura.

Anniversary wishes go out to Keith and Dedra Clinner on February 10, 2026. Thirty Six years.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Donald Edward Terry who passed away on February 8, 2026 at the age of 77. Services were held on February 12, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church. Burial followed at Harris Cemetery. Donald will be missed greatly by his family and many friends.

Birthday wishes go out to several that have birthdays in February: David Justice, Robin Hallman Broadhead, Lisa Riffe, M.C. Watts, Janet Parker Williams, Sara Quanrud, Alan Steele, John Seagle, Vickie Gibson Brown, Clark Costa and Joanne Sanders.

Congratulations to Aubrey Franklin who made the Deans List at the University of Alabama. Way to go — proud of you.

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

## Centreville Main Street Launches New Ambassador Program to Engage Local Students



BY SAVANNA LOGAN  
REPORTER

Members of the Centreville Main Street Board and the Centreville City Council recently met with students from Bibb County High School and Cahawba Christian Academy to introduce an exciting new initiative aimed at empowering young leaders: the Centreville Main Street Ambassadors Program.

The program is designed to inspire the next generation by encouraging civic engagement, developing leadership skills, and fostering a deeper connection to community growth. Through this initiative, students will have opportunities

to become more involved in Centreville's future while learning firsthand what it means to serve, lead, and invest in the place they call home.

During the meeting, board members and city leaders shared their vision for the program and spoke with students about the importance of community involvement. The Ambassadors Program is rooted in the belief that when young people are given space to contribute, their voices and ideas help shape stronger, more vibrant communities.

Local leaders emphasized that investing in youth is an investment in Centreville's long-term success.

By creating pathways for students to participate in civic life now, the program aims to build confidence, cultivate responsibility, and spark a lasting passion for service. Organizers expressed excitement about the energy and curiosity students brought to the conversation and shared optimism about what these young ambassadors will bring to Main Street in the years ahead.

The Centreville Main Street Ambassadors Program represents a forward-looking step in nurturing leadership while strengthening community connections. Participants will gain valuable experience while contribut-

ing fresh perspectives to ongoing efforts to support downtown growth and engagement.

As the program moves forward, Centreville Main Street looks forward to watching these students step into their roles as emerging leaders — helping shape the city's future with creativity, commitment, and heart. With this initiative, the message is clear: old expectations are being replaced with new possibilities, and the next chapter of Centreville's story is being written by the very students who will carry it forward.

## Miracle League of Bibb County Seeks Community Support for Inclusive Baseball Season

BY SAVANNA LOGAN  
REPORTER

The Miracle League of Bibb County continues to bring joy, inclusion, and unforgettable moments to children and adults of all abilities at Stewart Wheeler Park. Designed to ensure every player, regardless of physical or intellectual challenges, has the opportunity to experience baseball, the league offers a space where participants can hit, run, cheer, and truly belong on the field.

Each season, the Miracle League provides adaptive baseball experiences that focus on fun, confidence-building, and community connection. From first pitches to team celebrations, the program creates meaningful memories for players and families alike, proving that everyone deserves a chance to play.

To keep the season running strong, the Miracle League relies heavily on community sponsorships and donations. Contributions help cover player fees, uniforms, equipment, field maintenance, operating expenses,

and special activities throughout the year. Even small sponsorships make a big difference, with options beginning at \$150 to help ensure no child is left on the sidelines.

Several sponsorship levels are available for businesses, organizations, families, and individuals who want to get involved. Larger sponsorships support long-term goals like field improvements and include recognition opportunities such as signage at the fields, logos on jerseys and banners, website features, and social media acknowledgments. Mid-level sponsorships provide branding on team materials and game-day banners, while community-level options offer meaningful ways to contribute through sponsor recognition and special-event support.

Donations also help fund extra activities that make each season special, including bounce houses, holiday celebrations, awards, sensory-friendly prizes, and ice cream socials. Game Day Sponsorships and



Snack Bar Sponsorships are available as well, giving supporters the opportunity to directly enhance the player experience on specific game days.

