

Centreville Press

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Woodstock Celebrates Growth, Community, and New Beginnings

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The Town of Woodstock recently marked a major milestone with a day centered on growth, connection, and community pride — highlighting just how far the town has come and the bright future ahead.

Residents and visitors gathered to celebrate the grand opening of Woodstock's very first town playground, "The Emerald City," along with the unveiling of the town's new library. Both spaces represent more than just physical additions; they are investments in the families, children, and future of the community—places where memories will be made and inspiration will grow for generations.

The celebration also coincided with the 9th Annual Woodstock Wildflower Walk and Wellness

Fair, which drew hundreds of attendees for a day focused on health, connection, and hometown spirit. From families enjoying the new playground to individuals engaging in wellness activities, the event offered something meaningful for everyone who attended. And while the impact of a day like this can't always be measured, it's often in these moments that a simple conversation, a shared experience, or a message of encouragement reaches someone who needed it most.

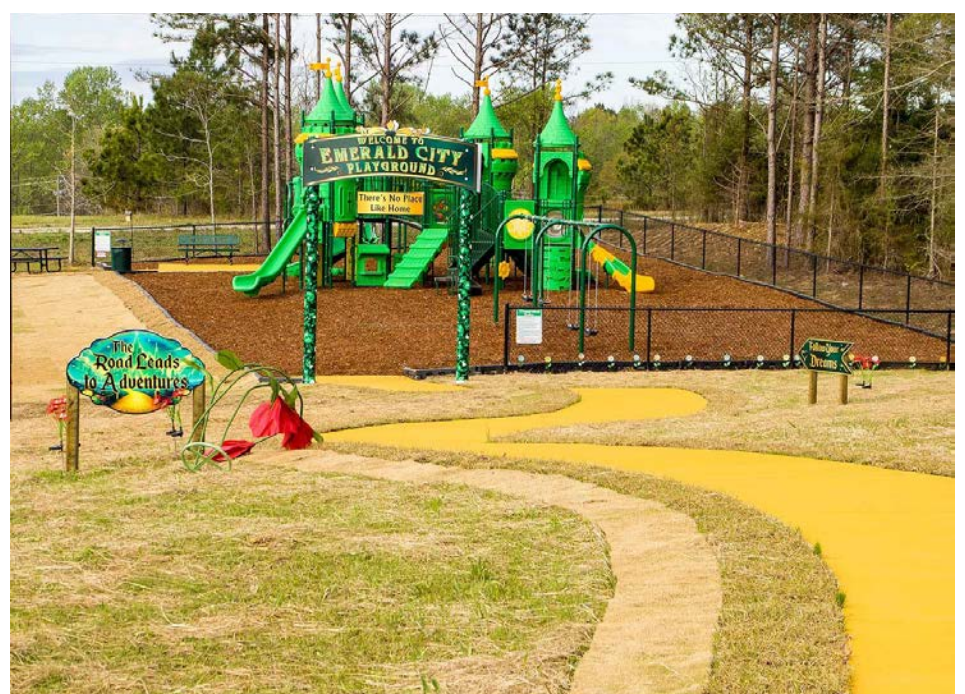
The success of the event was made possible through the support of many dedicated leaders and partners, including Senator April Weaver, Jerry Tingle, Ty Corbell, and Jeff Dodson and Cheryl Dodson, along with the Woodstock Town Council. Additional support from the Enterprise Mobility Foun-

ation and the Alabama Suicide Prevention and Resources Coalition helped bring the event to life.

Behind the scenes, town staff dedicated countless hours of fundraising, planning, and hands-on work to make the playground and library a reality. Special recognition was given to Town Clerk Tiffney McCulley, whose vision and leadership helped turn a dream into something tangible for the entire community.

As the town continues to grow and thrive, this celebration serves as a powerful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with a shared vision. In Woodstock, that vision is clear — creating spaces where people feel connected, supported, and inspired.

And if this event is any indication, the best is still yet to come.



AFC Urges Continued Caution as Wildfire Risks Remain Across Alabama



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Although the peak of last weekend's elevated fire weather has passed, the conditions that prompted concern from the Alabama Forestry Commission serve as an important reminder: wildfire risk remains a serious issue, and caution is still critical when it comes to outdoor burning.

