

Centreville Press

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205.926.9769 | editor@centrevillepress.com



Celebrating Mrs. Myrtle Jones and Her 102nd Birthday



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

In every small town, there are individuals whose quiet dedication and steady leadership help shape the heart of the community. In West Blocton, that kind of impact can be seen clearly in the life of Myrtle Jones, who recently celebrated an incredible milestone: her 102nd birthday!

Mrs. Jones is more than a lifelong resident; she is a trailblazer. As the first Councilwoman for the Town of West Blocton, she helped open doors for others while playing a meaningful role in guiding the town forward. Her leadership came at a time when representation mattered deeply, and her willingness to step into that role

helped shape the future of the community in lasting ways.

Beyond her work in public service, Mrs. Jones has long been known for her heart for bringing people together. She played an instrumental role in organizing cherished local traditions such as the Cahaba Lily Festival and the West Blocton Christmas Parade – events that have become cornerstones of community life in Bibb County. Through these gatherings, generations of families have experienced the joy, pride, and connection that make small towns so special.

Her story is a reminder that the strength of a community is not found only in its buildings or growth, but in the people who in-

vest their time, energy, and love into it. In Bibb County, it is people like Mrs. Jones who create that sense of belonging – who show up year after year, pouring into others and leaving things better than they found them.

As West Blocton celebrates Mrs. Myrtle Jones, it also celebrates the kind of legacy that cannot be measured in years alone. It is measured in lives touched, traditions built, and a community strengthened through service and care.

In honoring her 102 years, the town is reminded of something simple yet powerful: places become special because of people like her.

Centreville Native Willie Moore Inducted into the AHSAA Hall of Fame

BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

After years of shaping young athletes and guiding students, Willie Frank Moore reached a milestone moment March 23 with his induction into the Alabama High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Moore, a native of Centreville and an alum of Bibb County High School, said he was shocked when he learned of the honor. "It was surreal. I was definitely surprised. I wanted to make a difference and impact lives," Moore said.

Moore has been involved in athletics throughout his life, from his time as a student-athlete to his roles as a coach and educator. He credits several mentors for shaping his journey,

including basketball coach Charles McCaleb, football coach Stan Moss and baseball coach Chris Forrest.

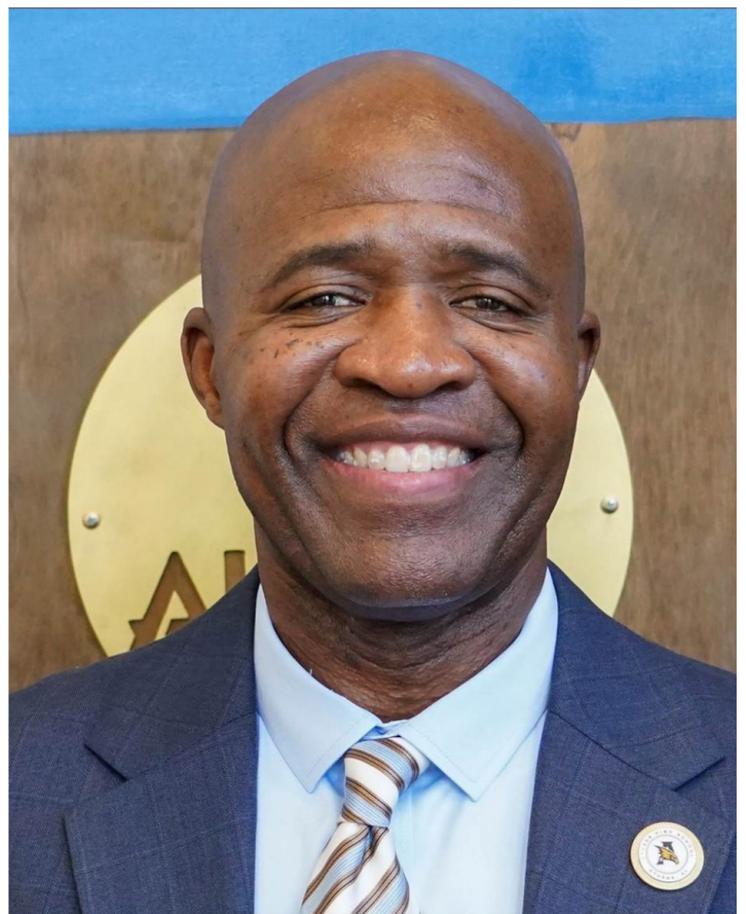
He went on to become a successful coach himself. During his time as head boys' basketball coach at Bibb County High School beginning in 1997, his team recorded five seasons of 20 more wins and captured five area championships. While proud of those accomplishments, Moore said his players' academic success means just as much.

"BCHS does a good job of preparing students for life after high school," Moore said, adding that the school "molded champions."

Moore said each position he has held

helped prepare him for the next step in his career, driven by a passion for helping and educating others. Reflecting on his legacy, he said he hopes his players understand how much he cared for them and that he aimed to guide them in the right direction.