The Miracle League of Bibb County operates as a nonprofit organization, with all contributions used to further its mission of providing children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to play baseball. Funds go toward maintaining facilities, purchasing equipment and uniforms, supporting adaptive programming, and sustaining league operations. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent

permitted by law. Community support plays a vital role in keeping this inclusive program thriving. Every sponsorship, donation, and act of generosity helps create a welcoming environment where players feel celebrated for exactly who they are.

Those interested in sponsoring a player, team, or the league are encouraged to reach out directly to learn more about available opportunities. By coming together, Bibb County can continue building a season full of smiles, teamwork, and moments that matter — on and off the field.

## West Blocton Fire and Rescue to host First Aid and CPR Training Session



BY CANACE JOHNSON  
REPORTER

If you are looking to refresh your memory on First Aid and to get CPR trained, you are in luck. The West Blocton Fire and Rescue Department will host a First Aid and CPR training course on Feb. 28th at 1p.m. The life-saving skills that will be taught at this session is how to perform CPR to adults, children, and infants,

first aid for injuries and burns, how to respond to someone choking, and much more. There are a limited number of spots available, so attendees are encouraged to register as soon as possible. The class session will be \$10 per first responder, and \$20 for a non-first responder. More information can be found on their Facebook page.



# EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

## Letter to the Editor

February 12, 2026

Dear Editor,

I am a resident of West Blocton, Alabama, and I believe that Main Street in West Blocton needs some serious work. I propose that the town of West Blocton repave Main Street from Walter Owens Drive to Azalea Lane. Our town is extremely small with little to no businesses. Even with the old rundown buildings, our town still has its own beauty, but what is an eyesore to the town is our roads, with Main Street being one of the worst.

Repaving this section of Main Street will not only adhere to the beauty of our town but will also save the town money later. When a pothole pops up, we just fill it with gravel and bam, it's fixed for a while. The gravel may solve the problem, but when it rains and cars drive over the gravel, it will eventually wash out. If the town were to repave this section of the street, it would be an investment for the town. No more blowing money on gravel, but instead we invest and fix the road for many years to come, instead of just a few months. This repaving of Main Street will improve the overall look and quality of our town.

Christopher Jackson  
West Blocton, AL 35184



## Inside the Statehouse By Steve Flowers

### Trump Endorsement Makes Barry Moore Prohibitive Favorite in U.S. Senate Race

What looked like an interesting and competitive U.S. Senate race in Alabama, changed January 18, almost exactly four months ahead of our May 19 Republican Primary election.

President Donald Trump's endorsement of Congressman Barry Moore, coupled with the expected endorsement of Moore by the powerful and money laden "Club for Growth," makes the Wiregrass Congressman the prohibitive favorite in this open Senate Seat race.

Moore, as a State Legislator, was one of the first public officials to endorse newly minted Presidential candidate Donald Trump. Moore, along with Senator Jeff Sessions, spoke on behalf of Trump at a campaign rally in Mobile in August of 2015. Trump was getting significant media attention but was still considered a longshot. That was 10 years ago, during that decade Moore has continued his stalwart, steady support

for President Trump and his conservative agenda.

Ironically, the seat Moore is now seeking, is the seat formerly held by Jeff Sessions. Senator Sessions served 20 years in that seat and was consistently recognized as the most conservative member of the U.S. Senate. Moore will more than likely replicate that conservative mantra and label as Alabama's junior Senator. He has an impeccable ultra conservative voting record during his six-year tenure in the U.S. House.