Late March brought a combination of dry conditions, low relative humidity, and increased wind speeds across the state — factors that significantly raise the likelihood of fires starting easily and spreading rapidly. While those specific advisories issued for March 27–29 have ex-

pired, the underlying risks have not disappeared. These types of weather patterns are common this time of year and can return quickly, often with little warning.

The impact of these conditions is already evident. In just one week, 147 wildfires burned approximately 5,600 acres of forestland across Alabama, including several large fires spanning hundreds of acres in multiple counties. Events like these highlight how quickly a small, controlled burn can turn into a dangerous situation when weather conditions are unfavorable. One small fire can get out of hand quickly.

Forestry officials

stress that even when burn permits are allowed, outdoor burning should be approached with extreme caution, or better yet, avoided altogether if possible. Fires that escape containment not only damage property and natural resources, but also place lives at risk and strain our volunteer firefighters and their equipment.

Bibb County residents are encouraged to stay informed by monitoring updates from the Alabama Forestry Commission, especially regarding burn permits, Fire Danger Advisories, and Fire Alerts. Conditions can shift quickly, and what may seem safe one day can become hazardous the next.

Those who choose to burn should always ensure they have the proper permits and follow all safety guidelines. Burning without a permit remains a legal offense and can result in penalties.

As Alabama continues through peak wildfire season, officials emphasize a simple but vital message: when in doubt, don't burn. Taking that extra precaution can help protect homes, forests, and the people who call them home.

To report a wildfire, residents can call the Alabama Forestry Commission at (800) 392-5679 or contact their local forestry office.

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NEWS

Centreville Main Street Investing in a More Vibrant Uptown for Families and the Future

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Big things are happening in Uptown Centreville, as Centreville Main Street continues to take meaningful steps toward creating a space where families, visitors, and local businesses can truly thrive.

As part of a state-wide initiative led by Main Street Alabama, Centreville Main Street was selected as a grant recipient in fiscal year 2024. The program offered designated communities the opportunity to apply for up to \$25,000 to fund impactful local projects — and Centreville put that investment to work in a way that is already transforming the heart of the city.

Using the awarded funds, Centreville Main Street launched a Component Façade Improvement Grant Program, offering 50/50 matching grants of up to \$2,500 for eligible property and business owners. These funds helped support a variety of front-grades, including front façade painting, canopy and signage repairs or replacements, and

improvements to windows and doors.

Each project was carefully reviewed by the Centreville Historic Preservation Commission to ensure that updates remained true to the character and charm that make downtown Centreville unique. The result is a thoughtful balance of preservation and progress — enhancing the area while honoring its history.

These improvements are already making a visible difference. A more polished, welcoming downtown not only supports existing businesses but also creates an environment where families feel encouraged to gather, explore, and spend time together. Whether it's strolling along Main Street, attending community events, or simply enjoying the atmosphere, Uptown Centreville is steadily becoming a place people want to be.

By investing in small but meaningful changes, Centreville Main Street is building momentum for long-term growth. These efforts are about more than



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aesthetics — they're about fostering community pride, encouraging economic vitality, and creating a downtown that continues to serve as the heart of the community for generations to come.

Living River Prepares for Summer of Faith, Fun and Outdoor Adventure



BY CANDACE JOHNSON
REPORTER

Living River is a summer camp and retreat center located near Montealvo. Rachel Matthews, assistant director of development, said the camp offers children as young as four years old through high school seniors the opportunity to connect with nature while growing in their faith.

The camp opened its doors in 2014, with programming officially beginning in 2015. Although still relatively new, Matthews said Living River has built a strong foundation.

"We've only been having summer camp for about 10 years, so we're still a fairly new camp, but we have a great program that focuses on recreation and connection," Matthews said.

Campers are encouraged to disconnect from technology and immerse themselves outdoors. Four summer sessions will be held from June 5–26, including two elementary sessions, a creative session for older elementary and

middle school students, and a Night Owl session for middle and high school students. A "You and Me" camp is also available for younger children who attend alongside a parent or loved one if they are not ready for an overnight experience.

Graduating high school seniors can participate in a week-long "Counselors in Training" program, gaining leadership experience while serving younger campers.

For first-time attendees, Matthews encourages participants to be open-minded and willing to step outside their comfort zones.

"I would want them to have had a lot of fun being outside and to have gained confidence in themselves from trying something new and making new friends, to feel more secure in who they are," Matthews said.