He added that one of the most meaningful moments in his career is watching his students graduate and move on to the next chapter of their lives. "That means more to me than any athletic event," Moore said. For future athletes and coaches, Moore advises staying committed to the right reasons and putting students first. "It's always a good day to be a Choctaw," Moore said.



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NEWS

Cahaba Cars & Coffee on the Square

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Centreville Main Street kicked off its newest community event, Cahaba Cars & Coffee on the Square, with a great first gathering in Uptown Centreville.

Held on the town square, the inaugural event welcomed more than 30 cars and motorcycles throughout the morning, with many participants staying for the duration. The event brought together car enthusiasts, families, and community members for a relaxed and social start to the weekend.

A special contribution from Jeff McGee and Joey Mc-

Geer helped make the morning even more enjoyable, as they provided complimentary coffee and donuts for attendees. Their support added to the welcoming, community-focused atmosphere that organizers hope will define the event moving forward.

Cahaba Cars & Coffee is scheduled to take place every third Saturday from March through September, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., offering a consistent opportunity for residents and visitors to gather, connect, and share a common interest. In addition to showcasing vehicles, the event is designed to encourage foot traffic in the downtown

area and support local businesses along Main Street.

Centreville Main Street hopes the strong turnout for the first event is an encouraging sign of what's to come. By creating a space where people can gather casually, admire a variety of vehicles, and build connections, the event aims to become a staple in the community's monthly calendar.

The next Cars & Coffee is scheduled for April 18, and organizers are inviting everyone, whether they have a vehicle to show or simply want to stop by, to be part of the growing tradition!



Grow More, Give More: Alabama Launches 250 Pound Challenge to Support Communities

AMERICA ALABAMA UNIVERSITY ALBUURN Extension

GROW MORE GIVE MORE
250 lb. CHALLENGE



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is inviting residents across the state to take part in a meaningful effort to give back. Through its ongoing Grow More, Give More initiative, Extension leaders have introduced the 250 Pound Challenge, encouraging gardeners in every county to grow and donate at least 250 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables this season.

The initiative is led by Bethany O'Rear, who has guided the Grow More, Give More project since 2020. What began as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic (modeled after the idea of Victory Gardens) has continued to grow into a statewide movement focused on sharing homegrown produce with those in need.

The 250 Pound Challenge will run from Memorial Day, May 25, through La-

bor Day, September 7, and participation is simple. Gardeners are encouraged to plant their usual crops while adding an extra row or a few additional containers specifically for donation. When harvest time arrives, that extra produce can be set aside and given to local food banks, community kitchens, places of worship, neighbors, or families in need. Participants are asked to weigh and record the amount they donate and submit it through an online survey to contribute to their county's total.

A wide variety of crops can help gardeners reach their goals, including beans, squash, cucumbers, zucchini, peppers, tomatoes, southern peas, and okra. Larger items like watermelons and cantaloupes can also quickly add to donation totals.

The effort comes at a critical time, as food insecurity continues to affect approximately 2 million people across Alabama, including one in four children,

according to the Extension. In 2025 alone, Grow More, Give More participants donated more than 21,000 pounds of produce, helping thousands of families statewide.

Local residents are encouraged to consider supporting nearby food distribution efforts, including Compassion and Hope Food Basket (located at 1728 Main Street in Brent), as well as other food pantries throughout Bibb County and surrounding counties. Donations of fresh produce can make a meaningful difference for families facing food insecurity right here at home.

As Alabama celebrates 250 years of American history, the 250 Pound Challenge offers a simple but powerful way for individuals, families, and community groups to come together in service. By growing a little extra and giving a little more, neighbors have the opportunity to strengthen their communities — one harvest at a time.

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March-September



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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

We want to wish the family of Phillip Jason Thompson, 52, who passed away on March 10, 2026 our deepest sympathy. Jason's graveside services were held on March 13, 2026 at Pineland Memorial Cemetery. Jason will be missed by his family and many friends.

Those enjoying and celebrating Charlotte Lovelady West with an early birthday luncheon on March 12, 2026 were Pam Long, Peggy Reynolds and Fran Deason, all classmates of Charlotte. They always have a good time just being together and delicious food at Boondocks in Brierfield.

Wishing several that have birthdays in March including Laura Blumenfeld, Lisa Cox Booth, Jane Watts, Inga Kornegay, Nancy Carlee, Lynn Ingram, Dennis Stripling, Eddie Brown, Anna Margaret Suttle and Linda Freeman Stewart. Special birthday wishes go out to Myrtle Jones who recently celebrated her 102nd birthday.

A fellowship luncheon was enjoyed at Brent Baptist Church for members and guests after worship services on Sunday, March 15, 2026.

