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Marking 250 Years of American Independence

The Fourth of July and the Significance of Our Nation's Semiquincentennial

BY MIKE HOBSON

REPORTER

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On July 4, 2026, communities across the United States will celebrate a milestone unlike any other in our lifetime: the 250th anniversary of American independence. Known as the semiquincentennial, this occasion calls for both joyous festivity and thoughtful reflection on the journey that began with a single document in Philadelphia 250 years ago. Here in Bibb County, as in small towns everywhere, the day will blend parades, picnics, family reunions, and fireworks into a uniquely American expression of gratitude and unity.

The roots of the holiday stretch back to the Revolutionary era. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress approved a resolution declaring the 13 colonies "free and independent States." Two days later, on July 4, the delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a powerful statement drafted largely by Thomas Jefferson that listed the colonies' grievances against British rule and proclaimed the fundamental rights of individuals. Though John Adams believed July 2 would be remembered as the great anniversary, public readings and celebrations quickly centered on the fourth. In those early years, the observances included bell ringing, cannon fire, bonfires, militia parades, and early fireworks displays—rituals adapted from English traditions of honoring the monarch but now turned to celebrating liberty and self-government. The first organized commemoration in Philadelphia occurred in 1777, and the tradition spread even as the war for independence continued.

Over time, the Fourth of July became a fixed star in the American calendar. Congress designated it a federal



holiday in 1870, and by the 20th century it had grown into the quintessential summer holiday of barbecues, community gatherings, and dazzling nighttime displays. Yet beneath the festivities lies a deeper purpose. We celebrate because the Declaration and the Constitution that followed established a government accountable to the people, protected individual liberties, and created a framework flexible enough to endure civil war, economic upheaval, and profound social change. The holiday reminds us that freedom is not free; it has been preserved by generations of service members, first responders, and

ordinary citizens who answered the call to defend it.

The 250th anniversary holds particular importance because it marks a full quarter-millennium of the American experiment. Two hundred fifty years may seem brief when measured against the sweep of human history. Civilizations such as China boast continuous cultural traditions spanning more than four thousand years. Ancient Egypt left monuments that have stood for over four millennia. Greece and Rome shaped Western thought and law centuries before America was conceived. Even among contemporary

nation-states, many trace their modern founding to the 19th or 20th centuries following independence movements or the redrawing of maps after world wars. The United States, by contrast, is a young nation.

What we have built in those 250 years is extraordinary. From a collection of 13 colonies with a population of about 2.5 million, America has grown into a union of 50 states and a global force for innovation, opportunity, and democratic ideals. We have welcomed tens of millions of immigrants seeking a better life, expanded the meaning of "all men are created equal" through

hard-fought struggles for civil rights, sent astronauts to the moon, developed life-saving medical advances, built the world's largest economy, and stood as a defender of freedom in two world wars and beyond. Our Constitution, the oldest written national constitution still in use today, has provided remarkable stability while allowing for 27 amendments that broadened rights and adapted to new realities. Official efforts led by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission and initiatives like America250 are encouraging citizens nationwide to engage in service projects, educational programs, and community events

that honor our heritage while looking forward. The semiquincentennial offers a rare moment to appreciate this record of resilience and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the next 250 years.

Across Bibb County and in communities like Centreville, the Fourth of July has long been a time when neighbors set aside differences to celebrate shared blessings. Whether gathering at local parks for music and food, lining the streets for parades that honor our veterans, or watching fireworks paint the sky, these gatherings strengthen the bonds that make small-town life special. It is also a time to recognize the contributions of local businesses, farms, and families who form the backbone of our community and embody the self-reliance and mutual support that have always been part of the American character. This year's observance of the 250th anniversary adds a layer of historical weight. It is a chance to share stories of our nation's past with the next generation, to express thanks for the freedoms we sometimes take for granted, and to renew our commitment to the principles of liberty, justice, and civic responsibility that the founders entrusted to us.