Living River is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), but Matthews emphasized that campers of all backgrounds and denominations are

welcome. "We want to be a place where kids can ask questions and find themselves in the story of God, creation and faith," Matthews said. "All kinds of people from different backgrounds are welcome."

Safety remains a priority at the camp. Living River provides trained counselors, lifeguards, healthcare support and first aid-certified staff to ensure campers' well-being.

Parents interested in learning more can attend monthly open house events or information sessions held in May prior to the start of camp. Scholarships are also available to help cover the cost of attendance.

"We think summer camp is a magical place where staff and counselors work hard to make every camper feel accepted, form connections and discover more about nature and themselves," Matthews said. More information is available at livingriver.org.

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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

Miss Cahaba Lily 2026 will be held on April 25, 2026 at West Blocton. Please plan to attend.

The Joyful Hearts of Brent Baptist Church met on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 10 a.m. with lunch at noon.

Anniversary wishes go out to Glenn and Debbie Grammer who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them many more years of happiness together.

Birthday wishes go out to several that have birthdays in March; Parker Hallmark, Terry Nichols, Mike Elam, Molly Meigs, Barbara Tyus, Sandi Hubbard, Janet Anderson White, Eddie Marchant, Shane Smitherman and Evan Dunn.

A speedy recovery goes out to Larry Elam who recently had eye surgery in Birmingham.

Bibb County Relay for Life pageant will be on April 11, 2026 at Cahawba Christian Academy starting at 10 a.m. For more information contact Ryan Thompson.

Congratulations to Blakeley Whirley and Caleb Ruston who were recently united in marriage.

Belated birthday wishes go out to Natalie Whaley who celebrated her 4th birthday on March 24, 2026. Natalie is the daughter of Cecil and Kaley Whaley. Happy Birthday Natalie.

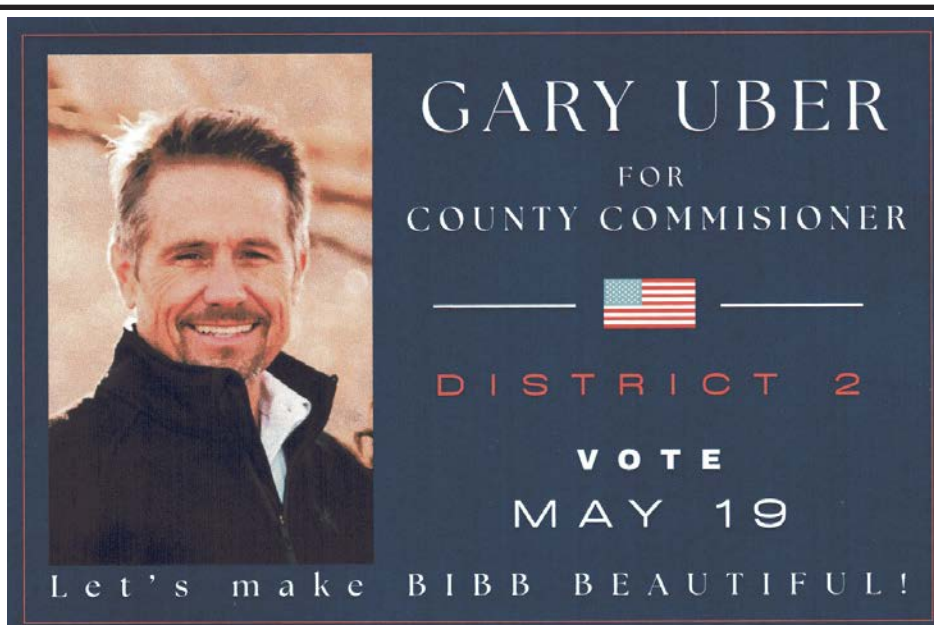
If you have news call it in at (205) 316-1181. Take care and God bless.

Gary Uber Seeks Election to Bibb County Commission, District 2

We have lived in Bibb County for the past 20 years. I first visited Bibb County when I began dating my wife, Carmen (Belcher) Uber, in 1989. We were married in 1991 at the Brent Bible Methodist Church. We have two daughters, Lauren, who attends FSU School of Law and lives in Florida with her husband, Justin. They are both employed by the Martin County Sheriff's Office in Stuart, Florida. Morgan Uber, registered nurse (BSN), works at the BMC Specialty Clinic in Centreville. We have one granddaughter and a much-loved dog.