Perry Party of 5 threw Charlotte West the most incredible 75th birthday ever. They can throw a party! Words cannot express how much fun she had and how much love we felt Sunday, March 15, 2026 from family and friends. Thanks to all that attended and remembered her. It was truly special. Charlotte's birthday was on March 16, 2026. We wish her many more Happy Birthdays to come.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Dennis Jones, 71, who passed away on March 16, 2026. Funeral services were held on March 20, 2026 at Bethlehem Baptist Church with burial in Harris Cemetery. Dennis will be missed by his family and friends.

A revival will be hdd at Hubbard Springs Church from March 30 – April 3, 2026 beginning each night at 6:00 p.m. Hubbard Springs is located on Highway 82 near the Bibb-Tuscaloosa line. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

If you have news call it in at (205) 316-1181. Take care and God bless.

Mayor Barry Cooner called the meeting to order at five o'clock followed by prayer led by Don Mack, Sr. and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Linda Lawrence. All Council members were present.

- A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and carried.

- After a Q&A period a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the A/P as presented.

- Dr. John Waits, on behalf of Cahaba Medical Care, a not-for-profit agency, presented a Site Plan for the construction of the Headquarters for CMC/CMC Training Center, etc. to be located adjacent to Bibb Medical Center and extending to near Dignity Funeral Home and undeveloped city property. Since the grant he is applying for is in the FY27 Federal Appropriations budget, it must be under the City of Centreville for financial/administration purposes, Ingress/egress roads, etc. Upon review and

Q&A a motion to approve the grant request with a priority number 4, was made (Don Mack), seconded (Aaron Hood) and motion carried.

- Police Department Report: Chief Smith provided examples of the flyer he proposes posting for an open officer position. The latest police vehicle has been striped. A Tahoe is in need of brake repair. Jason English has inspected the vehicle and needed repair quote of \$925.00 was given. A motion to approve this expenditure was made, seconded and approved.

- Cadence Bank Loan: Tabled until the next council meeting.

- Tyler Technology: Tabled until the next council meeting.

- Central Alabama Regional Child Advocacy: A motion was made, seconded and carried to fund this request at the same rate as the previous year (\$1,000).

- Old Firehouse: One quote on roof repair has been received, and an addi-

tional two quotes are to be obtained. Roof damage will be presented to Travelers Insurance for possible claim.

- Centreville Main Street: Katie Cheslock reported on the new Ambassador program, the Antique Car Show to be held each third Saturday and new notebooks for council members.

- Jason Elam brought an issue before the council requesting assistance in handling. His property is across Hwy. 219 from the Shell Station and Ballparks. On days when there is an overflow crowd at the ball park, parking becomes an issue for him as well as the funeral home. Jason feels he administrators for the sports complex should provide assistance to motorists to ensure the maximum number of vehicles are parked in their designated parking area. Businesses in the area also experience a loss of parking space due to the overflow. In addition, Jason stated that conduct on his

private property, resulted in him having to request police assistance. He would like for the city and sports complex administration to work toward a solution to this.

- Ashton Cottingham (Centreville Main Street) discussed the road access to the undeveloped city property adjacent to Cahaba Medical Care.

- Councilman Don Mack, Sr. thanked Mayor Barry Cooner, council members Linda Lawrence and Diane Epperson, Christian Sanford and Lynn Hamric with Centreville Historical Preservation Commission

for their support and attendance at the dedication of the historical marker for the Historic cemetery located in East Town. A Historical marker was dedicated and families associated with the cemetery was recognized.

Public Comment: None

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned

CENTREVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: March 17, 2026

by Lynn LHamric

United Way of West AL Names Kemmer and Burklew to Board

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (March 24, 2026) – United Way of West Alabama (UWWA) proudly announces that Dr. Stuart R. Bell, former President of The University of Alabama, will serve as Campaign Chair during the organization's 80th Anniversary year.

Bell is a nationally respected leader in higher education whose career has been defined by service-driven leadership institutional advancement, and community partnership. As the 29th President of The University of Alabama (2015-2025), he guided the University through a period of historic growth, including record enrollment, record research activity, and unprecedented philanthropic success. Under his leadership, the Rising Tide Capital Campaign surpassed its goal, generating more than 1,100 new endowed scholarships and establishing nearly 70 endowed faculty support funds.

Bell, along with his wife, Susan, have long demonstrated a strong commitment to United Way and giving back, predating their move to Tuscaloosa. Since coming to The University of Alabama, they have helped strengthen the University's annual United Way campaign and reinforced the institution's role as a leading supporter of local nonprofits serving children and families across the region. The University has continued to be number one in employee participation in their United Way campaign amongst other SEC schools.

"Susan and I have been champions of United Way for many years, and I am honored to lead this year's campaign at a pivotal and important moment when so many organizations are dependent on these funds to provide critical services," said Dr. Bell. "With the growing needs in our community, we are prepared to do whatever it takes to meet our goal this year."

Throughout his career, Dr. Bell has emphasized collaboration and responsible stewardship. His leadership reflects a clear understanding that thoughtful stewardship of resources creates lasting opportunity for individuals and families across West Alabama.