As we prepare for this historic Fourth of July, let the celebrations be more than spectacle. Let them be an affirmation that the American promise—though imperfectly realized at times—remains a beacon worth defending and improving. From the fields of Lexington and Concord to the present day, the story of America is one of courage, ingenuity, and an enduring belief in human dignity. Happy 250th Birthday to the United States of America. May the light of liberty continue to shine brightly for generations to come.



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NEWS

Safe Firework Use: Protecting Nature, Homes This Independence Day

By Emma Greene

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — Fireworks are a festive addition to 4th of July celebrations, but they can cause several dangers. To avoid the risk of wildfire, be prepared this Independence Day. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers the following tips for safe firework use.

Safety Practices

The first safety factor to consider for firework use is choosing the launch site. Since sparks and embers can travel, selecting a large, open area with little to no vegetation and substantial separation from forests and structures is the safest approach. While there is no guaranteed safe distance for forests, woodlands, fields and grasslands, a good rule of thumb is to stay around 300 feet away when launching fireworks. For structures such as homes and buildings, fireworks should be set no closer than 150 feet.

Additionally, Andrea Robards, a forestry, wildlife and natural resources Extension agent at Auburn Uni-

versity, suggested using a leaf blower, rake or broom to clear the launch area of combustible materials. A non-combustible surface such as tile or concrete is ideal for the launch area.

“It is pretty amazing how quickly our ground fuels can dry out in the absence of rain,” Robards said. “Even after a period of heavy rain like we’ve been experiencing, the summer sun can dry out grass, leaves and other ground cover quickly.”

For national forests, fireworks and explosives, including explosive targets, are always prohibited as part of permanent fire safety regulations.

What to Do if a Fire Starts

If a fire starts, immediately call 911, even if it is a small fire. Robards said to provide accurate information about the fire with the exact location. Before emergency responders arrive, consider anything that may restrict access to the area by opening gates or removing barriers to the property.

“Wildfires in pine straw, grasses and brush can spread quickly and may reignite after appearing extinguished,” said Robards. “Early notification gives firefighters the best chance to contain the fire before it threatens people, property or natural resources.”

Using a garden hose, buckets of water, a fire extinguisher or even dirt can help

extinguish a small fire. Make sure to continue monitoring the area even after the fire is out. If fire begins to spread, evacuate the area and warn others nearby. Never attempt to relight a malfunctioning firework, as this can cause unnecessary risk.

How Weather Affects Fireworks

Windspeeds, humidity, drought conditions and temperature can all have a significant impact on the safe firework experience.

High winds can be one of the most dangerous factors when using fireworks. They can carry sparks or spread flames if a fire starts. Many municipal safety guidelines recommend avoiding fireworks when sustained winds exceed 15 mph or when strong wind gusts are expected.

Additionally, low humidity and drought conditions can leave vegetation extremely dry, allowing a small spark to quickly grow into a large flame. Robards said fire danger increases when relative humidity falls below 30 percent. That danger increases even more when combined with wind.

“Many wildfires occur under drought conditions because fuels ignite more readily and burn more intensely,” said Robards.

High temperatures can also accelerate the drying of vegetation and increase risk for fire. When all three conditions exist — high temperatures,

low humidity and wind — the fire danger is the greatest.

The National Weather Service issues red flag warnings and fire weather watches. These alerts indicate current conditions that are favorable for rapid wildfire growth. If these warnings or watches are in place, fireworks should be avoided.

Protecting Ecosystems

After the celebration, it is important to clean up all fireworks. It is best to dispose of spent fireworks in a noncombustible container, such as a metal trash can. Allow fireworks to cool before handling and soak them in water prior to disposal. Inspect the surrounding area for smoldering debris.

“Proper disposal and post-event inspection can help prevent accidental fires,” said Robards.

Without proper clean up, fireworks can leave behind paper, plastic and metal debris, which can damage soil and waterways. Wildlife can ingest or become entangled in debris, and contaminants can have a significant impact on aquatic systems and species. Cleaning up firework waste properly and promptly helps protect Alabama’s wildlife and wilderness.

More Information

For more information about wildfires and safety practices, visit the forestry and wildlife section on aces.edu.