We purchased the Woodrow Hubbard farm in 2006 in Bibb County District 2. We grow pines and lease the pasture land for cattle.

I have been asked many times, "Why run for public office?" It all started when I discovered someone had discarded two full bags of trash beside the county road on our property. The more I traveled the district, the more appalled I became at the volume...of trash



along our roadways. I've discussed this issue with a number of concerned citizens, and it has clearly become a major issue. We have to be creative in addressing this problem. The county has worked hard to pick up the trash, only to have the roadside covered with debris within days of removing it. We have to continue managing roadside trash, but we need to start changing the culture through education.

From the perspective of a businessman, I believe that if we want to grow business opportunities and have people move to and live in Bibb County, we must provide good jobs so our children can earn a competitive living close to home. Growing our businesses and our population demands that we develop a plan to address the issues that have plagued our county for years.

My plan, if elected, is as follows:

1.) Work on developing a comprehensive five-year plan to develop and grow the county's business and residential footprint. Create a growth plan that includes developing the commercial corridor that runs from the traffic circle on SR5 to the northwest side of Highway 82. Meet with local companies to make sure we accommodate their expansion.

2.) Address the issue of trash along our roadways. Include "roadside cleanup1" as part of the sentencing process for prisoners. Continue offering incentives for citizens to adopt sections of a roadway for periodic trash pickup. Work with the school

board, the Chamber of Commerce, and city officials to discover initiatives that teach children not to litter and to dispose of trash properly. We have to change the culture, and it starts with our children.

3.) Work with the road department to find a creative plan to address our county roads. We need to consider all options. We are asking our road department to do too much with too little, and as a result, some of our roads are falling into disrepair. Options might include putting our unpaved rural roads out to bid and having those roads maintained by a third party.

4.) Support the continued expansion of the healthcare system in our community.

5.) Consider the expansion of municipal services, such as a new fire station in Brent to accommodate the anticipated growth in the next five years.

6.) Support our veterans.

Education and Experience:

My education started at a small high school in South Florida. I graduated from Hobe Sound Christian College in South Florida in 1985. I joined the U.S. Navy in 1986. My military service began as a Navy Corpsman; I was commissioned as a naval officer in 1990.

I completed a Master's Degree from Asbury Theological Seminary (MDiv) and the University of Kentucky (MSW). I concluded my graduate degree work at the University of Notre Dame (Non-profit Business Administration).

Early in my professional career, I was a hospital administrator before starting a successful health-care staffing company in 1997. Since buying a home in Bibb County in 2006, I have spent many hours working to improve our land here, becoming involved in the community, and building our business. In 2016, my parents moved to Bibb County, and we have been able to assist them since they now live on our property.

The national and international non-profit boards I currently serve on include Shining Light International, Pakistan (Chairman), and Columbia International University (past finance chairman, current Strategic Affairs Committee)

Locally, I serve on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Airport Authority Board.

It's time to not vote for someone simply because you know their last name or are related to them in some way. It's time to vote for a candidate whose last name may not be that familiar, but has a passion for seeing the county become all it can be and has the experience in local government to make a real difference.

I would be honored to serve Bibb County and work with my community to build a strong future. Together, we can build on what makes Bibb County special and continue working to make Bibb beautiful.

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

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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Lower Ballot Races

Inside the Statehouse
By Steve Flowers

April 1, 2026:

There are several down ballot Constitutional offices up this year. All are contested. Several are open where there is no incumbent.

Highlighted today will be Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, and two seats on the State Public Service Commission.

In these races, name identification is most of the gambit. Therefore, those who have the most money, usually win. Money is the mother's milk of politics. Money buys name identification, and name identification equates into votes. It is a crowded ballot. Many times politics, and especially for lower ballot races, is a simple matter of whose name you see or recognize the most. That is one reason why incumbents have an inherent advantage.

State Treasurer Young Boozer is running for another term as our State Treasurer. In my over six decades of following Alabama politics, there has never been a more qualified and accomplished State Treasurer than Young Boozer III. He has a stellar record of safekeeping the state's coffers. Boozer also has made the state money. He has invested wisely, like only a successful banker could adroitly accomplish. He had a stellar career as a banker that invested for the largest banks in the world on a daily basis.