"Having Dr. Bell as our Campaign Chair is an honor, and the respect for him in our community will help us open new doors and build new relationships that will have a lasting impact for our United Way," said Jackie Wuska Wear, UWWA President & CEO. "He has a proven history of building strong fundraising foundations and surpassing large goals and we look forward to learning from him as he guides our campaign."

The 2026 UWWA campaign will kick-off with a luncheon at Bryant Conference Center on August 11, 2026. More information and tickets will be available closer to the date at uwwa.org.

United Way of West Alabama strengthens education, builds a healthy community, supports financial stability, and ensures resiliency through disaster relief and recovery across nine counties.

United Way of West Alabama Announces 2026 Board of Directors

Phyllis Belcher, Greene County IDA
Stuart Bell, Former President, University of Alabama

Karen Burklew, Alabama Power Company

Marcus Campbell, Commissioner, Sumter County

Johanna Cole, Community Volunteer

David Coleman, Hunt Refining Company

Erwin Dudley, Sr., Alabama Basketball
Willie Forte, Tuscaloosa Housing Authority

Kelli Gant, Warrior Met Coal Mining, LLC
Shawn Gilliam, Mercedes Benz U. S. International

Brian Groeschell, SmartBank
Chris Gunter, Buffalo Rock

Schnavia Hacher, University of Alabama School of Social Work
Josh Hayes, Prince Glover Hayes

Alison Hewson, Hewson Family Foundation, Inc.

Steven Hood, University of Alabama Student Affairs

Briana Houston, DCH Health System (Young Leaders Society President)

Brock Jones, Thornhill Capital Management (Board Chair)

Katrina Keefer, DCH Health System

Stephanie Kemmer, Bibb County Probate Judge

Jonathan Koh, Shelton State Community College

Barbara Kucharski, Community Involvement

Tim McCool, McCool, Owens & McCool, Pickens County

Yolanda Page, Stillman College

Brian Phillippi, Nucor Steel

Pam Pruitt, Community Involvement (Re-United Chair)

Sandra Hall Ray, Community Involvement

Misty Renfroe, Pickens County DHR

Jerry Smith, County Extension Director, Lamar County

Justice Smyth, IV, Tuscaloosa County EDA

Chad Tindol, University of Alabama Partnerships & Strategy

Mark Vaughn, BF Goodrich Tire Manufacturing

Terri Wallace, Publix Super Markets



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- Emphasize growth and continuous improvement

Safe, Supportive Schools

- Strong counseling and mental health services
- Partnerships with families and community organizations

Community Trust & Transparency

- Open communication with parents and fiscal responsibility
- Local decisions rooted in Bibb County values

The Republican Primary Election will be held on May 19, 2026. Please consider voting for Lane Lightsey for Bibb County Superintendent of Education.

Paid for by Friends of Lane Lightsey
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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Alabama Should Celebrate the ACA's 16th Birthday by Expanding Medicaid

An Opinion Editorial
By Debbie Smith



The Affordable Care Act turns 16 on March 23. It should be a moment to celebrate one of the most important expansions of health coverage in modern history. Instead, recent federal cuts have left thousands of Alabama families facing rising premiums and growing uncertainty about how to afford basic care.

The so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) and other federal policy changes severely undermined the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Those cuts are hitting Alabama especially hard because our state is one of only 10 yet to expand Medicaid to cover adults with low incomes. It's time for Alabama to take that step.

Recent federal cuts have eroded our state's progress on health coverage. Alabama reached record enrollment in HealthCare.gov plans in 2025, when more than 90% of enrollees used enhanced ACA premium tax credits to reduce costs. But the expiration of those credits in December pushed thousands of Alabamians off their plans and left many more underinsured.

Early 2026 enrollment data shows that around 20,000 fewer Alabamians selected Marketplace plans this year. We will not know the full number of people who have lost coverage until more data is released later this year. But we know that amid a growing affordability crisis, more families across our state are being priced out of coverage. Health insurance premiums are doubling or tripling for many.

At the same time, Alabama's health care system is on life support. Rural hospitals continue to close or cut services. Emergency departments are stretched thin. Many communities have no local access to maternity care or mental health treatment. And cuts to federal Medicaid funding deepen these challenges.

Alabama already has more than a dozen rural hospitals at risk of closure, and many facilities are operating in the red. Without action, more closures are likely, and the consequences for rural communities will be severe.

Congress recently passed the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) to help states stabilize rural hospitals. But it is no substitute for Medicaid expansion. One time federal dollars cannot sustain hospitals year after year, especially when uncompensated care continues to rise and hundreds of thousands of people remain uninsured. RHTP funding would work far more effectively alongside Medicaid expansion, which would provide an ongoing revenue source for hospitals.