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LOCAL & GOVERNMENT

Centreville News

By Brenda Hubbard

Sympathy goes out to the family of Allen Tucker who passed away. A Celebration of Life was held on June 29, 2026. Allen will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Father's Day guests of Larry & Vickie Speights were children and grandchildren, Jim & Laura Blumenfeld and Lily; Casey and Stacy Brewer, Phoenix and Jonah. All enjoyed the delicious foods, fun, the pool and just being together on Father's Day.

Sarah Foster was honored with a surprise birthday party on June 13, 2026 at the Eoline Fire Department.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Sandra Burnette, age 61, who passed away on Sunday, June 21, 2026. Services were held on Friday, June 26, 2021 at Schultz Creek Baptist Church with burial in the adjoining

cemetery. Sandra will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

Anniversary wishes go out to Bill and Dian McDonald who celebrated their wedding anniversary on June 24, 2026.

Birthday wishes go out to several who have birthdays in June; Brooke Peak, Isaac Bigham, Mandy Suttle Nix, Lori Lynn, Kim Faith Watts.

Sympathy goes out to the family of Betty Swindal Garner, age 81, who passed away on Monday, June 22, 2026. Services were held on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at Rockco Funeral Home in Centreville. A private graveside service for family followed at 12:30 p.m. at the Swindal Family Cemetery.

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

Brent Elementary School Principal Retires After 37 Years

BY CANDACE JOHNSON REPORTER

Brent Elementary School will gain two new principals beginning July 1. Current Principal Dr. Mechelle Hollifield will retire after serving 37 years as the school's principal. She reflected on her accomplishments and the legacy she hopes to leave behind.

"I am most proud of helping create a school culture where students, staff and families feel valued and supported. Watching our students grow academically and personally has been the greatest reward," Hollifield said.

The personnel changes, which include adding two principals, are intended to improve instruction and better meet the needs of students. Hollifield said that while the change will be an adjustment, she believes it will benefit

the school.

"This change creates an opportunity to provide more targeted support for both students and teachers. As educational expectations continue to increase, having separate leadership teams allows for greater attention to curriculum, instruction, intervention and student well-being," Hollifield said.

When asked what advice she would offer to the new administrators, Hollifield said her success throughout her career came from always putting students first. She also said building strong relationships with faculty and staff is essential to creating meaningful and lasting changes.

"Listen carefully, lead with integrity and never underestimate the impact of encouragement and support. The greatest strength of a school is its people, and investing in those relationships



will make all the difference."

Although her retirement is bittersweet, Hollifield said she is grateful for the opportunity to serve as principal and will cherish the memories she has made throughout her career.

"To our students, continue to work hard and believe in your-

selves. To our staff, thank you for your dedication and love for children. To our families, thank you for partnering with us in educating the next generation. The future is bright because of the people who make this community so special."

Bibb Medical Associates Encourages Families to "Grow With Us" During Rx for Summer Reading

BY SAVANNA LOGAN REPORTER

Summer is the perfect time to nurture a child's imagination, curiosity, and love of learning, and Bibb Medical Associates is inviting local families to do just that during its upcoming Rx for Summer Reading event.

On Tuesday, July 7, at 9 a.m., families are invited to the BMC Wellness Center for a special storytime led by Bibb Medical Associates provider Rebekah Sims. This year's theme, "Grow With Us," features the children's book *Lola Plants a Garden* and celebrates the lifelong growth that begins with reading.

Designed to encourage children to learn,

grow, and blossom through literacy, the event offers young readers and their families a fun morning centered around books, learning, and imagination. Summer reading plays an important role in helping children maintain and build literacy skills between school years, making storytimes like this both enjoyable and beneficial.

As families begin preparing for the upcoming school year, Bibb Medical Associates is also encouraging parents to take advantage of the opportunity to schedule their children's back-to-school wellness checks. Annual wellness visits help ensure students begin

the new school year healthy, confident, and ready to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

The combination of promoting literacy and encouraging preventive healthcare reflects Bibb Medical Associates' ongoing commitment to supporting the well-being of children and families throughout the community.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to bring their little ones for this special morning of reading, learning, and fun as Bibb Medical Associates celebrates the joy of books and reminds children that every great adventure begins with turning the page.