Young Boozer has the longest tenure as treasurer in state history. He also is one of the most popular public officials in the state with one of the most memorable names on the ballot. He will be overwhelmingly re-elected to another four-year term on May 19. He only has one token opponent.

Caroleene Dobson will be elected Secretary of State on May 19. She does have two unknown, last day qualifying opponents, so she could be forced into a June runoff, but probably not. She has unlimited campaign funds.

At the beginning of the campaign year, it looked as though the Secretary of State race would be interesting and competitive. However, Caroleene Dobson jumped out to an early and commanding lead and ran her

primary competitor, current State Auditor Andrew Sorrell, out of the race.

Caroleene is an outstanding candidate who is the brightest rising star on the GOP stage. She is an accomplished lawyer, mother, wife, and campaigner. She is also a very good fundraiser. She has garnered the endorsement of every major group, including ALFA, BCA, and Forestry, to name a few. She reminds you of another Katie Britt.

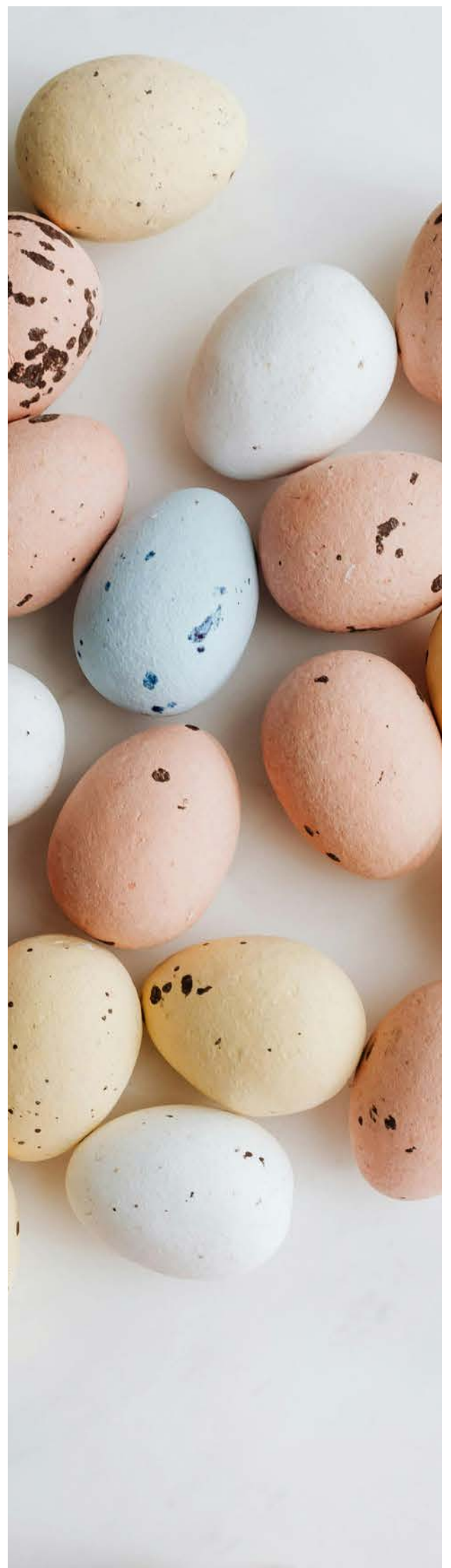
Poor ole Andrew Sorrell got run out of the Secretary of State race by Caroleene Dobson and jumped from the frying pan into the fire when he jumped into a race for his old job as Auditor against another bona fide rising superstar in Derek Chen. Twenty-eight-year-old Chen will be hard for anyone to beat for the obscure job of Auditor. He has a commanding lead in this race. He has been endorsed by every major Republican and business group in the state, including ALFA. He will be able to outspend Sorrell 10 to 1 and may very well be endorsed by President Donald Trump.

Derek Chen is probably one of Trump's longest and most ardent campaign contributors in the state. Derek Chen will be tough to beat in this race. Besides having the endorsement of ALFA, BCA, Manufacture Alabama, Forestry, Homebuilders, and Trucking, he is supported by the MAGA loyalists from throughout the state. He has worked the state tirelessly for over a year. Derek Chen probably will be elected State Auditor on May 19.

There are two PSC races on the ballot. Place 1 Incumbent Jeremy Oden is being challenged by a fellow Cullman Countian. Popular Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry has a significant fundraising lead over Oden. The PSC Place 2 post has a horde of candidates. It is difficult to say what will happen in this race. The incumbent is Chris Beeker, who has done a good job and deserves to be reelected.