Barry Moore was born and raised in Coffee County, the same county as our Senior Senator Katie Britt. In fact, both grew up in Enterprise, and both graduated from Enterprise High School. Therefore, if Moore is elected, both of Alabama's U.S. Senators will hail from the same hometown, Enterprise, which is a historic first. Although Moore will be our junior Senator, he is 15 years Katie Britt's senior in age. Moore is

## Growing Is the Purpose: Keeping Education First in High School Sports

A Guest Opinion Editorial

By Heath Harmon, Executive Director of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA), and Dr. Karissa Niehoff, Chief Executive Officer of the NFHS

High school sports is experiencing record participation. It is also experiencing unprecedented pressure.

Across the country, young athletes are training earlier, competing year-round and navigating expectations shaped by a rapidly expanding youth sports economy. For many families, athletics now feel like increasingly high stakes.

High school sports operate differently — by design. They exist within schools, alongside classrooms, guided by the same educational mission. Participation is structured to support academic success and to teach intangibles like discipline, teamwork, resilience and responsibility. Rules around eligibility, seasons and competition are not barriers to ambition; they are safeguards for students.

As expectations around winning and advancement continue to rise, we at the AHSAA believe it is worth reaffirming the role that high school athletics play in education — and why that purpose matters.

Every high school athlete is a student first, and we see high school sports as a vital extension of the classroom. In "the last class of the day," student-athletes develop character and integrity and learn life lessons they will carry with them long after their playing days are over.

Today's high school student-athletes will be tomorrow's leaders. So, while the goal of playing high school sports is to win, the true purpose is much greater — for students to learn and grow as people.

How? By keeping high school sports educational, competitively balanced and accessible for all students. Why? To ensure high school sports develop the whole person, not just the athlete.

Last summer, the New York Times published an article stating youth sports is now a \$40 billion industry. Private lessons, club sports, travel teams and elite competitions are costly and wildly popular.

For many student-

athletes, their sports experience is focused on becoming an elite athlete and landing a college scholarship.

But according to the NCAA, of the 8.2 million high school student-athletes in the U.S. (an all-time record), only 7% go on to play in college, and only 2% earn any type of scholarship.

Further, data from College Board's "Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2025" report shows that the total published cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board) at four-year colleges now averages roughly \$31,000 per year in-state and more than \$50,000 per year out-of-state — underscoring why families feel intense pressure to secure athletic scholarships.

That's why the purpose of high school sports must be so much more than winning, earning trophies or advancing to the next level.

Only a select few go on to play in college and even fewer get scholarships. But nearly all student-

athletes benefit from participating in high school sports. They experience personal growth. They learn leadership skills. They build community and more. When athletics are education-based, students' long-term development and well-being remain the top priority above all else.

With the guiding principle of students first, the NFHS and state high school associations like the AHSAA are committed to preserving the integrity, opportunity and educational alignment of high school sports for all student-athletes.

The purpose of high school sports—helping students learn and grow as people—is what we are here to protect and preserve for generations to come. And it is our honor to do so.

Heath Harmon serves as Executive Director of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA). Dr. Karissa Niehoff is the Chief Executive Officer of the NFHS. Visit [ProtectThePurpose.com](http://ProtectThePurpose.com) to learn more.

59. Katie is 44.

Moore was first elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 2010 and was in the Alabama House for eight years through 2018. He had an unremarkable tenure. He, as always, had a consistent, right-wing voting record when he attended. He was a close ally of former speaker Mike Hubbard.

Moore was elected to the U.S. Congress from the old Second District in 2020. He beat a favored, well-heeled Dothan businessman, probably because his opponent was perceived as a rich "country clubber" with an air of privilege. Moore came across as a regular farm born, Wiregrass, "aw-shucks," plain spoken, true Trump conservative, good ole boy, and won an upset victory. Moore won an easy

reelection victory in 2022.

In 2023, a federal court redrew Alabama's congressional map to create a new Democratic minority district. This federal gerrymandering moved the white Republican voters in the Wiregrass into the same district with the First District, Baldwin/Mobile Republicans.

Moore became pitted against First District Republican, Jerry Carl. Moore, with the help of the "Club for Growth," upset Carl. This Moore/Club for Growth coalition revealed how powerful and sophisticated a machine the national Club for Growth has become.