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Grow with us during Rx for Summer Reading

JULY 7TH • 9:00AM

Location: BMC Wellness Center

This year's theme, *Grow With Us*, featuring *Lola Plants a Garden*, celebrates the lifelong growth that begins with reading. Join us for this special storytime as Bibb Medical Associates encourages our youngest patients to learn, grow, and blossom through the joy of books all summer long!

BMC BIBB MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

All About Books

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS Reach Out & Read!

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Reflections From The Editor

Every week we see citizens coming to the Centreville Press office, looking for family history that is not documented elsewhere and not discoverable by a modern google search. They walk through our doors to search through our preserved archives. They look for a family wedding or birth announcement, an obituary, an article about their ancestors, or even a photograph of old businesses, sports teams, or a parade down our main street. They are not looking for old news, they are looking for their family's history. News lasts a day, memories last for generations.

Tomorrow we celebrate the birth of our Nation 250 years ago. What better holiday than this to reflect upon our nation's history, the history of Bibb County, and our own generational history. The history we have only read about plus the history we have lived and personally experienced.

We learned about our country's history, the patriots, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution from the prolific and earnest writers who preserved it. They wrote it down. They published it.

You learned about George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and all of the patriots who gathered in Philadelphia to birth a nation during your primary education and formative years. You learned about it because it was carefully and historically archived for the generations to come.

My Hobson ancestors arrived in Bibb County, Alabama, settling as early as 1800. This writer arrived in 1945. We have deep generational roots in Bibb County.

That eventful 1945 year recorded the ending of a World War, the return to Bibb County of our surviving father's and veterans, and the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Warm Springs, GA where Roosevelt drew his last breath is only a few hours drive from our Bibb County home.

Our baby boomer generation grew up; we lived with eight decades of Bibb County and American history. All of our history, including the unspeakable, the grotesque and the glorious. Our history has been written, witnessed, and lived.

Much of that important community history we witnessed was first documented and has been preserved in the archives of the Centreville Press. We can learn about the Indian Nations that preceded us here. We can study the land

grants that led to the settlement of the territory. We can read about the great fire that destroyed much of the Centreville business district in the early 1900's. We read about the birth and eventual demise of the great lumber industry that existed here for most of the 20th Century. We were present to witness the destructive fires that destroyed Alexander Consolidated school, our magnificent high school building and its gymnasium. We remember the recorded murder of a beloved town pharmacist. We know more than we should about the illegal liquor industry in our county back in the day. We saw the tornadic destruction of the Town of Brent in 1973 along with the loss of many important lives. The list of important events can be longer than the writing space we have when we look back.

The baby boomers enjoyed the best life had to offer for our generation. A safe, uncomplicated, and carefree lifestyle. At least, that is how we choose to remember it. And then came the long march into adulthood and responsibility. Our history marched along with it.

