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A River Worth Protecting, a Leader Worth Celebrating: Butler Honored with Award



BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

One of the South's most treasured natural resources continues to benefit from the dedication of those who work tirelessly to protect it. Recently, Cahaba Riverkeeper staff Riverkeeper David Butler was recognized with the River Hero Award by the Alabama Rivers Alliance during the 2026 Water Rally — one of the highest honors given for river conservation efforts in the state.

The award celebrates Butler's leadership and his longstanding commitment to protecting Alabama's waterways, with a particular focus on the Cahaba River. Known for its remarkable biodiversity and natural beauty, the Cahaba is widely considered one of the most unique and beautiful rivers in the South, making the work to preserve it all the more vital.

Efforts like those led by Butler are not just about conservation — they are about

stewardship, education, and ensuring that future generations can experience the same natural wonder that exists today. Protecting a river system requires persistence, collaboration, and a deep-rooted passion for the environment.

This recognition serves as a reminder that meaningful impact often begins with individuals who are willing to advocate, educate, and act. It also offers an invitation to the broader community to take part in

that mission. Whether through supporting local conservation organizations, staying informed, or finding small ways to care for the environment, every effort contributes to the larger goal.

As the Cahaba continues to flow through Alabama, so too does the responsibility to protect it — an effort made stronger by leaders like David Butler and the communities that stand alongside them.

Cahaba River Coalition Hosts Earth Week Cleanup Series, April 20-24

Cahaba River Coalition invites the community to celebrate Earth Day by joining daily river cleanups from April 20-24. Cleanups will be held each day in different high-traffic spots either along the Cahaba or within the watershed, tackling litter and invasive species that threaten the river's extraordinary biodiversity.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome. In addition to walking cleanups, there are paddling opportunities at select sites. Locations for cleanups include Grants Mill Canoe Launch, Oak Mountain State Park, and Cahaba River Na-

tional Wildlife Refuge. "With seven cleanups on, around, and within the Cahaba River watershed, Earth Week is a chance for our community to give back to the river that gives us so much," says Zachary Fitzgibbon, Community Engagement Coordinator. "Whether you're new to the Cahaba or already love it, these events invite everyone to make a meaningful impact while helping protect the river and the incredible wildlife that calls it home."

Several cleanups during last year's Earth Week were cancelled due to heavy rain, but still managed to bring

out nearly 170 volunteers who removed over 3,300 pounds of litter from the Cahaba.

Those unable to attend a scheduled cleanup can still participate by requesting a cleanup supply box and picking up litter on their own.

This event is presented by Wells Fargo, with additional support from Hubbell, Friends of Jemison Park, Bham Now, Shannon Waltcheck, and Amerex.

To sign up or learn more about cleanups, visit cahabarivercoalition.org or contact volunteer@cahabarivercoalition.org.

Hands-On Learning and Adventure Highlight County 4-H Programs

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Students across Bibb County are getting the opportunity to learn, grow, and explore through engaging programs led by Bibb County 4-H and Alabama Extension.

At Brent Elementary School, students in the CAST after-school program recently wrapped up their financial literacy lessons with a fun and interactive capstone project: Lemonade Stand Day. After spending time learning about financial responsibility and the effort it takes to run a business, third and fourth grade students put their knowledge into action.

Each student had the chance to gain hands-on experience in customer service, food service, and production, working together to operate their own lemonade stands. The event proved to be a success, with customers offering glowing reviews for every booth. Of course, no lemonade stand would be complete without a taste test, and students enjoyed sampling the fruits of their hard work along the way. The experience not only reinforced classroom lessons but also gave students a real-world glimpse into entrepreneurship.

4-H and Extension programs also brought outdoor learning to life



during the Park Explorers Spring Adventure held at Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park on March 27. Hosted in partnership with Extension and EFNEP, the event welcomed 17 children for a morning full of hands-on activities.

Participants enjoyed arts and crafts, took part in a nature scavenger walk, and learned how to make healthy camp snacks. The event was made possible after a local commissioner reached out about providing activities for children during spring break, and registration was

opened to both campers and non-campers.

Organizers say this is just the beginning. Extension is now working alongside Tannehill and Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park to offer similar day camps in the summer and during future school breaks.

Through programs like these, Bibb County 4-H continues to create meaningful opportunities for our youth — whether they're learning business basics in the classroom or exploring the outdoors in their own backyard.