The Club for Growth has become the most powerful force in Republican Senatorial and Congressional races in Republican states in America.

They are a quiet, dark money, Right Wing organization made up of the multimillionaire/billionaire contributors. They want very restrained government spending, and back very conservative-proven candidates, who have conservative credentials.

At one time, when the "Club" was becoming established as the behemoth in Republican politics, they and Trump were at odds on some races. However, they seemed to coalesce into one solidly aligned team last year, with the passage of the Trump proposed, One Big Beautiful Bill. The Club brought their congressmen, most of whom belong to the right-wing Freedom Caucus, into the fold, probably because the Daddy Warbucks Club for Growth rich guys were given a significant tax cut in the Bill.

President Donald Trump and the Club for Growth seem to be on the same team. This coalition marriage tandem of Donald Trump and Club for Growth will be difficult to overcome in any Republican State Republican Primary, especially in the Heart of Dixie.

My prediction is that with the Donald Trump and Club for Growth seal of approval, Barry Moore will be Alabama's next junior U.S. Senator.

We will soon see.

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](mailto:steve@steveflowers.us).*

## Centreville Press

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Carmel Baptist<br/>West Blocton 938-2379</p> <p>Mt. Ebell Baptist<br/>Brent 926-9223</p> <p>Mt. Grove Baptist<br/>938-3410</p> <p>Mt. Moriah Baptist<br/>West Blocton 926-5425</p> <p>Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church<br/>Brent 926-9009</p> <p>Mt. Tabor Baptist<br/>Brent 926-7156</p> <p>Mt. Zion Baptist<br/>Centreville 334-366-5903</p> <p>New Hebron Baptist<br/>West Blocton 938-2101</p> <p>New Hope Missionary<br/>Baptist<br/>Randolph 334-366-1199</p> <p>New Life Baptist Church<br/>Centreville 205-541-7072</p> <p>New Pleasant Valley<br/>Brent 926-9045</p> <p>Pinegrove Missionary<br/>Baptist<br/>Brent 225-0139</p> | <p>Pineview Baptist<br/>Brent 926-9280</p> <p>Pleasant Sabine Baptist<br/>Centreville 926-3867</p> <p>Pondville Baptist<br/>Brent 926-9211</p> <p>Randolph Baptist 366-4296</p> <p>Reno Baptist Church<br/>Caffee Junction 477-5058</p> <p>Rising Star Baptist<br/>Centreville 926-4115</p> <p>Rehobeth Baptist<br/>Lawley 663-2907</p> <p>Schultz Creek Baptist<br/>West Blocton 938-9766</p> <p>Shady Grove Baptist<br/>Randolph 366-1163</p> <p>Shady Grove II Baptist<br/>West Blocton 938-0120<br/>Pastor 834-2557</p> <p>Shiloh Baptist<br/>Centreville 926-7041</p> <p>Six Mile Baptist<br/>Brierfield</p> <p>Smith Hill Baptist<br/>West Blocton 938-2379</p> <p>Thomas Mill Baptist<br/>Centreville 926-6882</p> <p>Union Baptist Church<br/>722 Magnolia St<br/>West Blocton</p> <p>West Blocton First Baptist<br/>938-7392</p> <p><b>BIBLE</b><br/>Grace Bible<br/>Woodstock 938-7763</p> <p><b>CATHOLIC</b><br/>Church Of The Holy Spirit<br/>Tuscaloosa 553-9733</p> <p>St. Thomas<br/>The Apostle Church<br/>Montevallo 663-3936</p> <p><b>CHRISTIAN</b><br/>Marvel Christian Union<br/>Montevallo 345-7018</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br/>Centreville Church Of<br/>Christ<br/>926-LOVE</p> <p>North Bibb Church of<br/>Christ<br/>Woodstock 477-6121</p> <p>West Blocton<br/>Church of Christ<br/>West Blocton 938-7108</p> <p>Evangelist Temple<br/>Brent 926-6430</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF GOD</b><br/>Church of God of Prophecy<br/>at Eoline<br/>256-393-9625<br/>Pastor Shane Pate</p> <p>Church Of God Of Prophecy<br/>West Blocton 938-2788</p> <p>Caffee Junction Church<br/>Of God<br/>205-477-5468</p> <p>River of Life Church of<br/>God<br/>9225 Hwy 82, Brent<br/>205-926-7600</p> <p>West Blocton Church of<br/>God<br/>Cty Rd. 21 Smith Hill<br/>205-966-4988</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF THE<br/>LORD JESUS CHRIST</b><br/>2300 South Scottsville Rd<br/>Centreville 926-5393</p> <p><b>EPISCOPAL</b><br/>The Church Of The Holy<br/>Comforter<br/>Montevallo 665-2769</p> <p>St. Andrews Episcopal<br/>Church<br/>925 Plowman Street<br/>Montevallo 665-1667</p> <p><b>HOLINESS</b><br/>Deliverance Temple Holiness<br/>Four Points 926-5565</p> <p>Word of Faith Worship<br/>Center<br/>Centreville 926-4555</p> <p>Free Will Apostolic Holiness<br/>Antioch 926-9252</p> <p>Real Truth Holiness<br/>Church<br/>646 S. Scottsville Road<br/>Brent 926-5009</p> <p>Trinity Spirit Holiness<br/>Church<br/>Centreville 926-4321</p> <p><b>METHODIST</b></p> | <p>Brent Bible Methodist<br/>812-675-1543<br/>210 4th St. Brent, AL</p> <p>Brent Methodist<br/>190 Tabernacle Rd.<br/>Brent, AL</p> <p>Pondville Methodist<br/>9:15 - 10 AM Sundays<br/>Freindship Rd. • Brent</p> <p>Friendship Bible Methodist<br/>Church<br/>205-225-4000<br/>Co. Rd. 16 Brent, AL</p> <p>Ada Chapel Bible<br/>Methodist Church<br/>12540 N. Scottsville Rd.<br/>West Blocton, AL<br/>513-254-8241</p> <p>West Blocton Bible<br/>Methodist Church<br/>355 Camellia Lane, West<br/>Blocton<br/>205.826.5763</p> <p>Mt. Sinai Church<br/>Centreville 256-577-8137</p> <p>James Chapel<br/>A.M.E. Zion Church<br/>926-5607</p> <p>Bible Methodist<br/>West Blocton 938-0091</p> <p>Hopewell A.M.E. Zion<br/>Harrisburg 926-5777</p> <p>New Hope AME<br/>West Blocton 540-8016</p> <p>Tabernacle United Methodist<br/>Lawley</p> <p>Waymon Chapel AME<br/>Brierfield 205-665-4730</p> <p>West Scottsville<br/>United Methodist Church<br/>North Scottsville Road<br/>451-3624</p> <p><b>NAZARENE</b><br/>Ridgeville Church Of The<br/>Nazarene<br/>Brent</p> <p>Spencer Church Of The<br/>Nazarene<br/>Brent</p> <p><b>PENTECOSTAL</b><br/>New Life West Blocton<br/>Pastor Greg Brock<br/>205.441.2809</p> <p>First United Pentecostal<br/>Church of Centreville</p> <p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b><br/>Brent Presbyterian P.C.A.<br/>926-4722</p> <p>Centreville First<br/>Presbyterian P.C.A.<br/>926-4261</p> <p>Green Pond Presbyterian<br/>Presbyterian Church Rd<br/>205-938-2344</p> <p>Pleasant Hill Upper Cumberland<br/>Presbyterian<br/>Church<br/>Centreville 926-4409</p> <p><b>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</b><br/>First Brent Seventh Day<br/>Adventist<br/>926-6328</p> <p><b>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b><br/>Fellowship Community<br/>926-6800</p> <p>Scottsville Union Church<br/>Co. Rd. 9<br/>Scottsville 205-503-6096</p> <p>Victory Tabernacle Church<br/>1008 Walnut Street •<br/>Centreville<br/>926-9455 or 361-2763<br/>Pastor Butch Tucker</p> <p>Yahweh's Harvest<br/>926-9044</p> <p>The Refreshing Place<br/>Church<br/>24865 Hwy. 5<br/>Woodstock, AL 35188<br/>Pastor Wayne Keeton</p> <p>God's House of Prayer<br/>489 Co. Rd. 162 (Heiberg-<br/>er)<br/>Marion, AL 36756<br/>334-683-4933<br/>Every Sunday 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Sandy Chapel Community<br/>Church<br/>926-4934</p> |
|--|--|--|