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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Pastor Butch Tucker

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The Refreshing Place
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Pastor Wayne Keeton

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"Just As I Am"

The hymn "Just as I Am" has offered comfort and invitation to generations of believers, reminding them that they can come to Christ exactly as they are. Its origins are deeply personal, rooted in the life and struggles of its author, Charlotte Elliott.

Born in 1789 in Clapham, Elliott was raised in a devout evangelical Anglican family. In her early years, she gained recognition as a gifted and humorous poet. However, at the age of 32, her life changed dramatically when a serious illness left her permanently disabled. The physical limitations brought emotional struggles as well, often leaving her wrestling with feelings of frustration and inner conflict.

During this difficult time, her spiritual mentor, César Malan, offered simple but profound guidance: to come to God just as she was, replacing turmoil with peace through faith. That message became a turning point in Elliott's life, leading her to devote her writing to hymns that reflected both her struggles and her deep assurance of salvation.

In 1834, while living in Brighton with her brother, Elliott experienced a particularly difficult

day. Confined at home while her family attended a church bazaar, she felt overcome by loneliness and a sense of uselessness. In that moment, she remembered Malan's words—"Come to Christ just as you are"—and found renewed peace. From that place of surrender, she wrote "Just as I Am, Without One Plea."

First published in 1835 and later included in her Invalid's Hymn Book, the hymn is marked by its simple, repetitive refrain: "O Lamb of God, I come." That line expresses a heartfelt commitment and trust, building from the vulnerability of "just as I am" to a confident step toward Christ.

Elliott went on to write around 150 hymns, many offering comfort to those facing illness and sorrow. Her work continues to resonate because it speaks to a universal truth: no one must become "good enough" before coming to God. Instead, it is through God's grace, promises, and love that all are welcomed.

Through her weakness, Charlotte Elliott gave the world a hymn that continues to remind believers that even in doubt, fear, and struggle, they can find rest – just as they are.



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- Each legal notice is also published and archived online at Alabama Public Notices.
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OTHER NEWS

Tigers Showcase Speed and Discipline in Gritty Middle School Campaign

The West Blocton Middle School Tigers wrapped up their baseball season this week, finishing with a 5-11 record that statisticians say belies the high-level talent on the roster. Defined by relentless aggression on the basepaths and disciplined situational hitting, the Tigers proved to be a difficult out for every opponent on their schedule.

A Masterclass in Fundamentals
The Tigers' competitive edge started on the mound, anchored by a formidable one-two punch in the rotation. Gavin Johnson served as the staff ace, turning in a dominant season with a 3.0 ERA and a team-high 30 strikeouts. Following closely was Easton LaFoy, who provided essential depth with a 3.5 ERA and 11 strikeouts of his own.

Defensively, West Blocton established a "No-Fly Zone" behind the plate. The catching trio of Andrew Palmer, Carter Fancher, and Jace Sibley stifled opponents' run games, combining to catch seven runners attempting to steal. In the field, shortstop Brons Anderson was a human vacuum, recording 20 putouts and maintaining a nearly flawless .987 fielding percentage—an elite mark at the middle school level.

Offensive Firepower
The Tigers' lineup was a nightmare for opposing pitchers, plating 75 runs over the 16-game stretch. The offense was ignited by two premier contact hitters:

- Carter Fancher led the

squad with a blistering .400 batting average and a .512 on-base percentage.

- Jace Sibley proved to be the toughest out in the lineup, batting .370 with a .469 OBP while striking out only twice the entire season.

The power surge was led by Elijah Snelson, the team's primary run producer, who finished with a team-high 11 RBIs while batting in the .300s. Depth remained a theme for the Tigers, as both Easton LaFoy and Andrew Palmer joined the ".300 Club" by season's end.

"Green Light" Mentality
If there was a hallmark for this year's squad, it was their staggering speed. The Tigers swiped 83 stolen bases in just 16 games—averaging over five steals per contest. The catalyst for this chaos was Jonah Hunt, whose instincts on the paths led to a team-high 17 stolen bases.

Looking Ahead
While the 5-11 record reflects a grueling schedule, the underlying numbers—particularly the disciplined plate appearances and defensive efficiency—suggest a bright future for West Blocton baseball. With a core of high-instinct players moving up the ranks, the Tigers have laid a solid foundation for seasons to come.