Cahaba RIVER COALITION EARTH WEEK 2026

PRESENTED BY WELLS FARGO

Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis

OUR MISSION: TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE CAHABA RIVER AND ITS WATERSHED

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF CLEANUPS!

MON 4/20	TUE 4/21	WED 4/22	THU 4/23	FRI 4/24
GRANTS MILL	JEMISON PARK	OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK	HOOVER EAST	CAHABA WILDLIFE REFUGE

And see you at Earthday Fest, Saturday, April 25th at SWEET HOME SPIRITS

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NEWS SPECIAL

Miracle League of Bibb County Brings Fun for All

Photos courtesy of Fulton Prevost



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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Bobby Lightsey, 79, who passed away on March 26, 2026. Graveside services were held on March 30, 2026 at Pine-land Memorial Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. in Centreville, AL. Bobby (Slick) will be missed by his family and many friends, especially the BCHS Class of 1965, all will miss him greatly.

Charlotte Lovelady West and friend recently spent several days in Nashville and Franklin, TN, the occasion was to celebrate Charlotte's 75th birthday. In Nashville they enjoyed tours of several points of interest. In Franklin dinner one night was at the Chop House, very delicious. Enroute home they stopped at the Rattlesnake Saloon in Tusculumbia for lunch, it was a unique experience and was very enjoyed.

Belated birthday wishes go out to Sandra Tucker and Melanie Worrell for March birthdays.

Bibb County Relay for Life pageant will be held on April 11, 2026 at Cahawba Christian Academy beginning at 10:00 a.m. Make plans to attend.

Birthday wishes go out to several that have birthdays in April, Tish Stallings, Brent White, Tammy Colburn Corvin, Paul Pratt, Susan McCalla, Rennie Spinks, Rosie Horton, Amanda Harkins Clevenger and Emma Watts.

Praise in the Park will be on April 11, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Heritage Park in Brent, Alabama. It will be Worship and Word all day.

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

Spring into Wellness: BMC Offers Events, Activities, and Community Fun This April

BY SAVANNA LOGAN
REPORTER

BMC Wellness is keeping the momentum going this spring with a variety of upcoming events and opportunities designed to bring the community together while promoting health and wellness.

One highly anticipated highlight is the return of the Farmers Market, set to begin May 6. Community members can look forward to shopping fresh, local produce, handmade goods, and more. Those interested in becoming a vendor are encouraged to reach out for more information.

Adult Kickball is also making a comeback, offering a fun and active way for residents ages 18 and up to get involved. Registration is open now, with a



cost of \$10 per person. Games and scheduling will depend on total registrations, with play set to begin April 18 at 10 a.m.

Additionally, BMC Wellness continues to offer swimming lessons, providing another valuable resource for families looking to build skills and confidence in the water.

Looking ahead, several upcoming events are on the calendar. On April 7 at 5:30 p.m., a Mom & Me Yoga Class will offer a chance for moms and children ages 3-9 to move, stretch, and unwind together. Later

in the month, families can register for the Kids Club Workshop by April 16, with the event scheduled for April 25 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. This workshop will feature a fun, hands-on experience where children can create their own stuffed "buddy" to take home. And last but not least, Movie Night on the Lawn is making its return on April 23 (movie to be announced soon).

Beyond these special events, BMC Wellness continues to provide a wide range of fitness classes for all ages and ability levels.

From strength training and aerobics to yoga, dance, and water-based workouts, there are countless opportunities for individuals to find something they enjoy. These classes not only support physical health but also create a sense of community, encouraging participants to stay active, connected, and motivated.

With so much to offer, BMC Wellness remains a cornerstone of health, fun, and community engagement in Bibb County — and who knows what they'll bring to Bibb County next!



WBMS 3rd 9 Weeks Scholars

West Blocton Middle School staff members are officially recognizing their scholars for outstanding academic success during the 3rd Nine-week grading period.

School leadership credits this achievement to the students' dedication to hard work and the vital support provided by both

parents and teachers. The staff emphasized that this collaborative effort is the foundation of student excellence in the classroom. The WBMS's theme for the 2025-206 school year is "Stronger Communities, Greater Success".

In addition to academic marks, WBMS is highlighting the im-

portance of consistent attendance. "Good attendance is always a critical factor in doing well in school," a school representative noted, urging students to stay present and engaged as they move into the final quarter of the year.