## "The Old Rugged Cross"

The hymn The Old Rugged Cross was written in 1912 by American evangelist and songwriter George Bennard during a season of deep spiritual reflection. Bennard began composing the hymn while meditating on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, shaping its lyrics over time as he traveled and preached throughout the Midwest. The song was first introduced publicly in Michigan, where it quickly resonated with listeners and began spreading through churches across the country.

What made "The Old Rugged Cross" stand out was its simple melody paired with deeply emotional imagery. Rather than focusing on grandeur, Bennard centered the hymn on the humble cross — portraying it as both a place of pain and a symbol of redemption. Its message of enduring faith, sacrifice, and hope struck a powerful chord, especially during the early 20th century when many communities were navigating hardship and change.

As the hymn gained popularity, it became a staple in Christian worship services worldwide. It has since been recorded by countless artists and sung in churches of nearly every denomination, earning its place as one of the most beloved hymns in history. More than a century later, its words still carry meaning for people seeking comfort, strength, and reassurance.

At its heart, "The Old Rugged Cross" reminds listeners that even in moments of suffering, hope remains. Its legacy continues to point hearts toward perseverance, grace, and the promise that light can rise from even the heaviest shadows — an enduring message that still uplifts and connects generations today.

For Christians now, this timeless hymn offers a steady reminder of faith in uncertain times. It encourages believers to hold fast to hope, to remember that love was poured out freely, and that redemption is always within reach. In a fast-moving world filled with distractions and challenges, the song invites quiet reflection and renewed trust. Its familiar words continue to comfort weary hearts, strengthen resolve, and inspire gratitude — calling each generation to live with compassion, courage, and confidence in God's enduring promises.

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When?  
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Monday-Friday services begin at 6:30

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Monday- Bishop John David Booth  
Tuesday- Pastor Gervis Smith  
Wednesday- Rev. Ken Smith  
Thursday- Bishop Al Bristow  
Friday- Pastor Jonathon Presley

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# A LOOK BACK AT 1976

Section B

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1976



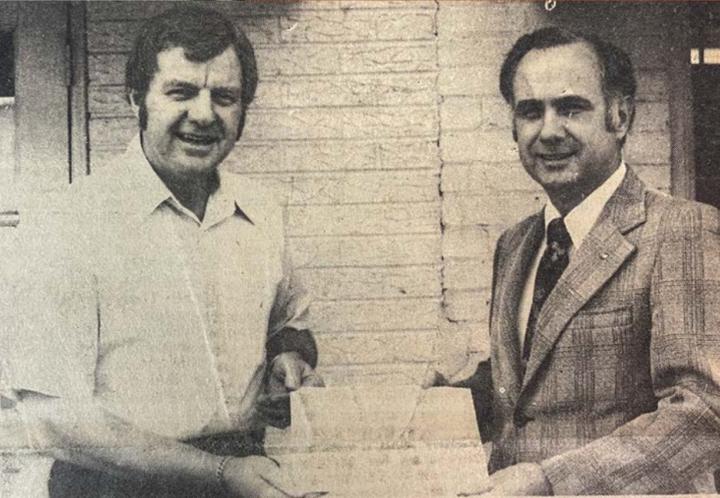
FIRST WOMEN SERVE ON COUNTY DEMO COMMITTEE

Mr. Bill Collins, Chairman of the Bibb County Democratic Committee, stands with the first women to ever serve on the formerly all male organization. The ladies are, seated, Mrs. Josiah Kennedy, acting Secretary and standing, Mrs. Judy Riser and Miss Jenny Ward. They were appointed by the Committee to fulfill a ruling to expand the committee to more equally represent voters.