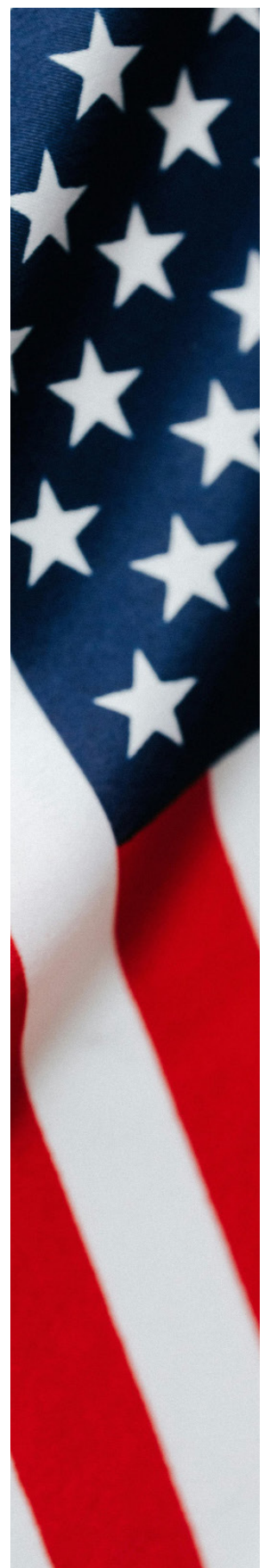
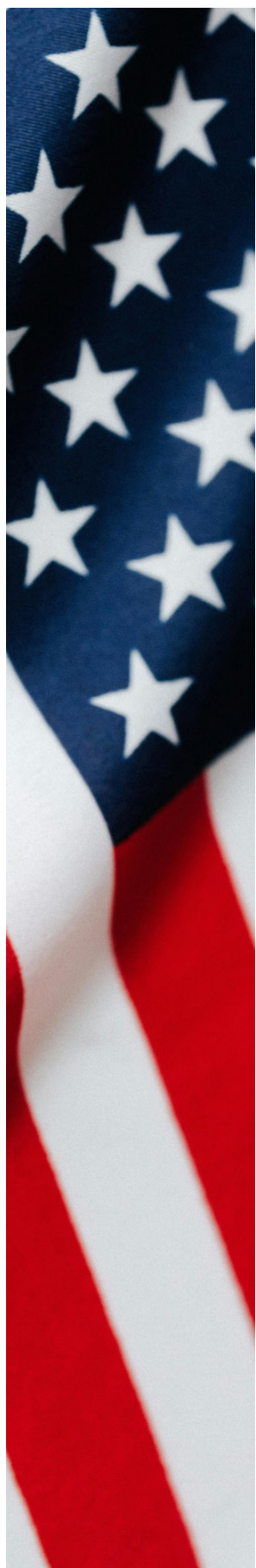
In our youth we can only read about our history. After all it is only history and not often rememberable in our immaturity.

When one passes the age of eighty years we vividly remember and treasure every minute of it. History transforms into an invaluable personal asset that we can hope to pass on to our descendants. When we are young, history is something we studied in school. When we are old enough, history becomes something we remember.

Preserving our community history rises to the top of my list as the most important responsibility of a rural community media editor. Two hundred and fifty years from now, someone may walk into a library, museum, or newspaper office looking for the story of Bibb County in 2026.

- They'll want to know who we were.
- How we lived.
- What we celebrated.
- What we believed.
- What kind of neighbors we tried to be.
- They won't be looking for yesterday's news.
- They'll be looking for our story.
- The question is not whether our story deserves to be remembered.
- The question is whether someone was there to write it down.

Happy 250th Birthday, America.



Centreville Press

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"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

Some of the most enduring hymns were born not from moments of triumph, but from seasons of disappointment. "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" is one such hymn, reminding believers that even when life doesn't unfold according to our plans, God is still at work.

Written in 1907 by Adelaide A. Pollard with music composed by George C. Stebbins, the hymn has become a timeless prayer of surrender. Its familiar opening words, "Thou art the Potter; I am the clay," paint a powerful picture of trusting God to shape a life according to His purpose.

right, Lord! It doesn't matter what You bring into our lives; just have Your own way with us."

Those words changed every-thing.

In that moment, Pollard's discour-agement gave way to peace as she surrendered her own plans to God's will. Out of that experience came the words that would become one of Christianity's most beloved hymns:

"Have Thine own way, Lord, Have Thine own way;

Thou art the Potter; I am the clay."

Rather than focusing on un-answered prayers or unfulfilled dreams, the hymn expresses a willingness to trust God complet-ely. Each verse asks Him to mold, search, heal, and fill the believer, reflecting a heart that has chosen surrender over striving.

More than a century after it was written, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" continues to encourage Christians facing uncertainty. Born from one woman's disappointment, its message remains a comforting reminder that even when life takes an unexpected turn, there is peace in placing our lives into the hands of the Master Potter.

The story behind the hymn begins with Pollard's dream of becoming a missionary to Africa. Convinced that God had called her to serve there, she had made preparations to leave. However, when the nec-essary financial support could not be raised, her plans came to an un-expected halt. The disappointment weighed heavily on her heart.