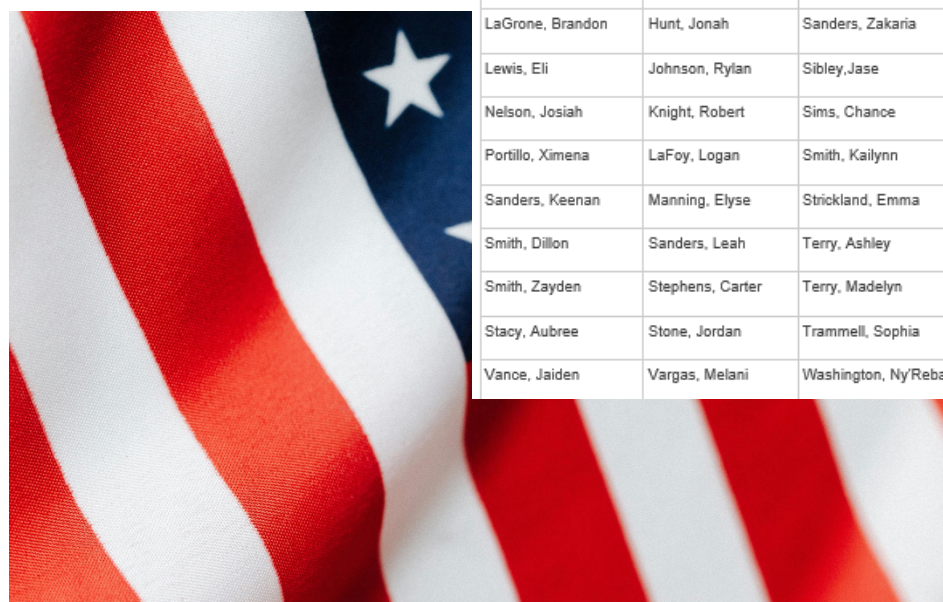
Congratulations to all WBMS scholars on a successful term!

A Honor Roll

Averett, Rayleigh	Bowman, Clay	Blake, Lucy
Boltz, Easton	Chambliss, William	Davis, Connor
Boothe, Kelby	Dickson, Cecilia	Forsythe, Payden
Bovell, Sophia	Guy Andrews, Ryleigh Jo	Hailey, Kelsey
Buford, Jace	Head, Katie	Hartzell, Tristin
Caddis, Jade	Herdon, Ava	Heaton, Carter
Church, Joseph	Jennings, Crimson	Johnson, Gavin
Cook, Austin	Kielman, Bobbi	Kinard, Kimber
Fisher, Easton	Lawley, Harper	Pierson, Ava
Killion, Marianna	McCullar, Khloe	Pissanos, Kayleigh
Odom, Jasper	Morris, Abigail	Super, Kali
Poole, Colby	Napoles, Aaron	Watts, Brennan
Smith, Mason	Singleton, Jase	Thrasher, Baylee

A-B Honor Roll

Allen, Caleb	Bailey, Cameran	Anderson, Brons
Ashley, Rylan	Blake, London	Bates, Ayla
Cross, Kynleigh	Briggs, Tristen	Bush, Zillie
Dean, Paisley	Bussey, Garrett	Fanchoer, Carter
Del cid Solares, Fatima	Canterbury, Molly	Gaytan, Addelia
Dial, Braxton	Carroll, Ella	Gilham, Sofia
George, Justin	Carter, Anniston	Hall, Douglas
Godwin, Joseph	Cisneros Rimola, Luis	Henriquez, Keyri
Gray, Madelyn-Kate	Cole, Amiyah	Hogg, Dreyton
Hagood, Greyson	Diaz-Tax, Hugo	Johnson, Sophia
Haynes, Damien	Elam, Ryleigh	Lopp, Esme
Junkins, Bailey	Green, Kenleigh	Odom, Cayden
Killion, Eliana	Head, Erica	Parker, Kyli
LaFoy, Caiden	Huffman, Jameson	Pieroe, Jason
LaGrone, Brandon	Hunt, Jonah	Sanders, Zakaria
Lewis, Eli	Johnson, Rylan	Sibley, Jase
Nelson, Josiah	Knight, Robert	Sims, Chance
Portillo, Ximena	LaFoy, Logan	Smith, Kailynn
Sanders, Keenan	Manning, Elyse	Strickland, Emma
Smith, Dillon	Sanders, Leah	Terry, Ashley
Smith, Zayden	Stephens, Carter	Terry, Madelyn
Stacy, Aubree	Stone, Jordan	Trammell, Sophia
Vance, Jaiden	Vargas, Melani	Washington, Ny/Reba