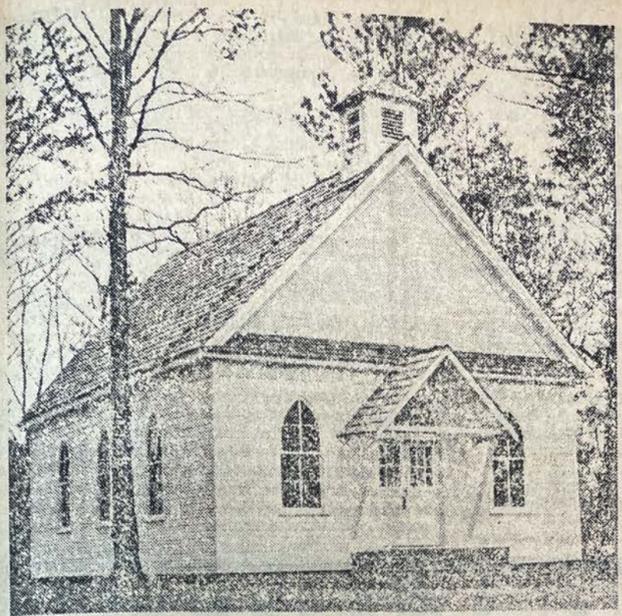
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE MEETS SATURDAY

Pictured is the meeting last Saturday of the Bibb County Democratic Committee as they established the rules governing this year's primary elections and took qualifying papers. Chairman of the Committee is W. W. Collins of Woodstock.



PRESS RECEIVES AWARD OF MERIT

"The Centreville Press" received a 1976 Award of Merit from the Alabama Historical Commission for reasons they listed as giving considerable support for the Alabama Historical Commission program to survey and protect the most prominent landmarks in the state, for considerable contributions to the successful efforts of the Bibb County Heritage Association to select, salvage and safeguard valuable historic and architectural evidences and for promoting the retention and restoration of Alabama's physical heritage in the pages of "The Centreville Press."



Worship in a natural setting is provided in the chapel at Tannehill State Historical Park since the old Kimbrell Methodist Church building was given to the state. Services are held each Sunday.

## Old church moved; Tannehill visitors have place to worship

A turn-of-the-century Methodist church which had been abandoned for 15 years now provides a place of worship for visitors to Tannehill State Historical Park.

The Kimbrell Methodist Church was built in 1905 on land given by John Cowley. It was abandoned when the membership and attendance had declined to such a point that it seemed unwise to continue. By provisions of the original gift, the land reverted to Cowley's grandson, J. C. Hassell.

Mrs. Faye Wilder, Hassell's daughter, rescued the structure from being sold for the wood. She suggested that her father give it to the park.

Mrs. Wilder spearheaded efforts to raise the \$1,600 it cost to move the structure including raising it above a narrow bridge to get it to the hilltop site. The chapel service does not include an offering but a plate is available for those who wish to give. Enough money has been raised to restore the structure except for two arched windows which have to be custom made.

The Rev. Moss Rockett, who was pastor when the church closed, returned to preach the dedicatory sermon.

Ed Nelson, park superintendent, said two pianos—one the original—have been acquired. Also, a church bell, donated by Larry Gilbert of Bessemer, has been installed in a rebuilt belfry and is rung 30 minutes before each Sunday service. The original bell was stolen, according to Mrs. Wilder.