WBMS is always thankful for the community support of our student-athletes!

West Blocton Middle School: Prepare the ACAP

The West Blocton Middle School held a school-wide ACAP Bootcamp to prepare our students for the ACAP Assessment. The school will be taking the ACAP Assessment the week of April 6-10, 2026. Please make sure your child attends and is on time during the assessment week.

- Purpose and Impact: The ACAP is a criterion-referenced test, meaning it measures students against the Alabama Course of Study Standards rather than against each other. For 7th- and 8th-graders, the data is often used to build effective secondary school schedules.

- Test Format & Timing: The assessment is 100% online, featuring various question types like multiple-choice and technology-enhanced tasks.
 - o ELA: Approximately 3 hours (4 sections).
 - o Math: 90–110 minutes (2 sections).
 - o Science: 90–100 minutes (2 sections). 7th graders do not take the science assessment

- Score Interpretation: Students receive a scale score that places them into one of four levels:
 - o Level 4: Advanced understanding.
 - o Level 3: Strong understand-

ing (Proficient).
o Level 2: Partially met standards.
o Level 1: Did not meet standards.

Actionable Tips for Parents
To help children prepare, WBMS recommends focusing on test-day readiness: ensuring a good night's sleep, eating a healthy breakfast, and arriving on time to reduce anxiety. Parents can also access the ACAP Practice Testing Portal to help students familiarize themselves with the online testing tools.

Technology warning:
Students cannot have any electronic devices on their person during the test, including cell phones and smartwatches. Students will be subject to disciplinary actions, and their test results may be invalidated by the State.

The WBMS staff wants to partner with our parents to ensure that every child completes the ACAP Assessment and does their best. Please contact the school at 205-938-2451 if you have questions about the assessment or suggestions.

WBMS is always thankful for our community's support of our children and staff!

RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2025/2026 Q3

A Honor Roll

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Blaykelyn Bailey
Hope Bird
Keaton Dowdell
Adley Gray
Emmi Gray
Trinity Griggs
Graham Gurley
Marley Handley
Wyatt Handley
Ollie Harrison
Shelby Hedrick
Kamdyn Hicks
Charlotte Johnson
Brantley Nesbitt
Adelade Reach
Lynli Reese Simmons
Wade Smith
Sawyer Thompson
Mia Tucker
Sara Beth Turner
Hazel Williams
Sara Wilson

A/B Honor Roll

Charity Bird
Emma Bracknell
Jaxon Bracknell
Makayla Brooks
Deon Brown
McKynlee Buchanan
Ella Burt
Judson Chavis
Brooklyn Conway
Scarlett Crouch
Kinsley Cummings
Levi Dailey
Bentley Davis
Mason Evans
Marleny Galan
Siddalee Gibson
Trevor Griggs
Casen Harrison
Weston Johnson
McKenzie King
Brayden Lawley
Charli Lawley
Hilario Malaga-Guadalupe
Kody McElroy
John Luke McMillan
Adalynn Nix

Amari Oliver
Gianna Oliver
Kimber-Ray Page
Madelyn Palmer
Asher Scott
Emily Shoemaker
Hunter Shoemaker
Aubree Simmons
Carlie-Belle Simmons
Ainsley Smith
Brantley Smith
Lauren Smith
Gavin Sudsberry
Reece Wallace
Ella Wheat

Star Students

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Makynlie Allen
Nate Cromer
Bodhi Bice
Ramses Pinion
Sammie Glenn
Ali Garner
Kobra Ali
Mia Amador
Audrey Bailey
Kelani Brown
Maya Brown
Ryleigh Brown
Reagan Kness
Jasper Simmons
Taylor Smitherman
Parker Stephens
Cohen Williams
Payton Bice
Kelis Brown
Kayden Bush
Addie Cleckley
Breili Saucedo
Oakley Epperson
Braylen Garrigus
Garrett Greene
Jose Hernandez-Baeza
Chloe Lee
Giselle Saucedo
Blair Smith
Levi Tyus

Alabama Farmers Face Disruptions, Economic Woes from War in Iran

By Justin Miller

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — Alabama farmers are hurting and now face even tougher economic times, as the war in Iran has increased the price of key agricultural inputs. Now more than ever, it is crucial for farmers to stay engaged with the changing economic landscape and make smart management choices.