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Student Success First

- Strengthen math, literacy, and college/career readiness
- Support the whole child — academically, socially, and emotionally

Supporting Teachers & Staff

- Respect educators as professionals
- Focus on mentoring, retention of teachers, and clear expectations

Accountability & Growth

- Use data to improve instruction, not punish schools
- 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
438 Moody Rd, Centreville, AL 35042

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Several State Court Seats Up This Year

Inside the Statehouse
By Steve Flowers

April 8, 2026:

We have a nine-member State Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court is also comprised of nine members. The nine U.S. Supreme Court Justices are appointed for life. When one retires or dies, which is seldom, the President of the United States makes the appointment to fill the rare vacancy.

Our Alabama Supreme Court does not have this “appointment for life” luxury. They are not appointed, they are elected. However, their terms are for six years. Once they are elected, they seem to never get opposed for reelection. They run in staggered years.

Since we are a one-party state, all nine justices on our Alabama Supreme Court, as well as all five members of the Court of Criminal Appeals and all five members of the Court of Civil Appeals are Republicans. Since all 19 of these justices are elected in statewide Republican primaries, they are bona fide conservatives.

The description of conservative applies to the two State Supreme Court justices up for reelection this year. Justice Greg Shaw and Justice Brad Mendheim are up for reelection on May 19. They have done an outstanding job and deserve another term.

Justice Greg Shaw will be returning for his final six-year term on the bench. Our Alabama law prohibits a judge from running for another term after they reach age 70. Shaw will reach that plateau during his next six years on the Supreme Court.

Greg Shaw has been a steady mainstay conservative senior judge on the Supreme Court. He is on the May 19 ballot seeking his fourth term on the High Court. Shaw has been doing appellate work for the State of Alabama for 40 years now – 16 years as a Staff Attorney for the Supreme Court, eight years as a Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, and 16 years as a Justice on the Supreme Court. He is very well qualified.

Judge Brad Mendheim is pursuing his second, full six-year term. He is unopposed. He was born to be a judge. He was born and raised in Dothan. His father was a local pharmacist. He became a Circuit Judge for Houston and Henry Counties at a young age. He served as a Wiregrass Circuit Judge for a decade. He is very well respected in his hometown. He is a pillar of the First Baptist Church of Dothan. He is only 57 years old

and should be a mainstay of the Supreme Court for several more decades.

Both Brad Mendheim and Greg Shaw are immensely qualified, proven conservative Republican jurists.

There are two female jurists running for reelection to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals – Mary Windom and Beth Kellum. These women work long, hard hours, as this appellate Court has an immense workload.

Mary Windom is running for her fourth, six-year term on the Court. She is the presiding judge on the five-member panel. She does an excellent job.

Beth Kellum is running for her fourth term on the Court of Criminal Appeals. Beth is a Tuscaloosa native and is approaching the record for longevity on this appeals panel. She got there at a young age.

Beth Kellum and Mary Windom both have done a stellar job as judges on the Court of Criminal Appeals and deserve another term.

The five member Court of Civil Appeals has two of their male members up for reelection. Judges Ben Bowden and Matt Fridy are unopposed.

Ben Bowden was recently appointed by Gov. Ivey to the Court of Civil Appeals. He will be reelected on May 19 to a full six-year term. Ben Bowden is imminently qualified. He has been Probate Judge of Covington County and was also a Circuit Judge prior to joining the Court of Civil Appeals. He is a good man.

Matt Fridy is seeking his second term on the Court of Civil Appeals. Matt served as a legislator from vote rich Shelby County prior to joining the Court of Civil Appeals. He is a real gentleman. Judge Fridy has a judicial law clerk, Madison Clark, who has a bright future in judicial politics in Alabama.

The May 19 primary elections are right around the corner.