Medicaid expansion is the most powerful tool Alabama has to stabilize its health care system and protect workers. About 154,800 Alabamians would gain coverage under Medicaid expansion, even after accounting for new federal work reporting requirements. These are workers

A Look at Attorney General and Agriculture Commissioner Races

Inside the Statehouse
By Steve Flowers

March 25, 2026:

This is a big election year in the Heart of Dixie. Every Constitutional office is on the ballot. Most of the major Constitutional offices are wide open with no incumbent running for reelection.

The two most important posts in state government, after Governor, are Attorney General and Agriculture Commissioner. Both constitutional offices are incumbent free. Agriculture Commissioner Rick Pate is term-limited and is running for Lt. Governor. The Attorney General office is being vacated by Steve Marshall, who is running for the U.S. Senate.

These two races have fielded well qualified and good candidates. The winner of the GOP Primary on May 19th will be the next Attorney General and Agriculture Commissioner, respectively. A Democrat cannot win a statewide race in Alabama. However, these two GOP Primary elections will not be decided on May 19th. These two races are the most consequential, close, contentious, and interesting statewide races this year. They are both headed for a June runoff.

The Democrats have fielded good candidates in these two marquee races. Ron Sparks, a former Agriculture Commissioner, is running for his old job. Jeff McLaughlin, a Sand Mountain lawyer and former one-term legislator from Marshall County, is running for Attorney General. He is a good man. If McLaughlin and Sparks were running as Republicans, they probably would not win the GOP nomination, but they would be viable candidates. However, they both are true blue Democrats.

The GOP Attorney General Primary election will feature former State Supreme Court Justice Jay Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General Katherine Green Robertson, and Blount County District Attorney Pamela Casey. All are well qualified for this important office. This will be one of the best and most expensive state contests and will probably need a runoff to determine a winner.

Jay Mitchell is favored to win, but Katherine Robertson will run him close, and Pamela Casey will be the surprise in this race. Casey is going to get a significant vote and will be right on Katherine Robertson's heels. Pam Casey is probably the most qualified candidate in the race. She has been the District Attorney in Blount County for over a decade and has actually prosecuted criminals.

Jay Mitchell served seven years on the Alabama Supreme Court and left the high tribunal to run for Attorney General. He has been elected twice statewide. He has a proven, conservative,

who keep our state running. They are people in retail, food service, child care, construction, home care and other essential jobs who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but far too little to afford private insurance.

Expanding Medicaid is more than a financial decision. It is a commitment to the health and stability of Alabama's people and communities. When parents can see a doctor, children thrive. When workers can afford prescriptions, they stay healthy enough to stay on the job. And when rural hospitals remain open, entire communities survive. Medicaid expansion strengthens families, supports local economies and gives people the chance to live healthier, more secure lives.

The benefits of expansion far outweigh the challenges. New OBBBA provisions limit how Medicaid expansion states can collect provider taxes, which would require Alabama to rethink how it funds its share of Medicaid. But by not expanding Medicaid, Alabama will lose \$181.6 million in 2026 by covering health care spending that otherwise could be paid for by the fed-

eral government, a Families USA analysis estimates. Even after accounting for \$110 million in new costs projected under the OBBBA, Medicaid expansion still would generate \$71 million in net savings for Alabama.

Protecting health care access must be a priority for our state. Gov. Kay Ivey recently pledged \$40 million to help Jackson Hospital in Montgomery remain open. Medicaid expansion is a cost-effective investment that would strengthen every hospital in the state and help hard-working Alabamians stay healthy. Alabama can and should make that investment.

The path forward is clear. Alabama still can expand Medicaid. Alabama still can increase access to affordable health care. And Alabama still can protect its hospitals, workforce and economy.

The opportunity remains, and the need has never been more urgent. It's time for Alabama to save lives, create jobs and expand Medicaid.

pro-business track record. He has the backing of the state business community, and his fundraising illuminates this support. He leads the field in campaign dollars raising well over \$2 million.

Katherine Robertson is right behind Mitchell in dollars in the bank heading towards May 19. She has been the recipient of over \$1.5 million from right wing, out-of-state, dark money political action committees, which accounts for the majority of her campaign contributions. It is because of this dark money that she will be a very viable candidate.

The problem she has is that in the runoff, Pam Casey will finish a strong third, and Casey will endorse and campaign for Jay Mitchell. She and Mitchell really dislike Robertson, and truly resent Robertson being funded by out-of-state PACs, when they had to do it the hard way and raise money one-on-one from Alabamians.

The Agriculture Commissioner race has three viable candidates, also, and this one will more than likely be headed for a runoff to determine the last two standing. The horses in this race all have bona fide agricultural backgrounds of long-standing. Any of the three would do a good job.

State Senator Jack Williams of Mobile County is a veteran 12-year legislator, as well as being a fifth-generation farmer.

Christina Woerner McInnis is also the scion of a fifth-generation farm family. Her ancestors settled in Baldwin County a century ago, and like most settlers of that county were originally potato farmers. Over the past decades, the Woerner family has become the largest sod grass farmers in Alabama, if not the nation.