"Farmers must be proactive in managing their input costs by efficiently using the resources already available and identifying opportunities to reduce unnecessary expenses," said Rishi Prasad, an Alabama Extension nutrient management specialist at Auburn University.

Current Market Conditions
Other market disruptions, such as conflicts and tariffs, have caused steady increases to input costs throughout the year. However, fuel and fertilizer prices have spiked even higher within the past month. The price of diesel fuel, for example, increased 51% — from \$2.84 to \$4.30 per gallon.

Wendiam Sawadgo, an Alabama Extension agricultural economist at Auburn University, said nitrogen is the major fertilizer nutrient affected by the war in Iran.

"In Alabama, nitrogen-based fertilizer prices are trending higher compared to both last year and since the war started in late February this year," Sawadgo said. "This increase may have a sizable effect on producers who have yet to purchase or price fertilizer for this planting season."

War activities that essentially block the Strait of Hormuz are the main disruption to global markets. Located along the southern coast of Iran, this area is an important global checkpoint for oil and fertilizer. Sawadgo said major agricultural countries, including Australia, Brazil and India, rely heavily on imported fertilizer from the Middle East. While the U.S. does not rely on these same imports, the disruptions cause a domino effect on global markets.

"The effects the Iran war has on agriculture are complicated," Sawadgo said. "While the U.S. produces most of the nitrogen fertilizer it uses, it imports natural gas used in nitrogen-fertilizer production from Canada. So, any disruptions to natural gas markets could, in turn, affect nitrogen fertilizer prices here in the U.S."

Other fertilizer nutrients, such as potash and phosphate, have not seen an immediate price change from the war in Iran. However, Sawadgo said the U.S. imports some phosphate and urea through the Strait of Hormuz, so there is potential for future impacts.

Smart Farm Management
Under current economic conditions, Prasad suggested farmers evaluate their management strategies and focus on tactics that maximize farm profitability. For instance, continuing to soil test provides a baseline for nutrients needed while helping farmers avoid adding unnecessary fertilizers. In contrast, many farmers follow fertilization plans that build up excess nutrients in the soil. This year, instead, farmers should closely adhere to recommended rates from Alabama Extension and Auburn University professionals.

"In a year characterized by geopolitical instability and high fertilizer prices, it is wise to reassess this and other strategies used to see where costs can be saved," Prasad said. "Operating at a loss is not a viable option. Profitability will increasingly depend on farmers making sound decisions rather than aggressively using inputs."

Prasad and Sawadgo provide more in-depth information on this topic in the Extension Brief, "Strategies for Managing High Fertilizer Costs." Farmers can find this resource on the Alabama Extension website at aces.edu.

For more assistance, farmers can contact the agronomic crops or farm and agribusiness management Extension agent in their areas.



The BACK PAGE

Feel Good, Look Good: BMC Adds a Salon

Appointments Available



BMC
The Salon

BMC Campus Residents:
Tuesday - Thursday | 8:30am-2:00pm
Public Clients:
Friday and Saturday | By Appointment

BY **SAVANNAH LOGAN**
REPORTER

If you thought Bibb Medical Center was just the place you go when something's wrong — think again. Apparently, it's also where you go when your hair is.

The hospital has officially added a new offering to its campus lineup: The Salon at BMC, now accepting appointments and ready to help the community look just a little more put together — because sometimes a fresh haircut is exactly what the doctor ordered (even if no one technically wrote a prescription).

The salon is operated by stylist Cheryl Brayko, who is offering a range of services including haircuts, wash and styling, gentle color services, and more. In other words, whether you're aiming for a simple trim or a full "I need to reinvent myself" moment, they've got you covered.

Appointments are available for both campus residents and the general pub-

lic, with designated hours throughout the week. Residents can stop in Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., while public appointments are available on Fridays and Saturdays by appointment.

Scheduling is straightforward: just call (205) 826-1297 to book your spot.

And while Bibb Medical Center remains a trusted place for health-care, this new addition is a gentle reminder that feeling good isn't just about what's going on internally. Sometimes, it's about walking out with a haircut that makes you feel like you have your life together, even if it's just for a few days.

So the next time your hair starts making decisions you didn't approve of, you might not have to look far. BMC has you covered — from checkups to fresh cuts.

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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.