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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"Low in the Grave He Lay (Christ Arose)"

Robert Lowry (1826–1899), a Philadelphia-born Baptist preacher, educator, and composer, made a lasting impact on 19th-century gospel music through both his ministry and musical contributions. A graduate of Bucknell University, Lowry became known as a gifted speaker and thoughtful Bible scholar, while also devoting himself to the study and creation of hymns. He collaborated with William H. Doane and later served as a music editor, publishing more than 20 songbooks. Among his most beloved works are "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus" and "Shall We Gather at the River."

In 1874, while serving as pastor in Pennsylvania, Lowry composed "Low in the Grave He Lay," later widely known as "Christ Arose." Inspired by the resurrection account in Gospel of Luke, the hymn came to him

spontaneously as both words and melody. Its musical structure is especially striking, with slow, somber verses giving way to a triumphant, rising refrain — mirroring the movement from death to resurrection. The hymn quickly gained popularity through revival meetings and hymnals in both America and Britain and has continued to be sung in gatherings for generations.

Now that Easter has passed, the message of this hymn continues to linger. It reflects not only the dramatic moment of resurrection morning but also the enduring hope that follows. The shift from grief to victory found in the music echoes the spiritual rhythm many carry beyond the season — a reminder that even after the celebration ends, the promise of new life remains.



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A LOOK BACK AT 1966



LIONS KING KOTTON CONTEST

Pictured above, left-to-right, are Lions Fred Hallman, Bill Ogletree, and Belcher Hobson encouraging everyone to try their luck in the Centreville Lions King Kotton contest. Some fortunate person is going to win the chief prize of a 500-lb. bale of cotton, or instead \$150 in cash. Also, there will be many other prizes given away when the drawing is held Saturday, December 17, at 4:00 p. m. Chances are being sold by members of the Lions Club for \$5.50 each. Someone is going to have a lot of extra cash for Christmas, and that some-

one could be you. Proceeds from the contest will assist the Centreville Lions in furthering the work of the Alabama Sight Conservation Association. In a five week session between 7-28-66 and 9-7-66 Alabama Sight provided \$308.99 for eye care, in the form of examinations, glasses, and medicine, for the needy residents of Bibb County. Join the fun, and try your luck; See a Lion about cotton today!

CENTREVILLE, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1966



WIDOW ACCEPTS MEDALS FOR HUSBAND'S ACTION IN VIET NAM AT JAX STATE CEREMONY

Mrs. Tony McMillan, center, accepts bronze star from ROTC Head, Col. George Hoskins, as two young daughters watch with ROTC sponsors.

BRETT CHURCHES - BETTER SCHOOLS

Brent Banking Company Robbed Last Thursday

8 Employees Forced To Lie On The Floor

No One Harmed; Getaway Car Is Found In Garage

Flashing pistols and growling orders, a pair of bearded men, one of them styled as a cowboy, robbed the Brent Banking Company last Thursday of some \$28,000 and sped off in a sports car.

No one was harmed.

Hours later, the getaway car was found parked inside a cabin near Bolivar. The cabin is located about seven miles from the bank in a wooded section of S. R. 2.

All 8 of the employees were forced to lie face down on the floor while the two shabbily-dressed bandits pilfered cash drawers.

The car, a shiny red, late model Corvette, bearing an Alabama tag, was stolen Wednesday night in Montgomery County.

Followed Car

Investigating FBI agents theorized that one of the robbers followed the other in another car to the cabin and picked him up there.

Both men acted nervous, needed haircuts, and wore odd clothes, according to Mrs. Patridge, who said they entered about 11:25 a. m. with one of them — a tall, slender-built man in cowboy hat and boots and round-rimmed glasses — carrying a brief case.

This one drew a pistol and barked out:

"This is a stickup. Hit the floor and I mean hit the floor."

Mrs. Patridge said she and seven other workers and a receptionist from Barragans Machine Company in Birmingham obeyed. As they lay on the floor, the pair rifled a cash drawer and tried in vain to open a safe in the vault.

Told To Open Safe

One employee Miss Elaine Freeman was ordered to open the safe, but was not able to do so. She threw the discarded plans for getting more money.

They were in the bank no more than five minutes.

Mrs. Patridge said the second bandit was shorter, but somewhat heavier, and appeared frightened.

"He hit his leg and quivered," she said. "You could tell they were non-professionals because they were nervous and one of them turned pale."

Both were about 25 years old and "very rough" looking, she said.