Corey Hill is a fourth-generation farmer from Marshall County. He is the only candidate from vote-rich North Alabama. He is also Mayor of his hometown of Douglas and has the ALFA endorsement.

Jack Williams and Christina Woerner McInnis will probably outspend Hill in this race. Williams has been endorsed by most of the pro-business groups in the state and may be the favorite.

This will be a good race for an important office. See you next week.

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature. Steve may be reached at steve@steveflowers.us.

Centreville Press

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THE STAFF

David Daniel..... President
Thomas Michael HobsonEditor
Lynn Hamric.....Reporter
Savanna Logan.....Reporter
Candace JohnsonReporter

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Shady Grove II Baptist
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Pastor 834-2557

Shiloh Baptist
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Union Baptist Church
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West Blocton

West Blocton First Baptist
938-7392

BIBLE
Grace Bible
Woodstock 938-7763

CATHOLIC
Church Of The Holy Spirit
Tuscaloosa 553-9733

St. Thomas
The Apostle Church
Montevallo 663-3936

CHRISTIAN
Marvel Christian Union
Montevallo 345-7018

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Centreville Church Of
Christ
926-LOVE

North Bibb Church of
Christ
Woodstock 477-6121

West Blocton
Church of Christ
West Blocton 938-7108

Evangelist Temple
Brent 926-6430

CHURCH OF GOD
Church of God of Prophecy
at Eoline
256-393-9625
Pastor Shane Pate

Church Of God Of Prophecy
West Blocton 938-2788

Caffee Junction Church
Of God
205-477-5468

River of Life Church of
God
9225 Hwy 82, Brent
205-926-7600

West Blocton Church of
God
Cty Rd. 21 Smith Hill
205-966-4988

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LORD JESUS CHRIST**
2300 South Scottsville Rd
Centreville 926-5393

EPISCOPAL
The Church Of The Holy
Comforter
Montevallo 665-2769

St. Andrews Episcopal
Church
925 Plowman Street
Montevallo 665-1667

HOLINESS
Deliverance Temple Holiness
Four Points 926-5565

Word of Faith Worship
Center
Centreville 926-4555

Free Will Apostolic Holiness
Antioch 926-9252

Real Truth Holiness
Church
646 S. Scottsville Road
Brent 926-5009

Trinity Spirit Holiness
Church
Centreville 926-4321

METHODIST

Brent Bible Methodist
812-675-1543
210 4th St. Brent, AL

Brent Methodist
190 Tabernacle Rd.
Brent, AL

Pondville Methodist
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Freindship Rd. • Brent

Friendship Bible Methodist
Church
205-225-4000
Co. Rd. 16 Brent, AL

Ada Chapel Bible
Methodist Church
12540 N. Scottsville Rd.
West Blocton, AL
513-254-8241

West Blocton Bible
Methodist Church
355 Camellia Lane, West
Blocton
205.826.5763

Mt. Sinai Church
Centreville 256-577-8137

James Chapel
A.M.E. Zion Church
926-5607

Bible Methodist
West Blocton 938-0091

Hopewell A.M.E. Zion
Harrisburg 926-5777

New Hope AME
West Blocton 540-8016

Tabernacle United Methodist
Lawley

Waymon Chapel AME
Brierfield 205-665-4730

West Scottsville
United Methodist Church
North Scottsville Road
451-3624

NAZARENE
Ridgeville Church Of The
Nazarene
Brent

Spencer Church Of The
Nazarene
Brent

PENTECOSTAL
New Life West Blocton
Pastor Greg Brock
205.441.2809

First United Pentecostal
Church of Centreville

PRESBYTERIAN
Brent Presbyterian P.C.A.
926-4722

Centreville First
Presbyterian P.C.A.
926-4261

Green Pond Presbyterian
Presbyterian Church Rd
205-938-2344

Pleasant Hill Upper Cumberland
Presbyterian
Church
Centreville 926-4409

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
First Brent Seventh Day
Adventist
926-6328

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Fellowship Community
926-6800

Scottsville Union Church
Co. Rd. 9
Scottsville 205-503-6096

Victory Tabernacle Church
1008 Walnut Street •
Centreville
926-9455 or 361-2763
Pastor Butch Tucker

Yahweh's Harvest
926-9044

The Refreshing Place
Church
24865 Hwy. 5
Woodstock, AL 35188
Pastor Wayne Keeton

God's House of Prayer
489 Co. Rd. 162 (Heiberg-
er)
Marion, AL 36756
334-683-4933
Every Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Sandy Chapel Community
Church
926-4934

The Heart of the Hymn

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN

"Trust and Obey"

For many, the hymn Trust and Obey brings back memories of Sunday school classrooms, worship services, and revival meetings where its familiar refrain echoed through congregations. Like many gospel songs, it takes a simple spiritual truth and weaves it into a deeply personal expression of faith.