While attending a prayer meet-ing, Pollard struggled beneath the burden of her circumstances. During the service, she recalled a simple prayer often spoken by an elderly woman she knew: "It's all

HOMECOMING 2026

Bethlehem Global Methodist Church in Heiberger is celebrat-ing Homecoming this year on July 12th, 2026. Pastor Tim Craddock will be leading the service begin-ning at 11:00 AM. Following the service we will have lunch and fellowship with everyone in the fellowship hall.

If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation to the cemetery fund, you can mail a check payable to Bethlehem Methodist Church to Mrs. Ada Jean Holifield, 1971 Jerico Rd., Marion, AL 36756

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NEWS



First Responders Venomous Snake Training at Cahaba Biodiversity Center

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

In rural communities like Bibb County, first responders never know what type of emergency awaits them. While many calls involve accidents, medical emergencies, or fires, others require responding to encounters with Alabama's native venomous snakes. That's why specialized training is an important part of keeping both emergency personnel and the public safe.

Recently, first responders gathered at the UWA Cahaba Biodiversity Center for a Venomous Snake Training designed to provide practical knowledge about identifying Alabama's venomous snakes, safely handling snake-related situations, and separating facts from long-held myths.

The program was led by Jimmy Stiles and Raymond Corey, with assistance from Dylan Taylor, Extension Agent for Tuscaloosa County. Throughout the training, participants learned not only how to respond safely during snake encounters, but also gained a greater appreciation for the important role snakes play in Alabama's ecosystems.

"There is a widespread fear of snakes in Alabama, and even the folks who get called to handle snake related issues often lack a good knowledge base or experience in handling these encounters," Taylor said. "We like to run these training programs to give

people a chance to overcome their fears and gain some experience, so that when they do need to deal with a snake situation they know what to do. It helps keep people safe and improves perception of the animals."

One of the biggest misconceptions about snakes is that they are naturally aggressive toward people. In reality, most snakes would much rather avoid human interaction altogether. Their first instinct is typically to retreat or remain hidden, relying on camouflage rather than confrontation. Venomous snakes are no different. They generally strike only when they feel cornered, threatened, or are accidentally stepped on or handled. Defensive bites are a last resort, not a first response. Understanding this behavior is an important part of staying safe outdoors. Giving snakes plenty of space, watching where you step or place your hands, and allowing them an escape route can prevent the vast majority of negative encounters. Education like this helps replace fear with awareness, allowing people to respond calmly and appropriately while respecting these often misunderstood animals.

While snakes often have an unfair reputation, they serve an important purpose in nature by helping control rodent populations and maintaining a healthy ecological

balance. Whether they inspire fascination or fear, they remain an important part of God's creation, each serving a unique role within the natural world. Protecting wildlife and protecting people are not mutually exclusive goals. By better understanding snake behavior, communities can reduce unnecessary harm to both humans and animals while fostering greater respect for Alabama's diverse ecosystems.

For first responders, understanding snake behavior can make all the difference during an emergency. Proper training helps ensure safer outcomes for emergency personnel, residents, and even the animals themselves by encouraging informed, responsible responses rather than fear-driven reactions.

The event also reflected the strong community partnerships that make programs like this possible. Jack's in Montevallo donated coffee for those attending the training, helping support the day's educational efforts.

By investing in continuing education, local first responders are better prepared for the unique challenges that come with serving rural communities. At the same time, trainings like this help replace misconceptions with understanding, reminding us that knowledge is often the best tool for both public safety and conservation.

Educational Series for New and Expecting Parents

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

Becoming a parent is one of life's greatest adventures, but it also comes with plenty of questions. This summer, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Bibb Family Connections are helping families navigate that journey by offering a series of educational programs designed specifically for new and expecting parents.

The free programs will be held every Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. at Family Connections, located at 48 University Way in Brent, and will cover a variety of topics aimed at supporting healthy children, strong families, and confident parents.

The series began on June 11 with the Community Baby Shower, followed by weekly sessions covering

practical and timely topics throughout the summer.