As the two went about getting the money, one employee remembered Mrs. Joe Barton in the bookkeeping department. Fearing that she might walk out and alarm the bandits into shooting, she said she brought it in with her.

Called For Her

One of the two holdup men agreed and called for her, but was not heard over the whirring of computers where she was working.

Mrs. Patridge said Mrs. Barton worked through the entire robbery and was unaware what had



MISS HARRISON MADE TO GET UNDER TABLE

Miss Brenda Harrison shows where the gunmen made her get under table and sit on the floor. She watched the entire robbery take place.



MISS HOLLIFIELD SHOWS DETAILS

Miss Judy Hollifield points to the place on the bank floor where she was made to lie face down. One of the robbers actually jammed his gun into her back and ordered her to lie down.

Juvenile Delinquency Declining In Alabama

Montgomery, Ala. — Juvenile delinquency is declining in Alabama while it has been rising steadily in the Nation. Since 1949, only one year, 1961, showed a drop compared with the previous year. Data for 1965 just released for the United States showed a two per cent rise compared with 1964 and a 58 per cent rise between 1957 and 1965.

In Alabama the report for 1965 shows a 3.1 decline compared with 1964. This is the second consecutive year that there has been a decline in delinquency cases in Alabama's juvenile courts, the drop in 1964 being 7.9 per cent as against 1963.

Penitentiary and Security Commissioner Rubin K. King made these findings public this week and set forth some of the responsibilities of the Department of Penitentiary and Security in the area of juvenile delinquency.

County departments offer probation service for children in all delinquency cases in 58 juvenile courts and for cases of delinquent girls in some of the other counties.

Nine county courts have their own probation staffs (Jefferson, Lee, Lauderdale, Mobile, Morgan, Madison, Calhoun, Montgomery and Tuscaloosa). County departments make investigations prior to commitment to or discharge from the training schools in counties without other probation service.

King said the State Department has a statewide reporting system for collection of juvenile court data. The Commissioner is on the Board of each school and is responsible for an annual report from his Department to the Board of each school. The Department of Penitentiary and Security also licenses all detention facilities for children.

Bibb County Retired Teachers Association

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Cruise Weaver in River Bend was the locale for a beautiful Christmas party on Tuesday night, December 13th. The occasion was the quarterly meeting of the Bibb County Retired Teachers Association, of which Mrs. Weaver is president.

Approaching the house, the guests were thrilled with the brilliance of the outside lights which seemed like a beacon guiding them to a haven of warmth and cheer. A manger scene "Worship Center" in the yard brought a reminder that Christ was and will always be Lord of Christmas. On the top doorstep a lowly kerosene lantern stood guard, gently suggesting that simplicity is still a virtue in this mad, mad world of ours.

The guests were warmly greeted by Neil and Cruise, to the accompaniment of Christmas Chimes softly playing "Silent Night." Christmas motifs were used throughout this lovely home. Brightly burning "Yule Logs" added cheer and comfort. Serving trays were spread with red place mats, accented with miniature candy cane favors tucked in green and red felt Christmas stockings. Assisted by Mrs. Betty Jane Lowrey and Miss Mary Alice Lowrey from Selma, Mrs. Weaver served a delicious turkey dinner "with all the trimmings," coffee, tea, cakes, and pies.

During the social hour each guest told interesting and amusing incidents that happened long ago in the school room and during "courtship days." Rev. Bennie Hubbard and Supt. Pratt quoted inspirational Bible scriptures.

Those enjoying this hospitality included: Mrs. Zula McCrary and Mr. John McCrary; Mrs. Irene McCord and Mr. Howard McCord; Mrs. Mary Pratt and Supt. F. B. Pratt; Mrs. Lillian Faucett and Mr. Floyd Faucett; Mrs. Rosa Hubbard and Rev. Bennie Hubbard; Miss Luranie Greathouse; Mrs. Betty Jane Lowrey, Miss Mary Alice Lowrey, and the gracious hostess and host. We regret that Mrs. Pearl Dailey and Miss Hattie Hayes were unable to join the group.

The spring meeting of the Bibb County R. T. A. will be at "Pine Acres," the country home of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. McCord. All retired teachers are urged to join us there.

Signed:
Irene McCord, Secretary

Surplus Of Single Men In Bibb County

(Special to The Press)

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. — Bibb County shapes up as a happy hunting ground for marriage-minded gals.