The hymn was written by John H. Sammis (1846–1919), though the exact Scripture that inspired it remains uncertain. Some have suggested a connection to 1 John 1:7, while others, including hymnologist Kenneth W. Osbeck, point to 1 Samuel 15:22, which emphasizes that obedience to God is greater than sacrifice. Regardless of its precise origin, the hymn clearly centers on the theme of faithful trust and obedience in the Christian life.

The story behind the hymn's creation begins in 1886 during a revival led by evangelist Dwight L. Moody in Brockton, Massachusetts. Music leader Daniel B. Towner was present when a young man stood and shared a simple testimony: "I am not quite sure – but I am going to trust, and I am going to obey." Struck

by the sincerity of those words, Towner wrote them down and sent them to Sammis, along with a brief account of the moment.

From that inspiration, Sammis crafted the now-famous refrain: "Trust and obey—for there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

These lines became the foundation for the entire hymn, first published in 1887 in Hymns Old and New. It quickly gained popularity and has appeared in countless hymnals since, including Methodist collections dating back to 1897.

Sammis himself led a varied life, beginning as a businessman before being called into ministry through his involvement with the YMCA. After serving congregations in several states, he later joined the faculty of the Los Angeles Bible Institute.

Simple yet profound, "Trust and Obey" has endured because of its clear message. Long after the final verse is sung, its refrain often lingers — reminding believers that sometimes the deepest truths of faith are also the simplest to carry forward.



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A LOOK BACK AT 1966



NEW FARM BUREAU OFFICE IN CENTREVILLE

This sparkling new office of the Bibb County Farm Bureau will officially open Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p. m. The office is located next door to Ritz Theatre. Dan James, Bibb County Farm Bureau President extends an invitation to all to attend.



PERSONNEL AT FARM BUREAU OFFICE

Mrs. Veda Lawrence, Receptionist and Federation Secretary, Hugh Edmonds, Bibb County Farm Bureau Agent and Mrs. Bruce Garrett, Farm Bureau Secretary, make up the personnel at the new Farm Bureau office.

Bibb-West Blocton Football Preview

The years rival game between the Choctaws and the Tigers will be played Friday night at Centreville. The odds seem to be in favor of the Tigers. Coach Grover Whaley says that Bibb County is definitely the underdog due to the scores of comparative games which should favor the Tigers by two touchdowns. He further states that Bibb County has a lot of injuries. It is very doubtful that guard Bill Patridge and center Kelly Price who have knee injuries will see much action Friday night. Halfback Bobby Leach will definitely be out of the game, due to a broken collarbone. Coach Pratt of West Blocton sees a good hard fought game all the way and says that the Tigers are in good condition and ready to play football. Both coaches urge all you fans to this game because it should be the best game of the year.

Beach At Lake Payne Under Construction

Montgomery, Alabama - Forest Supervisor Del Thorsen said that the construction of the beach at Payne Lake of the Talladega National Forest would be resumed in November and December. Construction of the beach was started last fall but greatly hampered by heavy rains and bad weather. Construction was halted in the spring to let the lake return to its normal level for the fish spawning season. Ranger Beal will start the draw-down on the lake this week. The construction plans include a beach safety line, beach wall, and a sand surface for the beach. Fishermen may still fish the lake but they may encounter some difficulty in launching their boats. The draw-down will be limited to about eight to ten feet. Most of the sportsmen in this area will be interested in the deer hunting during this period. See your local Alabama Conservation Officer on the hunting schedule.



TOP THREE AT SAMFORD

Miss Beverly Jean Belcher (left) of Centreville was among the top three winners in the Homecoming Court at Samford. Beverly, a senior music education major, was named second alternate Miss Homecoming at the recent Homecoming pageant. She is pictured with the queen, Claudia Hunter Simpson, first alternate queen, Hunter Simpson, and Beverly is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. graduate of Bibb County High School.



Winners of the annual beauty pageant staged at the Judson college annual, The Conventualist, are Sherri Petri, a freshmen from Centreville; Cherry Jackson, a sophomore from Opelika; Kathy Shaffner, a junior from Centreville; and Ann Belcher, a senior from Centreville.

BIBB COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Reporter: Gayle Stewart

The Bibb County Choctaws and West Blocton Tigers were unable to play the biggest game of the season Friday night due to rain. The game was played Monday night at 7:30. The school spirit was really high Friday, and it was a great disappointment to us all not to get to play. The spirit was even higher Monday!

The cheerleaders have done a great job decorating the halls with posters and colorful streamers. We would like to thank the cheerleaders for doing such a good job. Thank you Debbie Graves, Betty Lightsey, Brenda Mitchell, Danky Davis, Sally Ward and Beverly Bolding.

The captains for the game were the six seniors who are graduating this year. They are as follows: Bobby Joe Leach, Kelly Price, Ronnie Adams, Jimmy Suttle, Dennis Harbison and Mike Hubbard.