Parents will also have opportunities to learn about raising healthy children through sessions such as Growing Healthy Kids, Keeping Kids Safe, Early Childhood Milestones, and Active Kids, with the August 13 program encouraging families to bring their children along.

Additional topics include Building Strong Families, Safe Sleep, Mental Health for Moms, and Saving and Budgeting for the Future, providing resources that extend beyond early childhood and into overall family well-being.

Parenting doesn't come with an instruction manual, but having access to trusted information and a supportive community can make all the difference. These weekly programs offer local

families an opportunity to learn practical skills, ask questions, and connect with others who are walking similar paths.

Whether someone is preparing to welcome their first child or looking for guidance while raising a growing family, the educational series offers valuable resources in a welcoming environment.

For more information or to request reasonable accommodations or language access services, contact Michelle Giddens at 205-926-4310 or mcg0046@auburn.edu.

Families throughout Bibb County are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to invest in themselves and their children through a summer of learning, encouragement, and community connection.

Family Connections

48 University Way, Brent

Thursdays, 10am-11am

Summer 2026 Education Programs

- **June 11: Community Baby Shower, see reverse side for details!
- June 18: Understanding Vaping
- June 25: Communicating Effectively with Your Spouse
- July 2: Reading to Children
- July 9: Growing Healthy Kids
- July 16: Keeping Kids Safe
- July 23: Early Childhood Milestones
- July 30: Building Strong Families
- August 6: Safe Sleep
- August 13: Active Kids (Bring your kids!)
- August 20: Mental Health for Moms
- August 27: Saving and Budgeting for the Future

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact Michelle Giddens at mcg0046@auburn.edu or (205-926-4310).



The BACK PAGE

West Blocton Invites Community to Celebrate Independence Day with Evening of Entertainment

BY SAVANNAH LOGAN
REPORTER

The Town of West Blocton is preparing to celebrate Independence Day with an evening packed full of live music, patriotic tributes, family fun, and a spectacular fireworks display, inviting residents and visitors alike to gather together for one of the community's favorite annual traditions.

The celebration will kick off at 4 p.m. with a welcome from Mayor Sims, followed by the opening prayer. Guests will also have the opportunity to hear from Miss Cahaba Lily Emily Carden and her sister queens as the festivities begin.

Live entertainment will fill the evening, starting with Chris Samson from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. The celebration continues with a performance by Everyday Americans from 5 to 5:45 p.m., followed by a special Veterans Recognition ceremony from 6 to 6:30 p.m., honoring the men and women who have faithfully served the nation.

Music returns to the stage from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with the Jason Miller Band, before country artist Glen Templeton takes the stage from 7:30 until 9 p.m., bringing the evening's entertainment to a close.

As the sun sets, the celebration will conclude with a fireworks show beginning at 9 p.m., lighting up the West Blocton sky in honor of Independence Day.

The annual Fourth of July celebration has long been a time for neighbors, families, and friends to come together to celebrate both the nation's freedom and the close-knit spirit that defines West Blocton. With a full lineup of music, patriotic recognition, and fireworks, this year's event promises something for every member of the family.

Community members are encouraged to make plans to attend, bring a lawn chair, and enjoy an evening of fellowship, entertainment, and hometown pride as West Blocton celebrates America's birthday together.

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- Attend a Little Readers Club session
- Draw with sidewalk chalk
- Go to a 'Pop-Up' at the BMC Market Pavilion
- Have a picnic
- Watch fireworks at Celebration on the Green
- Play on the playground
- Attend a BMC Summer Camp

BMC July
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Shelby Price has been a valued member of the Bibb Medical Center team since August 2019. She began her journey at BMC right after high school in the cafeteria and worked her way through nursing school to become a nurse with BMC at Home.

Shelby loves serving a small community and building meaningful relationships with her patients. Inspired by her experience in the HOSA program, she discovered her passion for healthcare and has remained dedicated to caring for others ever since.

Loved by both patients and coworkers, Shelby's compassion, dedication, and hard work make her a tremendous asset to Bibb Medical Center.

Shelby Price, RN