Bachelors abound in the local area. By official count, there are 135 of them parading around loose for every 100 single women.

Elsewhere in the United States, the margin is 124 to 100 and, in the State of Alabama, 122 to 100. The mindings, covering the entire country, were compiled by the Department of Commerce. They show that the proportion of bachelors to single women is much greater in some areas than in others. In many communities, the surplus is in the other direction.

Of Bibb County's male population over age 14, 29.0 percent have never been married, the figures show. Of the female population over 14, the percentage single is 20.4. By "single" is meant never married. Divorced and widowed people are not included.

Throughout the United States as a whole, 25.1 percent of the male population over 14 is listed as single and 19.1 percent of the female.

The normal number of unmarried people in the local area and in other communities is being swelled now because the huge crop of postwar babies is reaching marriageable age.

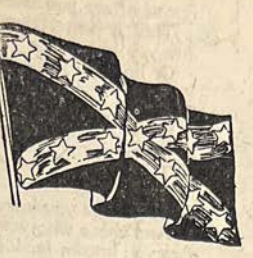
As pointed out by two officials of the Census Bureau, Paul C. Glick and Robert Parke, Jr., this situation is creating a problem for would-be brides.

Because so many are reaching marriageable age at this time, there are not enough men available in the group two years older than themselves — the ones they normally marry — to go around. The figures show that, in Bibb County, no less than 851 girls will be in the 17 to 21 age group next year.

Many local boys, also, will be reaching that age bracket, 851 of them. But they will not be ready for marriage next year, for the most part, and when they are, two years later, they will be looking for girls who are younger than themselves.

The squeeze will be resolved, it is believed, by some of the girls marrying men who are somewhat older or by temporarily postponing marriage.

But marry they will — the great majority, at any rate. The statistics show that by age 30



CENTREVILLE, ALABAMA

Miss Constance Kornegay Graduates From Nursing School

Miss Constance (Connie) Annette Kornegay is a recent graduate of the University of Alabama School of Nursing at University Hospital in Birmingham. She was presented a certificate from the School entitling her to practice Professional Nursing as a Registered Nurse.

Connie is a graduate of Bibb County High School and is the daughter of Mrs. Hardie Mae Kornegay and the late Mr. Kornegay of Brent.

Christmas Play At Brent Presbyterian Church Sunday Night

"Something Special," a modern Christmas play, will be presented Sunday night, December 18th at 7 P. M. at the Brent Presbyterian Church. This is the story of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weldon (they could and their four neighbors) and their four

Morris Williams Caught In Mexico

EL PASO, TEX.—Morris Eugene Williams, who escaped from the Bibb County, Alabama Jail October 16th, was arrested Friday in Juarez, Mexico by Mexican authorities.

The FBI said Williams, convicted of murder, was being held in the El Paso County Jail on charges of bank robbery and unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

He is charged with the Oct. 25th robbery of a Maringouin, La. bank, the FBI said. They said \$28,000 was taken in the robbery.

Williams, serving a life sentence in Kilby Prison for the murder of a state ABC agent, was arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Frederick Morton who ordered Williams held in the El Paso jail.

Richard T. Marshall was appointed by the court as Williams' attorney.

Williams was in the Bibb County Jail awaiting an appeal on his murder conviction when he and three other prisoners escaped.

The other prisoners, apprehended earlier, were James W. Hinson, serving 25 years for a 1959 second degree murder conviction; Terrell Wayne Durden, 19, convicted in Dallas County for grand larceny; and James Wesley George, 16, serving time in the county jail on grand larceny charges.

One of the men called the jailer and said one of the men in the cell was sick, according to Bibb County officers. When the jailer came to the cell the men had pistols and a submachine gun.

They locked two jailers and District Attorney George White in a cell and escaped in White's car. They took about \$250 in cash from White and identification cards and a badge.

George and Durden were arrested several days later in Brighton, Mich. The escapees were riding in White's car.

Hinson was arrested several days later in Mississippi as he entered a motel with a woman companion.



GYMNASIUM STARTED AT BIBB COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Construction started last week on the new gymnasium for Bibb County High School. The building will be located directly in front of the new High School building. It will be used for basketball, school assemblies, physical education and athletic offices. Cost of the project is \$50,695.00. Hugh M. Moates, Sylacauga Contractor is building the structure.