The cheerleaders have been selling "stop signs" to wear at the games. They had "twirp week" when all the girls and boys were required to wear signs in order to talk to each other. Kangaroo Court was held on Thursday for those who were caught. Mr. Kornegay, our principal, was found guilty and his sentence was to wear a sign all day Friday. The Honorable Judge was Coach Medders. The jury was composed of Coach Whaley, Mrs. Lowrey, Mrs. Hubbard and Mrs. Stacy.

The YFC went to Birmingham Saturday night to the rally. The school with the most in attendance got the award, which was a beautiful trophy, carried home by Ragland School. Bibb County High has held this honor before, so let's do it again!

The girls in Mrs. Hollingsworth's biology class came out looking a little nauseated. They are dissecting earthworms!



LARGE GRAIN COMBINE DELIVERED IN COUNTY

The largest grain combine ever delivered in Bibb County is shown above in operation on the I. L. Burt Farm near West Blocton. The machine is now being used to harvest soybeans but could be used for harvesting several different varieties of grains. The machine is entirely self-contained and self-propelled and will harvest 4 rows at one time. Standing on the machine is M. K. Lee, Manager of Belcher Truck & Tractor Company, Mr. I. L. Burt, Bill Burt, machine operator and J. F. Nicholson, Salesman with Belcher Truck & Tractor Company, who sold the machine.



Pictured above are J. W. Oakley, Sr., Mayor of Centreville signing a Proclamation designating the week of November 6th as National Education Week in Bibb County. Mrs. Tom Padgett, President of the Classroom Teachers Association and Mr. Francis Pratt, Superintendent of Education are watching the signing of the proclamation.



CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE WEST BLOCTON HIGH ANCHOR CLUB

The Charter Members of the newly organized West Blocton High School Anchor Club are shown above. They are: Connie Moore, Susan Hicks, Janet Lemmond, Sandra Rotenberry, Marsha Stephens, Joann Brewer, Pat Franks, Sandra White, Gypsy Yocum, E. Fountain, Jean Holdombeck, Delone Lawley, Patsy Taylor, Linda Vernon, Connie Foster, Linda Hubbard, Gaynell Wanda Holland, and Faculty Sponsor Mrs. Shirley Young.



OFFICERS OF WBHS ANCHOR CLUB

New officers of the West Blocton High Anchor Club are shown above with Mrs. Lella Griffin and Mrs. Louise Roggen, right, who installed the officers. The Club officers are: Lila Connie Mathews, President; Brenda Hutchings, Vice-President; Donna Saylor, Secretary; Jeane Holdombeck, Treasurer; and Jennifer Burns, Marsha Stephens and Gypsy Yocum, Directors.

WEST BLOCTON ANCHOR CLUB CHARTERED IN CEREMONIES... "SUSIE" 4-H'ERS... SMIT

The BACK PAGE

BMC Wellness Brings Fun and Fitness Together with Upcoming Kickball League

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Do you ever reminisce about how fun it was to play kickball on the playground with your friends as a kid? Well, BMC Wellness does. In a continued effort to remind folks that movement really is medicine, they keep finding creative ways to support the health and well-being of the community – and their latest initiative is all about making fitness fun!

BMC Wellness has announced that kickball is coming soon, offering a lighthearted and engaging way for adults to stay active while connecting with others. Registration is set to open on Monday, March 30, and the cost is just \$10 for participants ages 18 and up. In keeping with their goal of making participation easy and welcoming, teams will be assigned, allowing individuals to simply sign up, show up, and play.

This new kickball opportunity reflects BMC Wellness's ongoing commitment to

providing accessible and enjoyable ways for people to prioritize their health. By blending physical activity with social interaction, programs like this help remove some of the pressure often associated with exercise and instead create an environment where movement feels natural, fun, and community-driven.

Organizers are also inviting the community to help shape the experience. Participants are encouraged to share their preference for game times, with options including Friday, April 17 after 4 p.m., or Saturday, April 18, with potential morning, midday, or evening sessions.

By offering programs like kickball, BMC Wellness continues to show that caring for the community goes beyond traditional fitness routines. It's about creating opportunities for people to laugh, move, and connect — because sometimes the best way to stay healthy is simply to have fun doing it.



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BMC WELLNESS

Stay connected with everything happening at BMC Wellness Center by opting in to receive updates through text or email, no membership required. Get notifications about registrations, events, facility updates, and more, and choose exactly what you want to receive so you only see what matters to you. Not sure if you are opted in? Log into your member portal or stop by the Front Desk and we will be happy to help.

Diabetes Management Support Group

Next meeting: March 30th, 5:30pm

Living with diabetes can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to do it alone. Join our Diabetes Management Support Group for encouragement, community, and tools to help you feel empowered!

Pinwheel Planting

Join us at BMC Wellness Center for our Pinwheel Planting on **April 6th at 12:00pm** in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, held in partnership with the Central Alabama Child Advocacy Center. This meaningful event brings our community together to raise awareness about the importance of protecting children and strengthening families.