Services are held at 9:30 a. m. each Sunday with visiting ministers chosen by Nelson. Before the church was acquired, outdoor services were held with a cedar post for a pulpit. Also, the Greenpond Baptist Church youth sponsor a Bible study there at 7:30 p. m. Saturdays taught by Jay Jackson, a Southeastern Bible College student.

One wedding has been held in the chapel since it was moved. The groom is a member of Look for America Inc., which produces Civil War battle reenactments so participants were in Civil War uniform, and the bride and groom were given a wagon ride after the ceremony.

The former home of the church was within sight of Mrs. Wilder's and her father's homes but she said the new location looks like it was just made for the church.

### HEBRON NEWS

Next Sunday and Saturday before is our regular meeting time once more at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church. Hope and trust will be the good

Mr. and Mrs. David Earl Majors, Lorette, Roger, Michael and Mr. Penn Sims, visited Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Huneycutt on last Sunday afternoon and ate supper with them. Patsy had the headache and she stayed at home.

Mrs. Willard Majors, children came back over Majors and the girls all a church on Sunday. Herb able to go to church but thank the Good Lord.

Mr. Rex Majors came



First Row: Dixie Moore, Bo Cristwell, Greg Caldwell, Richard Ellinghausen, Rich Queen, Jay White, William Kemmer, Scott Cox, Rick Edmonds and Chris Stanfield.  
Second Row: Margaret Cox, publicity chairman, Dennis Strippling, Tug Moore, Michael Murphy, Curt Quimby, Chris Sherbett, Benji Stanfield and Jean Caldwell.  
Cub Scout Pack 534 won 2nd place in the Annual Mall Show in Tuscaloosa on Feb. 14. Their exhibit was entitled "Nature Crafts".

# The BACK PAGE

## Guided Bird Watching Walk Planned at Old Cahawba

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN  
REPORTER

Nature lovers and curious explorers alike are invited to experience the beauty of early spring during a guided bird watching walk at Old Cahawba on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

The event will be led by Shirley Farrell, a member of the Alabama Ornithological Society, who will guide participants through the historic landscape while helping identify both resident and migratory bird species. The walk will explore a variety of habitats throughout Old Cahawba, including wooded areas, river edges, and open fields — each offering unique opportunities to observe birds in their natural environment.

Participants will learn how to spot and recognize different species while gaining insight into seasonal migration patterns and local

wildlife. Whether attendees are experienced birders or simply interested in spending a peaceful morning outdoors, the guided walk offers a welcoming way to connect with nature while learning from an experienced naturalist.

Old Cahawba's diverse terrain makes it an ideal location for bird watching, providing shelter and food sources for many species throughout the year. As spring migration begins, visitors may have the chance to see a wide variety of birds passing through or settling into the area, making each walk a unique experience.

The guided birding event is open to all ages, with a small admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children, making it an affordable outing for families, individuals, and nature enthusiasts. Comfortable walking shoes and binoculars are recommended, though participants are welcome to attend even

without equipment. Organizers encourage community members to take advantage of this opportunity to explore one of Alabama's most historic sites while enjoying the sights and sounds of the natural world. Events like this not only highlight local wildlife but also help foster appreciation for outdoor spaces and conservation efforts.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early to check in and prepare for the walk. With expert guidance and a scenic setting, the morning promises to be both educational and relaxing.

Community programs like this continue to offer meaningful ways to learn, connect, and engage with the natural environment. Residents are encouraged to participate and discover the many opportunities available right here in Bibb County.

**Bird Watching at Old Cahawba**

Join us for a guided birding walk through the historic landscape of Old Cahawba.

Alabama Ornithological Society member Shirley Farrell will lead participants in identifying resident and migratory birds as we explore woodlands, river edges, and open fields.

- 📅 Saturday, March 28, 2026
- 👤 Guided by Shirley Farrell
- 🕒 8:00-10:00 AM
- 💰 Adult-\$2 Child-\$1

## 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

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

### 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.

### 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!

**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.**



**APPLY NOW**