SUGAR BOWL BOUND TIGERS READY TO GO

Members and Coaches of the West Blocton Tigers football team pictured above are anxiously awaiting the time when they will go to New Orleans and the Sugar Bowl Game between Alabama and Nebraska. The trip is being made possible by local contributions and the West Blocton Quarterback Club. More money is needed to help finance the trip. Anyone desiring to make a donation may send it to Mayor Frank Ferris or Quarterback President Paul Stephens.

Alabama Agents Crack Down On Rum Runners

MOBILE — State liquor agents were keeping a sharp eye out for amateur "rum runners" Thursday in a statewide crackdown on persons who travel into neighboring states to buy liquor where the prices may be lower and the variety larger.

Mobile District Supervisor A. C. McDonald of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board said five automobiles and 20 cases of assorted beverages were seized in this area Wednesday. He said the value of the liquor was estimated at \$1200.

Since the crackdown began Sunday night, December 18th at 7 P. M. at the Brent Presbyterian Church. This is the story of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weldon (they could and their four neighbors) and their four

Because of a liquor tax on distillers, many "name brands" are not available in Alabama and many distillers hike the retail price to absorb the tax. For this reason, particularly during the holiday season, many party planners in this area travel to near-by Pensacola, Fla., and New Orleans to purchase beverages.

McDonald said those who are caught face up to six months in jail and fines from \$50 to \$500. He said bringing beverages into the state which do not have an Alabama stamp affixed is classified as "tax evasion."

In addition, McDonald said, persons involved could be charged with transporting and possession of untaxed liquor and fined for tax evasion.

Every available agent has been assigned to a highway detail watching highways leading into the state, he said. The agents were equipped with mobile radio units and worked around the clock looking for the moonshiner as well as the cars returning loaded for parties.

Names of the persons involved were not to be revealed until final disposition was determined, McDonald said. The cars could be taken to Montgomery and sold at public auction, he said.


The Mobile ABC district includes Mobile, Baldwin, Clarke, Washington, Marengo and Escambia Counties.

The BACK PAGE

Woodstock Prepares for Milestone Celebration with Nineth Annual Music Festival

THE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK PRESENTS
THE 9TH ANNUAL
WOODSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL

MONTGOMERY GENTRY
FEATURING
EDDIE MONTGOMERY



TRAVIS DENNING

MULTI MARIEO PARRISH & THE STANDOUT BAND

JESSE CROWE & THE UNREST

MAY 16

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BRING A LAWN CHAIR

NO COOLERS OR PETS
VENDORS ON SITE

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The Woodstock community is preparing for a meaningful and music-filled evening as it celebrates its 30th anniversary alongside the nation's 250th birthday with the 9th Annual Woodstock Music Festival.

Set for Saturday, May 16 at Holiday Raceway, the festival will bring together residents and visitors for a night that reflects both hometown pride and a shared love of music. Gates will open at 3:00 p.m., with live performances beginning at 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$20 per vehicle, making it an accessible outing for families and groups alike. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and settle in for the evening, while enjoying food from on-site vendors and concessions. The event remains family-friendly, of-

fering a welcoming atmosphere for all ages. If you've been putting off catching up with so and so and their mom and them, now's your time!

This year's lineup offers a thoughtful blend of rising talent and familiar favorites. Jesse Crowe and the Unrest will open the evening with their genre-blending sound, followed by the return of Marieo "Multi" Parrish and the Standout Band, known for their soulful versatility and strong connection with audiences. Country artist Travis Denning will take the stage next, bringing with him a growing list of hits and a reputation for high-energy performances.

Closing out the evening, fans can look forward to a headline performance by Montgomery Gentry featuring Eddie Montgomery. Continuing the leg-

acy of the late Troy Gentry, Montgomery's performance carries both energy and heartfelt tribute, honoring a promise to keep the music and spirit of the duo alive. Songs you might recognize include "Something to be Proud of," "My Town," and "Where I Come From."

As anticipation builds, this year's festival stands as more than just an evening of entertainment — it is a reflection of Woodstock's growth, resilience, and strong sense of community. With music, fellowship, and shared celebration at its core, the event offers a chance for neighbors and visitors alike to come together and mark an important milestone in the town's history.

So be sure to mark your calendars and tell a friend — and see you there!

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Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

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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.